

GOSHEN

²² “ *‘But on that day I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know that I, the LORD, am in this land. ²³ I will make a distinction between my people and your people. This sign will occur tomorrow.’* “

Exodus 8:22,23

I. Goshen represents the best of the land. (Genesis 47:6,11)

⁶ *and the land of Egypt is before you; settle your father and your brothers in the best part of the land. Let them live in Goshen. And if you know of any among them with special ability, put them in charge of my own livestock.” ...*

¹¹ *So Joseph settled his father and his brothers in Egypt and gave them property in the best part of the land, the district of Rameses, as Pharaoh directed.*

- A. Goshen was the entry point of the children of Israel into Egypt, and it would be the exit point from which they would be delivered from the land.
- B. Goshen was located in the northeast part of the Nile delta; an area of about 900 miles, very fertile and excellent for grazing cattle. It was a country within a country.
- C. Seventy came into Goshen with Jacob. Two million would leave from Goshen with Moses.

*** Unlike their story, we are going to enter and exit quickly from this Goshen season.**

II. Goshen was a place where forgiven people live. (Genesis 45:5-9)

⁵ *And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay.*

A. Goshen was the place of ultimate reunion.

B. Judah, who was responsible for Jacob not seeing Joseph for twenty two years, was now the means of their reconciliation. (Genesis 46:28)

²⁸ Now Jacob sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to get directions to Goshen. When they arrived in the region of Goshen,

*** This Goshen season is a time for reunion and complex relational healing.**

III. Goshen was the place where the children of Israel multiplied in number. (Genesis 47:27; Exodus 1:7,12; Psalm 104:24; Acts 7:17)

[Gen 47:27 NIV] ²⁷ Now the Israelites settled in Egypt in the region of Goshen. They acquired property there and were fruitful and increased greatly in number.

[Exo 1:7, 12 NIV] ⁷ but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them. ... ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites

[Psa 104:24 NIV] ²⁴ How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

[Act 7:17 NIV] ¹⁷ “As the time drew near for God to fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt had greatly increased.

*** This Goshen season is a time of indescribable multiplication and fruitfulness.**

IV. Goshen was a place of distinction and immunity from plagues. (Exodus 9:4,6,26,29;10:23)

[Exo 9:4, 6, 26, 29 NIV] ⁴ But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.’ “ ... ⁶ And the next day the LORD did it: All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one animal belonging to the Israelites died. ... ²⁶ The only place it did not hail was the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were. ... ²⁹ Moses replied, “When I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands in prayer to the LORD. The thunder will stop and there will be no more hail, so you may know that the earth is the LORD’s.

[Exo 10:23 NIV] ²³ *No one could see anyone else or move about for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.*

*** The miracle of the 10 plagues upon Egypt was second only to the miracle of Goshen untouched.**

**** Goshen was a protected land without walls. Yet there was an invisible wall of protection preserving God's people.**

V. Despite their isolation, Pharaoh offered work matched to their talents.
(Genesis 47:6)

⁶ *and the land of Egypt is before you; settle your father and your brothers in the best part of the land. Let them live in Goshen. And if you know of any among them with special ability, put them in charge of my own livestock.”*

A. The fact of Joseph's family being shepherds, a vocation the Egyptians despised; this prejudice was used by God to secure their separation in Goshen.

B. Pharaoh was a pagan ruler who worshiped false gods, yet God uses unbelieving leaders to bless his people.

C. Cyrus (Ezra 1:1; Isaiah 44:28)

[Ezr 1:1 NIV] ¹ *In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:*

[Isa 44:28 NIV] ²⁸ *who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, “Let it be rebuilt,” and of the temple, “Let its foundations be laid.”’*

D. Nebuchadnezzar (Jeremiah 25:9;27:6)

[Jer 25:9 NIV] ⁹ *I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon,” declares the LORD, “and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy them and make them an object of horror and scorn, and an everlasting ruin.*

[Jer 27:6 NIV] ⁶ *Now I will give all your countries into the hands of my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; I will make even the wild animals subject to him.*

E. Augustus Caesar (Luke 2:1)

¹ *In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.*

F. God can strike a straight blow with a crooked stick. God can feed his people with unclean birds.

* **In this Goshen season many extraordinarily talented people with character are going to be entrusted with great leadership opportunities.**

VI. The last seventeen years of bliss in Goshen.

A. Jacob enjoyed Joseph for seventeen years in Hebron. (Genesis 37:2)

² *This is the account of Jacob's family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.*

B. Jacob will now enjoy him and all of his family for the last seventeen years of his life in Egypt. (Genesis 47:28)

²⁸ *And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years: so the whole age of Jacob was an hundred forty and seven years.*

C. The lost twenty two years would be redeemed and replayed. (Job 42:10)

¹⁰ *After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.*

* **After this Goshen season, you'll see that the rest of your life is the best of your life.**