

# **Genesis 47 and the demise of Democracy**

by S. Smith

## **The End is Near!**

Years ago I recall a song being recorded by Frank Sinatra which started by saying when he was 17 it was a very good year. In 2020, I turned 70. I am doubtful that many would say that 2020 was a very good year. In fact, it may well be the beginning of the end. And if it is not yet the end, it was certainly the beginning of a new level of social upheaval in the US and the rest of the world.

2021 hasn't really looked much better than 2020. The progressive march of postmodern Marxism is continually moving into the mainstream, while the COVID-19 pandemic is being played for all its worth. Today, it is the dreaded delta variant (OMG). I suspect, perhaps, this will soon be followed by the epsilon and zeta, eta, theta variants which will be even more deadly than the one which immediately preceded it. Naturally, this may require some new vaccination schedule where you must be jabbed once a month to be **fully** vaccinated. Eventually we will probably be prevented from buying or selling unless we can prove we have the mark of.....the *vaccine*!

Well, I'm not writing to discuss urban riots or the pandemic. As an old Reaganite, I'm far more concerned about any so-called political solutions which are lurking over the horizon. I tend to worry more about some unrequested government agent showing up at my door saying "I'm from the government and I'm here to help you".....*NOT!*

## **Genesis 47**

No, this is not some new aircraft, automobile, or software for PlayStation or Xbox (if these still even exist). I am referring to the 47<sup>th</sup> chapter of the first book in the Bible. It might be that this section, perhaps, records the first government bailout in history. Before I make any further comment, I have to admit that this bailout actually worked, the cost was on the table, and Egypt was preserved from the famine. I need to say this at the outset, because the history which I am about to share is not a good model for the socialist utopia, which is longed for by many.

Joseph, son of Israel, had become the prime minister in Egypt under Pharaoh. Because of very special revelation from God, Joseph, Pharaoh, and the Egyptian court became aware of a really big boom and bust cycle to occur over the next 14 years in Egypt, affecting much of the near East. I imagine we'd have a lot of Wall Street brokers willing to cough up a number of eye teeth for that kind of insider information.

Joseph, being a prepared man of God, had been traumatized by hard times and was learning how to prepare for the vicissitudes of life, psychologically and provisionally. The

key to his success, however, was the humility he learned through his faith in God.

As Gen. 47 records, Joseph collected a fifth of the agricultural produce during the seven good years of abundance in preparation for the years that were to follow. The next seven years were not so kind. These years brought scarcity, famine, and desperation. The end of this tale results in the Egyptians eventually selling their cattle, their lands, and themselves to Joseph for Pharaoh. So, the citizens of Egypt were deprived of their *land*, their personal rights to their *labor*, and their agricultural *capital* (animal power, which served as an emergency supplemental food source). Pharaoh, formerly the political power of Egypt, became an economic power in the Middle East. All power and glory was in the hands of Pharaoh.....almost. At that time, Pharaoh did not own, or attempt to acquire, the lands or assets of the priesthood. There was still a tacit acknowledgement (though perhaps fragmentary or corrupted) of a greater metaphysical power that held sway in the universe.

The people were indeed saved and rejoiced. Did they give glory to the Creator God, or to their own idolatrous fabrications? The Bible doesn't say. Yet interestingly enough, it does report that Israel dwelt in the land of Goshen, and *they had possessions*.

## **The Christian Answer**

I wonder what we should learn from this ancient story. As I currently write this pamphlet, I have seen strange televised advertisements pushing the concept: "You

will own nothing, and you will be happy.” Well, that certainly became true for the Egyptians who were indeed happy to have been rescued. I mean, admittedly, Egyptian socialism was sort of looking pretty good *under Joseph*. Wow, should socialism be our model for national and/or global government?

Without starting a new round of debates, I would just like to leave you with three significant observations (some already alluded to) which would answer the above question in the negative. First, if the Egyptian people also knew that seven years of severe famine would follow seven years of abundance, should they not have been better prepared personally, as well as providing for Joseph’s national plan? Secondly, why didn’t the Israelites sell their possessions at this time? Are we to interpret this as some sort of selective socialism?

Finally, and perhaps most important of all, Pharaoh respected Joseph and his insights from God, and Joseph respected Pharaoh and his political authority and responsibility. In this, both men showed respect for God and His sovereignty over the universe. Despite the spiritual/metaphysical deficiencies of the Egyptian people at the time, this Pharaoh proved to be a wise leader. The tragedy, which humanity will witness soon enough, is that there will arise another socialistic Pharaoh *who knows not Joseph*, and all Hell will break loose over the earth.

### The "Bigger" Picture

What is taking place today? The economic, political, and cultural framework

of the global society is being altered to satisfy complete subservience to a New World Order (NWO). This is happening at both local and global levels under the guise of social welfare, political reform, and environmental stewardship. Ironically, each progressive step in this program can often be seen as a distortion or counterfeit of authentic Christian concerns alluded to in the inerrant truth of the Bible.

If I remember correctly there was a man named Alfred Krupp, a renowned German industrialist who was staunchly opposed to the communists, socialists, or Marxists of the day who were attempting to unionize various industries at the time. Krupp hated this, yet he did not seem to be adversely affected by all this. Krupp had his own plans. He was so successful with his own employee social planning that he caught the attention of German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, who apparently was planning to copy Krupp’s “socialistic” model for the whole of Germany.

What was going on here? What was Krupp’s secret? From an online version of the Encyclopedia Britannica, we find the following statement:

Recognizing early the human problems of industrialization, Alfred Krupp created a comprehensive welfare scheme for his workers. As early as 1836 he instituted a sickness and burial fund, and in 1855 he established a pension fund for retired and incapacitated workers. In 1861 he began to build housing settlements, hospitals, schools, and churches for his employees. His workers became fanatically loyal to him. He had started his steel plant with seven workers; at his death the enterprise was employing 21,000 persons.

It might be a stretch, but I get the feeling that Krupp actually *loved* his employees and earned the loyal devotion from those who served him because he was serving them. Gosh, what a novel idea! Who would have thought it?.....Maybe God, perhaps? It almost sounds a little like the history of the church in its efforts to love one another.

No wonder he captured Bismarck’s interest. I don’t know to what degree Bismarck ever actually copied the Krupp model, but the social application did not escape his attention. This was like running a company as a big caring family. Could an entire nation ever run like a gigantic brotherhood or family? *I can only imagine.* 🎵

### Conclusions

As humans we are immediately cast into an environment where we must relate to the rest of creation, our families, our places of work and the community at large. Successful living demands that we learn and exercise humility, civility, and involvement in our community. Lack of humility will inevitably result in incivility and the loss of community. This will be true in our responses toward God, man and the universe.

Furthermore, relevant to this essay, a mature productive citizen must enjoy some level of private property and wealth to prosper and enjoy life. If he does not control, in part, the factors of production through which he may profit, then he cannot exercise charity. Now whose idea might that be?.....Not God’s.