

The Birth Of A Nation

Genesis 46-47

I. Despite Our Disarray, God Can Purpose Greatness To A Nation (46:1-4)

- A. We Must Faithfully _____ The Lord As We Recount God's Faithfulness (1)
- B. We Must Be _____ To The Lord's Calling For Us (2)
- C. We Must Be Cure Our _____ Knowing God Keeps His Promise (3)
- D. We Must Trust God Step By Step Knowing His _____ Is With Us (4)

II. Despite Our Past Sins, God Has A Personal And Collective Purpose For Every Individual (46:5-27)

III. Despite Our Struggle, God Can Bring Us To A Place Of Prosperity (46:28-34)

IV. Despite Being Sojourners, God Provides For Us In A Foreign Land (47:1-31)

- A. God Provides For The _____ (47:1-6)
- B. The Governor Enables _____ (47:5-6)
- C. The Godly Blesses Their _____ (47:7-10)
- D. The Family Provides For Their _____ (47:11-12)
- E. The Government Provided Food In _____ For Trade And Work (47:13-23)

V. Despite Settling In A Foreign Land, We Remember Where Our Real Home Is (47:27-31)

Conclusion:

1. God has a purpose for us individually, even when we go through a season of neglect.
2. God has a purpose for us in our country, even when we go through a season of struggle.
3. God has a purpose for us cross-culturally, even when we go through a season of misunderstanding.

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- A. We Must Faithfully Worship The Lord As We Recount God's Faithfulness (1)**
- B. We Must Be Obedient To The Lord's Calling For Us (2)**
- C. We Must Be Cure Our Fear Knowing God Keeps His Promise (3)**
- D. We Must Trust God Step By Step Knowing His Presence Is With Us (4)**

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Introduction:

1. Interesting Facts About The Modern Nation Of Israel

<https://carleton.ca/studyisrael/israel-fun-facts/>

https://www.buzzfeed.com/rethinkisrael/facts-about-israel-that-will-surprise-you?utm_term=.gw6q3KK8G#.kuXYmMM1v

- Israel has two official languages: Hebrew and Arabic
- Israel is only 1/6 of 1% of the landmass of the Middle East (Israel is roughly half the size of Lake Michigan).
- Golda Meir was the 3rd woman in history to serve as a country's prime minister.
- Israel's population has reached 8 million as of Independence Day 2013!
- In regards to its population, Israel has the highest ratio of college degree
- Israel has more museums per capita than any other country in the world.
- Jerusalem's Mount of Olives is the world's oldest continuously used cemetery.

- The Dead Sea in Israel is the lowest point on earth, at 1,315 feet below sea level at its lowest point.
- Israel is the only liberal democracy in the middle east.
- Israel has the most sushi restaurants per capita after Tokyo and NYC.

- Israel has the third highest rate of entrepreneurship in the world.
- With more than 3,000 high-tech companies and start-ups, Israel has the highest concentration of hi-tech companies in the world (apart from the Silicon Valley).
- Motorola developed the cell phone in Israel.
- Voicemail technology was developed in Israel.
- The first antivirus software for computers was created in Israel in 1979.
- Most of the Windows NT operating system was developed by Microsoft-Israel
- The Pentium MMX Chip technology was designed in Israel at Intel.

2. Biblical Facts About God's People Of Israel

- God created the nation for a special purpose – bless other nations
- A Savior will come from this nation
- Israel has overcome several millennia of anti-Semitism
- God has preserved the nation for a special purpose
- God has a future for this nation when He returns

Period Of Time	Purpose Of God	Response By Man
Law – Past (Moses to Christ)	God Wants Israel's Obedience	Israel Rejected God And The Messiah
Church – Present (Christ To Rapture)	God Wants Israel Jealousy (To See What It's Missing)	Israel Rejects God And The Gentiles Are Saved
Tribulation – Future (Rapture To Armageddon)	God Wants Israel's Attention	The World Is Judged, A Remnant Of Jews Is Saved
Millenium – Future (2 nd Coming To New Heaven Earth)	God Wants Israel's Glory	Israel Returns To Submission To God's Rule

I. Despite Our Disarray, God Can Purpose Greatness To A Nation (46:1-4)

A. We Must Faithfully Worship The Lord As We Recount God's Faithfulness (1)

46:1 So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

- Jacob prioritized the worship of God
- It's so easy to be so busy to worship God (Martha syndrome) – are we too busy on Sunday to worship God
- Make the commitment to come to one of the services when you're serving in the other
- It's so easy to be discouraged – famine, letting Benjamin go – that we forget to worship

B. We Must Be Obedient To The Lord's Calling For Us (2)

2 And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am."

- When God calls us to a task, are we ready to respond "Here I am"
-

C. We Must Be Cure Our Fear Knowing God Keeps His Promise (3)

3 Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation.

- The "I Am" God is making His 3rd reminder to Jacob (in Genesis) that He is the Covenant Making God from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob
-

D. We Must Trust God Step By Step Knowing His Presence Is With Us (4)

4 I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes."

II. Despite Our Past Sins, God Has A Personal And Collective Purpose For Every Individual (46:5-27)

5 Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. 6 They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, 7 his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters. All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

8 Now these are the names of the descendants of Israel, who came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons. Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, 9 and the sons of Reuben: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. 10 The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman. 11 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. 12 The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan); and the sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. 13 The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puvah, Yob, and Shimron. 14 The sons of Zebulun: Sered, Elon, and Jahleel. 15 These are the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Paddan-aram, together with his daughter Dinah; altogether his sons and his daughters numbered thirty-three.

16 The sons of Gad: Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli. 17 The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, with Serah their sister. And the sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel. 18 These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter; and these she bore to Jacob—sixteen persons.

19 The sons of Rachel, Jacob's wife: Joseph and Benjamin. 20 And to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera the priest of On, bore to him. 21 And the sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard. 22 These are the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob—fourteen persons in all.

23 The son of Dan: Hushim. 24 The sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem. 25 These are the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to Rachel his daughter, and these she bore to Jacob—seven persons in all.

26 All the persons belonging to Jacob who came into Egypt, who were his own descendants, not including Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all. 27 And the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two. All the persons of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were **seventy**.

- God personally names individuals in the Word of God
- He takes care of them personally and nationally
- He has a purpose for each of us

III. Despite Our Struggle, God Can Bring Us To A Place Of Prosperity (46:28-34)

28 He had sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to show the way before him in Goshen, and they came into the land of Goshen. 29 Then Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself to him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while. 30 Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive." 31 Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh and will say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me. 32 And the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock, and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.' 33 When Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?' 34 you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' in order that you may dwell in the land of Goshen, for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

IV. Despite Being Sojourners, God Provides For Us In A Foreign Land (47:1-31)

A. God Provides For The Displaced (47:1-6)

47 So Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, "My father and my brothers, with their flocks and herds and all that they possess, have come from the land of Canaan. They are now in the land of Goshen." 2 And from among his brothers he took five men and presented them to Pharaoh. 3 Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, as our fathers were." 4 They said to Pharaoh, "We have come to sojourn in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants' flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. And now, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen."

B. The Governor Enables Employment (47:5-6)

5 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you. 6 The land of Egypt is before you. Settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land. Let them settle in the land of Goshen, and if you know any able men among them, put them in charge of my livestock."

- Pharaoh put them in a great land, but it was far from a hand out
- Those who were able served as ranchers – which is what they were used to doing
- He put the right people in the right place
- Notice: "able men"
- There's a difference between able people and unable people
- Welfare should be for those unable to work
- Those who are able should – that's where the system gets abused

C. The Godly Blesses Their Authorities (47:7-10)

7 Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father and stood him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. 8 And Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How many are the days of the years of your life?" 9 And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my sojourning are 130 years. Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their sojourning." 10 And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from the presence of Pharaoh.

1 Timothy 2:1-4. First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and ³dignified in every way. ³This is good, and ⁴it is pleasing in the sight of ⁵God our Savior, ⁴who desires ⁵all people to be saved and ⁴to come to ⁵the knowledge of the truth. ⁵

- Pray and bless our authorities
- May not agree – but honor the office
- Ie/ Pelosi and Trump

D. The Family Provides For Their Own (47:11-12)

11 Then Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. 12 And Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their dependents.

1 Timothy 5:3-8 ³Honor widows ⁴who are truly widows. ⁴But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn ⁴to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for ⁴this is pleasing in the sight of God. ⁵She ⁵who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and ⁶continues in supplications and prayers night and day, ⁶but ⁶she who is self-indulgent is ⁶dead even while she lives. ⁷Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. ⁸But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for ⁸members of his household, he has ⁸denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

E. The Government Provided Food In Exchange For Trade And Work (47:13-23)

13 Now there was no food in all the land, for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished by reason of the famine. 14 And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, in exchange for the grain that they bought. And Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. 15 And when the money was all spent in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? For our money is gone." 16 And Joseph answered, "Give your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for your livestock, if your money is gone." 17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the herds, and the donkeys. He supplied them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year. 18 And when that year was ended, they came to him the following year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is all spent. The herds of livestock are my lord's. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our land. 19 Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we with our land will be servants to Pharaoh. And give us seed that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate."

20 So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for all the Egyptians sold their fields, because the famine was severe on them. The land became Pharaoh's. 21 As for the people, he made servants of them from one end of Egypt to the other. 22 Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had a fixed allowance from Pharaoh and lived on the allowance that Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their land.

23 Then Joseph said to the people, "Behold, I have this day bought you and your land for Pharaoh. Now here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land. 24 And at the harvests you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and as food for yourselves and your households, and as food for your little ones." 25 And they said, "You have saved our lives; may it please my lord, we will be servants to Pharaoh." 26 So Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt, and it stands to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth; the land of the priests alone did not become Pharaoh's.

- Joseph didn't just give grain away – but exchanged it for livestock, then their service
- It wasn't slavery like we know of it today – they volunteered for food
- Joseph was a benevolent leader

V. Despite Settling In A Foreign Land, We Remember Where Our Real Home Is (47:27-31)

27 Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen. And they gained possessions in it, and were fruitful and multiplied greatly. 28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were 147 years.

29 And when the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal kindly and truly with me. Do not bury me in Egypt, 30 but let me lie with my fathers. Carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place." He answered, "I will do as you have said." 31 And he said, "Swear to me"; and he swore to him. Then Israel bowed himself upon the head of his bed.

Philippians 3:20 ²⁰For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Peter 2:11 ¹¹Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul

Hebrews 11:10 ¹⁰for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

- R. C. Sproul: The conflict between Christianity and secular humanism is a conflict about ultimates. This conflict allows no room for compromise. If God is ultimate, then manifestly man is not. Conversely if man is ultimate, then God cannot be. There can be only one ultimate. Compromise may be achieved in the realm of culture by tolerating competing worldviews. A secular nation may choose to "tolerate" Christianity to some degree as long as it is viewed merely as an expression of one form of human religion. But it cannot tolerate Christianity's truth claims. Christianity is always in a posture of antithesis with respect to secular humanism.

"This antithesis makes it difficult for the modern Christian to maintain the integrity of faith in an alien culture. He must face the difficult choice of playing his harp or hanging it on the nearest tree. **The Christian must be willing to be a pilgrim, a sojourner in a foreign land, if he expects to be faithful to Christ.**" (*Willing To Believe*, Baker Publishing, 1997,2018, pp. 16-17)

2 Corinthians 5:20 ²⁰Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Conclusion:

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2. God has a purpose for us in our country, even when we go through a season of struggle.
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