

Genesis 47

Verses 1- 6

Then Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, and said, “My father and my brothers and their flocks and their herds and all that they have, have come out of the land of Canaan; and behold, they are in the land of Goshen.” ² And he took five men from among his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh. ³ Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, “What is your occupation?” So they said to Pharaoh, “Your servants are shepherds, both we and our fathers.” ⁴ They also said to Pharaoh, “We have come to reside in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants’ flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now, therefore, please let your servants live in the land of Goshen.” ⁵ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Your father and your brothers have come to you. ⁶ The land of Egypt is at your disposal; settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land, let them live in the land of Goshen; and if you know any capable men among them, then put them in charge of my livestock.”

⁴ They also said to Pharaoh, “We have come to reside in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants’ flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now, therefore, please let your servants live in the land of Goshen.”

It’s interesting that Jacob was able to send his sons back to Egypt with some of the best products of the land in Chapter 43 and this was when the famine was very severe.

See Genesis 43:1, 13

¹ Now the famine was severe in the land.

¹¹ Then their father Israel said to them, “If *it must be* so, then do this: take some of the best products of the land in your bags, and carry down to the man as a gift, a little balsam and a little honey, labdanum resin and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds.”

Almond trees generally require a significant amount of water, especially in regions with hot, dry summers, with estimates suggesting around 1 gallon of water per almond.

Despite the fact that Joseph had oversight over all of Egypt he did not settle his folks in Goshen without the formal consent of the king.

⁶ The land of Egypt is at your disposal; settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land, let them live in the land of Goshen; and if you know any capable men among them, then put them in charge of my livestock.

The king not only granted his permission for them to settle in Goshen but He wanted to place his own cattle under their supervision if they were capable men.

This is how good government works. Positions should be filled with men and woman that have the skills needed for the job.

Verses 7-12

⁷ Then Joseph brought his father Jacob and presented him to Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. ⁸ And Pharaoh said to Jacob, “How many years have you lived?” ⁹ So Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The years of my living abroad are 130; few and unpleasant have been the years of my life, nor have they attained the years that my fathers lived during the days of their living abroad.” ¹⁰ So Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from his presence. ¹¹ Now Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them property in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had ordered. ¹² Joseph also provided his father and his brothers and all his father’s household with food, according to the number of their little ones.

⁹ So Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The years of my living abroad are 130; few and unpleasant have been the years of my life, nor have they attained the years that my fathers lived during the days of their living abroad.”

Joseph should have counseled his father before he talked with the king. Displaying a melancholy temperament before the king is not politically astute. But there is no doubt that he had a hard life in a number of ways.

1. His bride, her sister, and father-in-law deceived him.
2. Laban also cheated him by changing his wages 10 times.
3. The 20 years of harsh weather watching the sheep.
4. His wives were not happy.
5. The rape of Dinah.
6. The massacre of the people of Shechem by two of his sons.

7. Rachel died giving birth.
8. Thinking his son Joseph was dead for 25 years.
9. Reuben's incest with one of Jacob's wives.
10. The famine.
11. The imprisonment of Simeon.
12. Learning Benjamin would have to go to Egypt.

Nevertheless, God had blessed him in a number of ways and he could have focused on that aspect of his life.

It was true that he had a shorter life than that of his fathers. Abraham lived to the age of 175 and Isaac lived to be 180. Jacob is currently 130 and will live to be 147.

See chart 4705

Ch	Person	Event	Age	Year
11	Terah	Terah dies	205	1921
23	Sarah	Sarah dies	127	1859
25	Abraham	Abraham dies	175	1821
25	Ishmael	Ismael dies	137	1773
35	Rachel	Dies giving birth	35	1739
35	Isaac	Isaac dies	180	1716
49	Jacob	Jacob dies	147	1689
50	Joseph	Joseph dies	110	1635

¹¹ Now Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them property in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had ordered.

Joseph deeded a portion of the land of Goshen to his father and brothers.

Moses is writing about the Hebrews who were living in the land of Rameses (Goshen) around 1700 BC, which won't be called the land of Rameses until the city is built around 1600 BC. However, this is not a problem because Moses is writing about this in 1410 BC near the end of the wilderness wanderings. This is a little like the movie back to the future. Hope you enjoyed the movie! ☺

¹² Joseph also provided his father and his brothers and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their little ones.

The famine would continue for another 5 years. During that time period all of the Egyptians would have to sell their livestock, land, and themselves to buy food from the king. But it seems that Israel was provided for by Joseph and was exempt from these conditions.

Verse 13 -19

¹³ Now there was no food in all the land, because the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine.

¹⁴ And Joseph collected all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan *in payment* for the grain which they bought, and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁵ When the money was all spent in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph saying, "Give us food, for why should we die in your presence? For *our* money is gone."

¹⁶ Then Joseph said, "Give up your livestock, and I will give you *food* for your livestock, since *your* money is gone." ¹⁷ So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses and the flocks and the herds and the donkeys; and he fed them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year. ¹⁸ But when that year ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord the fact that our money is all spent, and the livestock are my lord's. There is nothing left for my lord except our bodies and our lands. ¹⁹ Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we and our land will be slaves to Pharaoh. So give us seed, so that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate."

¹³ Now there was no food in all the land, because the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine.

It is interesting that only the lands of Egypt and Canaan are mentioned here. When the famine first started it was said to be worldwide.

As the famine continued the people paid for the grain with the following:

1. Money.
2. Livestock.
3. Themselves and their land.

So give us seed, so that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate.”

This must have been the last year of the famine, since they were asking for seed to plant. The year was 1701 BC

Verses 20 - 26

²⁰ **So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for every Egyptian sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. So the land became Pharaoh’s.**

²¹ **As for the people, he relocated them to the cities from one end of Egypt’s border to the other. ²² Only the land of the priests he did not buy, because the priests had an allotment from Pharaoh, and they lived off the allotment which Pharaoh gave them. Therefore, they did not sell their land. ²³ Then Joseph said to the people, “Behold, today I have purchased you and your land for Pharaoh; now, *here is* seed for you, and you may sow the land. ²⁴ At the harvest you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four-fifths shall be your own for seed of the field and for your food, and for those of your households and as food for your little ones.”**

²⁵ **So they said, “You have saved our lives! Let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh’s slaves.” ²⁶ Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt, *valid* to this day, that Pharaoh was to have the fifth; only the land of the priests did not become Pharaoh’s.**

²¹ **As for the people, he relocated them to the cities from one end of Egypt’s border to the other.**

See pic 4710



Since 96% of Egypt is desert, the cities were located along the Nile River.

²² **Only the land of the priests he did not buy, because the priests had an allotment from Pharaoh, and they lived off the allotment which Pharaoh gave them. Therefore, they did not sell their land.**

The priests were supported by the king (state) so they were much better off than the common people.

²⁴ **At the harvest you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four-fifths shall be your own for seed of the field and for your food, and for those of your households and as food for your little ones.”**

The people became sharecroppers giving the king 20% of their crop each year.

Verses 27- 28

²⁷ **Now Israel lived in the land of Egypt, in Goshen, and they acquired property in it and were fruitful and became very numerous. ²⁸ And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt for seventeen years; so the length of Jacob’s life was 147 years.**

²⁷ **Now Israel lived in the land of Egypt, in Goshen, and they acquired property in it and were fruitful and became very numerous.**

When Jacob came to Egypt in 1706 BC, they were a group of about 200 people. By the time of the Exodus in 1446 BC their number had reached around 2.5 million with over 600,000 fighting men above the age of twenty.

See Numbers 1:46

⁴⁵ **So all the numbered men of the sons of Israel by their fathers’ households, from twenty years old and upward, whoever was able to go to war in Israel, ⁴⁶ all the numbered men were 603,550.**

So Israel increased from about 200 people to 2.5 million plus in 260 years. This would require a growth rate of 3.75%.

See chart 4715 Rate of growth for Israel

See chart 4720 Countries with the highest rate of growth in the world today.

Population Growth Calculator

Enter any 3 of the 4 variables below, leaving the one to be calculated blank.

Initial Population (X_0)

Rate of Growth (%) (r)

Number of Years (t)

Final Population (X_t)

Calculate

Reset

Calculator not solving your problem?
Describe the change you want to dynamically adjust the calculator. The more specific you are, the better the

Change Calculator

Restore Original

Top User Generated Adjustments

(Click to Load)

- two populations: 20% of population A changes into population B. 10% of population B turns into population A. This happens discretely in increments of 1 hour
- Population growth calculator with

	Country (or territory)	CIA ^{[2][3]} 2023–2024		WB ^[4]	UN ^[5]	UN ^[5]	UN ^[5]
		(%)	Year	2023	2005–10	2010–15	2015–20
1	Syria *	6.39	2023	4.9	2.78	-2.30	0.20
2	South Sudan *	4.65	2024	1.6	4.33	3.32	2.72
3	Niger *	3.66	2023	3.7	3.75	3.84	3.81
4	Equatorial Guinea *	3.36	2023	2.3	4.56	4.24	3.59
5	Angola *	3.33	2024	3.0	3.57	3.52	3.28
6	Benin *	3.29	2024	2.7	2.84	2.79	2.73
7	Uganda *	3.22	2023	2.8	3.45	3.37	3.23
8	DR Congo *	3.13	2023	3.2	3.28	3.33	3.22
9	Chad *	3.01	2024	3.1	3.32	3.29	3.01
10	Mali *	2.93	2023	3.1	3.27	2.95	2.99
11	Zambia *	2.86	2023	2.7	2.78	3.01	2.97
12	Burundi *	2.81	2023	2.7	3.33	3.03	3.15
13	Guinea *	2.75	2023	2.4	2.18	2.27	2.57
14	Tanzania *	2.75	2023	2.9	3.14	3.12	3.06
15	Cameroon *	2.71	2024	2.6	2.73	2.68	2.56

Verses 29 - 31

²⁹ When the time for Israel to die drew near, he called his son Joseph and said to him, “Please, if I have found favor in your sight, place your hand under my thigh now and deal with me in kindness and faithfulness: please do not bury me in Egypt, ³⁰ but when I lie down with my fathers, you shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place.” And he said, “I will do as you have said.” ³¹ And he said, “Swear to me.” So he swore to him. Then Israel bowed *in worship* at the head of the bed.

³⁰ but when I lie down with my fathers, you shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place.” And he said, “I will do as you have said.”

Jacob requested to be buried with Abraham and Isaac in the cave of Machpelah. We covered this in chapter 23.