

## Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes

### Second Quarter 2022: *Genesis*

### Lesson 13 “Israel in Egypt”

#### Read for this week’s study

Genesis 46; Romans 10:12, 13; Genesis 47; Genesis 48; Acts 3:25, 26; Genesis 49; Philippians 2:10; Genesis 49:29–50:21.

#### Memory Text

“So Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly” (Genesis 47:27, NKJV).

#### Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. Jacob Goes to Joseph
- III. Jacob Settles in Egypt
- IV. Jacob Blesses Joseph’s Sons
- V. Jacob Blesses His Sons
- VI. The Hope of the Promised Land
- VII. Further Study

#### Questions and Notes for Consideration

##### Facilitator: Daniel Duda

1. “Genesis covers the last years of Jacob and Joseph together. We see Jacob (Israel) leave Canaan (Genesis 46) in order to settle in Egypt (Genesis 47), and there he will die (Genesis 49:29–50:21). And yet, even in this Egyptian setting, the prospect of the Promised Land still looms large in the background (Genesis 50:22–26).” (Sabbath afternoon)
2. God told Isaac: “Do not go down to Egypt” (26:2) and God’s message to Jacob was: “Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt” (46:3; Sunday’s lesson). If God uses the Bible to speak **to us**, which one do you follow (cf. Deuteronomy 17:16)? Does it seem like the best idea to move a 130-year-old patriarch to a completely new environment?
3. Why does Jacob choose Judah (who is the fourth in order of priority) to lead the family to their meeting with Joseph (46:28; cf. 37:27; 44:18-34)? If Joseph’s dreams were from God, why does Jacob never bow to him? (37:9-11; 46:29) Rachel even

died before Joseph had the dreams! What do we learn about Joseph as a strategist from 46:31-47:6? (Monday's lesson)

4. What is the significance of the fact that Jacob blesses Pharaoh (47:7; cf. 12:2.10-20)? Jacob stole a blessing (27:18-29), received blessings (28:3-4, 13-15; 32:26-29) and this is the first example of him giving a blessing. Yet despite his obsession with blessings, Jacob's words to Pharaoh reveal a disillusioned man, "The years of my earthly sojourn are one hundred thirty; few and hard have been the years of my life. They do not compare with the years of the life of my ancestors during their long sojourn." (47:9). The accumulation of blessings did not impact his life in a positive way. What lessons can be drawn from the sadness of his words?
5. Why did Jacob bless Joseph's two sons, but not his other grandsons (Genesis 48; Tuesday's lesson)? They are thus elevated from the status of grandsons to the status of sons (Gen. 48:5 cf. 48:22). What is your impression of another reversal of primogeniture (with no indication of this being God's will)?
6. What is your understanding of Jacob blessing his sons (ch. 49; Wednesday's lesson)? His words run the full gamut from full blessing to virtual curse. Is there any apparent shift in Jacob's understanding over the years? What about the enigmatic verse 18? How do Jacob's blessings of Judah & Joseph compare? If you were one of Jacob's sons, how would you feel going home from this encounter? The blessings might well be 'suitable' (49:28), but the majority of them are hardly desirable.
7. Try to imagine how Dinah must have felt (cf. ch. 34). Her brothers' act of vengeance removed her only hope of marriage, thus making her the only permanently barren woman in Genesis. She remains a Victim, Object, Silent Observer—a truly high price to pay for teaching the Hivites a lesson!
8. Before we sign off with the last chapter of Genesis (Thursday's lesson), let's turn our attention to genealogies and the role of numbers in the book of Genesis. Genesis 5 gives the genealogy of Adam to Noah. Genesis 10 lists the descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth ('the table of nations'). Genesis 11 gives the genealogy of Shem to Abraham. (Genealogies make up the first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles.)
9. The length of time before Joseph goes to Pharaoh to request permission to take Jacob's body to the family burial plot in Canaan is 110 days (40 days embalming + 70 days of mourning; 50:3), thus anticipating Joseph's own death aged 110 years (50:26).
10. The total number of Jacob's descendants who either went down to Egypt or were born there is 70 (46:27), which corresponds with the listing of the world's 70 nations in chapter 10. Gad is the seventh son and fathered seven sons (and the numerical value of his name is seven). Rachel and her maid Bilhah have 21 (7x3) children, Leah and Zilpha have 49 (7x7) children.
11. In spite of Jacob's blessing of Joseph 'who was set apart from his brothers' (49:26), he is the first to die, though he is the youngest except for Benjamin (50:22, 26). Joseph's age at death has a neat mathematical relationship to the lives of the

previous three generations: Abraham 175 ( $7 \times 5^2$ ); Isaac 180 ( $5 \times 6^2$ ); Jacob 147 ( $3 \times 7^2$ ); Joseph 110 ( $5^2 + 6^2 + 7^2$ ). He brings this section of the family history to a neat conclusion.

12. Why would the apostle Paul instruct Timothy and Titus not to “give heed to...endless genealogies” (1 Timothy 1:4), but rather to “avoid” them (Titus 3:9)?
13. What do you see as the message of Genesis to you? What fills you with hope? What is unresolved within the book, demonstrating that certain things in life take time and that resolutions cannot be rushed? Why do we need to watch God continue to act in Exodus and through the biblical story and beyond? How is your life going to be different after studying the book of Genesis for 13 weeks?

### Further Study with Ellen White

There are no barriers which man or Satan can erect but that faith can penetrate. {DA 403.1}

The life of Christ established a religion in which there is no caste, a religion by which Jew and Gentile, free and bond, are linked in a common brotherhood, equal before God. No question of policy influenced His movements. He made no difference between neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies. That which appealed to His heart was a soul thirsting for the waters of life. {9T 191.1}

He passed no human being by as worthless, but sought to apply the healing remedy to every soul. In whatever company He found Himself, He presented a lesson appropriate to the time and the circumstances. Every neglect or insult shown by men to their fellow men only made Him more conscious of their need of His divine-human sympathy. He sought to inspire with hope the roughest and most unpromising, setting before them the assurance that they might become blameless and harmless, attaining such a character as would make them the children of God. {9T 191.2}

Our God has heaven and earth at His command, and He knows just what we need. We can see only a little way before us; “but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” Hebrews 4:13. Above the distractions of the earth He sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best. {8T 272.1}

Not even a sparrow falls to the ground without the Father’s notice. Satan’s hatred against God leads him to delight in destroying even the dumb creatures. It is only through God’s protecting care that the birds are preserved to gladden us with their songs of joy. But He does not forget even the sparrows. “Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.” Matthew 10:31. {8T 273.1}

Could your eyes be opened, you would see your heavenly Father bending over you in love and could you hear His voice, it would be in tones of compassion to you who are prostrate with suffering and affliction. Stand fast in His strength; there is rest for you, the weary.—Letter 71, Dec. 5, 1878, to J. N. Andrews. {TDG 348.4}

All who choose Christ's kingdom of love and righteousness and peace, making its interest paramount to all other, are linked to the world above, and every blessing needed for this life is theirs. In the book of God's providence, the volume of life, we are each given a page. That page contains every particular of our history; even the hairs of the head are numbered. God's children are never absent from His mind. {DA 313.3}

The Lord's care is over all His creatures. He loves them all and makes no difference, except that He has the most tender pity for those who are called to bear life's heaviest burdens. {FLB 63.2}

Remember that underneath you are the everlasting arms. "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him" (Psalm 37:7). He is guiding you into a harbor of gracious experience. {HP 269.5}

The purpose and plan of grace existed from all eternity. Before the foundation of the world it was according to the determinate counsel of God that man should be created, endowed with power to do the divine will. But the defection of man, with all its consequences, was not hidden from the Omnipotent, and yet it did not deter him from carrying out his eternal purpose; for the Lord would establish his throne in righteousness. God knows the end from the beginning; "known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world." Therefore redemption was not an afterthought—a plan formulated after the fall of Adam—but an eternal purpose to be wrought out for the blessing not only of this atom of a world but for the good of all the worlds which God has created. {ST, April 25, 1892 par. 1}

Through the Jewish nation it was God's purpose to impart rich blessings to all peoples. Through Israel the way was to be prepared for the diffusion of His light to the whole world. The nations of the world, through following corrupt practices, had lost the knowledge of God. Yet in His mercy God did not blot them out of existence. He purposed to give them opportunity for becoming acquainted with Him through His church. He designed that the principles revealed through His people should be the means of restoring the moral image of God in man. {COL 286.1}

In every human being He discerned infinite possibilities. He saw men as they might be, transfigured by His grace—in "the beauty of the Lord our God." Psalm 90:17. Looking upon them with hope, He inspired hope. Meeting them with confidence, He inspired trust. Revealing in Himself man's true ideal, He awakened, for its attainment, both desire and faith. In His presence souls despised and fallen realized that they still were men, and they longed to prove themselves worthy of His regard. In many a heart that seemed dead to all things holy, were

awakened new impulses. To many a despairing one there opened the possibility of a new life. {Ed 80.1}

The creative energy that called the worlds into existence is in the word of God. This word imparts power; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One. It transforms the nature and re-creates the soul in the image of God. {Ed 126.4}

When temptations assail you, when care, perplexity, and darkness seem to surround your soul, look to the place where you last saw the light. Rest in Christ's love and under His protecting care. When sin struggles for the mastery in the heart, when guilt oppresses the soul and burdens the conscience, when unbelief clouds the mind, remember that Christ's grace is sufficient to subdue sin and banish the darkness. Entering into communion with the Saviour, we enter the region of peace. {MH 250.1}

Never feel that Christ is far away. He is always near. His loving presence surrounds you. Seek Him as One who desires to be found of you. He desires you not only to touch His garments, but to walk with Him in constant communion. {MH 85.2}

There every power will be developed, every capability increased. The grandest enterprises will be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations will be reached, the highest ambitions realized. And still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of body and mind and soul. {Ed 307.4}

All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's children. With unutterable delight we shall enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings. We shall share the treasures gained through ages upon ages spent in contemplation of God's handiwork. And the years of eternity, as they roll, will continue to bring more glorious revelations. "Exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20) will be, forever and forever, the impartation of the gifts of God. {Ed 307.5}

There the redeemed shall know, even as also they are known. The loves and sympathies which God Himself has planted in the soul shall there find truest and sweetest exercise. The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, the sacred ties that bind together "the whole family in heaven and earth" (Ephesians 3:15)—these help to constitute the happiness of the redeemed. {GC 677.1}

And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character. As Jesus opens before them the riches of redemption and the amazing achievements in the great controversy with Satan, the hearts of the ransomed thrill with more fervent devotion, and with more

rapturous joy they sweep the harps of gold; and ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of voices unite to swell the mighty chorus of praise. {GC 678.1}

Then we shall enjoy with Him all the glories of the world to come throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. . . . There is nothing in the kingdom of God to disturb or annoy. This is the life that is promised to the overcomer—a life of happiness and peace, a life of love and beauty.... There is no sin, no distracting care, nothing to mar the peace of the inhabitant. {ML 350.4}

Jacob had ever been a man of deep and ardent affection; his love for his sons was strong and tender, and his dying testimony to them was not the utterance of partiality or resentment. He had forgiven them all, and he loved them to the last. His paternal tenderness would have found expression only in words of encouragement and hope; but the power of God rested upon him, and under the influence of Inspiration he was constrained to declare the truth, however painful. {PP 237.1}