

Genesis Chapter 45 - Commentary By Mike Wells

Chapter 45 Overview:

Joseph finally reveals himself to his brethren and then sends for his father and family.

Genesis 45 : 1-3 - 1 Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren. 2 And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard. 3 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence.

- Joseph could no longer contain himself.
- So, he ordered all but his brothers to leave the room.
- He then told his brothers, ***“I am Joseph; doth my father yet live?”***
- When he told his brothers, ***“he wept aloud”*** so loudly that the Egyptians and even Pharaoh’s house heard.
- His brothers were speechless and no doubt terrified.
- The brother whom they had treated so cruelly twenty years earlier now had complete power over them and could turn his vengeance upon them.

Genesis 45 : 4-8 - 4 And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. 5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. 6 For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. 7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

- Joseph invited his brothers to come closer and he repeated himself.
- ***“I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.”***
- The true purpose of all which had transpired over the past twenty years now all came into focus.
- Joseph sought to calm their fears and their concern.
- He told them that ***“God did send me before you to preserve life.”***
- He informed them that there were five more years of famine coming.
- Joseph could see the greater picture.
- ***“God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.”***
- Joseph realized that it was God who had ultimately directed events, even his being sold into Egypt to becoming ***“a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.”***

Genesis 45 : 9-15 - 9 Haste ye, and go up 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: 10 And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, 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: 11 And there will I nourish thee; for yet there are five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty. 12 And, behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my mouth that speaketh unto you. 13 And ye shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that ye have seen; and ye shall haste and bring down my father hither. 14 And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck. 15 Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him

- Joseph told his brothers to hurry up and return to fetch their father, come back to Egypt, and live there with him.
- He thus promised to **nourish (provide for them)**.
- He told them to tell his father of his glory and all they had seen, but to do it quickly and return with their father.
- Then he “**fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck**”.
- In addition, he also kissed all his brothers, and wept upon them.
- Finally, perhaps no longer scared his brothers “**talked with him**”

Genesis 45 : 16-24 - *16 And the fame thereof was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, Joseph's brethren are come: and it pleased Pharaoh well, and his servants. 17 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Say unto thy brethren, This do ye; lade your beasts, and go, get you unto the land of Canaan; 18 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 fat of the land. 19 Now thou art commanded, this do ye; take you wagons out of the land of Egypt for your little ones, and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. 20 Also regard not your stuff; for the good of all the land of Egypt is yours. 21 And the children of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the commandment of Pharaoh, and gave them provision for the way. 22 To all of them he gave each man changes of raiment; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver, and five changes of raiment. 23 And to his father he sent after this manner; ten asses laden with the good things of Egypt, and ten she asses laden with corn and bread and meat for his father by the way. 24 So he sent his brethren away, and they departed: and he said unto them, See that ye fall not out by the way.*

- News quickly reached Pharaoh of what had happened.
- He approved of Joseph's plan to bring his father down and ordered him to “**take you wagons out of the land of Egypt**” to help their move.
- Joseph gave them provision for the journey and gave to each of his brothers “**changes of raiment.**” (raiment = clothing).
- But to Benjamin, his full brother, he gave three-hundred pieces of silver and five changes of raiment.
- His charge, “**See that ye fall not out by the way**” essentially has the idea, ‘**do not be frightened along the way.**’

Genesis 45 : 25-28 - *25 And they went up out of Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan unto Jacob their father, 26 And told him, saying, Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the*

land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not. 27 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 revived: 28 And Israel said, It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die.

- They returned home and brought the good news that Joseph was not only alive, but was the *governor* of Egypt.
 - Jacob could only react in utter disbelief.
 - Even after they told him the whole story, he still would not believe.
 - However, when he saw the Egyptians wagons “*the spirit of Joseph their father revived.*”
 - The phrase “**It is enough**” could be paraphrased, ‘**this is too much.**’
 - He decided he wanted and needed go see him before Joseph before he died.
 - What is that you want to do before you die?
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- We discussed how Joseph was a type of Jesus Christ several times – We all need see Jesus before we die, so that we will live!!