

Genesis 46 - The House of Jacob; Jacob Arrives in Egypt

II. Epilogue: Patriarchal history (Gen 11:10—50:26)

(4) Life of Joseph (Gen 37:1—50:26)

(C) Jacob and Joseph's brothers go to Egypt (Gen 42:1—47:26)

(c) Jacob's trip to Egypt (46:1-27)

(i) Departure for Egypt (46:1-7)

(ii) Names of Jacob's descendants brought to Egypt (46:8-27)

(d) Jacob's descendants dwell in Egypt (Gen 46:28—47:28)

(i) Jacob and Joseph reunited (46:28-34)

Genesis 46

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1 So Israel set out with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

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1 Later, Israel began his journey, taking along everything that he owned, and arrived at Beer-sheba, where he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

1 And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac.

- Beersheba was on the southern border of the Land

— As Jacob stopped to sacrifice here, he was likely seeking divine confirmation that it was all right for him to leave the Land at this time

2 And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am."

2 God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am."

2 God spoke to Israel through night visions, addressing him, "Jacob! Jacob!" "Here I am!" Jacob replied.

2 And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I.

- This is the sixth appearance of God to Jacob

3 Then He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there.

3 He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there.

3 "I'm God, your father's God. Don't be afraid to move down to Egypt, because I'm going to turn you into a mighty nation there.

3 And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation:

4 I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also assuredly bring **you** up again; and Joseph **will close your eyes."**

4 I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes."

4 I'm going down with you to Egypt, and I'm certainly going to bring you back again. And Joseph himself will be with you when you die."

4 I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes.

- God promised Jacob that He would be with him in Egypt and make a great nation from him, just as it was in the Land and earlier in Haran

— In Egypt, the Jews will multiply into the millions without intermarriage with the Egyptians, developing into a distinct nation and never becoming part of Egypt

— The fulfillment of this promise is found in Ex 1:7

- God also promises to bring Israel back to the Land

- "...you" - singular (collective singular rather than absolute singular)

— An absolute singular meant Jacob would be brought back to the Land and buried

— A collective singular meant God was promising to bring Israel (the nation) back to the Land, pointing to the Exodus

— Ultimately, both statements were true

- This is the third reconfirmation of the Abrahamic Covenant to Jacob, emphasizing God as the Covenant Maker (v3)

- Jacob's trip to Egypt had God's divine approval; while God told Isaac not to go down to Egypt, He told Jacob to go to Egypt

— This is the only time the family leaves the Land by divine decree

— Jacob's first trip outside the Land, to Haran, was not by divine decree

- "...will close your eyes" - a word of comfort for Jacob; Joseph will be by his side at his death

— This prediction is in sharp contrast to Jacob's fear of dying in mourning (37:35)

5 Then Jacob left Beersheba, and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob and their little ones and their wives in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him.

5 Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob and their little ones and their wives in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him.

5 So Jacob got up and left Beer-sheba, and Israel's sons carried their father Jacob, their little ones, and their wives in the transport wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry them.

5 And Jacob rose up from Beersheba: and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, and their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him.

6 They also took their livestock and their possessions, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and came to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him:

6 They took their livestock and their property, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and came to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him:

6 They took their livestock and their household property that they had acquired in the land of Canaan and traveled to Egypt. Jacob and all of his descendants went with him—

6 And they took their cattle, and their goods, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him:

- The Lord reiterated the promise that He would make his family a great nation there in Egypt, and He also stated that He would bring that nation back again.

- God had told Isaac not to go to Egypt (26:2), but now He told Jacob to go.

- This vision, which comforted the patriarch, would also encourage the nation of Israel when Moses would exhort them to leave the land of Egypt and return to Canaan to receive God's promises.

7 his sons and his grandsons with him, his daughters and his granddaughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt.

7 his sons and his grandsons with him, his daughters and his granddaughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt.

7 including his sons, his grandsons, his daughters, and his granddaughters—every one of his descendants accompanied him to Egypt.

7 His sons, and his sons' sons with him, his **daughters**, and his sons' daughters, and all his seed brought he with him into Egypt.

- "...daughters" - plural, shows that Dinah was not his only daughter, just the only one named

- The text of v6-7 do not allow for any of Jacob's family members to have remained in the Land; the entire household of Israel went down to Egypt
- Jacob spent the last 17 years of his life in Egypt

(ii) Names of Jacob's descendants brought to Egypt (46:8-27)

8 Now these are the names of the **sons of Israel** who went to Egypt, Jacob and his sons: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn.

8 Now these are the names of the sons of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who went to Egypt: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn.

8 Here's a list of the names of Israel's sons, that is, of Jacob and his sons who moved to Egypt: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn;

8 And these are the names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn.

- "...sons of Israel" - this is the first time the family of Jacob is referred to by this title

9 And the sons of Reuben: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

9 The sons of Reuben: Hanoch and Pallu and Hezron and Carmi.

9 Reuben's sons Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi;

9 And the sons of Reuben; Hanoch, and Phallu, and Hezron, and Carmi.

10 And the sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman.

10 The sons of Simeon: Jemuel and Jamin and Ohad and Jachin and Zohar and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman.

10 Simeon's sons Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, who was the son of a Canaanite woman;

10 And the sons of Simeon; Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman.

- Shaul had a different mother than the other sons of Simeon; his mother was either a concubine or a second wife since only he is listed as her son

— This implies that most of the sons were not married to Canaanites. Judah was, and Simeon was, but most of the others sons were not.

— The fact that there is some intermarriage with Canaanites show the need to get out of the Land of Canaan

11 And the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

11 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

11 Levi's sons Gershon, Kohath, and Merari;

11 And the sons of Levi; Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

12 And the sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan). And the sons of Perez **were** Hezron and Hamul.

12 The sons of Judah: Er and Onan and Shelah and Perez and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan). And the sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul.

12 and Judah's sons Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah. (Technically, Er and Onan had died in the land of Canaan.) Perez's sons were Hezron and Hamul.

12 And the sons of Judah; Er, and Onan, and Shelah, and Pharez, and Zerah: but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan. And the sons of Pharez were Hezron and Hamul.

- Er and Onan are not numbers because they were killed prior to the departure for Egypt

- "...were" - the Hebrew text uses the verbal form *veyihyu*, indicating that there was something different about this situation than the others

— The emphasis is that the sons of Perez were not among those who came down into Egypt. They were instead born in Egypt, but are still part of the enumeration.

13 And the sons of Issachar: Tola, Puvvah, Iob, and Shimron.

13 The sons of Issachar: Tola and Puvvah and Iob and Shimron.

13 Also included were Issachar's sons Tola, Puvvah, Job, and Shimron;

13 And the sons of Issachar; Tola, and Phuvah, and Job, and Shimron.

14 And the sons of Zebulun: Sered, Elon, and Jahleel.

14 The sons of Zebulun: Sered and Elon and Jahleel.

14 along with Zebulun's sons Sered, Elon, and Jahleel.

14 And the sons of Zebulun; Sered, and Elon, and Jahleel.

15 These are the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Paddan-aram, with his daughter Dinah; all his sons and his daughters *numbered* **thirty-three**.

15 These are the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Paddan-aram, with his daughter Dinah; all his sons and his daughters *numbered* thirty-three.

15 These were all sons from Leah, whom she bore for Jacob in Paddan-aram, along with his daughter Dinah. He had 33 sons and daughters.

15 These be the sons of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob in Padanaram, with his daughter Dinah: all the souls of his sons and his daughters were thirty and three.

- Summary statement

- "...thirty-three" - does not include Er and Onan (v12), but does include one son of an unnamed wife and the two grandsons of Judah who were actually born in Egypt

— All of these names actually add up to 32; the 33 figure includes Jacob [33]

— The 33 includes: Jacob; 6 sons, 24 grandsons (not including two who died), and two great-grandsons

16 And the sons of Gad: **Ziphion**, Haggi, Shuni, **Ezbon**, Eri, **Arodi**, and Areli.

16 The sons of Gad: Ziphion and Haggi, Shuni and Ezbon, Eri and Arodi and Areli.

16 Also included were Gad's sons Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli;

16 And the sons of Gad; Ziphion, and Haggi, Shuni, and Ezbon, Eri, and Arodi, and Areli.

- "...Ziphion" - spelled Zephon in Num 26:15

- "...Ezbon" - spelled Ozni in Num 26:16

- "...Arodi" - spelled Arod in Num 26:17

17 And the sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, and their sister **Serah**. And the sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel.

17 The sons of Asher: Imnah and Ishvah and Ishvi and Beriah and their sister Serah. And the sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel.

17 Asher's sons Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, and their sister Serah. Beriah's sons Heber and Malchiel were also included.

17 And the sons of Asher; Jimnah, and Ishuah, and Isui, and Beriah, and Serah their sister: and the sons of Beriah; Heber, and Malchiel.

- "...Serah" - the only grand-daughter of Jacob who is named

18 These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to his daughter Leah; and she bore to Jacob these **sixteen** persons.

18 These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to his daughter Leah; and she bore to Jacob these sixteen persons.

18 These were all sons from Zilpah, whom Laban had given to his daughter Leah. She bore these sixteen children for Jacob.

18 These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter, and these she bare unto Jacob, even sixteen souls.

- "...sixteen" - includes two sons, 11 grandsons, one granddaughter and two great-grandsons

19 The sons of Jacob's **wife** Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.

19 The sons of Jacob's wife Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.

19 Jacob's wife Rachel's sons were Joseph and Benjamin.

19 The sons of Rachel Jacob's wife; Joseph, and Benjamin.

- "...wife" - Rachel is the only one so designated as Jacob's "wife," since she was his favorite

20 Now to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore to him.

20 Now to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore to him.

20 Joseph's sons born in the land of Egypt were Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On, bore for him.

20 And unto Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh [52] and Ephraim [53], which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him.

- Manasseh and Ephraim were both born in Egypt

21 And the sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard.

21 The sons of Benjamin: Bela and Becher and Ashbel, Gera and Naaman, Ehi and Rosh, Muppim and Huppim and Ard.

21 Benjamin's sons included Bela, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard.

21 And the sons of Benjamin were Belah [54], and Becher [55], and Ashbel [56], Gera [57], and Naaman [58], Ehi [59], and Rosh [60], Muppim [61], and Huppim [62], and Ard [63].

- Benjamin had 10 sons, but according to the Biblical record, he was only 25 years old at this time. There are two possible explanations:

— These may have been reckoned seminally, meaning some were "in his loins" and were later born in Egypt

— He had multiple wives, impregnating multiple wives simultaneously

22 These are the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob; *there were* fourteen persons in all.

22 These are the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob; *there were* fourteen persons in all.

22 These were all the sons of Rachel, who were born for Jacob—fourteen in all.

22 These are the sons of Rachel, which were born to Jacob: all the souls were **fourteen**.

- "...fourteen" - two sons and 12 grandsons

23 And the sons of Dan: Hushim.

23 The sons of Dan: Hushim.

23 Also included were Dan's son Hushim;

23 And the sons of Dan [64]; Hushim [65].

24 And the sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.

24 The sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel and Guni and Jezer and Shillem.

24 Naphtali's sons Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.

24 And the sons of Naphtali [66]; Jahzeel [67], and Guni [68], and Jezer [69], and Shillem [70].

25 These are the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to his daughter Rachel, and she bore these to Jacob; *there were***seven** persons in all.

25 These are the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to his daughter Rachel, and she bore these to Jacob; *there were* seven persons in all.

25 These were sons of Bilhah, whom Laban had given to his daughter Rachel. She bore these children for Jacob—seven in all.

25 These are the sons of Bilhah, which Laban gave unto Rachel his daughter, and she bare these unto Jacob: all the souls were seven.

- "...seven" - two sons and five grandsons

Reconciliation

- House of Leah (v15): 32 (Er and Onan died in Canaan)
- House of Zilpah (v18): 16
- House of Rachel (v22): 14
- House of Bilhah (v25): 7
- Jacob: 1

= 70

This figure (70) excludes wives of the 11 sons and husbands of daughters or granddaughters, so the number was actually far greater than 70. The figure 70 includes only Jacob and his immediate descendants: Jacob, 12 sons, 51 grandsons, two great grandsons, one daughter, one granddaughter, one unnamed daughter of Leah, and one unnamed granddaughter.

If one begins to add the servants and wives plus the women and children absorbed from Shechem (34:29), the figure would be 300 or more. In Acts 7:14, Stephen gave a total figure of 75, a figure taken from the LXX section of Gen 46:27 and Ex 1:5. This figure is also supported by the Dead Sea Scrolls. To these, add to the figure of 70 the 5 grandsons of Joseph: the son and grandson of Manasseh and the two sons of Ephraim (Num 26:28-37; 1 Chr 7:14-27).

The House of Jacob

<u>Sons:</u>	<u>Leah – Jacob's Wife</u>	Total
	Grandsons/Great-Grandsons:	
Reuben	Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, Carmi	5
Simeon		
Wife 1:	Jemuel, Jamin, Chad, Jachin	
Wife 2:	Shaul (Canaanitish Mother)	7
Levi	Gershon, Konath, Merari	4
Judah		
Wife:	Er and Onan, who died in Canaan*; Shelah	
Tamar:	Zerah, Perez, and two great-grandsons by Perez, Hezron and Hamal	6
Issachar	Tola, Puvah, Iob, Shimion	5
Zebulun	Sered, Elon, Jahleel	4
<u>Daughter:</u>		
Dinah		1
		32
	<u>Zilpah, Leah's Handmaid</u>	
<u>Sons:</u>	Grandsons/Great-Grandsons:	
Gad	Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, Areli	8
Asher	Sons: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah	
	Daughter: Serah	
	Grandsons by Beriah: Heber and Malchiel	8
		16
	<u>Rachel – Jacob's Wife</u>	
<u>Sons:</u>	Grandsons:	
Joseph	Manasseh and Ephraim (Asenath, mother)	3
Benjamin	Bela, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Nadman, Ehl, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, Ard	11
		14
	<u>Bilhah – Rachel's Handmaid</u>	
<u>Sons:</u>	Grandsons:	
Dan	Hushim	2
Naphtali	Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, Shillem	5
		7
	TOTAL =	70

26 All the people belonging to Jacob, who came to Egypt, his direct descendants, not including the wives of Jacob's sons, **were sixty-six** persons in all,

26 All the persons belonging to Jacob, who came to Egypt, his direct descendants, not including the wives of Jacob's sons, **were sixty-six** persons in all,

26 All of these people, who belonged to Jacob's family, traveled to Egypt. All of Jacob's direct descendants, not including his sons' wives, numbered **66** persons in all.

26 All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob's sons' wives, all the souls were threescore and six;

- "...sixty-six" - Jacob's direct descendants, not including the wives of his 11 sons, equalled **66**

— This figure counts only the children outside Egypt and excludes Jacob, Joseph and Joseph's two sons (Manasseh and Ephraim)

27 and the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two; all the people of the house of Jacob, who came to Egypt, were seventy.

27 and the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt were two; all the persons of the house of Jacob, who came to Egypt, were seventy.

27 Joseph had two sons born to him in Egypt, and all of Jacob's household who went to Egypt numbered 70.

27 And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, were two souls: all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were threescore and ten.

- In v26 the number of descendants is 66, whereas the number in v27 is 70

— 66 (v26) includes those who traveled with Jacob to Egypt

— 70 includes Jacob, Joseph and Joseph's children (Manasseh and Ephraim) already in Egypt

(d) Jacob's descendants dwell in Egypt (Gen 46:28—47:28)

(i) Jacob and Joseph reunited (46:28-34)

28 Now *Jacob* sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph, to guide him to Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen.

28 Now he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out *the way* before him to Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen.

28 Jacob sent Judah ahead of them to meet with Joseph, who would be guiding them to Goshen, and so they arrived.

28 And he sent Judah before him unto Joseph, to direct his face unto Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen.

The rabbinic commentary *Midrash Rabbah* on this passage states: "Joseph will receive the kingdom before Judah." The footnote interprets this as follows: "This refers to the Messiah, the son of Joseph, who will precede the Messiah Who is the son of David descended from Judah." This conveys the rabbinic view that there will be two messiahs: one who is the Son of Joseph who will be the suffering Messiah, and then the other Messiah, the Son of David who will be the ruling Messiah."

29 And Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; as soon as he appeared to him, *Joseph* threw himself on his neck and wept on his neck a long time.

29 Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; as soon as he appeared before him, he fell on his neck and wept on his neck a long time.

29 Joseph prepared his chariot and went to meet his father Israel in Goshen. As soon as Jacob appeared in his presence, he embraced him and wept for a long time as he held on to him.

29 And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel his father, to Goshen, and presented himself unto him; and he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while.

- Finally, after 22 years, Joseph and Jacob were reunited. The last time Joseph saw his father was when Joseph was 17 (37:2)

30 Then Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face, that you are still alive."

30 Then Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face, that you are still alive."

30 "Now let me die," Israel told Joseph, "since I've seen your face and confirmed that you're still alive!"

30 And Israel said unto Joseph, Now let me die, since I have seen thy face, because thou art yet alive.

- Although Jacob felt his life was complete and he was now comfortable with death, he lived another 17 years in Egypt (47:28), to the age of 147 (he was 130 years old on his arrival in Egypt)

31 But Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh, and will say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who *were* in the land of Canaan, have come to me;

31 Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh, and will say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who *were* in the land of Canaan, have come to me;

31 But Joseph addressed his brothers and his father's household and told them, "I'll go up and tell Pharaoh that my brothers and my father's household have arrived from Canaan to be with me.

31 And Joseph said unto his brethren, and unto his father's house, I will go up, and shew Pharaoh, and say unto him, My brethren, and my father's house, which were in the land of Canaan, are come unto me;

32 and the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock; and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.'

32 and the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock; and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.'

32 I'll mention that the men are shepherds. Because they've been taking care of livestock, they brought along their flocks, their herds, and everything else that they own.

32 And the men are shepherds, for their trade hath been to feed cattle; and they have brought their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have.

33 When Pharaoh calls for you and says, 'What is your occupation?'

33 When Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?'

33 When Pharaoh calls for you and asks you 'What's your occupation?'

33 And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What is your occupation?

34 you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock since our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' so that you may live in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

34 you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' that you may live in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is loathsome to the Egyptians."

34 you are to tell him, 'Your servants have been taking care of livestock since we were youths. We and our ancestors have taken care of livestock.' That way, you'll be able to live in the Goshen territory, since shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians."

34 That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, and also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.

- Joseph encouraged them to stress before Pharaoh that they were cattle raisers, not sheepherders, because the Egyptians detested the latter

— This was true, of course; they were no lying, but they were to stress that they were cattle raisers, not mentioning that some of their cattle were indeed sheep

— Joseph, as usual, was eager not to upset Egyptian custom and preference (Cf. 41:14; 43:32)

— However, five of the brothers did not respond with the same diplomacy (47:3)

- Joseph also wanted to make sure that Pharaoh, because of their occupation, set aside land for them in Goshen; this would also separate them from the Egyptian population

— This was also part of God's plan: to keep Israel distinct and preserve their nationhood