

Genesis Chapter 46 Commentary

1 ¶ And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac. 2 And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I.

Beersheba (*well of an oath*) is the place where God had appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and now to Jacob.

"the God of his father Isaac" We notice; the father set an example of faithful service to God, so that God is recognized by Israel as the God of Heaven and earth. God's promises to Isaac were fulfilled, so this was an encouragement to Israel to believe and trust God. Jesus set the example for us.

Why did Israel entreat the Lord with sacrifices? Jacob does not want to go against God's word, but to travel with God's blessing. It ought to be so with us in our lives today.

Why did God speak the name of Jacob twice? Once to bring him to awareness and again saying to Jacob, pay close attention to what I am going to tell you. We also find this in scripture in: ***Job 33:14-18; 14 ¶ "For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. 15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; 16 Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction, 17 That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man. 18 He keepeth back his soul from the pit, and his life from perishing by the sword."***

People mistakenly discredit dreams and visions, as we shall see in the reference below. On the day of Pentecost, Peter reminds the people, of how God had afore prophesied, of how He would communicate with his people in the future through his Holy Spirit: ***Ac 2:17-21; 17 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: 21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*** We see here; the result of obedience to the voice of God and his instruction was salvation. A reminder here: the salvation here spoken of is happening on earth in time. It is not speaking of eternal salvation, just his deliverance from the trials and troubles of life here in time. We shall see below that God promises Israel that He will bring him back out of Egypt.

3 And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation:

"I am God, the God of thy father" God reveals himself to Israel, in a personal way, just as Christ Jesus is our personal Saviour.

"fear not to go down into Egypt" Why would Israel be afraid to go down into Egypt? Israel knows of God's word spoken to his father Isaac in: ***Ge 26:1-5; 1 ¶ "And there was a famine in the land, beside***

the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. 2 And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: 3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; 4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; 5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

"for I will there make of thee a great nation" We know from scripture, God fulfilled his promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, by making the nation of Israel into a multitude of people. Through the fulfillment of the promise of God, we are led to the lineage to Christ Jesus, the Messiah, and the Church of Grace today. This promise is still being fulfilled today, each time a sinner is born-again.

4 I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes.

Here at Beersheba (*well of an oath*) Israel receives God's promises, blessing, and instruction. This place has been the blessing from God to three generations of this family. Abraham, Isaac & Jacob

Jacob departs Beersheba with 3 promises from God in verse 4, which are also extended to us in New Testament scripture:

- ***"I will go down with thee into Egypt"*** God has promised to never leave or forsake us, seen in: ***Heb 13:5 "for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."***
- ***"I will also surely bring thee up again"*** God has promised to raise us from the dead, seen in: ***1Th 4:16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."***
- ***"Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes"*** God has promised Israel; you shall see your beloved son, Joseph. God, the Father, has promised we will see Jesus, the Beloved Son, seen in: ***1Jo 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."***

5 ¶ And Jacob rose up from Beersheba: and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, and their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him.

If you have ever wondered if we should use the natural conveniences of the world in our daily lives; you see here that Israel and his family made use of the things sent to them to make the natural journey, as it should be. However, they used the things Pharaoh sent for them in their natural lives, not as spiritual instruments.

6 And they took their cattle, and their goods, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him: 7 His sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters, and all his seed brought he with him into Egypt.

Jacob, having received commandment from God, gathers up his family, and cattle, and begins the journey into Egypt. He now has God's promise, gotten at the "well of an oath" that God will be with him in this journey.

8 And these are the names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn. 9 And the sons of Reuben; Hanoch, and Phallu, and Hezron, and Carmi. 10 And the sons of Simeon; Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman. 11 And the sons of Levi; Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. 12 And the sons of Judah; Er, and Onan, and Shelah, and Pharez, and Zerah: but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan. And the sons of Pharez were Hezron and Hamul. 13 And the sons of Issachar; Tola, and Phuvah, and Job, and Shimron. 14 And the sons of Zebulun; Sered, and Elon, and Jahleel. 15 These be the sons of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob in Padanaram, with his daughter Dinah: all the souls of his sons and his daughters were thirty and three. 16 And the sons of Gad; Ziphion, and Haggi, Shuni, and Ezbon, Eri, and Arodi, and Arel. 17 And the sons of Asher; Jimnah, and Ishuah, and Isui, and Beriah, and Serah their sister: and the sons of Beriah; Heber, and Malchiel. 18 These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter, and these she bare unto Jacob, even sixteen souls. 19 The sons of Rachel Jacob's wife; Joseph, and Benjamin. 20 And unto Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. 21 And the sons of Benjamin were Belah, and Becher, and Ashbel, Gera, and Naaman, Ehi, and Rosh, Muppim, and Huppim, and Ard. 22 These are the sons of Rachel, which were born to Jacob: all the souls were fourteen. 23 And the sons of Dan; Hushim. 24 And the sons of Naphtali; Jahzeel, and Guni, and Jezer, and Shillem. 25 These are the sons of Bilhah, which Laban gave unto Rachel his daughter, and she bare these unto Jacob: all the souls were seven. 26 All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob's sons' wives, all the souls were threescore and six; 27 And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, were two souls: all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were threescore and ten.

The nation Israel begins here, in Egypt, with 70 persons who are the whole family of Jacob, whose name is changed to Israel. Thus, God's people are to be known as the nation of Israel.

28 ¶ And he sent Judah before him unto Joseph, to direct his face unto Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen.

Notice that Israel sends Judah. Judah is established, as the one who has the blessing of the firstborn son, and thus, he is rightly sent forward to get their instructions from Joseph.

29 And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel his father, to Goshen, and presented himself unto him; and he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while.

Love is a moving cause. Remember, that Joseph has already wept and rejoiced over his brethren and now he does the same over his father. What joy we should have in meeting and seeing our families, especially after a period of separation.

30 And Israel said unto Joseph, Now let me die, since I have seen thy face, because thou art yet alive.

We have an example, set before us, to ready us for the coming of the Lord. How? Israel, having seen the resurrected Joseph, is now ready to die. When we see the resurrected Christ, we shall be ready to release our hold on all things earthly and go to our eternal home.

We have an example of this, when Joseph and Mary presented Jesus at the temple in: **Lu 2:25-32; 25 ¶ "And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. 26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, 28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."**

31 And Joseph said unto his brethren, and unto his father's house, I will go up, and shew Pharaoh, and say unto him, My brethren, and my father's house, which were in the land of Canaan, are come unto me; 32 And the men are shepherds, for their trade hath been to feed cattle; and they have brought their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have. 33 And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What is your occupation? 34 That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, and also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.

In these last verses, we see a picture of Joseph, a picture of Christ, preparing his brethren to be placed in the land of Goshen, a picture of the grace church. It is like Jesus talking to his disciples in the gospels and instructing them in the establishment of the church fellowship, which Christ is establishing for the sustenance of his family.

"for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians." This attitude of the Egyptians toward shepherds is the attitude of the world toward Christians. **Joh 15:18 ¶ "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."**

Praise to God the Father, for providing God the Son to prepare, and secure, a place for us in the world. A place where he will sustain us and furnish us with all that we need to live life. Thank you, Father God, for the Church of Salvation by Grace, our home away from our eternal home!