

### **Judah Pleads for Benjamin**

**Genesis 44:18** Then Judah came near to him and said: “O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord’s hearing, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you are even like Pharaoh.

**Genesis 44:19** My lord asked his servants, saying, ‘Have you a father or a brother?’ :20 And we said to my lord, ‘We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, who is young; his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother’s children, and his father loves him.’ :21 Then you said to your servants, ‘Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.’ :22 And we said to my lord, ‘The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.’

**Genesis 44:23** But you said to your servants, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.’

**Genesis 44:24** “So it was, when we went up to your servant my father, that we told him the words of my lord. :25 And our father said, ‘Go back and buy us a little food.’ :26 But we said, ‘We cannot go down; if our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down; for we may not see the man’s face unless our youngest brother is with us.’ :27 Then your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore me two sons; :28 and the one went out from me, and I said, “Surely he is torn to pieces”; and I have not seen him since.

**Genesis 44:29** But if you take this one also from me, and calamity befalls him, you shall bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave.’

**Genesis 44:30** “Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad’s life, :31 it will happen, when he sees that the lad is not with us, that he will die. So your servants will bring down the gray hair of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave.

**Genesis 44:32** For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father forever.’

**Genesis 44:33** Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. :34 For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?”

### **Joseph Tells His Brothers Who He is**

**Genesis 45:1** 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.

**Genesis 45:2** And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.

**Genesis 45:3** 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.

**Genesis 45:4** 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.

**Genesis 45:5** 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.

**Genesis 45:6** 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. 1

Joseph would have been 39 years old and away from his brothers for 22 years (37:2).1

**Genesis 45:7** And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 1

Words reflecting, on Joseph’s part, an understanding of the Abrahamic Covenant and its promise of a nation (cf. chaps. 12; 15; 17).1

**Genesis 45:8** 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.

**Genesis 45:9** “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.

**Genesis 45:10** 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. 1

Macdonald, Farstad Grady Scott, Hindson, E. MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2006).

This area, located in the NE section of the Egyptian Delta region, was appropriate for grazing the herds of Jacob. (. Over 400 years later, at the time of the Exodus, the Jews still lived in Goshen (cf. Ex 8:22; 9:26).<sup>1</sup>

**Genesis 45:11** 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.” ’

**Genesis 45:12** “And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you.

**Genesis 45:13** 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.”

**Genesis 45:14** Then he fell on his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck.

**Genesis 45:15** Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him. **1**

Reconciliation was accomplished with much emotion, which clearly showed that Joseph held no grudges and had forgiven them, evidencing the marks of a spiritually mature man. It had been 22 years since the brothers sold Joseph into slavery.<sup>1</sup>

**Genesis 45:16** 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. **1**

The final seal of approval for Joseph’s relatives to immigrate to Egypt came unsought from Pharaoh (vv. 17–20).<sup>1</sup>

**Genesis 45:17** And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Say to your brothers, ‘Do this: Load your animals and depart; go to the land of Canaan.

**Genesis 45:18** 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.

**Genesis 45:19** 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.

**Genesis 45:20** Also do not be concerned about your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.’ ”

**Genesis 45:21** 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.

**Genesis 45:22** 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.

**Genesis 45:23** 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.” **1**

A needed admonition because they would have so much sin to think about as they readied their confession to their father.<sup>1</sup>

**Genesis 45:25** 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. **1**

Jacob was shocked by the totally unexpected good news. Even though the record is silent on the matter, this was the appropriate occasion for the sons to confess their crime to their father.<sup>1</sup>