



BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2023 – WEEK 11

### Genesis 46:28-48:22: Fruitfulness in the Land

*Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen.  
And they gained possessions in it, and were fruitful and multiplied greatly.*  
– Genesis 46:27 ESV

- **Different land – same promise**

*“Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.”* – Genesis 12:1 ESV

*“I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.”* – Genesis 17:6 ESV

*And I will give to you and your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”* – Genesis 17:8 ESV

- Little did Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob know...  
...that Canaan would be their home, but...  
...not the place of their fruitfulness

- Remember what God told Jacob years earlier...

*“I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body.”* – Genesis 35:11 ESV

*“The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you.”* – Genesis 35:12 ESV

- But they would occupy a different land first
  - A foreign land
  - Where they would suffer
  - But where they would also prosper
  - Just as God had promised them

*“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. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.” – Genesis 15:13-14 ESV*

- **A home away from home**

*“He had sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to show the way before him in Goshen, and they came into the land of Goshen.” – Genesis 46:28*

- Part of God’s plan
- A place of great fertility
- And the setting for their promised fruitfulness

*“And the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two. All the persons of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were seventy.”*

- Genesis 46:27 ESV

*“Then Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself to him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while.” – Genesis 46:29 ESV*

- It had been 22 years since the supposed death of Joseph
- Now he is at peace
- Joseph prepares his family for living in Egypt

*“When Pharaoh calls you and says, ‘What is your occupation?’ you shall say, ‘Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,’ in order that you may dwell in the land of Goshen, for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians.” – Genesis 46:33-34 ESV*

- Pharaoh does exactly as Joseph predicted
- But goes even further than expected

*Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Your father and your brothers have come to you. The land of Egypt is before you. Settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land. Let them settle in the land of Goshen, and if you know any able men among them, put them in charge of my livestock.” – Genesis 47:5-6 ESV*

- Pharaoh is overjoyed by Joseph’s family
  - Gives them the land of Goshen
  - Places them in charge of his livestock
- Pharaoh had promised this before



*And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan, and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.'" – Genesis 45:17-18 ESV*

- Think about the audience of this book
  - o Israel, the people, had a different view of Pharaoh
  - o Their experience was vastly different

*But Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will not let Israel go." – Exodus 5:2 ESV*

*"You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves. But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, 'Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.' Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words." – Exodus 5:7-9 ESV*

- **Jacob blesses Pharaoh**

- What happens next would have confused the Israelites whom Moses led

*Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father and stood him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. – Genesis 47:7 ESV*

- o Can you imagine the thoughts of the Israelites standing on the banks of the Jordan?
- o A patriarch was blessing the Egyptian Pharaoh. Why?
  - God is partially fulfilling his promise

*And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. – Genesis 12:2-3 ESV*

- It may seem that Jacob is the lesser one here, but Jacob is a man of God
- He is blessing Pharaoh, who was seen as a God

*"The least and most faltering of God's children has the superiority in the presence of the most elevated men of the world." – John Nelson Darby*

- Jacob understood he was made strong in his weakness
- Blessing Pharaoh was partially blessing the earth through his family

*Then Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. And Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their dependents. – Genesis 47:11-12 ESV*

- Israel was becoming a great nation
- They were given a permanent possession of the best land in Egypt
  - During a great famine, God blesses for His people
  - Egypt and Pharaoh also prosper

- **Joseph's leadership**

- Joseph continued to do the job God raised him to do
  - Under Joseph's leadership, the prosperity of Egypt and Pharaoh continue
  - Their prosperity came in many ways
    - Wealth

*And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, in exchange for the grain that they bought. And Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. – Genesis 47:14 ESV*
    - Land

*So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for all the Egyptians sold their fields, because the famine was severe on them. The land became Pharaoh's. – Genesis 47:20 ESV*
    - People

*As for the people, he made servants of them from one end of Egypt to the other. – Genesis 47:21 ESV*
  - This was all in God's sovereign plan

*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. – Genesis 50:20 ESV*

- **Be fruitful and multiply**

*"Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen. And they gained possessions in it and were fruitful and multiplied greatly." – Genesis 47:27-28 ESV*

- While the Egyptians were handing everything over to Pharaoh, Israel was enjoying the blessings of God in Goshen
  - Wealth, land, & livestock
- God was fulfilling the promise he made to Abraham

*"Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he called his name Israel. And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful*

*and multiply.” – Genesis 35:10-11 ESV*

- Jacob didn't realize this promise would take place in Egypt rather than Canaan
- In fact, none from this generation would ever go back to Canaan
- But Jacob could see the signs of God's blessing all around him
  - Joseph, Israel multiplying and living in a land provided by God
  - Jacob hadn't forgotten God's promise to provide the land of Canaan
  - He knew this was a step in the journey toward God's fulfillment of the promise

*“And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.” – Genesis 17:8 ESV*

- **Jacob's Blessing of His Family**

*“God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, and said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.’ And now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are. – Genesis 48:3-5 ESV*

- God had appeared twice to Jacob
- He reiterates the blessing that Abraham and Isaac had received before him
  - Why bring this up?
    - Jacob was nearing the end of his life
    - It was time for him to pass this promise on to his descendants

*And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn). – Genesis 48:13-14 ESV*

- But he intentionally blesses the second born
- Under divine inspiration, Jacob gave Ephraim the privilege of the first-born blessing
- This is the fourth generation from Abraham that has done this
  - This was no mistake
  - This was the will of God

***By faith** Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. – Hebrews 11:21 ESV*

- This was a demonstration of faith for Jacob
- Again, God was going to use the younger son to accomplish His will

- Joseph tried to intervene, but Jacob's decision was deliberate

*"I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations." – Genesis 48:19 ESV*

- God would fulfill this promise to make them into great nations
  - Ephraim would become the name associated with the Northern Tribe of Israel after the nation splits
- Time again, God has proven that he is faithful to His promises
- This is true today as those promises have been fulfilled through Christ

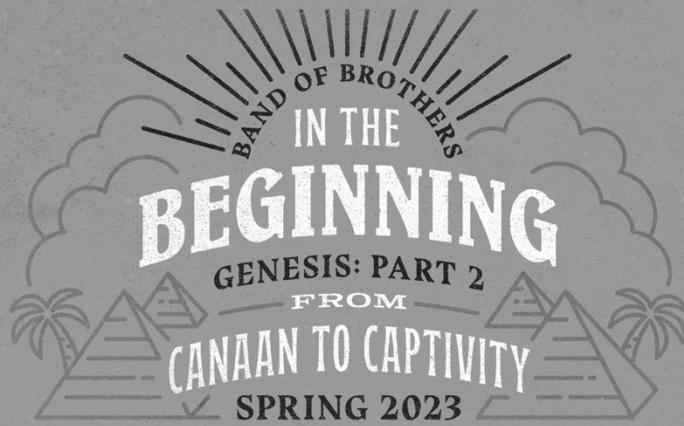
*For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" ascends to God for his glory. – 2 Corinthians 1:20 ESV*

### **FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

Genesis has repeatedly shown how God is faithful to keep all His promises. Why should that provide us with greater confidence today?

Which promises of God resonate with you the most and why?

How has the Lord provided for you in unexpected ways?



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SPRING SERIES 2023 – WEEK 12 HOMEWORK

### WEEK 12 – Genesis 49-50: All According to Plan

In this final lesson, we will cover the closing moments of Jacob’s life as he blesses his twelve sons. His prophetic pronouncements concerning his sons foreshadow God’s long-standing plan to make of Abraham’s offspring a great nation. While ten of these sons have done little to earn favor with God or the promise of a bright and fruitful future, Jacob will provide them with a glimpse of God’s preferred future for each of them. And as the book of Genesis comes to a close, we will see how God has used Joseph as His instrument to prepare the path for the nation of Israel’s future evolution into the vast host whom He will lead from Egypt to the land of promise in Canaan. And it will set up the next phase of the spectacular story that Moses recorded in the book of Exodus.

- Read Genesis 49-50. Jot down anything that jumps out at you as you read. Take note of any verses, phrases, or words that catch your attention.
- Now read pages 207-225 of Ken’s Devotional™ on Genesis Part II.
- Genesis 49:1-14 contains that blessings that Jacob gave to his 11 other sons. Simply write down beside each man’s name the primary focus of the blessing he received.
  - Reuben –
  - Simeon & Levi –
  - Judah –
  - Zebulun –
  - Issachar –
  - Dan –

Gad –

Asher –

Naphtali –

Joseph –

Benjamin –

- Genesis 49:28-33 contains the description of Jacob's death. According to Genesis 47:28, he lived in the land for 17 years and died at the age of 147. Why do you think God's plan was for Jacob to die in Egypt (see Genesis 46:1-4)?

What would his death have forced his 12 sons to do?

- Look at Genesis 50:1-14. You may have never realized that Joseph and his brothers returned to Canaan long before Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. Yet, they did not remain in Canaan. Why? What factors would have kept them from just staying there when they returned to bury their father?
- In Genesis 50:15-21, Joseph's brothers begin to fear that he will retaliate against them now that their father is dead. What does this unwarranted fear reveal about them?

What does Joseph's response reveal about the motivation behind his forgiveness of them?

Why should verse 20 give us hope?

- Verses 22-26 close the book of Genesis by stating that Joseph lived in Egypt for 93 years. It had become his second home. But what is his final request?

And how did Joseph encourage his 11 brothers who remained behind?