

**Jacob Moves to Egypt (Gen 45:16–46:30)**  
Grace Chapel June 2, 2010 Dr. John Niemelä

**INTRODUCTION**

**(45:16–28) The brothers tell Jacob that Joseph is alive & well; Jacob decides to go to Egypt**  
**(45:16) The report about Joseph's brothers pleased Pharaoh**

**(45:17–18) Pharaoh authorized Joseph to move his family to Egypt and would give them choice land and other provisions**

**(45:19–20) Pharaoh repeated the command for Joseph to bring his family and his pledge to provide for them**

**(45:21–23) Joseph generously provided for the brothers' trip—especially for Benjamin**

**(45:24) Joseph told his departing brothers not to quarrel on the way**

NJKV translates *rgz* as *do not become troubled*. Contextually, it should be *don't quarrel*.

**(45:25–26) Jacob was speechless when his sons said that Joseph was governor of Egypt**

**(43:27–28) Seeing the cart provided by Pharaoh (convinced) and assured Jacob that Joseph was indeed alive**

**(46:1–7) God revealed Himself to Jacob at Beersheba, restating covenantal promises to him  
(46:1) Israel (Jacob) went to Beersheba to offer sacrifices to God**

**(46:2–4) God revealed Himself to Jacob, telling him not to fear going to Egypt, because  
He will make him a great nation and will deliver him up again**

**(46:5–7) Jacob and his family left Beersheba for Egypt with their livestock and property**

**(46:8–27) Jacob's blood relatives who lived in Israel moved to Egypt  
(46:8–15) Thirty-three living descendants of Leah were with Jacob in Egypt**

**(46:16–18) Sixteen descendants of Zilpah were with Jacob in Egypt**

**(46:19–21) Fourteen descendants of Rachel were with Jacob in Egypt**

**(46:22–25) Seven descendants of Bilhah were with Jacob in Egypt**

**(46:26–27) About seventy blood relatives were with Jacob in Egypt**

**Making sense of the math:**

33 living descendants of Leah (Er and Onan had already died)  
 16 of Zilpah  
 14 of Rachel (Joseph, Manasseh, Ephraim were in Egypt. Rachel was dead)  
+ 7 of Bilhah  
 70 descendants of Jacob  
– 3 descendants of Rachel who were already in Egypt)  
**67** family members who were with Jacob in Egypt  
+ 3 of Jacob's wives (Leah, Zilpah, and Bilhah. Rachel was already dead)  
**70** family members who accompanied Jacob from Israel to Egypt

How do we reconcile 66, 67, 69, and 70? I am not sure, but view each figure as accurate. Perez, Zerah, Hezron, and Hamul (in a reconstructed chronology) would all have been born in Egypt, so the list seems to include *in potentia* travelers.

Note that 46:15 mentions *daughters* (plural). I believe that Moses' math works, but he has not given all the details that would enable us to figure how it works.

**Pertinent chronology** (cf. Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests*, pp. 31, 48–49):

Birth of Jacob	2006 BC
Birth of Joseph	1916 BC
Marriage of Judah	1900 BC
Joseph sold into Egypt	1899 BC
Shelah born	no earlier than 1896 BC
Tamar disguised self as prostitute	no earlier than 1880 BC
Births of Perez and Zerah	no earlier than 1879 BC

**Births of Hezron and Hamul (if twins)      no earlier than 1861 BC**

Joseph became Egypt's prime minister at age 30)	1886 BC
Beginning of famine (after 7 years)	1879 BC
Brothers' second visit to Egypt	1877 BC
<b>Jacob moved to Egypt (age 130)</b>	<b>1876 BC</b>

Note that Hezron and Hamul were born after Jacob moved to Egypt.

**(46:28–30) Jacob sent Judah before him to lead the way to Goshen, Joseph met them in Goshen, and embraced his father**

**SUMMARY**