

Let's Worship God

3rd-8th April 2023
Genesis



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Monday - Genesis 45:25-28 - Good News

Many, many years have passed since Joseph is home in Canaan. His brothers have sold him into slavery and through a series of God-ordained events he becomes the second most powerful person in all of Egypt. One day his brothers appear at his door, not recognising him, asking for food, and Joseph puts them through a series of tests to see if they have changed at all. But time and the powerful working of God in their hearts have turned his jealous brothers into more humble and caring men. So, Joseph reveals himself for who he is and urges his brothers to return to Canaan and bring back his father, Jacob.

When the brothers return, each of them probably pushing and shoving the other to be the first to shout out the good news to their father, Jacob does not believe them. It is too much for him to take in. It would have been joy enough for him to hear that Simeon has been released and Benjamin has come safely home, for no doubt he is worried about them, but to hear that Joseph is alive is too good to be true. Lacking faith in God, we often find His good news too good to be true.

Eventually Jacob is convinced, especially when he sees the carts sent for him. It doesn't matter to him that Joseph is ruler of Egypt; he is happy just to know that Joseph is alive. He is also happy that he can go and see Joseph before he dies. He realises that death is near to him. It's good for us to realise the nearness of death, so that we can think what we need to do before we die, do it with all our might, out of a heart filled with love for God, and a thankful spirit for all He has given us.

Questions

1. Who do the brothers return with good news to?
2. What is Jacob's first reaction?
3. What helps convince him that Joseph is alive?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would live lives of love and service to God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation." Genesis 46:3

Praise: Psalm 31 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Tuesday - Genesis 46:1-4 - The Dreamer's Last Vision

Jacob has had many dreams throughout his life where God speaks to him, giving him instructions or encouragement. Usually Jacob has these dreams while traveling about from place to place. Now, on his last journey, God comes to him in a vision one more time. Jacob probably thought he would live and die in Canaan, but here he is trying to decide if he should move his entire family to Egypt. Proverbs 3:6 says, "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." In these verses we see Jacob acknowledging God, and God making his paths straight.

Jacob acknowledges God by offering sacrifices in Beersheba, remembering that his father and grandfather worshiped there. He knows that God is in a covenant with him, as He was with Isaac, Jacob's father. These sacrifices are probably sacrifices of thanksgiving for the wonderful news of Joseph being alive and for the hope he has of seeing him. They are sacrifices asking for forgiveness of sins and requesting God's presence to go with Jacob to Egypt. Finally, there will be sacrifices asking God what is the right thing to do. We offer sacrifices to God in our prayers, and they should be full of thanksgiving, confession of sin, requests for God's presence with us, and His guidance in all we do.

If we speak to God as we should, He will not fail to speak to us. He comes to Jacob and directs his paths. God renews the covenant with Jacob. He encourages him to go to Egypt, promising him that he will multiply, that God will be with him, that his family will not be lost in Egypt, and that in life and death Joseph will be a comfort to him. We may go safely into the Egypt of this world if God goes with us, and we can be sure that He will bring us out again.

Questions

1. How does Jacob acknowledge God?
2. How does God make Jacob's paths straight?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God directs our paths, and pray for His guidance.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation." Genesis 46:3

Praise: Psalm 32 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Genesis 46:5-27 - The Stars of the Sky

Little did Jacob think of ever leaving Canaan; he expected, probably, to die there and to leave his children and grandchildren in actual possession of the promised land; but God orders it otherwise. We may think we are well settled in a place, but things can still change. Those who are old sometimes live to see great changes in their family. It is good to be ready, not just for death, but for whatever might happen before death.

Jacob journeys to Egypt in wagon-like carts. He is a simple man and does not need chariots to transport him. He takes all that he owns, so he will not be completely dependent on Pharaoh for care, and so that it might not be said that they came as beggars to Egypt. He takes all of his family who probably have been living close around him this whole time. Where he goes, they go, perhaps they are more willing to do this because even though they have heard that Canaan is the Promised Land, none of them actually possess any of it, yet.

When Jacob goes to the land of plenty, he does not leave any of his family behind to starve. Heads of families ought to take care of all under their charge, and to provide food for their bodies and souls.

The whole number that goes down to Egypt is 66, plus Jacob, Joseph, and his two sons, making 70. The accomplishment of God's promises is always sure, but it is often slow. It is now 215 years since God promised to make a great nation of Abraham, and yet Abraham's line has only increased to 70. But the power of God will be shown even more when he multiplies these seventy to a vast multitude.

Questions

1. How does Jacob get to Egypt?
2. What does he take with him?
3. What promise had God made Abraham about his family?
4. What is spiritual food and how do heads of households provide it?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God always keeps His promises.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation." Genesis 46:3

Praise: Psalm 33 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Genesis 46:28-34 - Reunited

Jacob wisely sends Judah ahead to get directions and to inform Joseph and the other rulers of Egypt that they are entering their land. This is a sign of respect to the Egyptian government, under the protection of which, they have come.

Joseph shows great respect for his father, immediately going to meet him. Children are commanded to show respect to their parents in all circumstances. Joseph loves his father. His respect is not an outward sign, but as the tears show, it comes from a heart that is full with the sadness of a long and difficult separation and the joy of being back with his father.

Jacob is so happy with seeing Joseph again, that he expects nothing more from life, and he is quite content for death to come. But death does not come when we say so. Our times are in God's hand, and not in our own.

Joseph takes care to let Pharaoh know that his family has come to settle in Egypt. He does not want to abuse his power by imposing upon the Egyptians without permission. Despite what his brothers have done to him in the past, Joseph is anxious to settle them into a good situation. This is returning good for evil. Joseph wants his family to live separate as much as they can from the Egyptians and their ungodly influence. The land of Goshen is nearest to Canaan and good pasture land, so it seems to be the ideal place. Joseph could have used his power to put his brothers into different jobs, but he encourages them to continue in the work that they know and understand and not to be ashamed to tell Pharaoh what they do.

Questions

1. Who does Jacob send ahead?
2. How does Joseph feel about seeing his father?
3. How does Joseph return good for evil to his brothers?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that our times are in God's hands.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation." Genesis 46:3

Praise: Psalm 34 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Genesis 47:1-12 - Settling Down

Joseph shows respect to his ruler, Pharaoh. Even though he is Pharaoh's favourite and second-in-command with special orders from Pharaoh to bring his father to Egypt, he will not settle his family in the land until he tells Pharaoh.

Joseph shows respect to his brothers, despite the unkindness he has received from them. Even though he is a great man, and they are essentially nobodies, he is not ashamed to call them his brothers. He introduces them to Pharaoh to bring honour to them in the eyes of the Egyptians. They tell Pharaoh what their jobs are and what their business is in Egypt. They do not intend to live there forever, but only while the famine is so severe in Canaan. Pharaoh gives them permission to settle in Goshen out of gratitude to Joseph; because Joseph has been such a blessing to him and his kingdom, Pharaoh will be kind to his relatives, purely for Joseph's sake.

Joseph shows respect to his father in presenting him to Pharaoh. Pharaoh admires and respects old age, as we should. Jacob calls his life a pilgrimage, seeing himself as a stranger to this world and a traveller towards another world. He counts his life by days and says that they are few. The 130 years he has lived seem to him but a few days in comparison with the days of eternity. He calls these days difficult or evil, which is true of the lives of all mankind because of sin. Jacob's blessing of Pharaoh isn't just a mark of respect and thankfulness for Pharaoh's kindness, but it is a prayer for Pharaoh made by one having the authority of a prophet. Even though in worldly wealth Pharaoh is greater, in terms of a relationship with God, Jacob is greater. The prayers of God's people are not to be despised.

Questions

1. How does Joseph show respect to his brothers?
2. How can we show respect to the rulers of our land?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the leaders of our families, churches, and country.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation." Genesis 46:3

Praise: Psalm 35 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Genesis 47:13-26 - Wise Rulership

Joseph, by the grace of God, has been given the ability to provide for his family and protect them from ruin. Now, God leads him to save the kingdom of Egypt from complete destruction. It probably would have made Joseph happy to be able to go and live in Goshen with the rest of his family, but his job will not allow it. When he sees his father and brothers well settled in Goshen, he returns to his work.

The famine in the land is so severe that the people are ready to die. We are entirely dependent upon God for survival. All our wealth will not keep us from starving if there is no rain for 2 or 3 years. We are at God's mercy, so it is wise to keep ourselves always in His love.

If all the Egyptians had done for themselves in the 7 years of plenty as Joseph did for Pharaoh, they wouldn't be in difficulty, but they didn't listen to the warning and went on thinking that tomorrow would be like today. But God provided for His people, the Israelites, and they are fed for free. Everyone else is forced to part with all their money, livestock, land, and freedom to save their lives.

Joseph is careful to govern matters so that Pharaoh has a just advantage, and the people are not utterly ruined. He allows the people to live on and enjoy the land they have sold. He gives them seed to sow in their fields and food to live off of, and they in return pay a rent of one-fifth of the yearly profits to Pharaoh. These are easy terms, and they show Joseph's God-given wisdom.

Questions

1. Why can't Joseph live in Goshen?
2. What do the Egyptians have to give up in order to survive?
3. How does Joseph show that he is a wise ruler?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation." Genesis 46:3

Praise: Psalm 36 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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