

GENESIS 47:27-31 TWO SIDES OF THE PROMISE

²⁷ Now the Israelites settled in Egypt in the region of Goshen. They acquired property there and were fruitful and increased greatly in number.

²⁸ Jacob lived in Egypt seventeen years, and the years of his life were a hundred and forty-seven.

²⁹ When the time drew near for Israel to die, he called for his son Joseph and said to him, "If I have found favor in your eyes, put your hand under my thigh and promise that you will show me kindness and faithfulness. Do not bury me in Egypt, ³⁰ but when I rest with my fathers, carry me out of Egypt and bury me where they are buried."

"I will do as you say," he said.

³¹ "Swear to me," he said. Then Joseph swore to him, and Israel worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

Every promise has two sides: that of the giver and that of the receiver. God promised Jacob that his descendents would be too numerous to count and that he would give those descendents Canaan as their home (Genesis 28:13-14). Not only did Jacob have 12 sons, but in Goshen, during the extended and severe drought, they *were fruitful and increased greatly in number*.

For his part, Jacob acknowledged the second part of the promise, the return to the land, as a reality, by having Joseph swear to him that he would be buried in Canaan. Furthermore, he gave God the credit by immediately worshiping him.

What would our lives be like if we lived with such faith? Sometime today, take a moment to remember the promises that God has made through his Word. Think about the promise made to the Patriarchs in terms of the "land" as the kingdom of God. In addition, think about that promise in the context of the promise of the bodily resurrection to eternal life. Through Jesus Christ God has already begun the fulfillment of his promise. How might your response change the way you live?

Through your Holy Spirit, Lord, inspire me to be a person who truly lives in the hope of the resurrection. Build in me the faith of Jacob that I might live my life in total faith in you, knowing that your promise will be fully consummated at your perfect time. Help me to live a resurrected life even now and even here. Amen.