

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

The Provision of God – Genesis 45:16-46:7

¹⁶When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house, "Joseph's brothers have come," it pleased Pharaoh and his servants. ¹⁷And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan, ¹⁸and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.' ¹⁹And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. ²⁰Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"

²¹The sons of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the command of Pharaoh, and gave them provisions for the journey. ²²To each and all of them he gave a change of clothes, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five changes of clothes. ²³To his father he sent as follows: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and provision for his father on the journey. ²⁴Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, "Do not quarrel on the way."

²⁵So they went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. ²⁶And they told him, "Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt." And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them. ²⁷But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived.

²⁸And Israel said, "It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

46 So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ²And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am." ³Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. ⁴I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes."

⁵Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. ⁶They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, ⁷his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters. All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

Genesis 45:16-46:7

Big Picture:

This passage provides important context for Israel's _____: Joseph, in power in Egypt, brought his family to Egypt, where they could survive the famine.

The story of family _____ comes full circle.

The fulfillment of the _____ God gave Joseph are fully realized.

We see God's loving _____ on a _____ scale (the preservation of Israel, the nation) and on a _____ scale (his compassion for Israel, the person).

To Israel: *"I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again ..."*

To Israel (Jacob): *"Joseph's hand will close your eyes."*

Some thoughts about the main 'players' in this drama:

Pharaoh apparently was well-acquainted with Joseph's _____ and Joseph's _____. He _____ him completely and _____ him greatly.

God providentially provided for His own covenant people through the actions of a key _____ of the covenant community and thru a _____.

Think about the implications ... God is sovereign over the witting and the unwitting; the compliant and the defiant; the believer and the unbeliever.

Joseph was exceedingly _____ towards those who had once done him such harm. His _____ was complete. The _____ were a powerful symbol of this reconciliation.

The brothers (humbled and repentant as they were) were still apparently a _____ group. Joseph knew their natural bent – and all the pain their quarrelsome natures had caused – and warned them against it.

Jacob – old and likely long saddened – was _____ at the news he received from his sons. Literally, "his heart became weak". It was nearly more than he could bear.

Notably, he _____ at first. Was this because the news itself was so shocking or because he didn't trust the _____?

But he was _____ when he saw the truth in the form of a caravan from Egypt that God had provided. Jacob now has a new reason to live – to see Joseph again!

And once again, we see that the most important person in the story is **God Himself**.

Jacob, with renewed hope and faith, _____ forward, and as he does, _____ God. God responds to his faith with a special _____ that gives Jacob _____ and _____. The message is clear: God is with them, and so the promise would be fulfilled, and they would be delivered.

His message to Joseph was _____ and _____ and filled with _____.

Jacob in turn responds to God's words with _____. He entrusts himself, his family, and all that he has into God's hands. He "sets out" to Egypt.

And God – who brought them IN to Egypt carrying the wealth of Egypt – will one day send Israel _____ of Egypt carrying far more wealth.

3 (rather obvious) personal applications:

God is _____ to His promises. He has not forgotten you. He has not become inactive in your life. God works in ways we see and ways we don't. Our best course is to _____.

Faith goes beyond _____. Faith requires _____.

Two powerful words for those who belong to Him: _____. (And not because we have nothing to fear, but because we have God!)

Next week: Genesis 46&47 – The Protection of Israel