

DWELLING IN GOSHEN

Gen 45:10 *And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast:*

Gen 45:11 *And there will I nourish thee; for yet there are five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty.*

When Jacob discovered that his son Joseph was alive in Egypt he and his sons moved there to be with him. When he got to Egypt Joseph provided the best of the land for them to live. This land was called the land of **Goshen**. It was the place where God's people were to live. It was the place where those who believed in God went to dwell. It is interesting to see what the name Goshen means in Hebrew. Names and their meanings in the Bible and especially in the Old Testament are very significant. Often the names given to places were to teach spiritual lessons. The meaning of Goshen is "drawing near". Joseph told his brothers that they should live in Goshen, so that they and all they had **would be near to Him**. Goshen was located near to Joseph so He could watch over them and care for them. It was important that they stayed in the land of Goshen because it was the land of provision, blessing, and protection. This land was significant when God sent the ten plagues upon the land of Egypt. When the plagues hit the land of Egypt it hit the entire country except one part, the land of Goshen!

Exo 8:22 *And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I *am* the LORD in the midst of the earth.*

Exo 9:26 *Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail.*

When the plagues hit the land, there was a distinction between the people of God and the people of the world. The people of God experienced provision and protection and those in the world did not. All that dwelt in Goshen experienced provision and protection. If they had moved away from Goshen they would have experienced the same plagues the Egyptians experienced.

Today we see plagues hitting our land. There is presently an economic plague in our land and many are unemployed and can't find work. There should be a distinction between God's people from those in the world. Believers should experience provision and protection. However, it seems like many believer's lives are not much different than the world and they are in the same boat. Why is this? It is because it is important that God's people live in the land of Goshen! The land of Goshen is the place of "drawing near". The land of Goshen is where our heavenly Joseph has told us to dwell. Joseph had told his brethren that they needed to live in Goshen lest they come to poverty. Today, it is important we dwell in Goshen lest we experience poverty. Goshen is living near to God and following His voice. Joseph is a type of Christ in the Old Testament. He was rejected of his brothers and he was thought dead. He went into the land of Egypt to save his brothers.

Living in the land of Goshen today is dwelling near to Christ. When we draw near to God we are in the land of Goshen. The New Testament teaches the importance of our drawing near to God.

Jas 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

Here we are told to draw near to God. Here we see an invitation to Goshen. In the previous verse we are told by James that we are to submit to God and then resist the devil and He would flee. How do we submit to God? The first step is drawing near to God! When we draw near to God, then God draws near to us. Is there any wonder then why the devil flees from us in terror! It is because He sees God standing near us! How are we to draw near to God or come into the land of Goshen? Let's look at another verse that tells us.

Heb 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

We are to **draw near** in full assurance of **FAITH**. Anything we are called to do in the New Testament is to be done by faith in God's grace. God's grace is what God has already done or provided for us because of the finished work of Christ on our behalf. We are to draw near in faith.

Faith in what? What are we to believe that will cause us to draw near to God?

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

We are to have faith in what has already been done for us and to us in Christ! In Ephesians we see that through the shed covenant blood of Christ we **HAVE BEEN** made near to God. This is an eternal fact. In Christ we are near unto God. However, grace does not automatically fall upon us. We must receive grace by faith for it to impact our natural lives. When we believe, confess, and act upon the fact that we are near to God through the blood of Christ we actually draw near to Him in our experience! When we believe that God has placed us close to Him in Christ and are fully assured of this in faith, then we are made to draw near to Him in our experience and we will experience all that comes with being near to God. We will experience freedom from the devil's harassment. We will experience provision and protection. We will experience peace and favor. When we draw near to God in faith we will dwell in Goshen and experience a difference from the world and what they experience.

Many try to draw near to God by works. They try to earn a place close to God by their religious observances. The only way we can draw near to God is to do it by faith in that we have been already placed near to Him by grace. When we draw near to God then we will have the power and ability to cleanse our hands and our double hearts! Meditate today upon Ephesians 2:13. **You are near to God through the blood of Christ.** Confess: **I am near to God by His grace.** As you do this you will experience God's presence. In this presence you will hear His voice and direction that will lead you out of your darkness into light. If you will obey by faith what you hear then you will be led out of lack into plenty. You will be led out of danger to a safe place. You will come into the land of Goshen. Draw near today, God is waiting!