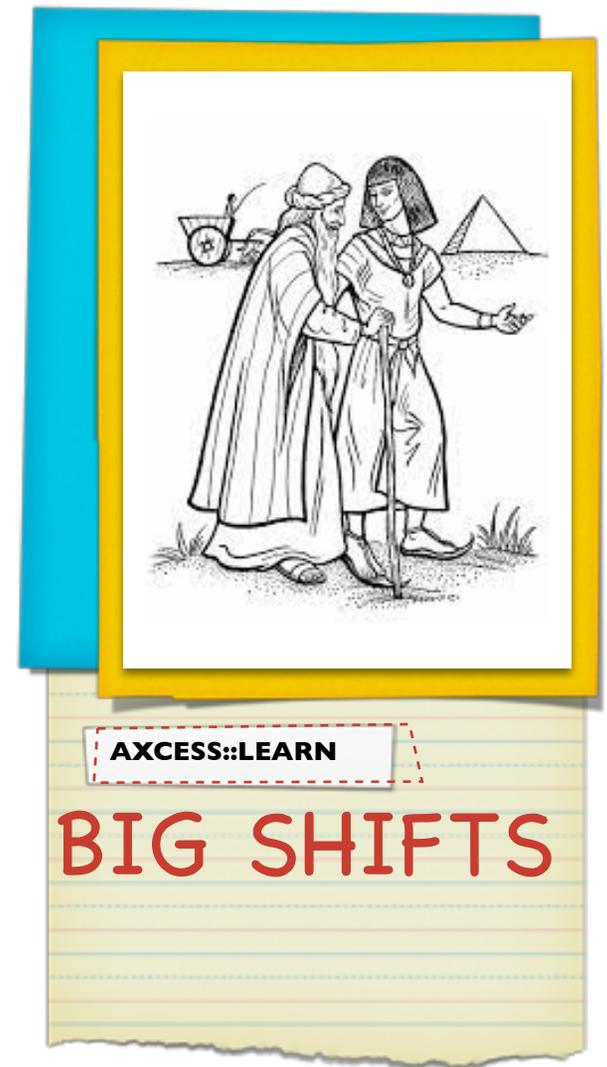




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# BIG SHIFTS

*\*\*\* Approaching Scripture through the Hebrew mindset and context can help us to appreciate more fully and to properly interpret what the passage is actually intending to communicate.*

*^^study notes adapted from The Complete Jewish Study Bible, MacArthur Study Bible, & Torah Class*



## Read Genesis 46-47

### GENESIS 46

**>< v. 1-7 Ya'akov making moves** Take a moment to get inside Ya'akov's mind as he prepared to leave Kena'an, the land promised to them, to meet his long-thought-to-be-dead son, Yosef, in Egypt who was now vizier of Egypt. Certainly his clan, the twelve tribes of Isra'el would survive the famine because Yosef would be able to care for them. But what would be the long-term result of their migration to Egypt? What was Ya'akov fearing?  
**\*\*read Genesis 15:12-16** (prophecy given to Avraham)

God addresses Ya'akov's fears verse 3 and reassures that His presence will go with them to Egypt and they will become a great nation. And one day after Ya'akov's death, they will return to this land that's been promised.

**>< v.8-27 These are the names of Isra'el's children who came into Egypt.** These verses were either added at a later date or significantly modified from the original at a later time (redaction). Why was this genealogy inserted here? What is the significance of 70?  
**\*\*66 sons and grandsons of Ya'akov coming into Egypt + Ya'akov himself + Yosef + Yosef's two sons born in Egypt = 70**

**\*\*Yosef was in his thirties, so Binyamin would have only been in his twenties...but we have a listing of ten sons of Binyamin...it would have been impossible for him to have sired so many children at a young age.**

**>< v.28-30 A leader goes before** Who did Ya'akov send ahead to Yosef? Why did he send him? What does this detail reveal about the dynamic in the family?

As Ya'akov and his family arrived, Yosef went to meet them in Goshen. Yosef, the great ruler in Egypt, humbles himself before his father, embraces him and wept on his neck...for a long time.

**>< v.31-34 Preparing for the meeting** Yosef went up south to inform Pharaoh in Memphis that his family had arrived down north in Goshen. It was proper protocol for the pharaoh to pronounce his rulings face-to-face with representatives of Israel. So Yosef preps his brothers with how to respond when questioned by the pharaoh. This was all really a formality since pharaoh had already decided a plan for Israel and this meeting would make it 100 percent official that the land of Goshen was the place to be set aside for Israel. But why Goshen?

### GENESIS 47

#### >< v.1-12 Yosef presents brothers to Pharaoh

According to Rabbi Hirsch, "This is a crucial test of Yosef's character. For the Viceroy of Egypt to acknowledge as his own brothers the Canaanite shepherds, who had given him every reason for repudiating them, called for highest loyalty and devotion."

#### Pharaoh intrigued by Ya'akov's elderliness

Imagine this humble, simple shepherd, a refugee, coming before the mighty Pharaoh and blessing him! This may not be as odd as it seems because there was great respect shown to the elderly. Ancient records don't show Egyptians living nearly as long as Hebrews.

**>< v.13-17 Money and livestock** The Israelites settled in Goshen while the famine got increasingly worse. There was no food and everybody, Egyptians and foreigners, all came to rely heavily on Yosef's stockpiled grain. The land wasn't giving much yield for food...and their money ran out...so they sold their livestock to have grain for a year.

**>< v.18-22 Bodies and land** After that year was up, the famine continued and people had no more money, no more livestock...all they had was their own bodies and their land. So they traded their land for food and eventually sold themselves into the service of the pharaoh.

As people were giving up their money, their land and their liberty...who were they dealing with? Yosef the Hebrew! So it was through all of Yosef's work that Pharaoh gained all the land of Egypt and power of influence reaching into Kena'an and the Middle East

**>< v.23-27 A tenant-landlord relationship** The land would have been useless to the pharaoh without anyone to work it...so he had the people work the lands and gave them seeds so the land wouldn't become barren. The arrangement was a 20/80 give and keep of the harvest...20 percent to pharaoh and 80 percent for their own households and little ones. This arrangement is commonly called serfdom. However in this situation it was closer to enslavement rather than a legitimate business transaction.

**>< v.28-31 Ya'akov's dying wish** Why was it so important for Ya'akov to be buried in Kena'an, not Egypt?

## NOTES

**\*\*Genesis 15:12-16** (God's prophetic words to Avraham) "As the sun was about to set, a deep sleep fell on Avram; horror and great darkness came over him. ADONAI said to Avram, "Know this for certain; your descendants will be foreigners in a land that is not theirs. They will be slaves and held in oppression there four hundred years. But I will also judge that nation, the one that makes them slaves. Afterwards, they will leave with many possessions. As for you, you will join your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. Only in the fourth generation will your descendants come back here, because only then will the Emori be ripe for punishment."