

⁸Pharaoh said to Jacob, “How many years have you lived?” ⁹So Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The years of my sojourning are one hundred and thirty; few and unpleasant have been the years of my life, nor have they attained the years that my fathers lived during the days of their sojourning.”

Event	Abraham	Isaac	Jacob	Joseph	Genesis
Abram born					
Isaac born to Abraham and Sarah	100				21:5
Jacob born (with twin Esau) to Isaac and Rebekah	160	60			25:26
Abraham dies	175	75	15		25:7
Joseph is born to Jacob and Rachel		151	91		30:25; 31:38-41
Isaac dies		180	120	29	35:28–29
Jacob dies			147	56	47:28
Joseph dies				110	50:22-26

Pharaoh and Joseph's brothers (Gen. 46:31–47:6)

- Knowing that the Egyptians were prejudiced against shepherds, Joseph's emphasis was on the herds of cattle and not the flocks of sheep. However, they didn't lie about their occupation but were honest and aboveboard in all their dealings with Pharaoh.
- One day they were ordinary resident aliens, and the next day they were Pharaoh's official herdsmen! Joseph had been kind to Pharaoh, and now Pharaoh showed kindness to Joseph's family.

Pharaoh and Joseph's father (Gen. 47:7-10)

- The first thing Jacob did was to bless Pharaoh in the name of his God, and he also blessed Pharaoh at the close of their interview. In this, Jacob was a good example of how a true believer is to relate to those who are outside the family of God (see 1 Peter 2:11-17). In spite of his failings, and we all have them, Jacob brought God's blessing wherever he went.

1 Peter 2:11 (NASB)

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

- The patriarchs were pilgrims and strangers on the earth (Heb. 11:13-16), but so are all of God's people (1 Chron. 29:15; 1 Peter 1:1; 2:11). We agree with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that this world is not our home. Our time here is brief and temporary, and we're eagerly looking for our permanent home, the city of God in heaven.
- "My years have been few and difficult," Jacob told Pharaoh (Gen. 47:9), who probably thought that 130 years was far from "few." But Isaac had died at 180 and Abraham at 175; so comparatively speaking, Jacob's pilgrimage was a short one.

- The word “evil”(KJV) doesn’t imply wickedness, but rather “misery” or “distress.” Jacob’s life had been a difficult one, but now it would close with seventeen years of peace and happiness.
- It was important that Joseph’s family bear witness by their conduct to the true and living God. Peter called this “having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles” (1 Peter 2:12, NKJV).

1 Peter 2:12 (NASB)

¹²Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Pharaoh and Joseph’s people (Gen. 47:11-27)

- Pharaoh allowed Joseph’s family to settle in the best part of the land of Egypt, where they were more than adequately cared for; and yet the native Egyptians had to pay dearly to sustain their lives. As the remaining five years (45:6) of the famine came and went, the Egyptian people became poorer and poorer, until finally they had to sell themselves into slavery in order to live. To make food distribution easier, many of the farm workers were moved into the cities until such time as seed would be available for planting.
- By the time the famine ended and farming could begin again, Pharaoh possessed all the money in Egypt and owned all the people and all their property, except the land of the priests; and the farmers had to pay a fifth of the harvest to Pharaoh as an annual tax. Not only had Joseph saved the nation from starvation, but also he had set up an economic system that enabled Pharaoh to control everything.
- And what were the people of Israel doing? Multiplying! (See Ex. 1:7.) By the time Moses led the nation out of Egypt, the Jews numbered at least 2 million people.³⁵⁻⁶ God kept His promise that He would make them a great nation.
- Pharaoh was a pagan ruler who worshiped a multitude of false gods, and yet the Lord worked in his heart and used him to care for Jacob and his family (Prov. 21:1). Too many Christian believers today think that God can use only His own people in places of authority, but He can work His will even through unbelieving leaders like:
 1. Pharaoh – Gen. 47
 2. Cyrus - Ezra 1:1; Isa. 44:28
 3. Nebuchadnezzar - Jer. 25:9; 27:6
 4. Augustus Caesar - Luke 2:1

A GRANDFATHER’S INHERITANCE (GEN. 47:28–48:22)

- Jacob had enjoyed Joseph for seventeen years in Hebron (37:2), and now he would enjoy Joseph and his sons for seventeen years in Egypt (47:28).

Jacob plans his burial (Gen. 47:28-31)

Since Jacob had rejected Reuben, Joseph was now performing the duties of the firstborn son, including the burial of the father. Jacob was one of God’s pilgrims, and he wanted to be buried with his family in the land that would one day be home for his descendants (49:29-32; 23:1ff).

- Jacob’s desire was that his funeral would be a clear witness that he was not an idol-worshipping Egyptian but a believer in the true and living God. When you stop to think that your funeral and burial are the last public testimonies you will ever give, it makes you want to plan carefully. Making your Last Will and Testament is important, but don’t neglect your last witness and testimony.
- Joseph not only promised to fulfill his father’s wishes, but later he also asked his brothers to make the same promise to him that he made to their father (50:24-26).

Genesis 47:8 - 9 (NLT)

⁸“How old are you?” Pharaoh asked him.

⁹Jacob replied, “I have traveled this earth for 130 hard years. But my life has been short compared to the lives of my ancestors.”

- The patriarchs were pilgrims and strangers on the earth (Heb. 11:13-16), but so are all of God’s people (1 Chron. 29:15; 1 Peter 1:1; 2:11). We agree with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that this world is not our home. Our time here is brief and temporary, and we’re eagerly looking for our permanent home, the city of God in heaven.
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Job 14:1 (NASB) ¹ “Man, who is born of woman, Is short-lived and full of turmoil.

Psalms 39:4 - 5 (NASB)

⁴ “LORD, make me to know my end
And what is the extent of my days;
Let me know how transient I am.

⁵ “Behold, You have made my days as handbreadths,
And my lifetime as nothing in Your sight;
Surely every man at his best is a mere breath. *Selah*.

James 4:14 - 15 (NASB)

¹⁴Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

¹⁵Instead, *you ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.”

Psalms 90:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years,
Or if due to strength, eighty years,
Yet their pride is *but* labor and sorrow;
For soon it is gone and we fly away.