

# The Best Is Yet To Come

Genesis 46:1-34

## Introduction

### I Jacob's Vision

- A. Israel set out for Egypt - Lk 9:23-25
  - 1. He offered **sacrifices** to God at Beersheba - Jam 1:5; 4:2
- B. God spoke to Israel in a vision - Heb 1:1-3
  - 1. He called Jacob by **name** - Ex 3:4; 1 Sam 3:10; Acts 9:4
  - 2. He identified Himself - Gen 28:13
  - 3. He **comforted** Jacob - Ps 34:9; Isa 41:10
  - 4. He affirmed His **promises** to Jacob
    - a. "I will make you into a great **nation**" - Gen 12:2
    - b. "I will go down to Egypt with you" - Isa 41:10
    - c. "I will bring you **back** to Canaan again" - Gen 28:15
    - d. "Joseph's own hand will close your eyes"

### II Jacob's Obedience

- A. He left Beersheba and went to Egypt - Jn 14:21
  - 1. He took his **family** and offspring
  - 2. He took his livestock
  - 3. He took his **possessions** acquired in Canaan - Mt 6:19-21
- B. The genealogy of Jacob's children
  - 1. The offspring of Leah: 33 people
  - 2. The offspring of Zilpah: 16 people
  - 3. The offspring of Rachel: 14 people
  - 4. The offspring of Bilhah: 7 people
    - a. 66 people in all excluding Jacob, Joseph and his sons
    - b. **70** including Jacob, Joseph and his sons - Dt 10:21-22

### III Jacob's Reunion

- A. He sent **Judah** ahead to Joseph
  - 1. In order to get directions to Goshen - Jn 10:4
- B. Joseph went to meet his father, Israel
  - 1. He threw his arms around Jacob
  - 2. He **wept** for a long time
- C. Israel indicated that he was ready to **die** - Ps 27:13-14

### D. Joseph's instructions to his family:

- 1. He would speak to Pharaoh in their behalf - Rom 8:34
- 2. They should identify themselves as **shepherds**
  - a. They would be able to settle in Goshen - Jn 17:24
  - b. They would be **detestable** to the Egyptians - Rom 12:2

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Share a time when you experienced God's guidance. How did you know it was Him? What were the results?
- 2. Before leaving the border of Canaan, Jacob offered sacrifices to God. What was the result? What kind of sacrifice does God seek today and what is the outcome? [Hint: Read Rom 12:2]
- 3. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> encounter that Jacob has had with God. What does God say to convince Jacob to move to Egypt? What promises has God given you in the past that you rely on for encouragement and strength today?
- 4. Imagine that a thousand years from now people will be reading your genealogy. How would God describe the record of your life? How would you like to be described? What changes, if any, would you need to make for this to be a reality?
- 5. If God were to ask you to "leave" and follow Him, what would God be asking you to leave behind? What changes would you need to make? Would you be willing? [Read Matt 4:19 and Luke 9:23 for further insight]
- 6. Jacob had one wish; to see his son, Joseph one more time. What one wish would you like to have fulfilled before you die? Take time now to submit that desire to God in prayer. Consider praying through Psalm 103:1-5 as a basis for your prayer.

### BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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