



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 28



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DAY TWENTY-EIGHT

Genesis 46 - 47

I Will Go With You

Jacob is one hundred and thirty years old. He has buried a wife he loved and mourned a son he thought was dead for twenty-two years. He has wrestled with God and walked with a limp ever since. He has watched his family fracture and hold and fracture again. And now his sons come home from Egypt with the news that should be impossible: Joseph is alive. He is ruler over all of Egypt. He wants you to come.

The text says Jacob's heart grew numb. He did not believe them. And then he saw the wagons Joseph had sent. And the spirit of Jacob their father revived.

There are promises so large that when they finally arrive, the first response is not joy but numbness. The heart that has grieved something as gone cannot immediately process its return. Give yourself time. The revival comes. It came for Jacob. It will come for you.

Jacob sets out. He stops at Beersheba - the place where his grandfather Abraham dug a well, where his father Isaac received the covenant promise, where God has shown up before in this

family's story. He offers sacrifices. And God speaks to him in a vision of the night.

“Jacob! Jacob!” “Here I am,” he replied. “I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there.”

-Genesis 46:2-3

Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt. The promise land is Canaan. Egypt is not the destination - it is a season. A necessary, long, difficult season. God is not sending Jacob to Egypt because Egypt is where he belongs. He is sending him because the nation that will come from him needs to be formed in the crucible of a foreign land before it can inhabit the land it was promised.

Sometimes God sends you into Egypt - into the season, the place, the situation that is not your permanent home - because the person you need to become before you can inhabit your promise can only be forged there. Egypt is not the destination. But Egypt is necessary.

And then God says the words that carry the whole journey: I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again. I will go with you. Not: I will meet you there eventually. Not: Egypt is beyond my reach but I'll check in. I will go down with you. Wherever Jacob goes, God goes first.

You are never entering a season God has not already entered. He does not send you ahead. He goes down with you. And He commits, in the same breath, to bringing you back out again.

Seventy people make the journey. Jacob's entire family - sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren - all counted and named. Seventy. The same number as the nations listed in Genesis 10. The whole world is going to be fed through this family. The number is not accidental.

Joseph hears that his father is coming and goes to meet him in Goshen. He falls on his neck and weeps a long time. And Jacob says: now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive. He has lived long enough. The thing he grieved as dead is standing in front of him. He is ready for whatever comes next.

-The reunion Jacob thought death would prevent, God preserved through twenty-two years of seemingly impossible circumstances. No distance is too far. No time is too long. What God has promised to restore, He restores.

Joseph presents his family to Pharaoh. Pharaoh asks Jacob how old he is. And Jacob's answer is one of the most honest, weathered, beautiful answers in the entire book:

*“The years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty.
My years have been few and difficult,”*

- Genesis 47:9

Few and difficult. Jacob does not say: my years have been blessed. He does not say: I have no complaints. He is standing before Pharaoh with everything he ever wanted - his family whole, his son alive, his grandchildren around him - and he tells the truth about the road. It was hard. It was shorter than the years of his fathers. And he blesses Pharaoh and leaves.

A life of faith is not a life without difficulty. Jacob's honest answer to Pharaoh is not a failure of gratitude. It is integrity. You are allowed to say the road was hard even when you are standing in the blessing at the end of it. Both are true.

Chapter 47 continues with Joseph managing the famine with extraordinary stewardship - collecting silver, livestock, land, until all of Egypt belongs to Pharaoh and only the priests' land remains free. It is a portrait of Joseph's administrative genius. But underneath it is a quieter story: Jacob's family is settled in Goshen, the best of the land, and they are fruitful and multiply greatly. The family that began with one man on a stone pillow in Bethel is becoming a nation.

- God works through long seasons of preparation to produce what cannot be rushed. The nation Israel took generations to form. The promises worth having always do.

Speak this over yourself today:

God goes down with me - not ahead of me, not after me.

Egypt is not my destination. It is my formation.

And what He promised to restore, He will restore.

No distance is too far. No time is too long.

TOMORROW - Day 29 Genesis 48-50

Jacob is dying. He crosses his hands over the wrong grandchildren and blesses the younger over the older - one last time, the expected order is reversed. Then he speaks over each of his sons. And one of those blessings will echo all the way to Bethlehem. Come back tomorrow.

Day 28 of 365



MUSIC AND THE BIBLE

EVERYDAY: 3AM & 9AM

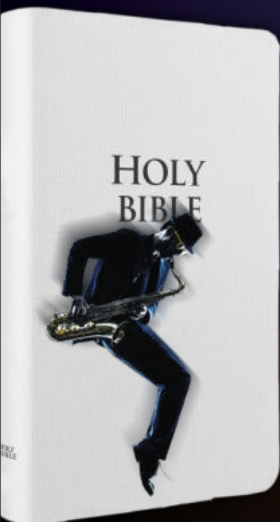
Music is more than melody it's a language of worship.

Join us on Music and the Bible as we explore
the biblical significance of music and its
role in drawing hearts closer to God.

Tune in and be inspired

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

— Psalm 150:6



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