

Providence, Preservation, and Promises In Egypt (45:16-46:28)

Context: Joseph has just revealed himself to his brothers. A tearful and joyful reunion has taken place. Now the purpose of God in all of Joseph's life is revealed. The family of Israel is to move to the safety of Egypt as they grow into a great nation.

- God is giving them hope – hope to survive the famine – hope for reconciliation
- and that hope is found in Egypt

I. The Revealing of God's Providence (45:16-28)

Here the brothers realize what Joseph has meant by "God sent me here before you"

A. Pharaoh's Gifts To Joseph's Family (16-20)

1. Pharaoh is pleased that Joseph's brothers are coming (16)
 - a. The report of the events have come to Pharaoh and his household
 - b. It pleased Pharaoh and his servants
 - i. Joseph is a hero in Egypt
 - ii. He has saved everyone by his wisdom and God-inspired dream interpretation
 - iii. No doubt, they seek to honor the family of their "savior"
 - iv. Pharaoh's gifts are even more generous than Joseph's
2. Pharaoh promises blessings to Joseph's family (17-18)
 - a. Pharaoh tells them to go and get their households
 - i. He says "come to me" meaning he wants to meet them
 - ii. Pharaoh intends to bless the family of Joseph
 - b. Pharaoh promises them the best of the land
 - i. Joseph's family will be treated with special care in Egypt
 - ii. Joseph's family will be treated as royalty in Egypt
 - c. Pharaoh promises they will eat of the fat of the land (even in famine)
 - i. Pharaoh promises they will be given abundance
3. Pharaoh gives them wagons to make the journey (19)
 - a. the family would not even have to walk to Egypt
 - b. wagons were a luxury not afforded to poorer people
 - i. It would have been a very extravagant caravan
 - ii. It would have been seen as the Rolls Royce of ancient world
4. Pharaoh repeats that they would receive the best of the land (20)

Pharaoh treats no one like this. It is only because of God's providence and plan that this is taking place. Through the family disunity, Jacob's favoritism of Joseph, the brothers sinful attack and selling of Joseph – God has brought about manifold blessings upon His chosen family.

B. Joseph prepares them for the journey (21-24)

1. Joseph gives the brothers provisions for the journey (21-22)
 - a. they are given the wagons and provisions (i.e. food)
 - i. They are given provisions for their whole family to eat on the way
 - b. they are given changes of clothes

- i. He who was once stripped of his clothing by his brothers now clothes them
 - c. Benjamin is given 300 shekels of silver and 5 changes of clothes
 - i. Benjamin is still the favorite – full brother of Joseph
 - ii. Now he knows the brothers aren't bothered by it
 - iii. Joseph was sold for 20 shekels of silver
- 2. Joseph sends gifts to his Father (23-24)
 - a. He sends ten donkeys loaded with stuff
 - b. He sends ten female donkeys loaded with food for journey back
 - i. These are 20 donkeys in addition to the brother's donkeys
 - c. He tells his brothers not to quarrel on the way
 - i. what might they quarrel about now?
 - ii. blame one another? Talk about what "I wanted to do"
 - iii. All the stuff they now have? Benjamin's silver?

C. Jacob Receives The News (25-28)

- 1. The brothers tell Jacob about Joseph (25-26a)
 - a. They tell him Joseph is still alive and ruling in Egypt
- 2. Jacob does not believe the brothers (26b)
 - a. His heart became numb because he didn't believe them
 - (grow cold; become faint)
 - i. why wouldn't he believe them?
 - ii. What was he feeling as they told him these things?
 - too good to be true?
- 3. Jacob's Spirit Revives when He Sees the Evidence (27)
 - a. They tell him the whole story
 - i. We aren't told but they had to have told him about how he got there
 - ii. Later when giving the blessings – it is clear he knows what they did
 - b. He sees the wagons from Egypt
 - i. He knows this must be true – this is extravagant riches they have
 - d. His spirit revived from the grief and despair of all these years
 - i. There is hope – hope for reunion
 - ii. hope for survival of family thru famine
- 4. Jacob decides to go to Egypt (28)
 - a. It is enough- perhaps he means that it is sufficient that his son is alive for him to go to Egypt.
 - b. He doesn't need all the riches and wagons, or the promise of the good of the land.
 - c. His heart's desire is simply to see his son alive.

NOTE: Did you notice the name change from v.27 to v.28 – significant?

II. The Reassurance of God's Promises (46:1-7)

A. Jacob Offers Sacrifices To God (1)

- 1. "Israel" began the journey but stopped in Beersheba
- 2. He offered sacrifices and worship to the God of His Father Isaac – in thankfulness and seeking the Lord's will
 - a. Going to Egypt was a scary proposition

- b. It had not fared well for his grandfather when he went
- c. In Genesis 26, even though there was a famine Isaac was told Do Not go down to Egypt
- d. Now Jacob longs to go and see his son – he has been promised blessing in Egypt – but it would seem he still desires to seek the Lord in this matter

B. God Affirms His Promise To Jacob (2-4)

1. God speaks to Israel through a vision
 - a. It has been a really long time since God spoke to him – (last time was ch.35 – told him to go to Bethel)
2. God reminds Jacob that he is the covenant keeping God of Isaac
 - a. This would bring back memory of all the promises through Abraham
 - b. This reminds Jacob of the seed promise thru his family
3. God tells Jacob not to be afraid of going down to Egypt (3)
4. God makes promises to Jacob (4)
 - a. He promises to make Jacob a great nation in Egypt – not in Canaan
 - a. He promises to be with Jacob in Egypt
 - i. I myself will go with you
 - ii. Egypt is not too far or too wicked for God to work
 - b. He promises to bring Jacob back up again
 - i. Jacob will die in Egypt
 - ii. His remains will be brought back to the land of promise
 - iii. His descendants will be brought back in the Exodus
 - c. He promises that Joseph will be with him at his death
 - i. this is the longing of Jacob’s heart
 - ii. That he would be reunited with his son -

C. Jacob Obeys God and Sets Out For Egypt (5-7)

1. Taking everything with them, the family sets out for Egypt
2. We are told twice that all his offspring (“seed”) go with him to Egypt.
 - a. The whole of Jacob’s family and possessions relocate to Egypt.

III. The Response To God’s Promise (8-27)

A. Verses 8-25 is the list of the seed of Jacob who entered Egypt in obedience to God’s command.

Seventy is picture of the full number

There are lots of debates and discussions of discrepancies in the genealogy.

v. 26-28 = shows us this – (v. 12 2 died in Canaan and 2 were already in Egypt)

1. By faith Jacob would leave the land that was promised to him
2. By faith he would entrust his family to the officials of Egypt (though really to God)
3. It must have seemed that he was leaving the land to the Canaanites – But God had already made a promise

NOTE: This is in fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham in Genesis 15:13-16

13 Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be

buried in a good old age. 16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

4. Jacob is responding to the promise of God in faith – and because God has made provision by sending Joseph ahead of the family.

5. The family’s savior is in place – now all that remains is for them to go to him.