

Joseph – the ‘saviour’ of the world



Genesis: chapter 47

Joseph went and told Pharaoh, "My father and brothers, with their flocks and herds and everything they own, have come from the land of Canaan and are now in Goshen."



Joseph respectfully asks Pharaoh's permission.

He chose five of his brothers and presented them before Pharaoh.

The 1st interview with Pharaoh



Why five ? Which ones ?

He chose five of his brothers and presented them before Pharaoh.



Joseph is not ashamed to be associated with 'shepherds'
Cf Jesus (Hebrews 2:11)

Pharaoh asked the brothers, "What is your occupation?" "Your servants are shepherds," they replied to Pharaoh, "just as our fathers were." They also said to him, "We have come to live here **a while**, because the famine is severe in Canaan and your servants` flocks have no pasture. So now, please let your servants settle in Goshen."

Visa, Temporary residence card
and work permit services



Our real home ...

For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

Hebrews 13:14

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you, and the land of Egypt is before you; settle your father and your brothers in the best part of the land. Let them live in Goshen.



Permission granted because of Joseph

And if you know of any among them with special ability, put them in charge of my own livestock ."



Pharaoh's flocks and herds kept there too ?

Then Joseph brought his father Jacob in and presented him before Pharaoh.

The 2nd interview with Pharaoh



After Jacob blessed Pharaoh, Pharaoh asked him,
"How old are you?"



How
old
are
you?

He is an old man – average Egyptian lifespan ?

And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty. My years have been few and difficult, and they do not equal the years of the pilgrimage of my fathers."

“years” in the original is “the ‘days of my years’”



This is no complaint – but a statement of fact

Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from his presence.



A respectful exit and blessing which Pharaoh allows and receives.

So Joseph settled his father and his brothers in Egypt and gave them property in the best part of the land, the district of Rameses, as Pharaoh directed. Joseph also provided his father and his brothers and all his father`s household with food, according to the number of their children.

Joseph the ‘saviour’ of his people –
they are fully dependent on him



There was no food, however, in the whole region because the famine was severe; both Egypt and Canaan wasted away because of the famine.

The people's food reserves run out.



They are probably a few years into the famine – say **Year 3**

Joseph collected all the money that was to be found in Egypt and Canaan in payment for the grain they were buying, and he brought it to Pharaoh's palace.

Government food stocks released for sale



Note Joseph's integrity – the money went into Pharaoh's treasury

When the money of the people of Egypt and Canaan was gone, all Egypt came to Joseph and said, "Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? Our money is used up."

Who do they turn to when they run out of money ?
They appeal to his compassion.



"Then bring your livestock," said Joseph. "I will sell you food in exchange for your livestock, since your money is gone."

Year 4 There are 2 vulnerable groups – people and live stock



Joseph buys the animals to preserve them from the grain stores. They can be kept alive for future use when the famine is over.

So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and he gave them food in exchange for their horses, their sheep and goats, their cattle and donkeys. And **he brought them through that year** with food in exchange for all their livestock.



When that year was over, they came to him the following year and said, "We cannot hide from our lord the fact that since our money is gone and our livestock belongs to you, there is nothing left for our lord except our bodies and our land. Why should we perish before your eyes--we and our land as well?"

Year 5

Nothing is left now



Buy us and our land in exchange for food, and we with our land will be in bondage to Pharaoh. Give us seed so that we may live and not die, and that the land may not become desolate."

This is their idea



Anyone who is among the living has hope--even a live dog is better off than a dead lion! Ecclesiastes 9:4

So Joseph bought all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh. The Egyptians, one and all, sold their fields, because the famine was too severe for them. The land became Pharaoh`s. As for the people, he made servants of them (moved the people into the cities) from one end of Egypt to the other.

Year 6
1 more year to survive

Pharaoh`s power is greatly increased



The people are rescued from death by famine.

They become tenant farmers etc.

However, he did not buy the land of the priests, because they received a regular allotment from Pharaoh and had food enough from the allotment Pharaoh gave them. That is why they did not sell their land.

A brief explanation about the Egyptian priest class

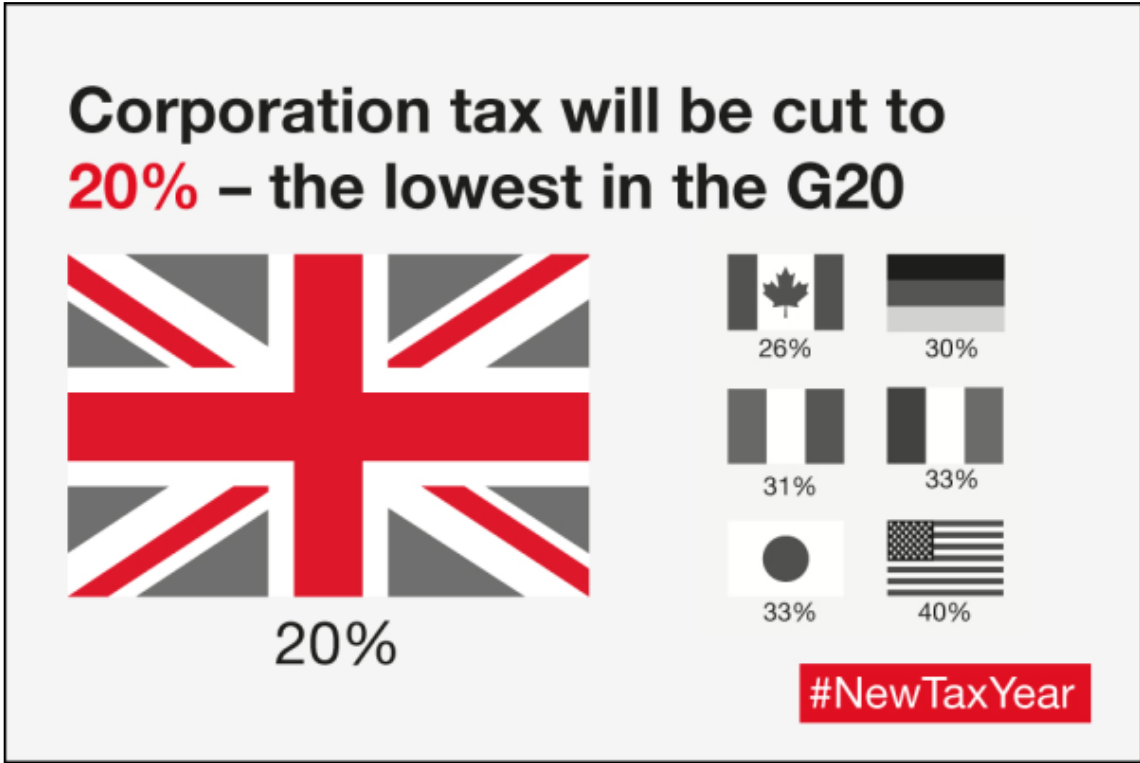


Joseph said to the people, "Now that I have bought you and your land today for Pharaoh, here is seed for you so you can plant the ground.



Joseph provides food and gives them seed for next harvest

But when the crop comes in, give a fifth of it to Pharaoh. The other four-fifths you may keep as seed for the fields and as food for yourselves and your households and your children."



Pharaoh's income

80% left ! A good provision and care for families

"You have saved our lives," they said. "May we find favour in the eyes of our lord; we will be in bondage to Pharaoh."

So Joseph established it as a law concerning land in Egypt--**still in force today**--that a fifth of the produce belongs to Pharaoh. It was only the land of the priests that did not become Pharaoh's.

Joseph
the 'saviour'
of the world.



In Moses' time hundreds of years later ! A fair working system

Now the Israelites settled in Egypt in the region of Goshen. They acquired property there and were fruitful and increased greatly in number.

Meanwhile in Goshen ...



Through Joseph they survived the famine in Egypt without being tied to pharaoh and were allowed to prosper and grow independently of the other nations.

He maintains a people separate from the world, but causes them to be a blessing to the world. (Why did God do this for Egypt ?)

GOD'S GREAT BLESSINGS



What Joseph did for his people and for the nations is a picture of
Jesus

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me-- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. John 10:14 -16

The Good Shepherd

Cf. Matthew 11:28 ...

