

## SERMON STUDY NOTES

9 June 2019

Speaker: Martin Armstrong

### Accepting the New and the Different (Joseph/Jacob Genesis 45:25 – 28)

1. Describe a situation that you once completely misread or misinterpreted.
2. After Joseph and his wider family of 75 moved to Egypt, little more is said about the them. During 400 years of slavery the family grew to over 2 million, until it was time for Moses to help set them free. Why do you think they didn't move back to Canaan after the 7 years of famine?
3. When Joseph's father Jacob was a young man he was a liar a cheat and a deceiver. Can anyone remember one of the really bad things that Jacob did?
4. All the Old Testament characters are presented with their weaknesses as well as their strengths. But God looks at the heart. What were some good things in Jacob's heart that God really liked about him?
5. Describe two significant spiritual experiences that Jacob had in his life? Gen 28:12-15, Gen 32:24-28
6. Jacob experienced a major upset when his sons brought him Joseph's coat which they had dipped in blood. This led Jacob to believe that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. In Gen 37:35 Jacob said, *'Joseph my son is dead; I will continue to*

*mourn until I join my son in the grave.* He'd spoken a curse over himself - and his situation suddenly deteriorated. For the next 22 years Jacob was filled with sorrow and self-pity. Is it possible to speak a curse over ourselves? Give an example.

7. Are your significant spiritual experiences less frequent these days? Have you lost faith in God through a negative experience – maybe an illness...or the loss of a loved one, or a feeling that God has let you down?
8. Joseph encouraged his father Jacob to leave his old lifestyle and to move to Egypt. This was particularly difficult for Jacob for two reasons. 1. He was a very old man 2. Leaving Canaan appeared to contradict God's word about 'the promised land' to Jacob's father Isaac & grandfather Abraham. Discuss
9. God couldn't just take the land of Canaan from the Amorites who lived in it...He waited until they became so rebellious, that they gave up their right to the land. He's a God of justice: he couldn't just push one people group out to let his own people in. Discuss. How might this relate to Israel today?
10. Jonathan Edwards said '*it is the task of every generation to discover in which direction the sovereign Redeemer is moving, and then to move in that direction.*' Most new moves of God are different to what has happened previously. Give some examples of moves of God that have happened over the centuries.
11. What do you think that God is saying to our generation today?
12. Many people grow up with a sense of failure like Jacob did. Many parents have some regrets concerning their children. Maybe you've spoiled, over-protected or not spent enough time with your children child. Can anyone share a regret that they might have?

13. For Jacob, being brought back to Canaan meant that first he had to leave and later his body would be returned and buried there. It's not where we die that matters – but who's there with us and what happens after we die. Death will one day be just another experience of God's presence and faithfulness. Discuss and then pray for each other.