



## Lesson 35

### Famine and Family Reunion – Part 3

#### Story Elements

- **TEXT:** Gen. 45:1-47:12
- **Setting:** circa 1745 B.C. in Egypt.
- **Main Characters:** God, Joseph, Jacob, and his sons
- **Plot:** Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers who have traveled to Egypt in search of food.
- **Key word(s):** “So now it was not you that sent me hither, but \_\_\_\_\_...” (45:8)
- **Climax: Genesis 45:1** *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.*

#### Identity Revealed

- 1) Having returned to Egypt with Benjamin, the sons of Jacob pleaded their innocence before the governor of Egypt – who, unknown to them, was their brother Joseph.
- 2) (45:1-3) After Joseph heard Judah’s sincere pleas, he could no longer contain his emotions. Commanding his staff to leave the room, Joseph announced his identity to his brothers – they were stupefied at the revelation and “\_\_\_\_\_ at his presence.”
- 3) (45:4-15) Joseph spoke comforting words to his stunned brothers:
  - a) (v 5) He showed forgiveness by telling them to forgive themselves: “*be not grieved, nor \_\_\_\_\_ with yourselves.*”
  - b) (vv 5-8) He acknowledged God’s providence over the whole affair, “*God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great \_\_\_\_\_.*” (v 7)
  - c) (vv 9-14) He told them to return to Canaan and bring the whole clan to Goshen where Joseph could protect his family during the \_\_\_\_\_ remaining years of famine.
- 4) (45:16-20) Pharaoh added his blessing to the family reunion by officially inviting the children of Israel to come live in Egypt, saying, “*I will give you the \_\_\_\_\_ of the land, and ye shall eat the fat of the land.*” (v 18)
- 5) (45:21-28) The brothers were sent on their way with gifts and a total of 20 donkeys laden with food and “*the good things of Egypt.*” Upon returning home, Jacob’s sons relayed the incredible news: “*Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt.*” Jacob was at first in disbelief, but when he realized the truth of it, he said, “*It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive.*” What do you think he meant by “it is enough?” \_\_\_\_\_

#### Israel Reassured

- 6) (46:1) Traveling from Hebron to Egypt, Jacob and his clan stopped in Beersheba where Jacob made sacrifice and called upon the LORD. Jacob chose Beersheba for devotions because it was the same place where his grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac had \_\_\_\_\_. (cf. 21:33; 26:25)

- 7) (46:2-4) That night, God appeared unto Israel in a dream and assured him that he would be with him in Egypt just as he had promised to be with him in Syria. (cf. 28:15). God also reiterated two important covenant promises:
- a) That he would raise up a great \_\_\_\_\_ from Abraham’s descendants, and
  - b) that he would give them the land of \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Israel Reunited

- 8) (46:5-27) Jacob and all his family made the long trip to Egypt. All in all, a total of \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews (not counting the wives) came to live in Egypt.
- 9) (46:28-29) Joseph met his family in Goshen. Verse 29 is one of the most touching verses in scripture: *“And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel his father, to Goshen, and presented himself unto him; and he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while.”*
- 10) (46:31-47:6) Joseph wisely advised his family to announce their trade as shepherds when they meet Pharaoh. This way, they would live somewhat separated from the culture and would not be engulfed by Egyptian paganism.
- a) (47:7-10) When Jacob met Pharaoh, the old Hebrew patriarch blessed the ruler of Egypt. When asked his age, Jacob confessed, *“the days of my pilgrimage are an \_\_\_\_\_ and thirty years.”*
  - b) (47:11-12) Pharaoh granted Israel’s family pastureland in \_\_\_\_\_. There they would stay during the famine, and for many, many years afterward.

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## Application

- 11) Joseph’s forgiving spirit is a powerful picture of our Savior – both provided forgiveness and \_\_\_\_\_ to those who intended to do them harm.
- 12) Joseph was given a grand privilege: to see during his lifetime how God had used his suffering for good and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. We are not always granted the same privilege, but we can trust the same God. Joseph trusted God before he knew how his story would end, and we should do the same.

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**Answer Key:** Key word(s): “God” • 2) troubled • 3) a) angry; b) deliverance; c) five • 4) good • 5) To Jacob, the knowledge of Joseph’s station paled in comparison to the truth that his dead son lives. • 6) met with God • 7) a) nation; b) Canaan • 8) 70 • 10) a) hundred; b) Goshen • 11) salvation • 12) glory

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**How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study:** (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.