

## February 15-Genesis 46

Prophecies are a very important and prevalent part of Genesis specifically and the Old Testament in general. These prophecies are actually some of the most convincing truths that argue for the trustworthiness of the Bible. Many times in the Bible, authors predict an event hundreds of years before it actually happened. These predictions serve to show that God is always in control and that the people speaking for God are actually sharing His Word and not their own.

In Genesis 46 we see an example of a prophecy in verse 4 as God tells Jacob “I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again.” Now, in order to understand why this is significant we need to think back on what God had promised Jacob (and his forefathers Isaac and Abraham). God had promised Jacob and his descendants to give them the “promised land” which is exactly where Jacob was living before he moved to Egypt. In order for Jacob to go to Egypt, he would have to take all of his possessions and family members out of that land and move them to a place that was totally foreign to him and them. One can understand why this caused some tension in Jacob’s heart. Why would God promise to give his family a land and then call him to move his entire family completely away from that land? As we have discussed earlier, God’s plan doesn’t always make sense to us, but it is always perfect and good. God told Jacob that He was leading Jacob and his family to Egypt and in the future God promised that He would lead the nation of Israel back out and to the land that had been promised to them. We now know that God’s plan included a miraculous “Exodus” from Egypt in the future. To be sure, the plan was accompanied by some years of pain and agony, but it culminated in glorious triumph.

The lesson here is simple, we don’t have to always understand exactly what God is doing, we just have to know that He is telling us to follow Him. Everything else will be worked out in the future. Following God without exact knowledge of the outcome is called “faith” and it is what is required of those of us who believe. Although faith requires us to trust in what we can’t always understand, it never requires us to put our trust in anyone besides God. God is worthy to be trusted and therefore our faith will always be founded if we follow Him. In the next few days, we will begin the book that tells about the process of God taking Israel back out of Egypt and bringing them once again to the promised land. God is always faithful to fulfill His promises and He has also given us many examples of how this has already taken place in the past to validate His Word to us! We truly serve an amazing, powerful, and gracious God.