

Read Genesis 47:26-31

26 Joseph then issued a decree still in effect in the land of Egypt, that Pharaoh should receive one-fifth of all the crops grown on his land. Only the land belonging to the priests was not given to Pharaoh.

27 Meanwhile, the people of Israel settled in the region of Goshen in Egypt. There they acquired property, and they were fruitful, and their population grew rapidly.

28 Jacob lived for seventeen years after his arrival in Egypt, so he lived 147 years in all.

29 As the time of his death drew near, Jacob called for his son Joseph and said to him, "Please do me this favor. Put your hand under my thigh and swear that you will treat me with unfailing love by honoring this last request: Do not bury me in Egypt.

30 When I die, please take my body out of Egypt and bury me with my ancestors." So, Joseph promised, "I will do as you ask."

31 "Swear that you will do it," Jacob insisted. So, Joseph gave his oath, and Jacob bowed humbly at the head of his bed.

What did Joseph do next (v. 26)? He made a new law.

What did the new law say? Since Joseph gave the people seed to grow food, they had to give some of their crops to Pharaoh.

What did the Jewish people do (v. 27)? (Read) The famine was over and they started to grow into a large nation. More and more Jews were born.

How long did Jacob live (v. 28)? He lived for 17 more years in Egypt and finally died when he was 147 years old.

When he knew he was going to die, what did Jacob do (v. 29)? He called for Joseph and told him to put his hand under his thigh.

Why did he do that? It was a way the Jewish people made a promise to each other that was a really important promise that they would keep forever.

What are some of the things we do when we make a promise? Put our hand on a Bible. Or shake hands. Or write it down on paper and sign it.

What did Jacob ask Joseph to promise to do (vv. 29-30)? To not bury him in Egypt.

Why was that important to Jacob? He wanted to be buried in the Promised Land that God had given to the Jewish people where all his relatives were buried. That was his true home, not Egypt.

How did Joseph respond to his father's request (v. 31)? He promised Jacob that he would bury him in the Promised Land of Canaan.