

## **Dr. Kenneth Mathews, Genesis, Session 24, Joseph and Jacob Reunited (Gen 46-47) Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Mathews, Genesis, Session 24, Joseph and Jacob Reunited (Gen. 46-47), Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

**Dr. Kenneth Mathews' Genesis session 24** examines the reunion of Joseph and Jacob in Genesis 46-47. The lecture **frames this event** within the broader narrative arc of Genesis, **highlighting** the recurring themes of **God's blessings, future orientation, and sovereign purpose**. The **session analyzes** Jacob's migration to Egypt, **emphasizing** the inclusiveness of his family's journey and its implications for the later Exodus narrative. Finally, the lecture **connects** Joseph's role as savior of his family to the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises in Jesus Christ.

**2. 14 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Mathews, Genesis, Session 24 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Pentateuch → Genesis).**



**Mathews\_Genesis\_  
Session24.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Mathews, Genesis, Session 24, Joseph and Jacob Reunited (Gen. 46-47)

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from Dr. Kenneth Mathews' lecture on Genesis 46-47, "Joseph and Jacob Reunited":

#### Briefing Document: Genesis 46-47 - Joseph and Jacob Reunited

**Overview:** This session focuses on Genesis chapters 46 and 47, marking the conclusion of the Joseph narrative, while also setting the stage for the conclusion of the Jacob narrative and the entire Book of Genesis. These chapters depict Jacob's family's migration to Egypt, their settlement in Goshen, and the initial interactions with Pharaoh, highlighting God's providence and the fulfillment of his promises, albeit partially.

#### Key Themes & Ideas:

1. **Merging Conclusions:** The last five chapters of Genesis (46-50) represent the convergence of two stories: the Joseph story (which began in chapter 37) and the Jacob story (which is framed by the "toledoth" or generations of). Chapters 46-47 bring the Joseph story to a close, particularly the reunion with Jacob. Chapters 48-50 conclude Jacob's narrative and the entire book.
  - **Quote:** "The last five chapters of Genesis, that is 46 through chapter 50, the last chapter of the book, are actually a merging of two conclusions. The Joseph story, which began in chapter 37, verse 2, ends here in chapters 46 and 47 with the uniting of Joseph and his father Jacob. And the Jacob story concludes in chapters 48 through 52, 50."
1. **Recurring Theme of Blessing:** The concept of "blessing" is a central motif throughout these chapters, particularly in 48-50 with Jacob blessing Joseph's sons, his own sons, and in the recurring idea of God's blessing. This echoes the initial blessing in Genesis 1 and bookends the text. However, these blessings are only partially fulfilled, as the family is in Egypt, not the Promised Land of Canaan.
  - **Quote:** "Now, we will find that in these last five chapters, there's a recurring reference to blessing...But the blessings are only partially fulfilled, but you want to remember that the patriarchal families are in Egypt, they're not yet in the promised land of Canaan."

1. **Forward-Looking Orientation:** Throughout Genesis, there is an orientation toward the future, an awareness that the promises to Abraham extend beyond his immediate family. This is evident in the genealogies and the continual journey toward the promised land, although not fully realized by Jacob and his sons. The move to Egypt, while seeming like a deviation, actually sets the stage for future events like the Exodus.
  - **Quote:** "And so there is this orientation, forward-looking aspect that is repeatedly seen either explicitly or subtly throughout the book. That's one reason why you have prominence in genealogies."
1. **God's Sovereign Purpose:** Despite obstacles and difficulties (famine, family strife), God's sovereign purpose continues to unfold. This is exemplified by the famine serving as the backdrop for Jacob's family's journey to Egypt and their eventual survival.
  - **Quote:** "Another idea that we'll find is that God's sovereign purpose continues despite obstacles, despite difficulties along the way. We have found this ongoing from the garden to chapter 50."
1. **Jacob's Migration to Egypt (Genesis 46):** This migration is pivotal, setting the context for the Hebrew people's future enslavement and exodus. The passage highlights the inclusiveness of Jacob's family – all of his descendants, a total of 70 (or 66 plus Joseph's family in Egypt), migrate to Egypt. Jacob's stop at Beersheba to offer sacrifices is reminiscent of the faith of Isaac and Abraham. God affirms His presence and promise to Jacob and family.
  - **Quote:** "So, when he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father, Isaac. ... it says in verse 5, Exodus chapter 1, that the descendants of Jacob numbered 70 in all."
1. **"Here I Am" Echo:** The response "Here I am" used by Jacob echoes Abraham's response to God when asked to sacrifice Isaac (Gen 22:1). This highlights the theme of faith and obedience.
  - **Quote:** "Abraham says here I am. And then, as Abraham is about to plunge the knife into his son as a sacrifice, the angel of the Lord says, Abraham, Abraham, and Abraham responds, here I am. So here we have that echo in mind when Jacob responds, here I am."

1. **Genealogy and Inclusion:** The genealogy of Jacob's descendants in Egypt (46:8-27) is crucial, underscoring the fulfillment of the promise that his family would multiply, even in exile. This list emphasizes the inclusiveness of Israel's ancestry, the foundational fathers of the twelve tribes. The speaker explains the discrepancy between the number 66 and 70 using the story of Er, Onan, Manasseh, and Ephraim,
  - **Quote:** "That's what's in mind in this genealogy, a listing of the sons born to Jacob's son. So, in verses eight through 27, we have Jacob's descendants in Egypt. That explains the listing."
1. **Joseph as Savior/Mediator:** Joseph is depicted as the savior of his family, orchestrating their move to Goshen, a fruitful region, and mediating between them and Pharaoh. He is also seen as a wise administrator, managing the grain supply during the famine.
  - **Quote:** "And so, here we have the depiction of Joseph, who is the mediator... He's the Savior of the family... He was a man seen as wise."
1. **Goshen and Segregation:** The family's settlement in Goshen is important. It provides a protected space for the Israelites to maintain their identity and avoid assimilation with Egyptian culture. This segregation also serves to prevent cultural/religious dilution through intermarriage.
  - **Quote:** "So, there's going to be a segregation policy. And this is going to prove to be fruitful because it will mean that the Hebrew people will have their own territory and retain their own identity and not be mixed ethnically through intermarriage with the Egyptians..."
1. **Jacob's Blessing of Pharaoh:** The fact that Jacob, an aged patriarch, blesses Pharaoh (47:7,10) demonstrates Jacob's spiritual authority and hints at the blessing extending through his lineage to all nations, and how God is working through the family of Abraham.
  - **Quote:** "Notice what it says in verse 7. Jacob blessed Pharaoh. And then there's a dialogue. And then in verse 10, it says Jacob blessed Pharaoh. Now, the indication here is that Jacob is greater than Pharaoh."
1. **Jacob's Pilgrimage:** Jacob's statement about his life (47:9) as a "pilgrimage" underscores the temporary nature of their stay in Egypt and their continued longing for their true home.

- **Quote:** "My years have been few and difficult, he says, and they do not equal the years of the pilgrimage of my fathers."
1. **Joseph's Administration:** Joseph's administrative skills during the famine are highlighted. He manages the grain distribution and eventually purchases the livestock and land of the Egyptians for Pharaoh. The people, while now in servitude, see him as their savior. This situation, while problematic to modern eyes, is presented as the means of survival during a time of crisis.
- **Quote:** "Joseph collected all the money that was to be found in Egypt and Canaan in payment for the grain they were buying, and he brought it to Pharaoh's palace... Then, in verse 16, then bring your livestock, said Joseph, and I will sell your food, your food in exchange for your livestock since your money is gone."
1. **Jacob's Desire to be Buried in Canaan:** Jacob's request to be buried in the land of Canaan (47:29-31) signifies his hope in God's promises and his longing to be in his true land. This is a powerful testament to his faith.
- **Quote:** "So, he says to his son, do not bury me in Egypt. But when I rest with my fathers, carry me out of Egypt and bury me where they are buried."
1. **Echo of Promise:** The end of the chapter shows Jacob's eyes set on returning to Canaan, and highlights how this promise to be buried with his fathers echoes the larger promises of God.
- **Quote:** "And so, Jacob's eyes are set on returning to Canaan... He had in traveling to Beersheba where he worshipped. God promised him, you're going to come back. I'm going to assure this."
1. **Typological Connection to Jesus Christ:** The speaker makes connections between Joseph as a savior and Jesus Christ as the savior of the world. There is a strong parallel between how Joseph saved the people and how Jesus saves all those who repent and believe in Him.
- **Quote:** "... we have seen and testified that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world."

**Conclusion:**

Genesis 46-47 reveals God's sovereignty and providence even in the midst of famine and hardship. The reunion of Joseph and Jacob, the migration to Egypt, and the establishment of the Israelites in Goshen are all part of God's unfolding plan for the chosen people. These chapters lay the foundation for the coming chapters, for the story of the Exodus, and the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham. The story of Joseph and the nation of Israel are shown as an archetype for the work of Jesus Christ, with Joseph as a "savior", anticipating Christ's work as the "Savior of the world".

## 4. Study Guide: Mathews, Genesis, Session 24, Joseph and Jacob Reunited (Gen. 46-47)

### Genesis: Joseph and Jacob Reunited, Chapters 46-47 Study Guide

#### Quiz

1. What are the two concluding narratives that are merged in the last five chapters of Genesis (46-50)?
2. What is the significance of the term "toledoth" in the book of Genesis?
3. What are the three primary figures highlighted within the Joseph narrative in the concluding chapters of Genesis?
4. Why does Jacob stop at Beersheba on his way to Egypt, and what is the significance of that place?
5. What promise does God make to Jacob when he calls to him on his way to Egypt?
6. What are the two explanations for the number of Jacob's descendants who went to Egypt, as stated in Genesis 46?
7. What role does Joseph play in chapter 46 as a mediator?
8. What actions does Joseph take to ensure that his family will be settled in Goshen?
9. Why is the fact that Jacob blesses Pharaoh significant?
10. What three stages did the Egyptians go through when trading with Joseph during the famine?

#### Answer Key

1. The Joseph story concludes with the reunion of Joseph and Jacob, and the Jacob story concludes with the blessings and death of Jacob.
2. The term "toledoth" marks the beginning of new accounts or stories in the book of Genesis, such as the birth of Jacob and Esau and the account of Joseph.
3. The three primary figures are Joseph, Jacob, and Judah, with Judah becoming more prominent in the Jacob narrative.
4. Jacob stops at Beersheba to offer sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac, seeking assurance of God's presence and guidance as he begins the journey to Egypt.

5. God promises Jacob that He will go down to Egypt with him, make him into a great nation there, and surely bring him back again.
6. One count lists 66 direct descendants of Jacob who went to Egypt, while the total family including Joseph's two sons is 70.
7. Joseph acts as a mediator by arranging his family's meeting with Pharaoh, securing their settlement in Goshen, and setting conditions that will protect their identity.
8. Joseph strategically prepares his brothers for their interview with Pharaoh so that they will be able to settle in Goshen, which is known as a fertile area, and is also seen as a place that allows them to remain isolated.
9. The blessing signifies that Jacob, as a patriarch of God's people, is in a position of spiritual authority even over the powerful ruler of Egypt, emphasizing the supremacy of God's covenant.
10. First, they used their money to buy grain; second, they traded their livestock for food; and third, they surrendered themselves and their land to Pharaoh in exchange for food.

## Essay Questions

1. Discuss the theme of blessing as it appears in the concluding chapters of Genesis (46-50), and explain its connection to the promises made to the patriarchs.
2. Analyze the significance of Jacob's journey to Egypt in the context of God's promises to the patriarchs. How does this journey both fulfill and challenge those promises?
3. Explain Joseph's role as a mediator and savior in Genesis 46-47. How does he act as a bridge between his family, the Egyptians, and God's plan?
4. Compare and contrast the character of Jacob and Joseph in Genesis 46-47. What do their interactions with each other and with Pharaoh reveal about their respective roles in the narrative?
5. Explore the relationship between Genesis and Exodus, particularly how the events in Genesis 46-47 set the stage for the events in Exodus.



## Glossary

- **Toledoth:** A Hebrew term meaning "generations," "accounts," or "stories," marking the beginning of new sections within the book of Genesis.
- **Patriarchs:** The founding fathers of the Hebrew people, specifically Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- **Promissory Blessings:** The divine promises of blessing and posterity given to the patriarchs, beginning with Abraham in Genesis 12.
- **Beersheba:** A location in southern Canaan where Jacob stops to offer sacrifices and seek divine guidance on his journey to Egypt.
- **Bethel:** A significant location where Jacob had a vision of a ladder to heaven, and received a promise from God.
- **Goshen:** A fertile area in Egypt granted to Jacob's family for settlement, known as the best part of the land.
- **Mediator:** A person who intercedes between two parties, Joseph acting as a mediator between his family, the Egyptians, and Pharaoh.
- **Sojourners:** People who live temporarily in a place without permanent ties. This is the way that the Israelites are to understand their relationship to Egypt, and is a key part of God's larger plan.
- **Machpelah:** A burial site in Canaan where Abraham, Isaac, and now, Jacob are buried.
- **Exile:** The state of being barred from one's native land, in this case the Israelites going to Egypt because of a famine.

## 5. FAQs on Mathews, Genesis, Session 24, Joseph and Jacob Reunited (Gen. 46-47), [Biblicalelearning.org](http://Biblicalelearning.org) (BeL)

### FAQ on Genesis 46-47: Joseph and Jacob Reunited

1. **What are the two main stories that conclude in the final chapters of Genesis, and how do they intertwine?** The final chapters of Genesis (46-50) conclude both the Joseph story, which began in chapter 37, and the Jacob story, which has been developing since chapter 25. Chapters 46-47 focus on the reunion of Joseph and Jacob, marking the end of the Joseph narrative, while the Jacob narrative continues with blessings and preparations for the future in chapters 48-50. These stories are linked because Jacob is a prominent figure in Joseph's narrative and becomes even more significant as the stories progress. They are both also deeply connected with the overarching theme of the fulfillment of God's promises to the patriarchs.
2. **Why is the migration of Jacob's family to Egypt so significant in the broader narrative of Genesis and beyond?** The migration to Egypt is a pivotal event that sets the stage for the Israelites' enslavement and eventual exodus, as depicted in the book of Exodus. It fulfills God's promise to make Jacob's descendants into a great nation, even though it initially places them outside the promised land. This migration also highlights God's sovereign purpose despite the obstacles of the famine and sets the foundation for Israel's national identity. The survival of Jacob and his family in Egypt is a crucial plot point which will later lead to the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham.
3. **What is the theological significance of Jacob's sacrifices at Beersheba before going to Egypt?** Jacob's offering of sacrifices at Beersheba is a crucial act of worship and seeking God's assurance before descending to Egypt. This act reflects the patriarchs' practice of seeking divine guidance and blessing in key moments of their journey. It also echoes Jacob's earlier experience at Bethel where he had his night dream and received God's promise, thus seeking to secure God's continued presence and protection as they moved away from the promised land.

4. **Why does God specifically tell Jacob not to be afraid to go to Egypt, and what promises are given in conjunction with this instruction?** God's reassurance to Jacob not to fear going to Egypt reflects His understanding of Jacob's anxieties about leaving Canaan. God promises that He will be with Jacob in Egypt, make him into a great nation there, and ultimately bring his family back to the promised land. This reiterates the importance of God's presence and faithfulness to the patriarchs. Additionally, God's promise that Joseph's hand will close his eyes upon death signifies both Joseph's care for his father and underscores the family's future in Egypt, as well as Jacob's eventual return to be buried in Canaan.
5. **How does the genealogy of Jacob's family in chapter 46 relate to the overall themes of the narrative?** The genealogy of Jacob's descendants in Egypt emphasizes the idea of inclusiveness and fulfillment of the divine promise of a numerous offspring for the patriarchs. By listing all the sons and their families that went to Egypt, the narrative shows that God's promise to make Abraham's descendants a great nation is being fulfilled. This section also explains the number discrepancy of 70 total descendants, setting the stage for the rapid increase in the Hebrew population in Egypt which is discussed in Exodus.
6. **What roles do Joseph and Judah play in these chapters, and how do they contribute to the larger themes of the text?** Joseph is portrayed as the savior of his family and a mediator between them and Pharaoh. He orchestrates their migration to Goshen and ensures their survival during the famine. Judah is highlighted as a leader, sent ahead by Jacob and will ultimately become the tribe from which the royal household of Israel will descend. Both roles reinforce the idea of God using individuals to further His larger plans and that ultimately, the savior would come from the lineage of Judah.
7. **How does the interaction between Jacob and Pharaoh highlight the theme of blessing, and what does it reveal about their respective roles?** The narrative that Jacob blesses Pharaoh twice demonstrates the theme of God's blessing extending to all nations through the descendants of Abraham. It also indicates that Jacob, as the patriarch of God's chosen people, holds a higher spiritual status than even the most powerful ruler of that era, Pharaoh. Their conversation is pivotal in demonstrating that even though the Israelites are residing in Egypt, they are still distinct with a specific destiny. Jacob's blessing to Pharaoh emphasizes the idea of the Israelites' spiritual authority.

8. **How does Joseph's wise administration during the famine, including the transaction of land for food, serve to illustrate his role and the broader themes of the book?** Joseph's administration during the famine, while complex, highlights his role as a wise provider and administrator. His actions, while leading to the Egyptian people selling their livestock, land and eventually entering servitude, ensured their survival during the famine and were ultimately for the benefit of the state. These transactions, although unsettling from a modern perspective, demonstrate his faithfulness to Pharaoh as well as his ability to both protect the people of Egypt and manage the household in times of crisis. This also serves to display the sovereignty of God, in which even hardship is used to further his plans for Israel's survival and expansion.