

News:

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The Astonishing Revelation (Gen. 45:1-8)

1 Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.

3 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. 4 And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

- There are three revelations here.
- Joseph is saving three different things: Egypt, Israel, and the covenant promises.

- Joseph can help for three reasons.
 - God has made him a father to Pharaoh.
 - God has raised him up to rule Pharaoh’s house.
 - God has made him a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.
- 2 Corinthians 4: “all things are for your sakes!”

Joseph’s Command (Gen. 45:9-11)

9 “Hurry and go up 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 tarry. 10 You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children’s children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have. 11 There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine.”’

- Two urgent statements in verse 9: hurry, and don’t tarry, or delay.
- There is a theme here of *coming near*.
- He wants to make sure that they do not become impoverished.

Land o’ Goshen!

- We don’t know the precise boundaries of Goshen, but we know of cities that were considered to be within Goshen, such as Rameses and Pithom.
- This Goshen in the Bible was in Lower Egypt, in the Nile Delta. Scholars seem to think that Rameses is Tell ed-Dab’a, near the modern city of Faqous. (See map.)

Be A Witness (Gen. 45:12-15)

12 “And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you. 13 So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here.”

14 Then he fell on his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. 15 Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

- Another prophetic picture of Christ.
- Joseph also wants them to notice that he is speaking to them directly.
- With Benjamin, they hug each other on their neck and weep. His embrace with the other brothers is a little more restrained. Were they still afraid or unsure of what Joseph might do to them?

Pharaoh Offers The Best Of The Land (Gen. 45:16-20)

16 Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh’s house, saying, “Joseph’s brothers have come.” So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well. 17 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Say to your brothers, ‘Do this: Load your animals and depart; go to the land of Canaan. 18 Bring your father and your households and come to me; I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land. 19 Now you are commanded—do this: Take carts out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives; bring your father and come. 20 Also do not be concerned about your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.’”

- Joseph enjoyed a wonderful reputation with the Egyptians!

- We can also note that they refer to him by his real name of “Joseph.”
- Pharaoh orders them to be blessed. He also orders them to take carts and bring everybody down to Egypt.
- Leave all your junk behind!

On The Way (Gen. 45:21-24)

21 Then the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them carts, according to the command of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey. 22 He gave to all of them, to each man, changes of garments; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments. 23 And he sent to his father these things: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and food for his father for the journey. 24 So he sent his brothers away, and they departed; and he said to them, “See that you do not become troubled along the way.”

- Clothing was very expensive. Rich people, or royalty, would give clothing as gifts.
- All the changes in Joseph’s life were signified by changes of clothing. But now that he is reconciled to his brothers, he is giving clothing away!
- Joseph here reminds us again of Messiah, and the prophecy of Isaiah 61, where it says Messiah will give those who mourn “...beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...”
- Benjamin is more favored again. Joseph gives him five garments. This foreshadows God’s great blessings to the Church.

- Benjamin also receives 300 pieces of silver. This number seems to be connected with salvation and deliverance: Enoch; Noah; Gideon; Samson; Solomon.
- Silver in turn often speaks of redemption in the Bible. Where else in Scripture do we see 300 pieces of silver? It is connected to the greatest deliverance of all!
- Joseph also sends ten donkeys to his father, one for each of the older brothers.
- Joseph tells them not to become troubled on the way, or not to argue.

I Will Go (Gen. 45:25-28)

25 Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father. 26 And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them. 27 But when they told him all the words which Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived. 28 Then Israel said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

- Jacob could almost have died from the shock!
- Sometimes we also need both words and wagons in order to believe.
- Did they tell him *everything* Joseph had said?
- Jacob can now die happy.



Map of Region Surrounding Faqous, Egypt (C) Google, Inc.