

Chapter 46

- 46:1 And Israel took his journey with all that he had,
and came to Beersheba,
and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac.
- 46:2 And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night,
and said,
Jacob, Jacob.
And he said, Here am I.
- 46:3 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:
- 46:4 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.
- 46:5 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.
- 46:6 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:
- 46:7 His sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters,
and all his seed brought he with him into Egypt.
- 46:8 And these are the names of the children of Israel,
which came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons:
Reuben, Jacob's firstborn.
- 46:9 And the sons of Reuben; Hanoch, and Phallu, and Hezron, and Carmi.
- 46:10 And the sons of Simeon; Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman.
- 46:11 And the sons of Levi; Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.
- 46:12 And the sons of Judah; Er, and Onan, and Shelah, and Pharez, and Zarah:
but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan.
And the sons of Pharez were Hezron and Hamul.
- 46:13 And the sons of Issachar; Tola, and Phuvah, and Job, and Shimron.
- 46:14 And the sons of Zebulun; Sered, and Elon, and Jahleel.
- 46:15 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.
- 46:16 And the sons of Gad; Ziphion, and Haggi, Shuni, and Ezbon, Eri, and Arodi, and Areli.
- 46:17 And the sons of Asher; Jimnah, and Ishuah, and Isui, and Beriah, and Serah their sister:
and the sons of Beriah; Heber, and Malchiel.
- 46:18 These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter,
and these she bare unto Jacob,
even sixteen souls.
- 46:19 The sons of Rachel Jacob's wife;
Joseph, and Benjamin.
- 46:20 And unto Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him.

- 46:21 And the sons of Benjamin were Belah, and Becher, and Ashbel, Gera, and Naaman, Ehi, and Rosh, Muppim, and Huppim, and Ard.
- 46:22 These are the sons of Rachel, which were born to Jacob:
all the souls were fourteen.
- 46:23 And the sons of Dan; Hushim.
- 46:24 And the sons of Naphtali; Jahzeel, and Guni, and Jezer, and Shillem.
- 46:25 These are the sons of Bilhah, which Laban gave unto Rachel his daughter,
and she bare these unto Jacob:
all the souls were seven.
- 46:26 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;
- 46:27 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.***
answer: *(Jacob +)(36 + Joseph + his two sons)*
- 46:28 And he sent Judah before him unto Joseph, to direct his face unto Goshen;
and they came into the land of Goshen.
- 46:29 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.
- 46:30 And Israel said unto Joseph, Now let me die, since I have seen thy face, because thou art yet alive.
- 46:31 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;
- 46:32 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.
- 46:33 And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What is your occupation?
- 46:34 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.*
question: Why?
answer: Internet research on, "for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians"
(REF: appended to chapter)
<External Authorship>
(Citation pending notification)

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As this particular land was both fruitful and pleasant, Joseph wished to fix his family in that part of Egypt; hence he advises them to tell Pharaoh that their trade had been in cattle from their youth--and because every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians; therefore, he concluded that there would be less difficulty to get them quiet settlement in Goshen; as they would, then, be separated from the Egyptians, and, consequently, be able to freely exercise all their religious customs. This scheme succeeded, and the consequence was, the preservation both, of their religion, and of their lives--though, afterwards, some of their posterity did corrupt themselves; see Ezekiel 20:8 and Amos 5:26.

Since it is well known that the Egyptians had cattle and flocks themselves, and that Pharaoh even requested that some of Joseph's brethren should be made rulers over his cattle, how could it be said, as in Genesis 46:34, Every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians"? Three reasons may be assigned for this:

1. Shepherds and feeders of cattle were usually of the sort of lawless, free-booting bandits; frequently making inroads on villages, etcetera; carrying off cattle, and whatever spoils they could find. This might have been the case, formerly; for, it is well known, it has often been the case since. On this account, such persons must have been universally detested.

2. They must have abhorred shepherds, if Manetho's account of the hycsos or king-shepherds can be credited. Hordes of marauders under this name, from Arabia, Syria, and Ethiopia, (whose chief occupation, like the Bedouin Arabs of the present day, was to keep flocks), made a powerful irruption into Egypt, which they subdued and ruled with great tyranny for 259 years. Now, though they had been expelled from that land--some considerable time before this--yet, their name, and all persons of a similar occupation, were execrated by the Egyptians, on account of the depredations and long-continued ravages they had committed in the country.

3. The last and probably the best reason why the Egyptians abhorred such shepherds as the Israelites were, was this: they sacrificed those very animals--the ox particularly, and the Sheep--which the Egyptians held sacred. Hence the Roman historian Tacitus, speaking of the Jews, says: "Caeso Ariete velut in contumelia Ammonis; Bos quoque immolatur, quem Aegyptii Apim colunt." "They sacrifice the ram in order to insult Jupiter Ammon, and they sacrifice the ox, which the Egyptians worship under the name of Apis." Though some contend that this idolatry was not as yet established in Egypt, and that the king-shepherds were either, after the time of Joseph, or that, Manetho, by them, intends the Israelites themselves; yet, as the arguments by which these conjectures are supported are not sufficient to overthrow those which are brought for the support of the contrary opinions, and as there was evidently an established religion and priesthood in Egypt before Joseph's time (for, we find the priests had a certain portion of the land of Egypt which was held so sacred that Joseph did not attempt to buy it in the time of the famine, when he bought all the land which belonged to the people, Genesis 47:20-22); and, as that established priesthood was, in all likelihood, idolatrous, and, as the worship of Apis under the form of an ox was one of the most ancient forms of worship in Egypt: as by those reasoning, we may rest tolerably certain that, it was chiefly on this account that the shepherds, or those who fed on and sacrificed these objects of their worship, were an abomination to the Egyptians. Calmet has entered into this subject, at large--and to his notes I must refer those readers who wish for farther information. See Clarke on Genesis 43:32 (note).