

## **Genesis 46-47 – Family Reunion.**

God speaks to Jacob on the way to Egypt at the southern outpost of the Promised Land. Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba many years before. Isaac received a special promise from God and built an altar for sacrifice there, calling on the name of the LORD. Jacob offers sacrifices and God speaks to him too after 40 years, reassuring him of the Promises through a dream.

The total number of males of this clan was 70 - 66, plus Jacob himself, Joseph, and his two sons. This small family will become a nation in the next 400 years.

Look how God works his ways...saving nations and building a nation.

- From the time God called Abraham, it took at least 25 years to add one son – Isaac
- It took Isaac 60 years to add another son in the line of promise – Jacob
- It took 50 or 60 years for Jacob to add 12 sons and one daughter
- It took this family 215 years to grow from one to 70.

Henry Morris calculates the initial group of five (Jacob and his four wives) grew into a clan of about 100 in 50 years. That is a growth rate of just over 6% per year. At that rate, there would be several million descendants by the time of the Exodus 430 years later.

***Isaiah 55:8** - “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.*

*This reunion of Israel with Joseph is more than he ever dreamed before. This is a dramatic change from all things are against me. The Egyptians were agricultural in the sense of farming crops. They considered sheep unclean, and therefore detested shepherds. This blessing is all because of Joseph. He saved Egypt - and much of the world - from terrible famine, and now the whole family of Israel is blessed and received an inheritance because of Joseph.*

**The Egyptian Kingdom amassed more wealth and land through the famine, even levying a 20% tax after the famine.**

Israel knew Egypt was not his home. He belonged in the land promised to him and his descendants and that's where he should and will be buried.

There are two ways of being united -- one is by being frozen together, and the other is by being melted together. What Christians need is to be united in brotherly love, and then they may expect to have power.

Unity flows from God to man-church-husband-wife-children...commitment to God's call upon us.

**Judges 20:11** - *So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, united together as one man.*

**Psalms 133:1** - *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.*

**John 17:20** - *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*

**Ephesians 4:1-3** - *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*