

Genesis Ch. 44

- Joseph is still unknown to his brothers.
 - They seemingly have gotten over their fears of being jumped and robbed.
 - Joseph has tested them a little by giving Benjamin a greater portion, and all seems well.
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V: 1 Joseph commands that each man be given as much grain as they can carry, and also to restore their money to them the same as before.

- Typology: We can never repay Jesus for the good that He has done for us!

John 10:10b "... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Ephesians 2:8-9 "⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast."

1 Corinthians 1:29 "That no flesh should glory in His presence."

V: 2-3 Joseph sets his brothers up, pointedly planting the evidence in Benjamin's sack and bids them farewell.

- "Silver cup" – silver is the precious metal of redemption. (Numbers 18:16)

V: 4-5 Joseph instructs his servants to pursue after his brothers and to challenge them: "Why have you returned evil for Good?"

V: 6-10 The servant does indeed catch up to the sons of Israel – and challenges them with the accusation of theft.

- The sons of Israel – "there's no way that we would do that!"
- Why would we bring back all the money from before, and then bite the hand that feeds?
- They are so confident that they say – with whomever you find the stolen item, let him die, and the rest of us will be your slaves!

V: 11-13 Confident of their innocence they quickly take down their sacks and prepare for inspection.

- Starting from the oldest to the youngest – the cup is found in Benjamin’s sack.
- There is no mention of the fact that their money was found in each man’s sack.

Romans 3:10 “As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one.”

- They rent / tore their clothes: symbolic of intense grief or mourning.
- At dinner the night before, as Benjamin received larger portions than the rest of the brothers, they had been tested regarding jealousy.
- Here they are tested regarding loyalty – will they abandon their little brother? No.

V: 14 Judah and his brothers return to Joseph’s house and throw themselves down at his feet – begging for mercy.

V: 15 Joseph asks them “what have you done? Didn’t you know that I can certainly divine?”

- Joseph had set them up, not only in putting the cup in Benjamin’s sack, but in the evening before when he set his brother’s in order around the table.

V: 16 Judah: what can we say or do to prove **our** innocence? The cup is there – what can they say?

Key phrase:

“God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants”

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and the intents of the heart.”

- The iniquity they are speaking of is again a reference back to their hatred of Joseph and having sold him into slavery.
- They are still hearing his anguished pleas for mercy – which they ignored.
- Now at the moment, unknown to them – the shoe is on the other foot.
- Guilt, resulting from sin will cling to us, to our subconscious minds until it is dealt with in a Biblical manner.

- 2 responses to sin: Rationalization or Repentance.
- Repentance, confession, forgiveness, restoration.

V: 17 It would almost appear to have been a ploy to get Benjamin away from his brothers – “I’ll keep Benjamin, the guilty party – and the rest of you can go home.”

V: 18-30 Judah is giving his explanation, making his case.

V: 30 speaking of Israel: *“seeing that his life is bound up in the lad’s life;”*

- While this is certainly Judah’s perspective, it is not his father’s perspective.
- Last chapter: Israel had opened his heart and his hand to God Almighty; *“If I am bereaved, I am bereaved”* – blessed be the name of the Lord.

Israel had passed the test:

Matthew 10:37 *“He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”*

- Israel has relinquished Benjamin, his beloved son into God’s care – allowing him to go to Egypt.
- Judah only knows that losing Benjamin would break his father’s heart.

V: 31-34 An interesting thing has taken place, and becomes evident as Judah speaks representing his brothers.

- If this same situation had occurred some 22 years earlier there would almost certainly have been a much different outcome.
- When Pharaoh’s servant had caught up to them and they found the cup in Benjamin’s sack the other brothers would have reacted differently:
 - *“too bad, too sad – we’ll let dad know not to wait up for you – see ya!”*
- There have been some significant changes in the sons of Israel.
- They are much more focused on the welfare of their father Israel, than that even of themselves.
- The word “father” is used 15X’s in this narrative – their focus is their father.

- They have gone from looking out for themselves to looking out for others.

Philippians 2:3-5 “³Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. ⁴Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. ⁵Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

- Many of the previous chapters portrayed the sons of Jacob as being violent, deceitful, and selfish – not very spiritual.
- They stand before Joseph, guilty and seeking mercy; mercy not for themselves but for their father.
- They are no less and no more the sons of Israel than 22 years prior.

Philippians 3:13-14 “¹³Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Proverbs 24:16 “For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again:...”

- Judah is passing the final test here. He is unwilling to forsake Benjamin to his fate; he is now offering to be a substitute for Benjamin.
- Let me take his place, take his guilt, and become your slave; but, return him to his father.

1 John 3:16 “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

- Here Judah becomes a beautiful type of Christ in taking the place and penalty of the guilty.
- Jesus Christ, our substitute, took our place and died for our sins, for the sins of a guilty, sinful world.

1 John 1:8 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

- Our redeemer, our Messiah would eventually be born from the tribe of Judah.
- This beautiful intercession of Judah on behalf of his brother is too much for Joseph to handle, and leads us into the next chapter.

Genesis Ch. 45

V: 1-3 Joseph cries out for all the Egyptians to leave the room, leaving Joseph alone with his brothers.

- Out of sight, but not out of ear shot – they heard it all.
- Joseph had previously spoken through an interpreter, as he commanded the servant to leave in Egyptian; they had to wonder what was going on.
- Joseph openly declared in Hebrew, their own language, who he was & asked about his father.
- His brother's couldn't answer him, they were shocked.
- "Troubled" (H 926) "bahal", the word conveys "great fear", to tremble inwardly, be suddenly alarmed or agitated; to be afraid, troubled, terrified.

V: 4 This is another place where we see the typology of Jesus played out.

John 1:11 "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not."

- He was despised and rejected by his brothers.
- The nation of Israel rejected Jesus when he came as the Messiah, they didn't recognize Him.
 1. Joseph's brothers didn't recognize him the first time they saw him.
 2. The 2nd time he saw his brother's is when he revealed himself to them.
 3. Just as Jesus will reveal Himself to Israel when He comes again, the 2nd time, as Messiah.

Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."

- When Joseph 1st revealed himself, his brothers were terrified; they probably thought that he was going to exact his revenge.

V: 5-8 Here we see Joseph attempting to allay their fears:

- What you meant for evil, God used for good.

- All of these things were part of God’s plan to preserve the nation of Israel – and Joseph could see it now.
- “Posterity” also “Remnant”
- Joseph now knows that God is the One who sent him into Egypt, and all the things that came with it.

Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

This is why James wrote:

James 1:2-4 “²My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations / trials; ³knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

- Joseph had to go through a lot of pain, a lot of suffering and hardship for the purposes of God to be fulfilled.
- How often in our lives God will allow temporary hardship or pain to achieve His purposes in us.

Turn to:

Psalms 105:15, 16-24 “¹⁵Saying, touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm. ¹⁶Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: He brake the whole staff of bread. ¹⁷He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: ¹⁸Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: ¹⁹Until the time that his word came: the word of the Lord tried him. ²⁰The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free. ²¹He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his substance: ²²To bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom. ²³Israel also came into Egypt; and Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham. ²⁴And he increased his people greatly; and made them stronger than their enemies.” (Testing, preservation, strengthening)

We read:

Isaiah 54:17 “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper;...”

- That doesn’t mean that we won’t be attacked, or that we won’t suffer.
- It means that what the enemy intends for evil, God will use for good – in His time.

V: 9-11 Go back and get our father, bring him back quickly.

- Goshen: One of the most fertile areas of Egypt located in the Nile delta.

- Joseph explains that there are still 5 years left in the famine, but that they will be taken care of.

V: 12-15 Recognition, now they recognized that he was in fact Joseph.

- Tell Israel about all the glory and the things that they have seen.
- He hugged and kissed each of his brothers.
- Prior to having been “restored” they had been kept at a distance, with restoration comes intimacy.

Isaiah 59:1-2 “¹Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that He will not hear.”

Psalms 23:1-3 “¹The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. ²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. ³He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”

- His brothers were comforted, no longer terrified, they talked with him.

V: 16 The news spread quickly – even to Pharaoh.

- Joseph was well loved in Egypt.
- They realized that he had been the salvation of the nation, if he hadn’t interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh and set up store houses of grain they would be starving right along with everyone else; instead of enjoying and having an abundance of food.
- They are appreciative of Joseph – who has continually given glory to God; they rejoice to see him reunited with his family.

V: 17-20 Pharaoh rolls out the red carpet for Joseph’s family.

- You will have the good of the land.
- Don’t even pack your stuff, just come.

V: 21-23 They came in with donkeys, that they were afraid would be stolen, and they were sent out with wagons, full of wealth – to bring back their father, and their wives, and their little ones.

- They all receive changes of clothing (at least two), Benjamin receives three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of clothing.

V: 24-26 They are sent home to hurry and gather everyone up.

“... see that ye fall not out by the way.”

- “ragaz” = don’t be troubled, have no doubts or fears.
- They told Jacob the good news, Joseph is alive!
- Jacob can hardly believe it, but it’s true.

V: 27-28 Israel is revived, he rejoices to know that his son Joseph is alive.

- “Jacob” – vv: 25, 26, 27: was he doubting Benjamin’s return?
- “Israel” – believing the incredible account, believing the “good news” – he’s Israel.

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- This is truly about the birth and preservation of a nation.

Ephesians 1:11 “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.”

- Had Joseph not gone ahead, the family would have starved; the nation would never have existed.
- Had the family not been gathered as one, as a people group in a foreign land, they would have intermarried with the Canaanites and all the other people around them and simply been assimilated into the other nations.
- God set them aside, made them stronger and more numerous until his appointed time.

Isaiah 55:8-9 “⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”