

Genesis Chapter 45 Commentary

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.

Introduction: In the previous chapter we saw that Joseph's brethren confessing that God had found out their sin, of selling Joseph into slavery, and making it appear unto their father that he had been killed by a wild beast. They confess that God is now punishing them for their sins. It has been fifteen years since Joseph was sold into slavery. He was sold at 17, came to be ruler in Egypt at 30, and it is 2 years into the famine.

The confession of Joseph's brethren, of their sin, and Joseph being able to understand their language, without their knowledge that Joseph hears them; is a reminder to us; God knows our every sin against him and his people, and he will in his own time mete out his punishment. Just remember, as it is in the case of Joseph's brethren, their sins being made plain in their own lives is the entrance to the door of salvation. We must come to see ourselves as sinners before we can enter the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Actually, when we see ourselves as sinners; it is evidence that God has already caused you to be born-again.

Joseph tested his brethren to see if they had changed, from their hatred of him, and their willingness to kill or sell him into slavery. He found that they have been changed. They are no longer willing to sell or desert their brother, Benjamin. We saw Judah pleading to take Benjamin's place. These men have come to the end of their rope. Now, they are willing to fall in full submission before Joseph, plead for mercy, and voluntarily be servant to him, to grant the release of their brother Benjamin. They see no way out from under the penalty of their sin but to plead for mercy.

Do you see how this applies to us today? We must come to the end of ourselves;

- Understanding, we can't save ourselves eternally, and that our salvation and eternal life are in the hands of Jesus; not our own;
- Being willing to be totally submissive to God's will;
- Be willing to give up everything, our own strength failing to save us, and become prisoners of Christ, for the honor and glory of our King and Saviour.

Joseph's brethren; having passed the test and proving they are willing to save, rather than sell, their brother Benjamin; they willingly place themselves in bondage as a family. Joseph has tested them, and they have passed the test. Now, they are prepared for the revelation of their resurrected brother Joseph. Now, Joseph can reveal his identity to them. Application to ourselves as children of grace. You must recognize:

- That you are a sinner by practice and nature; you have come to a state of repentance, as Joseph's brethren did; confessing that God knows you are a sinner.
- Your confession of sins is against the very one who is saving you. Just as Joseph's brethren are confessing to Joseph, we are confessing to our Brother, Jesus Christ.
- You must confess; you are willing to be taken as servants to Christ, that the glory and honor of resurrected Jesus may be put on display.

When we are brought to this state of repentance, we have already been born again, and now we are ready for the revealing of our resurrected Brother, Jesus Christ. Having been born again, now we are made ready to become a part of the organized church. As Joseph is revealing to his brethren, he has risen from the dead and is alive; Christ reveals to us; though his body of flesh died, he has risen from the dead, and is alive forevermore.

Notice, that all others were driven out so that Joseph and his brethren only were present as he revealed himself to them. Christ is a personal Saviour to his people. The world may and should see the effects of salvation in the life of a sinner, but they don't see the salvation, for what it is to the one that Christ has brought to repentance and revealed himself to.

We also see here a picture of the second coming of Christ, how? Joseph had all men out from his presence. In the end time, when Christ returns, we find that "***the dead in Christ shall rise first***" and God's people only shall be in the presence of Christ, the Saviour. Then shall Christ be made known to us indeed, the final revelation of Christ.

Think of this: The law service was a preview, like a movie preview, of the grace church. The grace church is a preview of the eternal kingdom of God.

2 And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard.

We point out that the Egyptians, and the house of Pharaoh, heard of Joseph's weeping. However, they were not privy to seeing this happen. It as if their eyes are blinded, just as the world at large knows of Jesus and his weeping over his brethren, but they do not have the revelation of the resurrected Christ. Remember, God reveals himself to whom he will as seen in: ***Joh 3:3 "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."***

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. 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.

When Joseph revealed who he was to his brethren they were astonished, and much weeping and rejoicing went on. Every time a sinner comes in confession to the church of Christ, the whole family is astonished together, and there is much weeping and rejoicing as we see in:

- ***Lu 15:7 "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."***
- ***Lu 15:10 "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."***

"And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me" We have similar scripture brought to us in: ***Jas 4:7-8; 7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."***

"Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither" Here we see the picture of Christ's revelation to us that our sins, which caused him to be sold for 30 pieces of silver, have been forgiven. How wonderful it is seeing our sins laid aside and to be enabled to see our Saviour.

"for God did send me before you to preserve life." Another prophetic picture of the coming of Christ into the world. Christ was sent before us into the world to preserve our lives, just as Joseph was sent before his brethren into Egypt to preserve the lives of his whole family and those to come.

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.

"and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest." A picture to us that the law period will come to an end, the grace age will come to fruition, and the fields shall bring forth fruit to sustain life again.

For the born-again sinner, It is a picture that though we eat the bread of life, and drink from the fountain of living waters here in time, this is nothing to be compared to what we shall see, when we enter the abundance of our eternal life, in the eternal kingdom. The abundance there will make the abundance here seem as nothing. Consider the scripture in: **Joh 14:2-3; 2 "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."**

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. 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.

Joseph tells his brethren; this has all happened, according to the providence of God, for the salvation of Israel. It is a great manifestation, of the mighty power of God, and his foreknowledge, of what is going to come to pass in the future. Where? In the earth, here in this world in the here and now for us, as well as in eternity.

Joseph was sent to Egypt, before his brethren, to set in order the things necessary for this salvation, and preservation, that is happening on earth. Likewise, the salvation and eternal life of a child of God happens here on earth, while you are alive. Jesus came long before us to accomplish this work. It is an older work, purposed before the earth was formed by God and Christ.

As we consider what Joseph is telling his family; we see the picture of the saving power of Christ being told to his family; and certainly, it is a great picture of the church on the earth today. To be saved today is a great thing and deserves to be loudly proclaimed and the name of our Saviour glorified.

Joseph is telling his brethren, come unto me and dwell in the land of preservation and of bounty. It is the very best Egypt has to offer. Christ is telling us to come unto him and dwell in my church, the land of preservation and bounty, while the famine of the world of sin continues. It is the very best this world has to offer. Consider: **Mt 11:28 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."**

12 And, behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my mouth that speaketh unto you.

"**your eyes see**" The eyes of you who are of another mother see me. Joseph says: I am resurrected into your life to your own salvation, and you see me with your own eyes, which have now been opened. Thus, we see the grafting in and salvation of the Gentiles into the Church of Grace.

"**and the eyes of my brother Benjamin**" The eyes of my full blood brother also see me. Joseph says: My full flesh and blood brother also sees me in resurrection, with eyes that have been opened. Thus, we see that the salvation of the Jews, which were to be saved also.

We see both of these phrases manifested in: **Mt 13:16 "But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear."**

Here we see a picture of the foundation stone of the church being laid. How you ask? Let's look at the scripture in: **Mt 16:15-18; 15 "He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."**

- What is the rock that Christ is building the church upon? The phrase: "**Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.**" As Joseph is here revealing that I am Joseph thy brother, Jesus is telling his disciples in Matthew, I am the Christ, the Son of the living God, and you are my brethren.
- How did Peter come to this conclusion? Did he figure this out by himself? "**And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**" It takes the Holy Spirit, the living Word of God, to make this known to us today. You can't get this through head knowledge, only by revelation. If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, you have evidence that you are born-again.

We see further proof of this from NT scripture in: **Ac 9:3-6; 3 "And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."**

- Did Saul figure out who Jesus was, or did Jesus reveal his identity to Saul? Jesus revealed who he was to Saul.
- What affect did this revelation have on the life of Saul? The same affect that it had on Christ's disciples in Matthew; Saul's life, from henceforth, is lived upon the revealing of Christ to

himself. Saul spent the remainder of his life building upon this foundation stone of the church of Christ, "***Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.***"

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.

"***my father***" is a figure of the Jews under the dispensation of the sacrificial law service. Joseph is saying to his brethren, go tell my father and all his house of my glory in Egypt. This is a picture of Christ's disciples, preaching to the Israelites and then sending his disciples to all the world, seen in: ***Mr 16:15 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."***

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.

Here we see displayed the true love of Christ in our lives. Joseph knew all that his brethren did unto him, and yet his love for them was so great; he took them all into his embrace and loved them. he loved them without any grudge, hatred, or holdings, against them, and for the joy set before him of his family coming unto him. So, Christ has done for us, as seen in: ***Heb 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."***

- *Spurgeon Devotional Commentary: These kisses were seals of love, comparable to the witness of the Spirit in believing men. Such tokens unloose the tongue, and enable us to talk with Jesus in the holy familiarities of sacred fellowship. "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth," saith the spouse in the song. Amen. The Lord do so unto each one of us.*

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.

Why would Pharaoh and his servants be glad that Joseph's family had come? They know Joseph is not an Egyptian, and they know he is glad to see his family again. They just like people today, rejoice to see glad family reunions. Afterall, Joseph is the saviour of Egypt, and they are glad to honor him. Remember, Pharaoh even named Joseph with an Egyptian name that means saviour.

- ***Ge 41:45 "And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah;*** Zaphnathpaaneah is from the Hebrew word Tsophnath Pa`neach (pronounced; tsof-nath' pah-nay'-akh) and means: the one who furnishes the nourishment of life, the chief steward of the realm. Isn't it interesting: the new name, that Pharaoh gives Joseph, is the definition of our Saviour?

Egypt has been the recipients of much good because of Joseph, and God's blessing of Joseph in their lives. They will even inquire after others, of Joseph's family, through whom they might receive more blessing from God.

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.

God has given Joseph great favor in the eyes of Pharaoh, and the Egyptians, as is demonstrated here by their rejoicing with Joseph. Pharaoh commands Joseph to fetch his whole family to the best of the land of Egypt. Why would Pharaoh do this? I think it is plain to see that Pharaoh, and the Egyptians, realize that if God had not put Joseph in their lives, they would be starving now instead of having plenty.

Why would Pharaoh say to them "**regard not your stuff?**" Pharaoh is telling Israel, because of the great salvation work wrought in Egypt, by God, through Joseph, we will provide for you anything you need while you are in Egypt.

This is a picture for us today, when we have been born-again; given eyes that see and ears that hear, and hearts that understand; we realize that the abundance of salvation has come to us as a free gift, just as Pharaoh realizes that Joseph, and the blessings of God, have been a free gift unto them. We are reminded; we have found grace in the sight of God, and we have received the commandment to come unto Christ and his church. We should not regard the things of this world, nor drag our baggage of stuff along with us. We should come to the full provision of God's marvelous grace and be totally satisfied with that.

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.

A picture for us today as Joseph provided the necessities to make the trip, so has Christ provided the necessities for us to make the trip. How? Christ has supplied the awakened sinner with life and grace in abundance. The new life force, the Holy Spirit, enables, and empowers, them to make the journey from the land of deprivation to the land of plenty.

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.

"**To all of them he gave each man changes of raiment**" Joseph's older brethren were born of a different mother than he and Benjamin. They are representative of the children of Israel, the saved, under the law service period.

"**but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver, and five changes of raiment**" It was a practice in that time, to bestow more gracious gifts upon anyone, to whom you gave the utmost favor, or who was the guest of honor. Benjamin was his blood brother by nature, they have the same father and mother, and thus Joseph bestows upon him these gifts of honor.

This is picturesque of the law and grace churches, and the blessing of God upon them. How do you see this? Israel, before Christ, had to toil in the labors of the rituals of the ceremonial law. However, we no longer labor under these rituals, rather, we exercise in the free gift of salvation by grace. We see the

difference in the abundance given in New Testament scripture showing that the gift of salvation by grace is more abundant than the ceremonial and sacrificial law service.

- ***Ga 4:27 "For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband."*** In this verse we see the truth; the grace church shall bear more children than the law church did.
- ***Heb 12:22-24; 22 "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."*** Here we are told; the grace church has better things than the law church had.

We have been adopted into the family of Christ; by the blood of Christ; under the reign of grace. We are the recipients, of the abundance of God's storehouse and the outpouring of God's abundant blessing in our lives. We have been given the privilege of living in the best this world has to offer, which is the Church of Salvation by Grace, which is by the provision of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.

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.

"***See that ye fall not out by the way.***" After choosing us, causing our new birth, giving us eternal life, and salvation here in time; we have the same commandment from Christ today.

- ***Heb 3:6 "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."***
- ***Heb 4:14 "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession."***
- ***Heb 10:23 "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"***
- ***Re 2:25 "But that which ye have already hold fast till I come."***
- ***Re 3:3 "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee."***

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.

When a born-again sinner is first brought to the knowledge that they have been saved from eternal death in the eternal lake of fire; they can hardly believe it. However, as they continue to hear the message of Christ, and they continue to see the evidence of his resurrection; they are revived and enabled to make the journey to see the beloved Son, which for us is Christ as we are joined to the church.

We have many examples in scripture, but some of the easiest to call to remembrance are the disciples who saw Christ after his resurrection, with joy and gladness, seen in:

- *Joh 20:19-22; 19 ¶ "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. 21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:"* Here we see Christ's disciples rejoicing at the sight of the resurrected Jesus.
- *Joh 20:24-31; 24 "But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. 26 ¶ And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. 27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. 29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. 30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."* Here we see the doubter brought to belief by sight of the resurrected Christ.

"I will go and see him before I die." This reminds us; every heir, of salvation by grace, will see the resurrected Jesus before they depart this life. You understand? You must be born-again while you are alive, because if you die and have not been born-again, there is no hope of eternal life in Christ.

Praise and glory to God, and Christ, for the Church of Salvation by Grace being established here on earth. Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah! Amen!