

**Until the Promised Land**

**050202-5**

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

Imagine how Joseph felt seeing his father again and bringing all his household into Egypt! In **Genesis 46**, we read -

**1 And Israel** - *that is Jacob - another name of Jacob that God gave him* - **took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba,** - *now you might remember that El Elyon is spoken of when God met at Beersheba His servant - it means the everlasting God - and offered sacrifices unto the (everlasting) God. . . He came to the everlasting God, because - you have to see this from Jacob's point of view - he was going to this foreign land as it seems. But God was giving him His promise that he was going to come back.*

**2 And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I.**

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

**4 I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again . . .**

**28 And he. . . - Jacob - . . . sent Judah. . . - the son, one of the tribesman - . . . before him unto Joseph, to direct his face to Goshen. . . - to find directions of how to go straight to Goshen - . . . and they came into the land of Goshen.**

**29**        **And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel. . . - that is Jacob - . . . his father, to Goshen . . . - could you imagine that meeting - . . . and presented himself unto him and he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while.**

**31**        **And Joseph said unto his brethren, and unto his father's house, I will go up, and show Pharaoh, and say unto him, My brethren, and my father's house, who 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**        **Then 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 . . . - and listen to this - . . . for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.**

You see, God wanted to isolate his people from the heathenism that had crept on in to the twelve tribes. He was wanting to make them a people unto Himself, but there is so much of the world, like that which creeps into your life and into my life. God wanted to pick them up and put them into a place where they would learn of Him. Therefore, by saying they were shepherds, which they really were, that was the very thing that would help them to be separated. Isn't that interesting: the Egyptians saw them

as ***an abomination***; a shepherd was an abomination. They felt it was something they did not want to end up doing. So it was later, when there were five of these men when Joseph brought them over to Pharaoh, that they were again asked, ***What is your occupation?*** and they were able to say how that they were ***shepherds***. Although Jacob was a despised shepherd, when it came his turn to come to Pharaoh, who was as God in the land, he blessed the monarch. This is amazing! You know, in **Hebrews 7:7**, we read - **And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.** And here it was he who came and immediately uttered forth a blessing. Jacob and his family lived as a separated people unto the Lord in a separate part of the country, Goshen.

Jacob died. He had asked that when he died his body be brought back to his people. Permission was given and he was brought. After the burial, in the very last chapter of **Genesis, chapter 50**, you can imagine that Joseph's brothers were very apprehensive. They might have thought, "Well, now Father's gone. There is nothing to keep Joseph from turning on us and doing something terrible to us." They were very, very anxious, but when Joseph realized what was upon their hearts, he said -

**21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones . . .** Forgiveness does not carry, "Oh, you did this and that yesterday." In Christ Jesus, all is made clean and pure and we

see each other in the Lord; not what you did to me yesterday. That is why forgiveness is such a wonderful thing. And Joseph brings them and reconciles them. It makes me think of **Romans 11-**

**1 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? . . .**

**11 I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.**

**12 Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles, how much more their fulness?**

**Genesis 50:25 . . . God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.** Joseph said this. He knew his day with his people would come when Jesus would come to His own. His bones were eventually taken out at the time of the great exodus to the promised land, awaiting that day when Jesus will come the second time to His people, the Jews. Oh, glory be, that day is coming soon!

*Amen.*