

## Genesis Chapter Forty Five

### Genesis 45:1-2

**Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood before him, and he cried, "Have everyone go out from me." So there was no man with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard of it.**

- Joseph is again overwhelmed with emotion—but instead of secluding himself—he dismisses the Egyptians and exposes himself to his brothers
- Seven times Joseph expressed compassion/weeping
  - 45:1-2 he wept aloud
  - 42:24 listening to brothers express guilt
  - 43:30 when he saw Benjamin
  - 45:15 when his brothers are reconciled to him
  - 46:29 over his father Jacob
  - 50:1 at death of father
  - 50:15-17 when brothers question his love for them  
( type of Christ: Jesus weeps over Lazarus and Jerusalem)

### Genesis 45:3-6

**Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him for they were dismayed at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come closer to me." And they came closer. And he said, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.**

- Joseph is made known to his brothers the second time. First visit—though Joseph recognized his brethren—they were unaware of him (Type of Christ: Jesus was not recognized during His first coming—Jn 1:10-11)
- After identifying himself—he asks about the welfare of his father. In all of his interactions with his brothers, he has delayed the opportunity to be reunited with his father.
- Brothers are troubled/dismayed at his presence—for years they have carried guilt concerning their actions toward Joseph—only now to find that he is alive and ruler over a great imperial government ( Type of Christ: Jesus fulfills Zechariah 12:10 )

- Joseph urges brother to not grieve or be angry with themselves. He communicates that he is not angry with them. He shows them that they have only injured themselves because God is at work and means it all for good.
- Joseph believes that God sent him to Egypt—ahead of the famine—for the sake of preserving life in this hour.
- Joseph expresses certainty about God's will in the whole matter
- Consider the contrast—"You sold" with "God sent". We need to continually attempt to perceive what human eye cannot see.
- Brothers would expect the worst from this news—anticipating anger and wrath from the brother which they had betrayed—who now has all authority and power
- Verses 5, 8, and 9 attribute all circumstances to God's providential goodness. God's will allows for personal will/choice—yet is redemptive when mankind persists in evil. The loving will of God makes use of all.

### **Genesis 45:7-13**

**And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. And you shall live in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children and your flocks and your herds and all that you have. There I will also provide for you, for there are still five years of famine to come, lest you and your household and all that you have be impoverished. And behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth which is speaking to you. Now you must tell my father of all my splendor in Egypt, and all that you have seen; and you must hurry and bring my father down here."**

- Father to Pharaoh—a phrase applied to viziers ( role of Joseph under Pharaoh) as far back as 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium
- Goshen=drawing near—it is the eastern part of the Nile Delta—the land of Ramses—Gen 47:11
- A remnant in the earth—though his family survives—it is through great peril
- A great deliverance—Heb 2:3—from disaster
- God is the subject of the message sent to his father
- Jacob is to receive a son back from the dead—like Abraham
- Brothers are extended mercy and grace ( Type of Christ: Is 54:7-8

- Brothers are to tell of all his splendor ( Type of Christ: Is 66:14-20, II COr 4:15)
- Brothers promised full provision ( Type of Christ: Phil 4:19)

### **Genesis 45:14-20**

**Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept; and Benjamin wept on his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept on them, and afterward his brothers talked with him. Now when the news was heard in Pharaoh's house that Joseph's brothers had come, it pleased Pharaoh and his servants. Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your beasts and go to the land of Canaan, and take your father and your households and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you shall eat the fat of the land. Now you are ordered, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father and come. And do not concern yourselves with your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours."**

- Brothers and father—invited to come—receive
- Movement of Israel's household to Egypt has been foretold in Gen 15:13-16
- This is location where family will multiply without losing its identity in a foreign land.
- Because Egypt has been blessed by Joseph—Pharaoh chooses to bless Joseph's family

### **Genesis 45:21-24**

**Then the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them wagons according to the command of Pharaoh, and gave them provisions for the journey. To each of them he gave changes of garments, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments. And to his father he sent as follows: ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and sustenance for his father on the journey. So he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, "Do not quarrel on the journey."**

- Joseph urges brothers to keep peace—they were about to face their father who would be exposed to their deception.

**Genesis 45:25-28**

**Then they went up from Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and indeed he is ruler over all the land of Egypt." But he was stunned, for he did not believe them. When they told him all the words of Joseph that he had spoken to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob was revived. Then Israel said, "It is enough; my son Joseph is alive. I will go and see him before I die."**

- Joseph sends for Jacob ( Type of Christ: will be fulfilled in the end times when Israel is saved—Is 66:20)

# Genesis Chapter Forty Five Workbook

## Key Words:

## Harmonize:

Read Luke 15:11-32. Compare to chapter 45.

## Dig:

- 1) What is the response of the brothers when they learn about Joseph?  
What is Jacob's response?
- 2) What is Joseph's response to the brothers when he discloses his identity?
- 3) What reason does Joseph give for being brought to Egypt?
- 4) What titles does Joseph give for himself?
- 5) What gifts are bestowed in this chapter? To whom? By whom?
- 6) What does the giving of gifts symbolize?

## Discuss:

- 1) Where are you learning about the providence of God?
- 2) How has the story of Joseph encouraged you?

## **Point of Prayer**

Pray for a prodigal son or daughter that you know.

## **Integrate:**

What other scripture comes to mind as you read this chapter?

## **Application:**

- 1) How do you express joy?
  
- 2) Who has shown you what God's mercy looks like?
  
- 3) Are you suffering any kind of famine right now? ( time, resources, energy, etc) How is the Lord making provision for you?
  
- 4) Is it difficult for you to forgive someone who has betrayed you? Explain.
  
- 5) What gifts have you received from the Lord this week?