**Lesson 28 Genesis 47 & 48**

**Joseph and The Famine**

1. A. How severe are the next years of this famine?

B. To what do the people finally resort?

2. List several ways in which you consider that Pharaoh of Egypt was a wise and courteous ruler?

(Gen. 47)

3. A. Some people think that Joseph drove a hard bargain. Can you think of reasons why this could be for the good of the people?

B. Did Joseph get any advantages in this for himself?

4. What do you think was the purpose of buying the land for Pharaoh (vs.20) and giving one fifth of the crops to Pharaoh? (vs.24)

20 So Joseph acquired all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh. Each of the Egyptians sold his field, since the famine weighed heavily upon them. Thus the land passed over to Pharaoh,

24 But when the harvest is in, you must give a fifth of it to Pharaoh, while you keep four-fifths as seed for your fields and as food for yourselves and your households and as food for your children.”

5. What did Joseph do for Egypt during his career? (vs.13-26)

13 Since there was no food in all the land because of the extreme severity of the famine, and the lands of Egypt and Canaan were languishing from hunger,

14 Joseph gathered in, as payment for the grain that they were buying, all the money that was to be found in Egypt and Canaan, and he put it in Pharaoh’s house.

15 When all the money in Egypt and Canaan was spent, all the Egyptians came to Joseph, pleading, “Give us food! Why should we perish in front of you? For our money is gone.”

16 “Give me your livestock if your money is gone,” replied Joseph. “I will give you food in return for your livestock.”

17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and he gave them food in exchange for their horses, their flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, and their donkeys. Thus he supplied them with food in exchange for all their livestock in that year.

18 That year ended, and they came to him in the next one and said: “We cannot hide from my lord that, with our money spent and our livestock made over to my lord, there is nothing left to put at my lord’s disposal except our bodies and our land.

19 Why should we and our land perish before your very eyes? Take us and our land in exchange for food, and we will become Pharaoh’s slaves and our land his property; only give us seed, that we may survive and not perish, and that our land may not turn into a waste.”

20 So Joseph acquired all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh. Each of the Egyptians sold his field, since the famine weighed heavily upon them. Thus the land passed over to Pharaoh,

21 and the people were reduced to slavery, from one end of Egypt’s territory to the other.

22 Only the priests’ lands Joseph did not acquire. Since the priests had a fixed allowance from Pharaoh and lived off the allowance Pharaoh had granted them, they did not have to sell their land.

23 Joseph told the people: “Now that I have acquired you and your land for Pharaoh, here is your seed for sowing the land.

24 But when the harvest is in, you must give a fifth of it to Pharaoh, while you keep four-fifths as seed for your fields and as food for yourselves and your households and as food for your children.”

25 “You have saved our lives!” they answered. “We have found favor with my lord; now we will be Pharaoh’s slaves.”

26 Thus Joseph made it a statute for the land of Egypt, which is still in force, that a fifth of its produce should go to Pharaoh. Only the land of the priests did not pass over to Pharaoh.

6. How many verses and phrases would you underline in Gen. 47 and 48 as containing especially helpful thoughts? List them.

7. Who is meant by “the Angel who redeemed me” in Gen. 48:16?

16 The angel who has delivered me from all harm, bless these boys That in them my name be recalled, and the names of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac, And they may become teeming multitudes upon the earth!”

8. Why were Joseph’s sons included in the blessing? (See 1Chron.5:1)

1 Chronicles 5:1

1 The sons of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel. (He was indeed the firstborn, but because he defiled the couch of his father his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph, son of Israel, so that he is not listed in the family records according to his birthright.

9. A. Which phrases do you think Jacob’s grandchildren would always remember as Jacob spoke of God?

B. What verses show Jacob’s absolute confidence that God will take his descendants back to Canaan?