



Chapters 46&47 - Answers

46:1-7

1. What would Jacob have been concerned about when he decided to go to Egypt?

Well, first of all, he was probably concerned about even reaching Egypt. He was old, and the journey would be very hard, and there would be robbers and thieves along the way.

But mostly he would be concerned about leaving the land God had promised to him - to his father Isaac - and to his grandfather Abraham. Bad things had happened to this family in the past when they left the land. Would it be OK with God for him to make this trip to Egypt...and then...would he ever come back?

2. How did the LORD address those concerns?

God made a point to meet with Jacob and tell him it was OK to go to Egypt. It was His plan and His will that Jacob and his family find food and safety in Egypt, at least for a while. And He relieves Jacob's fears about the journey by telling him: "Joseph will put his hand on your eyes". Meaning - "when you close your eyes in death Joseph will be right there with you and will be the one to gently close those eyes for you." In other words, Jacob, you will not die before you see Joseph.

3. What are you concerned about today? Can you have the boldness to ask God to specifically address those concerns?

Yeah - just that simple. Whatever it is you are concerned about, go to the One, True God in prayer and ask Him to show you what to do, or what not to do, or to comfort you, or kick you in the seat of the pants to get you going. Just ask. In the book of James in the New Testament we are warned, however, that when we ask God for wisdom to know what to do, we must be

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sure to ask in faith - meaning - let God know that you trust whatever answer He gives you, and you will do whatever He shows you to do...you won't wait to see what He says and then decide whether or not you want to do it! (James 1:5&6)

46:8-26

4. How many people of Jacob's family moved to Egypt?
 - a. How many (not including wives) traveled with Jacob to Egypt?
66
 - b. How many (not including wives) were already in Egypt?
3
 - c. What does that add up to?
70 (don't forget Jacob himself)

5. What happened to them there?

They arrived safely - all 70 of them were together in Egypt.

6. 400 years later, how many of them were there? (see Exodus 12:37)

When they finally left Egypt, 400 years later, led by Moses, this group of 70 men and children had grown to a massive nation of 600,000 men plus children.

7. If the Lord does not return for a long, long time, what future can you envision for your family after you are gone for 400 years?

Wow. I've never thought that far ahead, have you? Our family right now numbers 31, including men, women, children and grandchildren. We began as just the 2 of us almost 50 years ago. So, if we are as blessed as the Israelites, perhaps in 400 years our 31 right now could be a group of 300,000 or 400,000??? I pray that no matter how large our group of descendants is, they would all be believers in the One, True God - Jesus. And they would all learn to serve Him with every fiber of their being.

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8. :28-30 What kind of reunion was there between Joseph and his aged father, Jacob?

The passage in the NKJV says "fell on his neck and wept for a good while". Much, much crying. Sadness and joy mixed together.

9. :31-34 What kind of advice does Joseph give his family as they get ready to meet the Pharaoh of Egypt?

Now this is interesting. Joseph is 2nd in Command in Egypt, so he has great power and great respect amongst the Egyptians. But he also knows something about the Egyptians - they really feel a sense of disdain for any people who are shepherds by trade. So Joseph advises his family to say they are shepherds. ??? Why? Does he want them to be disliked? Well, sort of. He wants the Egyptians to be happy to give them a piece of land sort of far away from them. Joseph wants his family to live in the land of Goshen - and the Egyptians will be happy for them to do that because that will put them a distance away from them.

10. Why was it important for the Joseph's family to live far away from the Egyptians?

Joseph sees this is the best land for his family, and also I think he sees it as a little extra protection for his family - a way to be able to thrive without calling attention to themselves.

Chapter 47

11. :1-6 Does Pharaoh seem to be pleased with the arrangement? Why do you think Joseph chose only 5 of his brothers to appear before Pharaoh?

Yes, Pharaoh seems pleased. And I think one reason he is is that he doesn't get the full impact of how large this family is. Joseph only has 5 brothers accompany him.

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12. :7-10 Who blessed who?

Jacob, the older and wiser, and the one who worships the One, True God, is the one who blesses the most powerful man in Egypt. That tells me that the Egyptians respected age. The Egyptians loved and respected Joseph, the son of Jacob. And the Egyptians did not hate the One, True God...they probably just didn't know Who He was.

13. :9 How old is Jacob when he arrives in Egypt?

130.

14. How old was Jacob when Joseph disappeared, supposedly killed by a wild animal?

115. Joseph had disappeared 15 years ago.

(hint: how old was Joseph when he was sold into slavery? (37:2) How old was Joseph when he became second in command in Egypt? (41:46) How long was Joseph second in command before his brothers arrived? (45:6)

15. :11-26 When the famine was over, who was much, much richer?

The Pharaoh of Egypt.

16. :27-31 What promise does Jacob ask of his son, Joseph, as he is near death?

Jacob makes Joseph promise, in the most intimate promise possible, to not bury him in Egypt, but to take his body back to the promised land and bury him where Abraham, Isaac and their wives were buried. Jacob knew that the future of their people was permanently tied up with that land.