

## QUESTION 6

- a) It is important to note that he is now called Israel. This speaks of a new beginning.
- b) It is also a reminder of God's continuing hand on those who would be a chosen and great nation; through which redemption from sin would come, through the Messiah Jesus.
- c) We should not underestimate the faith that is being exercised by Jacob here. He is being asked by his son, Joseph, to leave the land of promise; knowing that he will never return.

### Additional Notes:

- a) It's very likely that the clothes given to the brothers by Joseph in verse 22 are festive robes of fine Egyptian linen. Imagine the brothers receiving festive robes from the one from whom they had taken the coat of many colours, and left for dead!
- b) It is interesting to see in verse 24 how that Joseph tells them not to quarrel on the way. They had done just that last time (see **42:21-23**).

## GROUP LEADER'S NOTES – STUDY 17

### QUESTION 1

- a) We see here, how God moves the heart of Pharaoh to be well disposed towards Joseph's family. God gives him a generous heart.
- b) Remember that the nation is in the midst of a famine. Yet Pharaoh is willing to give these foreigners a home and their own land. The area was called Goshen and was very fertile land.
- c) Verse 18 tells us that it would be the best of the land and the most fruitful. This is mentioned twice (in verses 18 and 20).
- d) From a human standpoint; Pharaoh's decision is a response to the fact that these were Joseph's family; and reflects Joseph's character and worth. What he had done for Egypt should be repaid.

### QUESTION 2

- a) This land will enable the family to increase and to keep its identity; even though in a foreign land.
- b) It will also put them in a position where they will later be taken into slavery and then miraculously delivered: "*A deliverance that will forever teach this people and the world what it means to be redeemed as well as called*" (Liam Goligher).
- c) This will be a fulfilment of the promise God made to Abraham almost 200 years earlier in **Genesis 15:13-16**.
- d) However, it's going to end up in 400 plus years of slavery. God's providence leads to God's providence. The joyous and happy providence of Genesis 45 is setting up years of suffering. But they will be meaningful years.
- e) Even in this happy time, God is preparing for a difficult but meaningful providence in the future of His people.

### QUESTION 3

- a) The famine is very severe and could be life-threatening. There is still some five years to go before it ends.
- b) Notice that in verse 20 Joseph's family are not to worry what they leave behind. Their deliverance is most important.
- c) By coming to Egypt, their lives will be saved; and there will be far better things for them there than those they leave behind.
- d) Here is a reminder of our response to deliverance from sin by our Saviour Jesus.
- e) We are to leave everything and follow. The 'best of the land' awaits us.

### QUESTION 4

- a) Up until now they had been preoccupied with material things.
- b) You might expect them to be more concerned about showing their father what they had accumulated on their trip. Or how their prospects are now going to be significantly improved.
- c) However, they are now more concerned about the personal and family issues.
- d) They talk about their brother. And rather than the envy which characterised the earlier part of this story, there is now pride.
- e) They don't even show any resentment towards Benjamin when he is given extra money and clothing (verse 22). Joseph seems to still be testing them on this!
- f) All this demonstrates the change of heart and attitude.

### QUESTION 5

- a) Jacob still seems to have trust issues with his sons. The best news he could possibly receive, and he refuses to believe them.
- b) Notice, that the Bible doesn't say that he didn't believe 'it' (as in; it's too good to be true). Rather, he didn't believe 'them'.
- c) Once they tell Jacob everything, he identifies something about them that has changed.
- d) The promise of a better life is not the primary issue here for Jacob. He doesn't refer to the offer made by Pharaoh. His concern is to see his son again. To reunite the family.

#### Some factors that convince Jacob:

- His sons have seen and heard things that convinced them (personal witness).
- The words that Joseph had spoken to them spoke about God (see verses 5,7-9), convince Jacob that this was indeed his son speaking.
- Seeing the wagons finally convinces Jacob. There would have been no such thing in Canaan. And these would have been top of the range; fit for a king. Here was visible proof. And it revived Jacob.