

Dreamer: The Life of Joseph A Study in Genesis 37-50

God's Grace and a
Growing Genealogy
Genesis 46:1-27
August 8, 2021

MAIN POINT: God, in Christ and by his Spirit, is creating a new humanity who are blessed and kept by his sovereign grace.

I. FROM HEBRON TO BEERSHEBA (vv. 1-4)

- Jacob's Journey to Beersheba (v. 1)
 - Beersheba had a rich heritage for the patriarchs of Israel (Gen. 21, 22, 26).
- A Night Theophany (vv. 2-4).
 - The LORD's call to Jacob recalls Abraham's summons (Gen. 15, 21), and anticipates the summons of Moses (Exod. 3:4-6).
 - The LORD's presence and promises allay the fears of Jacob (cf. Gen. 28:15).

II. FROM BEERSHEBA TO EGYPT (vv. 5-7)

- The Blessings of Yahweh in the Life of Jacob (vv. 5-7).
 - All is going according to the providential hand of the LORD (Gen. 45:16-20; cf. Prov. 21:1).

III. A GENEALOGY IN TOW (vv. 8-27)

- An Introduction (v. 8a)
 - These introductory words recall previous genealogies in the book of Genesis (cf. Gen. 5:1; 6:9; 10:1, 31), and anticipates the book of Exodus (cf. Exod. 1:1).
- The Sons of Leah Are 33 (vv. 8b-15)
 - The "sons and daughters" of Jacob...
- The Sons of Zilpah Are 16 (vv. 16-18)
 - Mention of Paddan-Aram recalls both the struggles of Jacob and the blessings of the LORD.
- The Sons of Rachel Are 14 (vv. 19-22)
 - Rachel is named the wife of Jacob, and is placed at both the beginning and end of this list, demonstrating pride of place (v. 19, 22).
- The Sons of Bilhah are 7 (vv. 23-25)
- The Whole Clan (vv. 26-27)
 - Moses has been very selective in his constructions of this 70-person genealogical list, and this list conveys both the kindness and severity of God, and highlights his grace (cf. Rom. 11:22).

IV. WHAT'S A GENEALOGY GOT TO DO WITH IT?

- The "Sons and Daughters" of Jacob (v. 15)
 - This phrase finds its highest concentration elsewhere in the book of Genesis in Gen. 5, 11.
 - What do we find there? Genealogical lists of the seed of the woman that are overcoming the sin of the seed of the serpent.
- Where else is a 70-person segmented genealogy found in the book of Genesis?
 - Genesis 10 and the Table of Nations, judged by the LORD and dispersed throughout the world.
- The genealogical list in Genesis 26:8-27 highlights the work of God's grace in creating a new humanity for his glory.

Suggested Reading:

The Serpent and the Serpent Slayer by Andrew David Naselli

The New Creation and the Storyline of Scripture by Frank Thielman

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 46:1-27

- 1) In what ways did the promises and presence of God calm the fears of Jacob (cf. Gen. 46:1-4)? In what ways in particular can God's promises and his presence by his Spirit help you to overcome present-day fears you have?
- 2) Certain details in our text this morning may ring mundane, but they are genuinely far from that. How are we to see the providential hand of God at work in the details of Genesis 46:5-7?
- 3) In a moment of brutal honesty, describe how you have previously approached the genealogical list contained in the Bible. Do you still approach them this way? If not, why, and in what particular ways has your approach changed?
- 4) Does it make you uneasy knowing that Moses was writing the genealogical list of Genesis 46:8-27 for theological purposes? If so, in what ways and why?
- 5) Knowing that God, by his grace and for his glory, is creating a new humanity in, by, and through Jesus Christ, how should that inform our approach of pursuing reconciliation between each other? What are our starting points? What empowers that pursuit?