

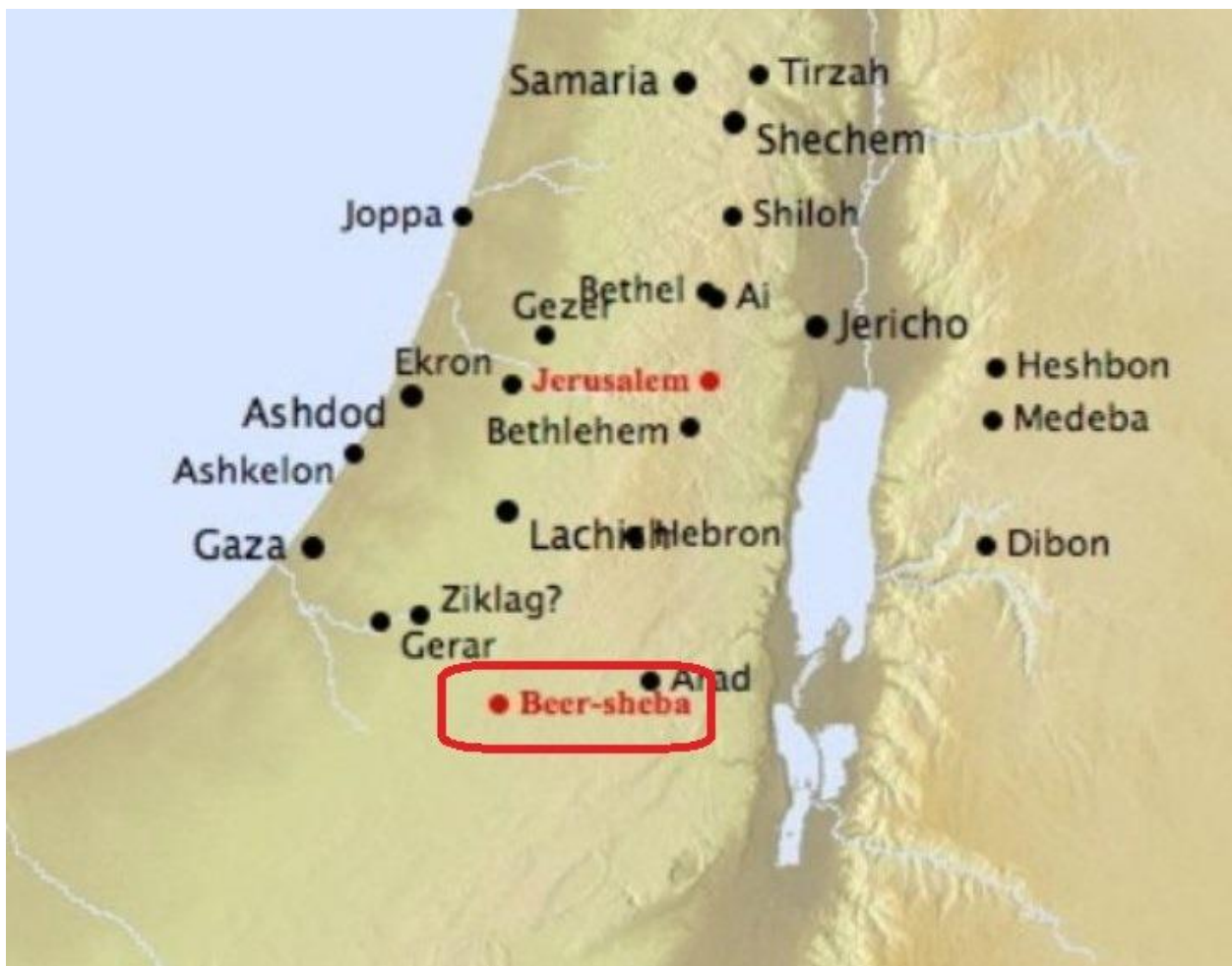
Genesis 46

Verses 1-4

So Israel set out with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ² And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.” ³ Then He said, “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. ⁴ I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also assuredly bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes.”

And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba

See Map 4605 Beer-sheba



The text tells us that Jacob went to Beersheba without mentioning where he came from
In chapter 35 Jacob was living in Bethlehem, but that was 34 years ago
He could have moved a number of times during that time period

And offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac

Beersheba lies at the southern border of Canaan

His father, Isaac, had lived and erected an altar there and it's possible this could be the same altar that Isaac built

And God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night

It seems that Jacob had some concern about going to Egypt, but God appeared to him in a vision, and removed that doubt.

There were 8 appearances during his life time

The first time was when he was 77 years old and the last time, here in chapter 46, he is 130 years old

And Joseph will close your eyes

This had to be a comforting word to Jacob; his beloved son would be there to close his eyes when he died

Jacob will die in 17 years at the age of 147

Verses 5-7

⁵ Then Jacob left Beersheba, and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob and their little ones and their wives in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. ⁶ They also took their livestock and their possessions, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and came to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him: ⁷ his sons and his grandsons with him, his daughters and his granddaughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt.

Then Jacob left Beersheba, and came to Egypt, with all his descendants: ⁷ his sons and his grandsons with him, his daughters and his granddaughters

The 12 sons are in yellow, his 4 wives

Verses 8-27

⁸ Now these are the names of the sons of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who went to Egypt:

The sons of **Reuben**: Hanoch and Pallu and Hezron and Carmi.

¹⁰ The sons of **Simeon**: Jemuel and Jamin and Ohad and Jachin and Zohar and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman.

¹¹ The sons of **Levi**: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

¹² The sons of **Judah**: Er and Onan and Shelah and Perez and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan). And the sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul.

¹³ The sons of **Issachar**: Tola and Puvvah and Iob and Shimron.

¹⁴ The sons of **Zebulun**: Sered and Elon and Jahleel.

¹⁵ These are the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Paddan-aram, with his daughter Dinah;

all his sons and his daughters numbered thirty-three.

¹⁶ The sons of **Gad**: Ziphion and Haggi, Shuni and Ezbon, Eri and Arodi and Areli.

¹⁷ The sons of **Asher**: Imnah and Ishvah and Ishvi and Beriah and their sister Serah. And the sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel.

¹⁸ These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to his daughter Leah; and she bore to Jacob these sixteen persons.

¹⁹ The sons of Jacob's wife Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.

²⁰ Now to **Joseph** in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara, priest of On, bore to him.

²¹ The sons of **Benjamin**: Bela and Becher and Ashbel, Gera and Naaman, Ehi and Rosh, Muppim and Huppim and Ard.

²² These are the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob; *there were* **fourteen** persons in all.

²³ The sons of **Dan**: Hushim.

²⁴ The sons of **Naphtali**: Jahzeel and Guni and Jezer and Shillem.

²⁵ These are the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to his daughter Rachel, and she bore these to Jacob; *there were* **seven** persons in all.

²⁶ **All the persons belonging to Jacob, who came to Egypt, his direct descendants, not including the wives of Jacob's sons, were sixty-six persons in all, ²⁷ and the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt were two; all the persons of the house of Jacob, who came to Egypt, were seventy.**

If you add the 33, 16, 14, and 7 together you get a total of 70

While 70 may be a perfect number according to their way of thinking, this number doesn't reflect the actual number of Hebrews that came to Egypt

How do we know that with certainty?

This list only includes 1 daughter and 1 granddaughter

But in verse 46:7 it says his daughters and granddaughters

We don't for sure how many daughters and granddaughters were left off of this list

But if there were 67 male descendants of Jacob, how many female descendants do you think there might have been?

The intention of this list is to show that there were 70 founders of the Israelite nation

Because 70 was a number of completeness

We see the number 70 used a number of times in the bible

1. Seventy nations of the world are listed in Genesis 10
2. Seventy elders are mentioned in Numbers 11:16
3. The days of our years are 70 in Psalms 90:10
4. Seventy translators produced the Septuagint.
5. The Sanhedrin was composed of seventy members.
6. Jesus sent out the "seventy" witnesses of his kingdom.

Many others went to Egypt along with them which were not part of his seed

The wives of Jacob and his son's wives were not included in the 70

Plus other servants and or employees probably went along

The group may have included 200 plus people

One more side note

Stephen says that "Seventy-five souls went down into Egypt."

See Acts 7:14

He was quoting from the Septuagint, the oldest Greek version of the Old Testament, translated in 250 BC

There are two good videos concerning this issue

See Video 4610 8.7 How many went down to Egypt

<http://www.levickfamily.com/8.7.html>

See video 4615 8.61 The Septuagint

<http://www.levickfamily.com/8.61.html>

Verse 28 – 30

²⁸ Now *Jacob* sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph, to guide him to Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen. ²⁹ And Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; as soon as he appeared to him, *Joseph* threw himself on his neck and wept on his neck a long time. ³⁰ Then Israel said to Joseph, “Now let me die, since I have seen your face, that you are still alive.”

Joseph threw himself on his neck and wept on his neck a long time

After 25 years of being separated, Joseph and Jacob are finally reunited

Jacob was receiving his favorite son back from the dead

One can only imagine the emotions of this meeting

Now let me die, since I have seen your face

This was his way of expressing his love for Joseph

Verses 31-34

³¹ But 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; ³² and the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock; and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.’ ³³ When Pharaoh calls for you and says, ‘What is your occupation?’ ³⁴ you shall say, ‘Your servants have been keepers of livestock since our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,’ so that you may live in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians.”

I will go and tell Pharaoh

Pharaoh had invited them to come without their possessions, but they had brought all their flocks and herds

Joseph needed to break the news to the king to avoid any misunderstanding

Also, the matter of them being shepherds was not the best news to report

Every shepherd is an abomination to Egyptians

However, the Hebrews being unacceptable to the Egyptians was a good thing in one very important way

We know Judah married a Canaanite woman.

See Genesis 38:1-2

We don't know for sure about the other men but nothing is said about any of them going to Haran to find a wife like Isaac and Jacob had done

So it's probably safe to say that their wives also came from the land of Canaan

This is not what God wanted for Israel and Egypt was a good place to keep the Hebrew race as pure as possible