

## JOSEPH....2

(Genesis 41:37—50)

Pharaoh and his advisors selected Joseph to oversee the storing of food during 7 years of plenty. He was given authority second only to Pharaoh himself. He was given Asenath to be his wife. In time she bore him 2 sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

Joseph was 30 years of age when he began his work. Huge storage areas were built, storing enough grain to last the famine years.

Chapters 42-45 record the dramatic story of Joseph and his brothers as they came to Egypt to buy grain, since the famine extended to their country also. It is a story that must be read directly; to summarize it does not do it justice!

Chapter 46 records the move to Egypt by the old man, Jacob, along with his family. They were greeted warmly by Pharaoh and assigned land in a section of Egypt known as Goshen.

Through his management of the food supply, Joseph was able to enrich the Pharaoh by exchanging grain for livestock and land. Afterwards those who farmed the land were to give one-fifth of each year's crop to Pharaoh.

At the age of 147, after 17 years in Egypt, Jacob approached death. He had Joseph's 2 sons brought to him and then pronounced special blessings on them.

In chapter 49 there is a record of Jacob calling all of his sons to him. He made statements about what would happen to each in the future. Some of these predictions were good....and some were not so good.

As Jacob was about to die he gave instructions to bury him in the cave of Machpelah, where Abraham and Sarah were buried.

Chapter 50 records the special embalmment of Jacob. Joseph led a large delegation of officials to Canaan where after a 7-day mourning period Jacob was buried with great ceremony.

Joseph's brothers were worried that he would seek to get revenge against them after their father died, but Joseph assured them that he would not do such a thing.

Joseph died at age 110, after making his family swear to see that his bones were buried in Canaan. (This happened many years later.)