

How Did Israel End Up in Egypt?

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BIG SANDY, Texas—This is the time of the year when my friends and I are greatly anticipating the memorial of the suffering and death of the Son of God. We enjoy studying the scriptures in the New Testament that describe the significant event.

Like most believers, I seek to base my life upon the teachings of the New Testament. But, like many religious people, I also place historical value in the lessons and teachings of the Old Testament.

Exodus account

During this time of year, my friends and I like to review lessons from the book of Exodus. We like to rehearse how the Israelites were saved under the blood (Exodus 12:7) and through the water (Exodus 14:26-29).

Just as God delivered the children of Israel from the land of Egypt, believers appreciate that God delivers us from our carnal nature.

Ending up in Egypt

At this time, I want to rehearse a few scriptures that describe how the children of Israel ended up in Egypt. We can let Stephen help us with the history lesson.

Acts 7:8—"Then He gave him the covenant of circumcision; and so Abraham begot Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot the twelve patriarchs."

Genesis 32:28—"And He said, 'Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.'"

Acts 7:9-10—"And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him and delivered him out of all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house."

Acts 7:11-16—"Now a famine and great trouble came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers found no sustenance. But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first. And the second time Joseph was made known to his brothers, and Joseph's family

became known to the Pharaoh. Then Joseph sent and called his father Jacob and all his relatives to him, seventy-five people. So Jacob went down to Egypt; and he died, he and our fathers. And they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a sum of money from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem."

Genesis 50:14—"And after he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father."

Promise of deliverance

Genesis 50:20—"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

Genesis 50:24—"And Joseph said to his brethren, 'I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.' "

Acts 7:17-18—"But when the time of the promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt till another king arose who did not know Joseph."

Exodus 1:7-8—"But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them. Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph."

Acts 7:19—"This man dealt treacherously with our people, and oppressed our forefathers, making them expose their babies, so that they might not live."

Exodus 1:22—"So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, 'Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.' "