

Genesis: God and Man

I am Joseph

Genesis 44-45

Previously:

- Joseph's dreams, Brothers hated him
- Plot to kill him, saved by Reuben. Sold by Judah.
- Potiphar, Prison, Pharaoh, Feast, Famine
- 7 Years of Plenty, 7 Years of Famine (now 2 in, 5 left)
- Joseph second only to Pharaoh
- Brothers go once to get grain, Simeon kept in Egypt. Told to bring Benjamin.
- Their money returned, their hearts failed them.
- Return at the last possible moment
- Feast with him, sat in birth order, Benjamin 5x portion
- Made merry

Does your life make sense right now?

Are you overwhelmed with problem after problem?

No matter what you get in life, are you still empty, famished?

Genesis 44:1-17

Fill sacks, as much as they can carry

Money returned again

Silver cup (divining cup) in Benjamin's, the youngest's sack

to practice divination, divine, observe signs, learn by experience, diligently observe, practice fortunetelling, take as an omen

Sent away...not far off, Joseph sends servants to overtake

Sounds similar to what will happen in 400 years...Moses leads Israel out, Pharaoh pursues

DG commentary: We know from other sources that ancients did use sacred cups as divination devices. It is possible Joseph did also, because there was not yet specific revelation from God that such a practice was forbidden. Yet, it was not Joseph who said he used the cup for divination, but his servant, who may have wrongly assumed Joseph's spiritual insight and wisdom were more due to this cup than to his relationship with the living God.

“Why have you repaid evil for good?”

[Luk 6:27-36 NKJV] 27 "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 "bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. 29 "To him who strikes you on the [one] cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold [your] tunic either. 30 "Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask [them] back. 31 "And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. 32 "But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 "And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 "And if you lend [to those] from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. 35 "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. 36 "Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Joseph certainly repaid his brothers good, even in the testing it was good

Sometimes we blame God or get mad at him when we are tested
He will certainly allow us to be tested, but he is not the tempter

The brothers didn't know what was in their sacks, let alone Benjamin's

They defend their own goodness...a bit too far

V9 "With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves."

Could this be Reuben speaking up again? Let your yes be yes...

Did they not remember last time?

Did they not remember their promise to their dad to protect Benjamin?

They were certainly pleading their case, but their words could come back on them

Father on trial (face tats) pleading his innocency. Judge asks him what sort of sentence should the person get who did do this to his children... he hesitates because i think he realizes what the judge is doing...no mercy, worst punishment, life...judge hands him that sentence.

But the brothers are innocent here.

Speedily let down their sacks

Found with Benjamin (don't pay mind to the money returned again...only the cup)

Perhaps they thought because everything went well with Joseph he was blessing them this time...**or perhaps it was because the stakes were higher, a symbol of Joseph's spiritual authority over them**

Tore their clothes - common in bible times for showing grief, anguish

V14 - Judah and his brothers....Judah taking the lead of the family, as he did when finally leaving the last time

V15 - i think Joseph using this as his cover story. Using their perception of him. He doesn't strike me as one who would get caught up in witchcraft given his relationship with the Lord

V16 - what shall we say or defend ourselves. They say God has found them out for their other sin.

Joseph says he can't enslave them all, only the guilty...the youngest to be his slave

This test is a direct reflection of what they did to Joseph

Will they take care of the youngest? Will they take responsibility for him?

Or will they allow him to be taken away as a slave that they may go free?

Will they be able to "go up in peace to their father" as they did after they sold Joseph?

:18-34

Judah goes near Joseph, to plead...he was the one who sold Joseph

Recounts all that happened that got them to this point. Reminds Joseph of his words.

A good way to pray at times is to remind God what he has promised us...although not for his sake, for ours, that He might give us a better understanding of what He meant.

Reminds Joseph that if anything happens to Benjamin their father will die.

"His life is bound up in him" love this

Are our lives bound up in those we love? In a good way. Not in favoritism, but especially for our children...that if anything happened to them we would be brought down to the grave...not for the drama or self-pity, but to a point where we would do anything for them. We will spend time with them. We will train them up in the right way at all costs. We will die for them in all ways.

Judah willing to lay his life down and take the place of his brother...for his brother and for his dad and for his whole family.

Jesus is the Lion of the Tribe of ... Judah. Was not his willingness to sacrifice similar?

“The evil that would come upon my father...” a recognition that all of this happening to their dad (before and now) would be evil. That their actions affect others. That their sin is evil happening to another.

45:1-20

Joseph couldn't restrain himself...this got him. Holding back tears, suddenly so overwhelmed
9/11 videos

He kicked everyone out instead of sneaking out

he wept aloud - Egyptians and house of Pharaoh heard it...so his whole house, those outside...and maybe Joseph lived near enough to Pharaoh to hear it...or maybe it just means that Pharaoh heard about it.

V3 I am Joseph; des my father still live?

His brothers couldn't answer

Dismayed - to disturb, alarm, terrify, hurry, be disturbed, be anxious, be afraid, be hurried, be nervous

This man, second in charge of Egypt, about to enslave Benjamin, has an emotional break down right in front of them.

If that's not shocking enough, he says I am Joseph...probably in Hebrew at this point. Stops using the translator

Invites them closer...probably says it more calmly

“I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt”

Immediately ministers to THEM

Do not be

Grieved to hurt, pain, grieve, displease, vex, wrest

Angry to be hot, furious, burn, become angry, be kindled

Don't be stricken with grief, Don't hate yourselves...you've obviously had a change of heart, repented

Don't fight each other or beat yourself up

God had a purpose even in what you did

God will use EVERY situation. But it doesn't mean every situation is his will.

We blame God for the sin in the world...”If God is a loving God why would he let *this* happen...”
That he desires bad things to happen.

Not the case.

We desire evil, like Joseph’s brothers...but God can use it for Good. Only God can take something so evil and use it for good.

Rape...why does the rapist, the one who did the evil not given the death penalty but the baby is?

What’s God’s plan every time? To save life.

Two years into the famine- 7 plenty, 7 famine

V7 God sent me before you and to save you in an amazing way

Think of how Joseph got here

Fields with his brothers to Pharaoh to now

V8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God;

Can we really say this to those who have wronged us? Who have sold us up the river?

That it wasn’t them, but GOD who put us in these situations?

Verse God gave me a few months after getting saved to minister to me about my parents divorce

[Gen 50:20 NKJV] 20 "But as for you, you meant evil against me; [but] God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as [it is] this day, to save many people alive.

Hurry and go to my father

He sends them back to bring their entire families back

Come down to me, Do not tarry

When you’ve got the way out, when you’ve got the promise of blessing - a job, an opportunity, freedom, a way out...take it...don’t delay

[Gen 50:20 NKJV] 20 "But as for you, you meant evil against me; [but] God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as [it is] this day, to save many people alive.

[1Co 10:13 NKJV] 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God [is] faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear [it].

God always calls us out with a place to go in mind...even if we, like Abram, don't know where or what it is yet. He never calls us out to nothing. He always has provision ready and waiting for us...if we'd but go.

Gives them a homeland in Egypt: Goshen "drawing near"

a region in northern Egypt, east of the lower Nile, where the children of Israel lived from the time of Joseph to the time of Moses

A promise of safety to them, their children and grandchildren and all that they have

All of their cares and concerns for their families, their burden, is being lifted

Being cared for

And for all that they own and have. Their lives, all in all, will be preserved and bettered in Egypt, where their relative is a ruler.

Sounds a lot like a good deal, like a heavenly place, to me

Heaven is being in the presence of God. A place to dwell safely forever.

I will provide for you

[Pro 27:23-27 NKJV] 23 Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, [And] attend to your herds; 24 For riches [are] not forever, Nor does a crown [endure] to all generations. 25 [When] the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself, And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in, 26 The lambs [will provide] your clothing, And the goats the price of a field; 27 [You shall have] enough goats' milk for your food, For the food of your household, And the nourishment of your maidservants.

Bring dad and all of your house...you will have the best of the land

This is more than mercy, this is forgiveness and grace

Instead of being his slaves or facing the death penalty

They are given the very best in the entire world.

Is this not a picture of Christ and what he makes available to us through the cross?

Do not be concerned about your goods, for the best of Egypt is yours

Does this not remind you of what the Lord tells us? Not to be concerned about what we eat or drink or wear? That in heaven all our needs are met.

To not worry about this life, but instead:

[Mat 6:19-21 NKJV] 19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 "but lay up for yourselves treasures

in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

:21-28

According to the command of Pharaoh

When Pharaoh heard Joseph's weeping, he no doubt inquired of what was going on...and he blessed Joseph's family. This was a good king, even if in just a worldly sense...he supported Joseph's decisions, his family, and was concerned about the cares of Joseph's heart

My job and the culture of family...always concerned we're able to care for our families and make ways to do it

Everyone gets a change of clothes

Revelation 6:11a Then a white robe was given to each of them;

[Rev 7:9 NKJV] 9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

[Zec 3:3-5 NKJV] 3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. **4** Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes." **5** And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by.

Benjamin gets 300 pieces of silver and 5x the clothes

Like the meal, he is getting the favorable treatment of his full brother

20 donkeys full of the best of Egypt sent back as proof and blessing
They could never afford these things

"See that you do not become troubled along the way."

Joseph again caring for the spiritual state of his brothers. Everything's going to be OK. Don't let your hearts be troubled like the last few times. I'm here to bless you, to love you, to care for you...because of God.

After God forgives us and blesses us there is always a temptation or an attack of the enemy to try and bring us down and bring us back out of the blessing to the judgment of our sin...but God doesn't want you and i to be troubled with things he's already dealt with.

Joseph is still alive

Can you imagine, being Jacob, and hearing that Joseph is alive...after all of these years...decades? It had to be overwhelming

Jacob's heart stood still...he didn't believe them

His spirit revived...he was dying...but news and evidence and the words of Joseph himself being alive revived him.

Much like the resurrection.

When Israel finally comes to faith in their Messiah, Jesus...their hearts will revive. Their lives will be so fulfilled. God promises that their time is not up. We have not replaced them, we have been grafted in.

Unfortunately, for the majority, it's going to take the Tribulation to wake them up...much like it's taking the worst famine on earth to get Israel into Egypt

"It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

This is all i need in life...to see my son alive and my family back together.

That is a heart of a father

And indeed it is the heart of the Father. That was the whole point personally for this family: To save them from famine, to reunite them in a way they could have never been united before.

It takes undoing sometimes to put things back together the right way.

If your live feels like it's undone...tragic...in famine...know that Jesus has gone before you to make a way through it for you.

Won't you accept his offer to come be with him? To come have your spiritual, emotional and physical needs met?

Won't you accept his offer at eternal life with him? To be with him in heaven? Enjoying all the benefits of a son, a brother, and of him himself?