



Lesson 23 – Joseph and His Brothers Part II

Based on Genesis 45-50

In our last Lesson, Joseph had just revealed himself to his brothers after they came a second time to Egypt to purchase food. There was a terrible famine in the land just as God had shown Pharaoh. Joseph was overseeing the distribution of the food and God used all that to fulfil the prophetic Words of God revealed to Joseph.

- 1) What comforting words did Joseph give his brothers?

Genesis 45:7-8 And God sent me _____ you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but _____: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

- 2) What request did he give them?

Genesis 45:9-11 Haste ye, and _____ to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not: And thou shalt dwell in the land of _____, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast: And there will I nourish thee; for yet there are _____ of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty.

- 3) When Pharaoh heard the news, what did he tell them?

Genesis 45:17-18 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Say unto thy brethren, This do ye; lade your beasts, and go, get you unto the land of _____; And take your father and your households, and come unto me: and I will give you the good of the land of Egypt, and ye shall eat the _____ of the land.

The brothers were sent away abundantly supplied with provision and carriages and everything necessary for the removal of all their families and attendants to Egypt.

- 4) What had the brothers previously told Jacob?

Genesis 37:31-33 And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the _____; And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no. And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt _____ in pieces.

- 5) What did they declare as they came back to Canaan?

Genesis 45:26-27 And told him, saying, Joseph is yet _____, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not. And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father _____:

- 6) What did he decide to do?

Genesis 45:28 And Israel said, It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and _____ him before I die.

Another act of humiliation remained for the ten brothers. They now confessed to their father the deceit and cruelty that for so many years had embittered his life and theirs. Jacob had not suspected them of so base a sin, but he saw that all had been overruled for good, and he forgave and blessed his erring children.



7) What encouragement did Jacob get while on the trip to Egypt?

Genesis 46:2-4 And God spake unto Israel in the _____ of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I. And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation: I will go down with thee into _____; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine _____.

Egypt offered the conditions necessary to the fulfillment of the divine purpose. A section of country well-watered and fertile was open to them there, affording every advantage for their speedy increase. And the antipathy they must encounter in Egypt on account of their occupation, for every shepherd was “*an abomination unto the Egyptians*”, would enable them to remain a distinct and separate people and would thus serve to shut them out from participation in the idolatry of Egypt.

8) How did Joseph’s reunion with his father go?

Genesis 46:29-30 And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel his father, to _____, and presented himself unto him; and he fell on his neck, and _____ on his neck a good while. And Israel said unto Joseph, Now let me die, since I have seen thy _____, because thou art yet alive.

The splendor of his surroundings and the dignity of his position were alike forgotten; one thought alone filled his mind, one longing thrilled his heart. As he beheld the travelers approaching, the love whose yearnings had for so many long years been repressed, would no longer be controlled. He sprang from his chariot and hastened forward to bid his father welcome.

9) Before Pharaoh, what request did Joseph’s Brothers make?

Genesis 47:3-4 And Pharaoh said unto his brethren, What is your occupation? And they said unto Pharaoh, Thy servants are _____, both we, and also our fathers. They said moreover unto Pharaoh, For to _____ in the land are we come; for thy servants have no pasture for their flocks; for the famine is sore in the land of Canaan: now therefore, we pray thee, let thy servants _____ in the land of Goshen.

Gratitude to his prime minister would have led the monarch to honor them with appointments to offices of state; but Joseph, true to the worship of Jehovah, sought to save his brothers from the temptations to which they would be exposed at a heathen court; therefore, he counseled them, when questioned by the king, to tell him frankly their occupation. The sons of Jacob followed this counsel, being careful also to state that they had come to sojourn in the land, not to become permanent dwellers there, thus reserving the right to depart if they chose.

10) Who visited Pharaoh next?

Genesis 47:7-8 And Joseph brought in Jacob his father, and set him before Pharaoh: and Jacob _____ Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said unto Jacob, How _____ art thou?

11) What did Jacob reply?

Genesis 47:9 And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an _____ and _____ years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the _____ of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.

In his first greeting to Joseph, Jacob had spoken as if, with this joyful ending to his long anxiety and sorrow, he was ready to die. But seventeen years were yet to be granted him in the peaceful retirement of Goshen.



These years were in happy contrast to those that had preceded them. He saw in his sons evidence of true repentance; he saw his family surrounded by all the conditions needful for the development of a great nation; and his faith grasped the sure promise of their future establishment in Canaan. He himself was surrounded with every token of love and favor that the prime minister of Egypt could bestow.

12) What request did Jacob make when his death was near?

Genesis 47:29-30 And the time drew nigh that Israel must _____: and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; _____ me not, I pray thee, in Egypt: But I will lie with my fathers, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their buryingplace. And he said, I will _____ as thou hast said.

13) What important matter was yet to be done?

Genesis 48:5 And now thy two _____, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are _____; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

They were to be adopted as his own, and to become the heads of separate tribes. Thus, one of the birthright privileges, which Reuben had forfeited, was to fall to Joseph, a double portion in Israel.

14) Jacob laid his hands on them, what did he say?

Genesis 48:15-16 And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which _____ me all my life long unto this day, The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a _____ in the midst of the earth.

There was no spirit of self-dependence, no reliance upon human power or cunning now. God had been his preserver and support. There was no complaint of the evil days in the past. Its trials and sorrows were no longer regarded as things that were “against” him. Memory recalled only His mercy and loving-kindness who had been with him throughout his pilgrimage.

15) How did his blessing end for Joseph?

Genesis 48:21 And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you _____ unto the land of your fathers.

16) Jacob was near death, what did he say to Reuben?

Genesis 49:3-4 Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: _____ as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then _____ thou it: he went up to my couch.

Thus, the father pictured what should have been the position of Reuben as the first-born son; but his grievous sin at Edar had made him unworthy of the birthright blessing. The priesthood was apportioned to Levi, the kingdom and the Messianic promise to Judah, and the double portion of the inheritance to Joseph. The tribe of Reuben never rose to any eminence in Israel; it was not so numerous as Judah, Joseph, or Dan, and was among the first that were carried into captivity.

17) Levi and Simeon?

Genesis 49:7 Cursed be their _____, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.



At the numbering of Israel, just before their entrance to Canaan, Simeon was the smallest tribe. Moses, in his last blessing, made no reference to Simeon. In the settlement of Canaan this tribe had only a small portion of Judah's lot, and such families as afterward became powerful formed different colonies and settled in territory outside the borders of the Holy Land. Levi also received no inheritance except forty-eight cities scattered in different parts of the land. In the case of this tribe, however, their fidelity to Jehovah when the other tribes apostatized, secured their appointment to the sacred service of the sanctuary, and thus the curse was changed into a blessing.

18) Unto Judah?

Genesis 49:8 Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall _____ before thee.

Genesis 49:10 The _____ shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

The lion, king of the forest, is a fitting symbol of this tribe, from which came David, and the Son of David, Shiloh, the true "**Lion of the tribe of Judah,**" to whom all powers shall finally bow and all nations render homage.

For most of his children Jacob foretold a prosperous future. At last, the name of Joseph was reached, and the father's heart overflowed.

19) What did he say of Joseph?

Genesis 49:22 Joseph is a _____ bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall:

Jacob had sinned and had deeply suffered. Many years of toil, care, and sorrow had been his since the day when his great sin caused him to flee from his father's tents.

20) What did peace did Jacob final have?

Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it _____ the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Inspiration faithfully records the faults of good men, those who were distinguished by the favor of God; indeed, their faults are more fully presented than their virtues. This has been a subject of wonder to many, and has given the infidel occasion to scoff at the Bible. But it is one of the strongest evidences of the truth of Scripture, that facts are not glossed over, nor the sins of its chief characters suppressed. The minds of men are so subject to prejudice that it is not possible for human histories to be absolutely impartial. Had the Bible been written by uninspired persons, it would no doubt have presented the character of its honored men in a more flattering light. But as it is, we have a correct record of their experiences.

21) What did the brothers suspect of Joseph at the death of their father?

Genesis 50:15 And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure _____ us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.

22) What reply did they get?

Genesis 50:20-21 But as for you, ye thought _____ against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he _____ them, and spake kindly unto them.



The life of Joseph illustrates the life of Christ. It was envy that moved the brothers of Joseph to sell him as a slave; they hoped to prevent him from becoming greater than themselves. And when he was carried to Egypt, they flattered themselves that they were to be no more troubled with his dreams, that they had removed all possibility of their fulfillment. But their own course was overruled by God to bring about the very event that they designed to hinder. So, the Jewish priests and elders were jealous of Christ, fearing that He would attract the attention of the people from them. They put Him to death, to prevent Him from becoming king, but they were thus bringing about this very result.

Joseph, through his bondage in Egypt, became a savior to his father's family; yet this fact did not lessen the guilt of his brothers. So, the crucifixion of Christ by His enemies made Him the Redeemer of mankind, the Saviour of the fallen race, and Ruler over the whole world; but the crime of His murderers was just as heinous as though God's providential hand had not controlled events for His own glory and the good of man.

Can you see Joseph was a type for Christ?

Would you like to be forgiven like the brothers?

When is the time to seek God?