

## GROUP LEADER'S NOTES – STUDY 20

### QUESTION 1

- a) *“As he [Jacob] stands before the great Pharaoh, he is unmoved by his greatness. How can this be? It’s because he has first stood before the Lord of all the earth, the God of galaxies, the sovereign of history!”* (Liam Goligher).
- b) God had promised Jacob that he would become a great nation (see **Genesis 28:13-14**). Here he meets the absolute ruler of the most powerful nation on earth.
- c) *“In earthly terms Pharaoh was superior, but in spiritual terms Jacob was the greater”* (Philip Eveson)
- d) Jacob stands before him with nothing, yet it is he that blesses Pharaoh...twice (**v7, 10**). The blessing probably relates to the prayer of a servant of God.
- e) What would Jacob have prayed for Jacob?
- f) He would pray for his well-being.
- g) We are called to pray for those in authority (**Jeremiah 29:7 / 1 Tim 2:1-7**).

### QUESTION 2

- a) The Egyptians were obsessed with their immortality. That’s why they built the pyramids and introduced the mummification process.
- b) 110 was considered the maximum age anyone could live. Jacob was 130 years old. This impresses Pharaoh.
- c) He acknowledges that his life is only brief. He has gone through many trials and difficulties.
- d) But he is on a pilgrimage; as were his forefathers. He never doubts that God has something better.
- e) He never doubts the promises of a more permanent home (see **Hebrews 11:13-16**).

### QUESTION 3

- a) Joseph was wise in his management of the country.
- b) Back in **41:39** Pharaoh had acknowledged those qualities in Joseph and where they had come from.
- c) When the people ran out of money they were able to buy food with their possessions. Cattle would be no good to them if they couldn't afford to feed them.
- d) Interestingly, many of these animals which now belonged to Pharaoh would end up being fed and looked after by the Israelites (**47:6**).
- e) Eventually all the land was handed over to Pharaoh in exchange for food. All except that given to the Israelites! (Note that the priests didn't need to sell their land as they lived off an allowance from the crown).
- f) This is the first record in the Bible of income tax.
- g) What happened during Joseph's administration continued until the time of Moses (who wrote Genesis): **verse 26**.

### QUESTION 4

- a) Verses 25-26 show us that these steps did not affect what people thought of him. They knew that Joseph was not doing this for his own enrichment.
- b) The Egyptians acknowledge that Joseph has saved their lives: **47:25**. Rather than resenting having to pay tax or give up their land, they gave themselves over to serve Pharaoh.

### QUESTION 5

- a) The Israelites have their own land with good grazing pasture. The Egyptians lose their right to their property as they give it to Pharaoh in payment for food.
- b) The Israelites have freedom. The Egyptians become servants.

### QUESTION 6

- a) They can develop their own identity as the people of God. God had promised that they would become a great nation.
- b) They are less likely to intermarry with the Egyptians; again, maintaining their identity.
- c) They are going to be there for 400 years. A lot will happen during this time. But God is working out His perfect plan; and keeping His promises.
- d) Goshen/Rameses was a fertile land. But it was also on the border of Egypt. That would enable them to escape more quickly if they needed to. Of course, that time would come in God's plan.
- e) They were never meant to stay forever (**verse 4**. They were sojourners/pilgrims).