

RUSSELL SANDERS

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THE LIFE OF JOSEPH – LESSON 17

FAMILY REUNION

Jacob (Israel) longed to see Joseph who had asked for him to come. Pharaoh sent word for Israel to bring his entire family to live in Egypt. Jacob packed up everything; people and possessions, took their herds, and set out on the journey.

He stopped at Beer-Sheba, the southernmost part of Canaan, to offer sacrifices to God. That night as he slept, God came to him in a vision and said in Genesis 46:3, ***“I am God, the God of thy Father (El Elohiym). Fear not to go down to Egypt... I will go down with thee... (and) surely bring thee (back) up again.”*** He rose the next morning and resumed the journey to Egypt.

There were 66 of them in that caravan. Once united with Joseph’s family of four, the “nation” of Israel started its sojourn of 430 years from a total of just 70 souls. Centuries later when Moses brought them out of Egypt, they had grown to over two million.

Joseph had intentions made known to them that they should settle in Goshen where there was fertile land for grazing. Jacob sent Judah ahead of the group so that Joseph could direct them there. Once they arrived in Goshen, Joseph made ready his chariot and went to Goshen to see his father. It was a “glad and happy reunion” as they met, wept, and communed.

Someday you and I will also have a “glad happy reunion” day as we meet our Father in heaven. Our “brother” (Jesus) Lord and Savior, shows us the way to our “Goshen” in heaven.

All the tests and trials that we go through here on earth will seem so small when in the presence of His glory. “It will be worth it all when we see Jesus. Life’s trials will seem so small when we see Christ. Once glimpse of His dear face, all sorrows will erase, so bravely run the race, ‘til we see Christ.”