

Genesis 47

1. Why does Jacob bless Pharaoh?
2. How does Jacob describe his life?
3. How did Joseph care for his family?
4. How many years into the famine is this?
5. How do the people get grain?
6. What is the benefit of selling cattle for grain?
7. What is the benefit of selling the land?
8. Why move the people into the city?
9. What does the 1/5th do for the people?
10. What does Jacob ask Joseph to promise?
11. How many years did Jacob live in Goshen?

He proposes to take their cattle. This was really a relief to the people, as they had no means of providing them with fodder. The value of commodities is wholly altered by a change of circumstances.

"And the people he removed into the cities." This is not an act of arbitrary caprice, but a wise and kind measure for the more convenient nourishment of the people until the new arrangements for the cultivation of the soil should be completed.

They do not become Pharaoh's bondmen. They own their land under him by a new tenure. They are no longer subject to arbitrary exactions. They have a stated annual rent, bearing a fixed ratio to the amount of their crop. This is an equitable adjustment of their dues, and places them under the protection of a statute law.

They are now placed in a definite territory, where they are free from the contamination which arises from promiscuous intermarriage with an idolatrous race; and hence, the Lord bestows the blessing of fruitfulness and multiplication, so that in a generation or two more they can intermarry among themselves.