

## Genesis 46-47:12

### God Restores: A Picture of the Gospel

#### Section 1: 46:1-7 – God Speaks

*Israel set out with all that he had and came to Beer-sheba, and he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. <sup>2</sup>That night God spoke to Israel in a vision: “Jacob, Jacob!” he said. And Jacob replied, “Here I am.” <sup>3</sup>God said, “I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. <sup>4</sup>I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you back. Joseph will close your eyes when you die.” <sup>5</sup>Jacob left Beer-sheba. The sons of Israel took their father Jacob in the wagons Pharaoh had sent to carry him, along with their dependents and their wives. <sup>6</sup>They also took their cattle and possessions they had acquired in the land of Canaan. Then Jacob and all his offspring with him came to Egypt. <sup>7</sup>His sons and grandsons, his daughters and granddaughters, indeed all his offspring, he brought with him to Egypt.*

God’s Word is key to restoration.

As is says in Romans 10:17 (NASB95): *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.* And in Hebrews 4:12 (NASB95): *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Why is God’s Word key to restoration? Because God’s Word is essential for genuine heart change. In verse 4 God speaks two promises to Israel: (1) *I will go down with you* and (2) *I will also bring you back*. Israel can walk boldly into Egypt, knowing he will see his son and he will return to the promise land, because God spoke.

We cannot underestimate the power of God’s Word. You want salvation from your sins? Turn to God’s Word. You want confidence to walk by faith and not by sight? Turn to God’s Word. God’s Word brings faith and confidence. The road to restoration begins with God’s Word. Not only for our relationship with God but also with our relationships with one another.

#### Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why do we need God’s Word?
- ❖ What role should God’s Word play in our lives?
- ❖ When and what was the last verse or passage of Scripture you memorized?
- ❖ Why is it important to remember that when we desire to hear from God we must turn to His Word?

#### Section 2: 46:8-34 – God Reconciles

*<sup>8</sup>These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt—Jacob and his sons:*

*Reuben. <sup>10</sup>Simeon. <sup>11</sup>Levi. <sup>12</sup>Judah. <sup>13</sup>Issachar. <sup>14</sup>Zebulun. <sup>16</sup>Gad. <sup>17</sup>Asher. <sup>19</sup>Joseph and Benjamin.*

*<sup>20</sup>Manasseh and Ephraim were born to Joseph in the land of Egypt. They were born to him by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, a priest at On.*

*<sup>23</sup>Dan. <sup>24</sup>Naphtali.*

*<sup>27</sup>And Joseph’s sons who were born to him in Egypt: two persons. All those of Jacob’s household who came to Egypt: seventy persons.*

*<sup>28</sup> Now Jacob had sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to prepare for his arrival at Goshen. When they came to the land of Goshen, <sup>29</sup> Joseph hitched the horses to his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel. Joseph presented himself to him, threw his arms around him, and wept for a long time.*

Reconciliation is God's plan for His people. We saw Joseph embrace his brothers in previous chapters and now we see him embracing his father. God desires for his people to experience reconciliation. We see this on full display with the story of Joseph and confirmed in 2 Peter 3:9 (NASB95): *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

In God's timing He restored Israel's family. And at the right time, God provided eternal restoration through Christ. As it says in Romans 5:6 (NASB95): *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*

Believers are uniquely called and equipped to walk together loving one another. God has specifically called us to make sure that we seek reconciliation with one another when conflict comes: not "if" conflict comes but "when". Our ability to reconcile with one another gives others a picture of the gospel. Our reconciliation opens the door for us to share the reconciliation that is possible through Christ to God.

#### Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why do we need Jesus to reconcile us to the Father?
- ❖ Why should believers always seek reconciliation with one another?

### Section 3: 47:1-12 – God Sustains

*<sup>9</sup> Jacob said to Pharaoh, "My pilgrimage has lasted 130 years. My years have been few and hard, and they have not reached the years of my ancestors during their pilgrimages." <sup>10</sup> So Jacob blessed Pharaoh and departed from Pharaoh's presence. <sup>11</sup> Then Joseph settled his father and brothers in the land of Egypt and gave them property in the best part of the land, the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. <sup>12</sup> And Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's family with food for their dependents.*

Joseph provided all this father and brothers need to live in the land with him. In a much greater way, through Jesus, God provides all we need to live with Him for all eternity. God will provide all we need to sustain a relationship with Him.

Romans 8:38-39 (NASB95): *<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Often, we think we "need" a lot of things that we really don't actually need, and in that, we lose sight what we truly need and that is God Himself. All that we will ever need for eternal life is found in the person of Jesus.

#### Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Are you seeking the treasures of earth or the treasures of heaven? How does your day-to-day actions answer that question?
- ❖ Do you truly believe that all you need is Jesus to navigate this life?