

Genesis 47:13-26 **Impact of seven years of famine in Egypt**

13 Now there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and all the land of Canaan languished because of the famine. **14** And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, for the grain which they bought; and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. **15** So when the money failed in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us bread, for why should we die in your presence? For the money has failed." **16** Then Joseph said, "Give your livestock, and I will give you bread for your livestock, if the money is gone." **17** So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the cattle of the herds, and for the donkeys. Thus he fed them with bread in exchange for all their livestock that year. **18** When that year had ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is gone; my lord also has our herds of livestock. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands. **19** Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants of Pharaoh; give us seed, that we may live and not die, that the land may not be desolate."

20 Then Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every man of the Egyptians sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. So the land became Pharaoh's. **21** And as for the people, he moved them into the cities, from one end of the borders of Egypt to the other end. **22** Only the land of the priests he did not buy; for the priests had rations allotted to them by Pharaoh, and they ate their rations which Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their lands. **23** Then Joseph said to the people, "Indeed I have bought you and your land this day for Pharaoh. Look, here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land. **24** And it shall come to pass in the harvest that you shall give one-fifth to Pharaoh. Four-fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and for your food, for those of your households and as food for your little ones." **25** So they said, "You have saved our lives; let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants." **26** And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt to this day, that Pharaoh should have one-fifth, except for the land of the priests only, which did not become Pharaoh's. NKJV

Facts revealed:

- ✧ The famine was severe in all the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, and Joseph gathered up all the money in Egypt and in Canaan for the grain they bought and Joseph brought the money to Pharaoh's house.
- ✧ When the money failed, Joseph took the livestock in Egypt for the grain.
- ✧ The next year they traded their land for grain and Pharaoh became owner of all the land of Egypt except for the land of the priests who had their rations allotted to them by Pharaoh so they did not sell their lands.
- ✧ The people were moved into the cities and surrendered themselves as slaves of Pharaoh.
- ✧ Joseph provided seed for planting the fields and levied a 20% income tax on the people.
- ✧ The people said, "You have saved our lives, let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants."
- ✧ Joseph made the 20% tax the law of the land.