

Joseph--Genesis 45

Joseph Reveals Himself to the Brothers

I. Additional Scriptures...

1. God's Promise is Repeated (Gen 22:17-18; 26:2-6; 28:13-14).
2. How we should treat those who mistreat us (Rom 12:14-21).
3. God's purpose for each individual's life (Phil 2:13).
4. God's purpose for the Egyptians during Moses (Ex 9:16).

II. Chronology.

Bible Period: **Patriarchy**. This chapter deals with events happening two years into the seven years of famine.

The Fifteen Bible Periods: (1) Before the Flood; (2) After the Flood; (3) **Patriarchy**; (4) Egyptian Bondage; (5) The Wilderness Wanderings; (6) The Conquest; (7) The Judges; (8) The United Kingdom; (9) The Divided Kingdom; (10) Judah Alone; (11) Babylonian Captivity; (12) The Restoration; (13) Between the Testaments; (14) Period of the Christ; (15) Period of the Church.

III. Summary.

The joy of having family once again in his presence had simply overcome Joseph and he was unable to continue without revealing himself to his brothers. He wanted so desperately to have his family near him again that he dismissed all but his brothers and began to weep as he told them he was the brother they had sold into slavery. At first the brothers are afraid of his reaction, but Joseph allays their fears and states that it was ultimately God's will that brought him to Egypt to preserve life. He tells them to go back and bring down his father and the rest of the family to be provided for during the next five years of famine. Joseph says to tell his father that he will dwell in the land of Goshen and be nourished and taken care of in a good way. The brothers then enjoyed a time of weeping, kissing, and talking together.

Pharaoh heard about Joseph's brothers being present and is pleased to know of it. He urges them to bring the rest of the family to "eat the fat of the land." He will provide wagons to make their move easier. Joseph provided everything needed by his brothers for the return trip and gave special attention to Benjamin.

The brothers arrived safely back in Canaan and told their father the message sent by Joseph. At first Jacob did not believe them, but then when he saw all that they had brought back with them, he revives and wants to see Joseph before he dies.

IV. Outline.

1. Joseph sends everyone out of his presence except his brothers and makes himself known to them (1-4).
2. Joseph comforts his brothers and speaks of God sending him to Egypt to preserve life (5-8).
3. He tells his brothers to return to Canaan and bring Jacob and the rest to Egypt (9-13).
4. He has a special moment of reunion with Benjamin (14).
5. He kisses, weeps, and talks with all of his brothers (15).
6. Pharaoh hears about the special visitors and tells Joseph his family will be welcomed in Egypt (16-20).

7. The brothers are sent away with wagons and everything needed to make a round trip (21-24).
8. Jacob is told and is doubtful at first, but then accepts the fact that Joseph is still alive and determines to see him once again (25-28).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ No one but his brothers could hear the outburst of weeping from Joseph.
02. _____ Jacob did not believe the report his sons delivered him at their return.
03. _____ Joseph wanted the brothers to hurry back to Canaan.
04. _____ Pharaoh was pleased to hear about the visit of Joseph's family.
05. _____ All of the brothers received changes of raiment as they were sent back to Canaan.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ At first Jacob doubted what his sons told him about Joseph until he saw: (a) their eyes; (b) the wagons; (c) the changes of raiment.
07. _____ After revealing himself to his brothers, Joseph's first question was about: (a) their children; (b) how the famine was affecting the land of Canaan; (c) his father.
08. _____ Wagons were sent back with Joseph's brothers by Pharaoh for: (a) their little ones; (b) for their wives; (c) none of these; (d) both of these.
09. _____ In part, Joseph's message to his father said—"Ye shall dwell in the land of: (a) Goshen; (b) Egypt; (c) plenty."
10. _____ Not only was Pharaoh pleased to learn about the reunion of Joseph with his brothers, but also: (a) his wife; (b) his children; (c) his servants.

Fill in the Blanks

11. "...And his brothers could not answer him: for they were _____ at his presence."
12. Joseph's brothers told their father that Joseph was _____ over all the land of Egypt.
13. Phil 2:13—"For it is God which _____ in you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure."
14. According to Exodus 9:16, Moses was to tell Pharaoh—"And in very deed for this [cause] have I _____ thee up, for to shew [in] thee my _____; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth."
15. Joseph sent his father ten she-asses laden with: _____ and _____ and _____.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be given on next week's handout

ANSWERS for Lesson 01-08: [1—True, 4,5; 2—True, 34; 3—True, 12; 4—True, 30; 5—True, 23; 6—a, 3; 7—b, 33; 8—b, 11; 9—b, 26, 28; 10—23; 11—lingered, 10; 12—home, slay, dine, 16; 13—bereaved, 14; 14—6:11, bread; 15—afraid, 18.

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. *Then Joseph could not refrain himself...* (Gen 45:1). That which led to these words were the words of Judah in his very tender and moving appeal to Joseph not to keep Benjamin from his father (Gen 44:18-33). Part of that appeal involved Judah recounting before Joseph his father's idea of what had happened to Joseph and the heartbreak this had caused. Here is Joseph greatly touched by the words of his brother and no longer able to hide his true identity from his loved ones. It is without question

that Joseph has deep feelings of love for all of his family and he will soon be rewarded with their presence nearby for the rest of his life. Here is a blessed and happy ending for a man who has been so faithful to God. We are reminded of Matthew 6:33.

2. ... *doth my father yet live?* (Gen 45:3). In this story of Joseph, we might tend to focus in only on the genuine grief of Jacob as he had been deceived into thinking that Joseph was dead. However, this verse helps us to see that the separation of Joseph from his father had likewise caused Joseph great grief. He had now been separated from his father for 22 years and had no knowledge of his health or whether he was even alive.
3. ... *be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither...* (Gen 45:5). At first the brothers greatly feared Joseph when he revealed his true identity. Had their brother not been the wonderful example of forgiveness that he was, their heads would roll at this point. Joseph chooses rather to COMFORT THEM, the very ones to whom he pleaded as they coldly sold him into slavery to get rid of him. Forgiveness is such an amazing quality and the background of the account of Joseph helps us better to appreciate what it is and the value of it. One thing that needs to be kept in mind is that our own forgiveness at the great Judgment Day is dependent upon our own willingness to forgive others (Mt 6:14-15).
4. ... *God did send me before you to preserve life ... God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth...* (Gen 45:5-7). Read the promise repeated three times in the passages listed under “Additional Scriptures,” in connection with this statement of Joseph. It was all a part of God’s plan for keeping that promise that Joseph now finds himself where he is. The Scheme of Redemption is bound up in the preservation of this specially chosen family.
5. ... *and it pleased Pharaoh well, and his servants* (Gen 45:16). This was due to the fact that Joseph had been such a blessing to Egypt. This Pharaoh knew very well that, without the forewarning Joseph’s God provided, his people would be starving now as the famine had been present for two years. When the time was right, however, another Pharaoh would arise with a different view (Exodus 1:8-14). Then would come a need for God to call forth a great deliverer to deliver His people from the bondage.
6. ... *See that ye fall not out by the way* (Gen 45:28). These final words of Joseph to his brothers seem to be difficult to translate. Here are some other ways it has been translated...
 - ◆ (NKJV)... See that you do not become troubled along the way.
 - ◆ (NCV)... Don’t quarrel on the way home.
 - ◆ (NASV)... Do not quarrel on the journey.
 - ◆ (YLT)... Be not angry in the way.
 - ◆ (BBE)... See that you have no argument on the road.
 - ◆ (LXXE)... Be not angry by the way.

Whatever the accurate wording may be it is obvious that Joseph is concerned deeply about unity and harmony in his family. There is much to be learned about home life (positive and negative), in this section of Genesis that tells about Jacob’s home. How helpful it would be if the attitude of Joseph would be adopted by each member of today’s families! There is no finer manual for study in this regard than the Bibles we have in our hands. An increase in Bible knowledge will lead to an increase in homes that are peaceful and productive of great good in the kingdom.

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

W E R T Y U U I O P L K J H G F D S A M
 N B V C X Z L K W A G O N S J H G F D S
 A P N O U I Y T R E W A Z M B V C X Z P
 O I U E Y T R E W Q L C K J H G F A D S
 A Z X C C M N B V C X Z R L K H G W F D
 S A P O I K U Y T R E W Q I L K J A H G
 G F D S A M P I U Y T R E W E Q A Y S D
 F G H J K A L O U D M N B V C D X Z L K
 J H G F D S A P O I U Y T R R E W Q L K
 J N H G F D S A M N B V K I S S E D C X
 Z X I C V B N M L K J H G F D S A P O I
 U Y T A R E W Q A M N B V K C X Z L K J
 H G F D R S A P O I G U Y T N R E W Q L
 K J H G N F F D S A R M B V C O X Z L K
 J H G E F D E S A P I O I U Y T W R E W
 L K D J H G F R D S E M N B V C X N Z L
 K A J H G F D S A P V O I T E N Y T R E
 L L K J H G F D S A E M N B V C X Z P O
 O I U Y T R R E W L D J H G F F D S A M
 N B V C X Z L K J H G F D S A P O I U Y

[The list below is of things about Joseph in chapter 45.]

01. He could not ___ f ___ himself.
02. He ___ d.
03. He made himself ___ to his brethren.
04. He wept ___ d.
05. He said to his brothers, "Now therefore be not
___."
06. He fell upon his brother Benjamin's ___.
07. He ___ all his brethren.
08. He gave his brothers w ___ s.
09. He sent his father ___ asses ___ with the good
things of Egypt.
10. He sent his brethren ___ y.