

## A Wise Leader – Gen 46:31–47:27

In the summer of 1876, a prideful, pompous Lt. Colonel Custer made one of the biggest military blunders of all times. It has been dubbed Custer's Last Stand. Arrayed in casual attire and flying the flags of war, Custer ordered his troops into battle. Unfortunately he did not know the terrain or that he was severely outnumbered. He hadn't done his homework. Yet, when he saw the Indian village packing up in a hurry, he smelled fear and his ego got the best of him. What he did not realize was that the village was fleeing to protect the women and children. The warriors were ready for battle and they outnumbered Custer's troops almost 10 to 1. It was not until he charged into battle that he realized he was unmatched. Thus, he decided to make the executive decision to charge up a hill to capture the high ground. Little did he know that a Sioux warrior was one step ahead of him. He supposedly knew the Indians better than anyone. As he and his men charged up the hill, they were met by Sioux warriors. He was surrounded, surprised, and slaughtered. Hypothetically, if you were a reporter on that battlefield right before he lost his head, what question would you ask him? I think I would ask, "So, do you think leadership is important?" I think his men definitely would say "yes!"

**What makes a good leader?** (A wise leader knows that prosperity comes only from God so he makes decisions in harmony with what God has revealed about how He has promised to bless.)

**Joseph's example** – with his family now in Egypt, Joseph had to make sure that his family would be taken care of and that the land would be prosperous so that his family would prosper until they were delivered.

### Presentation

#### 46:31–47:12

*Do you think that Joseph was being deceptive or wise?*

Joseph wanted his family to live in the land of Goshen where their flocks could graze. He was trying to be diplomatic by saying that they were "herdsmen", but his brothers were a little more blunt and said that they were "shepherds". Either way, the end result was accomplished. They were blessed in Goshen.

*How did Joseph show that he was a wise leader?*

*Can you think of a time when your choice of words either had a good or bad effect?*

**Ex 1** – arose a Pharaoh that didn't know Joseph. He enslaved the Israelites and the crueller he was to them, the more they multiplied and grew. Because the pharaoh under which Joseph ruled treated Joseph and his family well, the pharaoh was blessed through Joseph.

**Rule**

**47:13-27 –Through wise leaders God will ensure that His people survive and that many share in the blessings**

*What do you think was going through their heads when Joseph bought their livestock, bought their land, made them slaves, and then gave them seed and told them to plant it?*

*Why did they listen to him?*

**Wise leadership is important. Obeying and honoring God's appointed leadership is also important.**

*Has there been a time in your life where you followed a wise Christian leader and were blessed because of it?*

*Has there been a time in your life where you followed an unwise leader and trouble came your way?*

*When is it hard to follow a leader? When is it easy?*

**Application**

1. How can we be good leaders like Joseph?
2. How can we be good followers?