

## Genesis 46.28-47.31 shape and keywords

Israel sent Judah ahead to Joseph's **face** to lead the way before him into **Goshen**. When they came to **the land of Goshen**, Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to meet his father Israel in **Goshen**. He was seen by him, fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while. Israel said to Joseph, "I can die now, having seen your **face** and that you are still alive." Joseph said to **his brothers and to his father's** household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh, and will say to him, '**My brothers and my father's** household, who were in **the land of Canaan**, have come to me. The men are cattle grazers, for they have been men of **livestock**; and they have brought their flocks, and their herds, and **all** that they have.' When Pharaoh calls you, and says, 'What is your occupation?' you shall say, 'Your **slaves** have been men of **livestock** from our youth even until now, both we and our ancestors'--in order that you may **settle** in **the land of Goshen**, because **all** cattle grazers are abhorrent to the Egyptians."

So Joseph went and told Pharaoh, "**My father and my brothers**, with their flocks and herds and **all** that they possess, have come from **the land of Canaan**; they are now in **the land of Goshen**." From among his brothers he took five men and presented them to the **face** of Pharaoh. Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your **slaves** are cattle grazers, as our ancestors were." They said to Pharaoh, "We have come to **settle** as aliens in the **land**; for there is no pasture for your **slaves'** flocks because the famine is severe in **the land of Canaan**. Now, we ask you, let your **slaves settle**, please, in **the land of Goshen**."

**Then Pharaoh said to Joseph**, "**Your father and your brothers** have come to you. **The land of Egypt** is before your **face**; **settle your father and your brothers in the best part of the land**; let them **settle** in **the land of Goshen**; and if you know that there are men of strength among them, put them in charge of my **livestock**."

Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob, and stood him in the face of Pharaoh, and **Jacob blessed Pharaoh**.

Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How many are the **years of your life**?" Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The **years of my earthly sojourn** are one hundred thirty; few and evil have been the **years of my life**. They do not compare with the **years of the life of my ancestors** during their long sojourn."

Then **Jacob blessed Pharaoh** and went out from the **face** of Pharaoh.

Joseph **settled his father and his brothers** and granted them a holding in **the land of Egypt, in the best part of the land**, in **the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded**.

And Joseph provided **his father, his brothers**, and **all** his father's household with food, according to the number of their children's mouths.

Now there was no food in **all** the **land**, for the famine was very severe. **The land of Egypt** and **the land of Canaan** languished in the **face** of the famine. Joseph collected **all** the **silver** to be found in **the land of Egypt** and in **the land of Canaan**, in exchange for the grain that they bought; and Joseph brought the **silver** into Pharaoh's house.

When the **silver** from **the land of Egypt** and from **the land of Canaan** was spent, **all** the Egyptians came to Joseph, and said, "Give us food! Why should we die before your eyes? For our **silver** is gone." And Joseph answered, "Give me your **livestock**, and I will give you food in exchange for your **livestock**, if your **silver** is gone." So they brought their **livestock** to Joseph; and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the herds, and the donkeys. That year he supplied them with food in exchange for **all** their **livestock**.

When that year was ended, they came to him the following year, and said to him, "We can not hide from my lord that our **silver** is **all** spent; and the herds of cattle are my lord's. There is nothing left in the **face** of my lord but our bodies and our **lands**<sup>1</sup>. Shall we die before your eyes, both we and our **land**? Buy us and our **land** in exchange for food. We with our **land** will become **slaves** to Pharaoh; just give us seed, so that we may live and not die, and that the **land** may not become desolate." So Joseph bought **all the land of Egypt** for Pharaoh. **All** the Egyptians sold their fields, because the famine was severe upon them; and the **land** became Pharaoh's. As for the people, he made **slaves** of them from one end of **Egypt** to the other.<sup>2</sup>

**Only the land of the priests he did not buy**; for the priests had a fixed allowance from Pharaoh, and lived on **the allowance that Pharaoh gave them**; therefore they did not sell their **land**.

Then Joseph said to the people, "Now that I have this day bought you and your **land** for Pharaoh, here is seed for you; sow the **land**. And at the harvests you shall give one-fifth to Pharaoh, and four-fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and as food for yourselves and your households, and as food for your little ones." They said, "You have saved our lives; may it please my lord, we will be **slaves** to Pharaoh."

So Joseph made it a statute concerning **the land of Egypt**, and it stands to this day, that **Pharaoh should have the fifth. The land of the priests alone did not become Pharaoh's.**

Thus Israel **settled** in **the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen**; and they gained possessions in it and were fruitful and multiplied exceedingly. Jacob lived in **the land of Egypt** seventeen **years**; so the days of Jacob, the **years of his life**, were one hundred forty-seven **years**. When the time of Israel's death drew near, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "If I have found favor with you, put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal loyally and truly with me. Do not bury me in **Egypt**. When I lie down with my ancestors, carry me out of **Egypt** and bury me in their burial place." He answered, "I will do as you have said." And he said, "Swear to me"; and he swore to him. Then Israel bowed himself on the head of his bed.

<sup>1</sup> **Land** from 47.18-26 is 'adamah, rare in Genesis outside Primeval History (Gen 1-11).

<sup>2</sup> Hebrew and LXX differ substantially in this verse