

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #94

Genesis 47:13-26

In our world, these are times of economic uncertainty. The phrase “economic recession” is just a nice way of saying “economic famine.” When we open the pages of the Bible, the One who controls the economy is God. Proverbs says that we may plan or prepare, but success is determined by God (i.e. Proverbs 21:31). Proverbs says “by humility and fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life” (Proverbs 22:4).

GOD’S FAITHFUL FAMILY WILL ALWAYS BE CARED FOR BY GOD EVEN IN TIMES OF SEVERE FAMINE AND HE WILL ABUNDANTLY BLESS THOSE WHO HELP TAKE CARE OF HIS FAITHFUL FAMILY.

Carefully notice the two verses that precede and succeed this section: The first informs us that God’s faithful family was provided for (47:12), and the second informs us that God’s faithful family prospered in every way (47:27). Between these two verses is described one of the most severe famines that history has ever recorded. **Even though the rest of the world was experiencing economic disaster, God’s family was well cared for because Pharaoh had commanded it and for this reason he was dramatically blessed by God (47:11).**

OBJECT OF BLESSING #1 - During the famine time Pharaoh continued to prosper.
47:13-21

Prosperity Way #1 - Pharaoh increased in money. 47:14

While the rest of the world was in great financial decrease, he was in great financial increase for two key reasons: 1) He promoted Joseph - God’s faithful servant; 2) He provided for Israel - God’s faithful family. Any employer who takes good care of God’s faithful people will discover God will take good care of him.

Prosperity Way #2 - Pharaoh increased in cattle. 47:15-17

John Calvin points out that Joseph would have always been generous in the exchanges. The people were trading in their cattle, but they were receiving a generous supply of food for it (John Calvin, *Genesis*, p. 409).

Prosperity Way #3 - Pharaoh increased in land. 47:18-21

There are three reasons why Joseph would have advised that people move to the cities (47:21): 1) To receive their food; 2) To conduct transaction of land sales; 3) To receive work assignments.

Although Pharaoh himself was not in a right relationship with God, he took good care of those who were and God blessed him for it.

OBJECT OF BLESSING #2 - During the famine time the priests continued to prosper.
47:22

What we need to point out here is that the majority of these Egyptian priests, if not all, were godless heathens. The ancient Egyptians were known to be polytheistic and mythological. Egyptian art and architecture in temples and tombs reveal that these people were religious and superstitious.

Why did Moses reveal that these priests continued to prosper?

- 1) It is an historical fact this is the truth.
- 2) It is a practical fact - the priests continued to exist because of Joseph, who worked for Pharaoh.
- 3) It is an honorable fact Joseph and his family were esteemed by Pharaoh in priestly fashion.

OBJECT OF BLESSING #3 - During the famine time the people, Pharaoh and Priests continued to prosper. 47:23-26

This text sets the stage for Exodus 1:8 which says: "Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph." Joseph literally was responsible for the Egyptians existence. During the famine he received all of the land, but then turned it back over to the people to farm with the stipulation that they keep 80 percent and give Pharaoh 20 percent. According to Verse 26, this tax was still valid at the time Moses wrote Genesis. Certainly those in Egyptian leadership would have known the source of this tax.

Joseph was a caring man and in pure grace, after paying a great price for the land, he gave it back to the people.

One cannot help but think of the grace and mercy found in Jesus Christ. He paid the full price for our sins and then after saving us allows us to live and enjoy so many good things in this life and the riches of His glory in the next life.

God's faithful family members will always be cared for in times of famine for God will see that His family always has enough.