

## **Joseph and the Famine**

Genesis 47:13-31

by Don Falkos

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The famine became quite severe. By selling grain, Joseph eventually collected all the money in Egypt. He put the money in Pharaoh's treasury. Then all the Egyptians came to Joseph, saying, "Our money is gone. Please give us food, or we will die"

Joseph replied, "I will give you food in exchange for your livestock." So they brought their livestock and Joseph provided them with food for another year.

The next year the people came again, "Our money is gone, and all our livestock now belongs to you. Don't let us starve to death. Give us food to eat and seed to plant. Our land will be yours and we will be Pharaoh's slaves."

The people of Egypt sold their fields to Joseph in exchange for food. Soon all the land in Egypt belonged to Pharaoh and all the people were his slaves. In addition, the people were required to give Pharaoh one-fifth of whatever the land produced. The only land Joseph did not buy was the land belonging to the priests. They received a regular allotment from Pharaoh, so they didn't need to sell their land.

Meanwhile, the family of Jacob, now known as the people of Israel, settled in Goshen. They were prosperous and had large families. Jacob lived there for seventeen years before dying at the age of 147.

Toward the end of his life, Jacob called for his son Joseph and said to him, "Do not bury me in Egypt. When I die, please take me back to Canaan and bury me with my ancestors."

Joseph promised to do as his father asked.