

QUESTION 5

- a) This is a list of every tribe (and every major family group within that tribe) that will later form the nation Israel.
- b) Every Hebrew knew his family ancestry. It was their identity.
- c) Genealogies show God's covenant faithfulness.
- d) He knows the names of all His children. They are all part of His purposes.

QUESTION 6

- a) Numbers are important in scripture.
- b) Seventy is a round number and is used in scripture to denote totality; or comprehensiveness.
- c) What this verse says is that everyone went down to Egypt.
- d) God's purposes are comprehensive and complete.

Additional Notes on Question 6:

- Stephen, in **Acts 7:14**, tells us that there were 75 people. This is because Stephen quoted from the Greek translation (Septuagint) of the Old Testament, which says 75.
- This is not wrong, but arrived at in a different way, specifically adding five more sons (or grandsons) of Joseph born in Egypt.

GROUP LEADER'S NOTES – STUDY 18

I suggest that on the night, verses 1-7 & 26-27 are read. This doesn't exclude the importance of the verses in between, and will not detract from the lessons learned.

QUESTION 1

- a) He stepped out in faith. He took all that he had.
- b) Although there was a famine; he would have been reluctant to leave the land that God had given him and his descendants.
- c) He would also be well aware of the prophecy made to Abraham in **Genesis 15:13**.
- d) In a previous famine, Jacob's father Isaac had been told by God not to go to Egypt; for God would provide for him (see **26:2-5**). This command was tied up with God's covenant promises.
- e) Jacob stops at Beersheba; the most southern point of Canaan. From there on it was desert to Egypt. Beersheba was a place where Abraham and Isaac had made sacrifices and worshipped God.
- f) The sacrifices he offered expressed his desire to be in God's will.

QUESTION 2

- a) God reaffirms his covenant promises.
- b) The repeating of Jacob's name is a reminder of when God did the same when he called Abraham in Genesis 22:11. On that occasion he had tested Abraham by telling him to sacrifice his son Isaac; but had then provided a substitute sacrifice.
- c) There are two other occasions in scripture where this repeating is also used. When Samuel is called (**1 Samuel 3:10**) and when Saul is stopped on the road to Damascus (**Acts 9:4**).
- d) On each occasion, there is a crisis in the individual's life; followed by a word from God.
- e) Here God reassures Jacob. He's the God of Jacob's father Isaac; who He saved.
- f) God makes it clear that it is His will that Jacob go down to Egypt.
- g) The promise to make Jacob into a great nation is reaffirmed. But that great nation would rise up out of Egypt (see **Psalm 105:23-24**). **Exodus 1:7** confirms that God keeps His promise.
- h) Egypt will be a stepping stone to possessing Canaan for the nation.
- i) God promises His presence. But also, that Jacob's family would return to Canaan. Jacob would also return; in that he would be buried in the Promised Land (see **Genesis 50:12-13**).

QUESTION 3

- a) It seems strange that after all those years and all the problems in getting to Canaan, that Jacob is encouraged by God to move everything and settle in Egypt.
- b) We might ask what God is doing. Is He reneging on his covenant?
- c) God could have made them a great nation and a blessing to other nations by keeping them in Canaan.
- d) Had they stayed in Canaan they might have been absorbed into the Canaanite culture. They would have lost their identity.
- e) Egyptians didn't mix with shepherds. They would have their own land and identity.
- f) What we see is that God wants to teach His people important truths about the gospel.
- g) If Egypt had not happened, then they would never have experienced God's redemption from the enemy.
- h) They would also learn about being a pilgrim people and the need to trust in him.

QUESTION 4

- a) It is interesting that God doesn't speak to anyone else directly until Moses from the burning bush in Exodus 3.
- b) Jacob obeys and sets out in faith.
- c) The repeated phrase "*all his offspring*" emphasises that no-one was left behind.
- d) There was a unity among them as they set off under the direction of God. This had not always been the case.
- e) Note that they are called the sons of Israel. This prepares for when they become the twelve tribes that make up God's holy nation.