

Faithful Savior – Faithful Master
Genesis 47:13-31

I. The Land Continues To Languish Under Famine (13)

A. The Famine Continues to Be Severe

1. There was no food in all the land of Egypt or Canaan
 - a. The people were starving to death
 - b. This isn't just being hunger – this is matter of life and death for families
 - c. The whole land was languishing - fainting
2. The only grain was what Joseph had stored

B. Notice the Contrast here –

- v. 12 And Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their dependents.

C. Joseph Will Turn His Attention To His Duties To Pharaoh and Egypt

1. God had called Joseph to lead Egypt through this time
2. Joseph doesn't shirk his duty now that his family is safe
 - a. He could have gone and lived with them in Goshen
 - b. He could have turned all his attention on being happy with his family
3. He will be a blessing to Pharaoh for Pharaoh has blessed he and his family
- by guiding Egypt through the famine. he is also providing for his family

II. Joseph Continues To Preserve The People From Death (14-26)

NOTE: By today's cultural standards, Joseph's administration seems harsh and oppressive. We can't read our modern context into the ancient text. Joseph provided for the salvation of the people from death, and he was faithful to Pharaoh to whom God had placed him in service. The people themselves will show this gratitude in v. 25.

A. Joseph Receives All The Money For Grain (14)

1. Joseph sells the stored grain to the people
2. Joseph brings ALL the money into the house of Pharaoh
- but the famine continues

B. Joseph Receives The People's Livestock For Grain (15-17)

1. The people return for grain but have no money
 - a. All their money is gone – and all the grain they bought is gone
2. Joseph exchanges their livestock for grain
 - a. horses, flocks, herds, donkeys
 - i. without grain they would have no way to feed animals
 - ii. There was no refrigeration to slaughter and store them
 - b. some were work animals – transportation

C. Joseph Receives The People's Service and Land For Grain (18-22)

1. The people have nothing left but themselves and land (18)
 - a. They return the following year with no food
 - b. And the famine continues
2. The people ask Joseph to purchase them for Pharaoh (19)
 - a. They fear death by starvation
 - b. Land does them no good without seed to plant on it
 - c. They ask to be servants of Pharaoh in exchange for seed

- i. they know that grain for land won't last either
 - ii. They offer themselves in perpetual service for food
 - iii. this would be better than starvation of their families
 - 3. Joseph buys all the land for Pharaoh (20)
 - a. all the land of Egypt now belongs to Pharaoh
 - b. this is actually a kindness – he could have let them starve and had the land anyway
 - 4. Joseph made servants of all the people for Pharaoh (21-22)
 - a. Only the land of the priests was exempt
 - b. They would serve Pharaoh – but this servitude would not be what we think of as modern day slavery – it would be like tenant farming
- D. Joseph Administers The System By Which The People Are Saved (23-26)
 - 1. Joseph enacts a system of indentured servitude (23-24)
 - a. He gives them seed to sow Pharaoh's land
 - i. They will work the land and enjoy the land
 - ii. They will benefit from their own work
 - b. They will keep the yield and give Pharaoh a fifth
 - c. This is so their households would survive
 - 2. The people are grateful to Joseph (25)
 - a. They were facing starvation with no safety net
 - b. This gives them provision and hope
 - c. This gives them security for the future and protection
 - d. They see Joseph as their savior and lord over Egypt
 - 3. Joseph's system became enduring statute (26)
 - 4. Joseph is a faithful man – he is faithful to his God and his family – he is also faithful to the Pharaoh and to Egypt to which he had accepted responsibility
 - a. His wisdom shows through as he prospers Pharaoh – protects the people from starvation and provides for his family's well-being.
 - 5. Joseph is master of all – but he is a master that is good and kind
 - a. they could not come to him without giving all they possess
 - b. But they would find him to be benevolent savior and protecting lord over them
 - c. Sound familiar?- the same is true for the greater Joseph as we come to him – we become his slaves and he our master – but oh what a glorious and beautiful master he is

III. God Continues To Fulfill His Covenant With His People (27-28)

A. God's People Are Fruitful & Multiply (27)

- 1. They were settled in Goshen and provided for
 - a. Recall v. 12 – Joseph himself provided food for them
- 2. They gained possessions in the land
 - a. They were not forced to sell all they own but blessed with abundance
 - b. They were growing into a great nation as God promised
- 3. Language from Garden used
 - a. Recall God's mandate for man in creation – be fruitful and multiply
 - b. Man continually failed to do so – spread his image

c. God is now providing what he commands. He is making them fruitful and multiplying them

d. He is fulfilling his covenant with Abraham and his promises to the nation

B. Jacob Lived In Egypt 17 Years With Joseph (28)

1. 17 years was the time Jacob lived with Joseph before sold into Egypt

2. God gave him that many years with Joseph at end of his life

3. God is keeping his promise to Jacob that Joseph will close your eyes (46:4)

4. God is a God who is faithful to His word and his promises

IV. God's People Continue To Live In Hope Of The Promise (29-31)

A. Jacob Asks To Be Buried In the Promised Land (29-30a)

1. Jacob is still looking in faith to the promise of the land

a. He believes God will fulfill his promise to Abraham and bring the nation out of Egypt

b. He trusts that his descendents will live in the land eventually

2. He wants his grave to be with the people when they finally get there

a. His burial there is his testimony of faith that God is faithful to his word

B. Joseph Promises To Comply With Jacob's Wishes (30b-31)

1. Joseph honors his father's wish

2. Joseph also looks forward to the fulfillment of the promise

3. Joseph's bones will also be carried out of Egypt.