

Genesis 47

1,2 Why only five?

3 They come from a line of shepherds - just as they were told to say.

4 They were there already, and they were just asking to stay during the famine.

5,6 And place them over his livestock. He gives them a royal job even though it is one that is looked down on. It seems they expected people to stay in the businesses and skills that their fathers had.

7 This word can 'blessed' can mean 'greeted' but he may have offered a blessing upon him for exalting Joseph.

8,9 He is not as old as his forefathers and it has been a tough life. Notice he calls life a 'pilgrimage'.

10,11 Who was displaced? Were the first Palestinians instrumental in making their status change from favored guests to slaves?

12 He gave them their ration from the Kingdom storehouses without pay. He could certainly afford to do this - see verse 14.

13,14 Wealth of the world can belong to one man, but it means little.

15,16 Now he takes all the livestock in exchange for food. This is not extortion as they can't feed the livestock anyway.

17-19 He did not put them in slavery but did take their land. Now Pharaoh has everything of value.

20,21 He moved the people into cities (servitude) and probably kept them busy with projects.

22 Now only the priests have land, only Israel has livestock and freedom, and all else is Pharaoh's. Is there an analogy here of the freedom of the people of God and the rest of the world in slavery to the world system?

23,24 20% tax! I wish we had a flat tax of 20%.

25 They were not bitter but grateful for preservation through the famine.

26 This was a fee for the use of the land, not income tax, rent.

27 The Israelites traded their animals for land and prospered during the difficulty.

28,29 The Israelites traded their animals for land and prospered during the difficulty.

30,31 Now he is called Israel again. He is in a right relationship, worshipping.