**August 31, 2022**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“SENT AHEAD TO PRESERVE LIFE”**

**Genesis 45:1-16**

***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."***

Joseph could stand this no more. He broke down and began to cry in front of everyone, so he commanded, “Send everyone away from me.” The Egyptians, who were with Joseph, were asked to leave the room. Then, alone with his brothers, he revealed his identity (which may have included revealing his circumcision and, thus, confirming his descent from Abraham). Joseph told his brothers who he was.

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

He was not just sobbing; this was a wrenching cry to wash away the hurt of twenty years. The Pharaoh's house and the Egyptians were not in the room with Joseph, but this loud crying could be heard throughout the dwelling. It, possibly, could be heard in adjoining buildings.

***Genesis 45:3 "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."***

Seeing that his brothers were changed and overcome with emotion, Joseph revealed his true identity to his brothers, declaring I am Joseph! In response, the brothers were naturally dismayed (“dumbfounded”) at this news and were afraid that Joseph might seek vengeance. Panic rose up in them, and they were speechless. They had thought before that they might lose their lives, but now they knew that they deserved to die. What would they do? Joseph also asked about their father. Joseph had been thinking about this moment for weeks, so he was ready to have the reunion. But his brothers weren’t as prepared! They sat in stunned silence, terrified in his presence. Joseph, the brother they had intended to kill, was now standing before them with all the power in the world. And to their surprise, he was extending not vengeance but mercy. May we follow his example. Understanding the reality of our natural family dysfunction and brokenness is a path to realizing the divine wholeness and purpose of Christ’s primary function! In this narrative see a type of Jesus. We deserved to die the cruel death of the cross but Jesus, the beloved Son of the Father, took our place to give us eternal life. Joseph the beloved son of Jacob, made a way for his family to live.

***2 Corinthians 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”***

The fact that Jesus became sin for us does not mean Jesus was sin, or a sinner, or guilty of sin, the proper interpretation can only be found in the doctrine of imputation. This doctrine of value exchange teaches that while Adam’s sin is imputed (transferred) to us because he is our natural federal head, God imputes (accredits) the righteousness and suffering of Jesus to those who are in him and, conversely, imputes (exchanges) the sins of the redeemed to Christ. Imputed righteousness is where a sinner is declared righteous by God purely by God's grace through faith in Christ, and thus all depends on Christ's merit and worthiness, rather than on one's own merit and worthiness.

***Romans 5:14-15***

***14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.***

***15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.***

We need the righteousness of Christ imputed to us because we have no [righteousness](https://www.gotquestions.org/righteousness.html) of our own. We are sinners by nature, and we cannot make ourselves righteous we cannot place ourselves in right standing with God. We need Christ’s righteousness imputed to us meaning, we need His holiness before God credited to our account.

***Romans 5:8-10***

***8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

***9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.***

***10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.***

***Genesis 45:4-5***

***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."***

Joseph displayed varsity-level maturity next. Though he’d been imprisoned by his brothers without cause, he was able to see the hand of God in that evil thing the brothers had done. He said, God sent me ahead of you to preserve life. There are symbolisms in this. We are Jesus' brethren. Jesus has “pre-served” and “forgiven” us. The amazing truth about this is that He became our Savior before we became sinners!

***Ephesians 1:4-14***

***4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:***

***5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,***

***6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.***

***7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;***

***8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;***

***9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:***

***10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:***

***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:***

***12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.***

***13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,***

***14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.***

We do not deserve it, but it is part of God's plan to save us. Joseph forgave his brethren. They did not deserve it. He tried to explain that they were doing what God wanted them to do in order to save them. Paul expressed this same concept to the Philippians.

***Philippians 1:12-13***

***12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;***

***13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;***

***Genesis 45:6-7***

***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."***

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

Sometimes, when God sends us out to do a job for Him, we are not aware, at first, what the mission is for. Often is seems so futile, as it did when Joseph was in jail. If we are God's, nothing happens to us accidentally, it is part of God's plan Joseph was telling them of five more years of famine. He was trying to make them understand that he was sent ahead to prepare a place, where his family can be saved. Joseph was not holding a grudge. He realized that his time here was part of a great plan. God had, to get the children of Israel into Egypt. God told Abraham they would spend 400 years in Egypt. This was fulfillment of that prophecy.

***Genesis 45:8 "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."***

God had worked out the selling of Joseph to Potiphar. Potiphar's wife had been used, as well, to get Joseph in jail. There he met the butler who told the Pharaoh about Joseph's interpretation of dreams. God can use ungodly people to accomplish His goals. Joseph had to be ruler in Egypt, so that he would be allowed to bring his family to safety. Thus began Israel's stay in Egypt. The terrible string of events had all led Joseph to his position of privilege just in time to save the lives of tens of thousands, and he had noticed the connection. Think about it: had Joseph gotten his way at any point along this journey, he might have stopped God’s plan. Had he not been sold into slavery; he wouldn’t have been in Egypt. Had he not been falsely accused in Potiphar’s house; he wouldn’t have been in the jail. Had he not been in the jail, he wouldn’t have met Pharaoh’s servants. Had the cupbearer remembered him and had him released earlier, he wouldn’t have been in a place where he could be easily summoned to interpret Pharaoh’s dream. If any one of the links in this chain were broken, famine would have overtaken the land, killing countless people, including Joseph and the rest of his family. All the promises God had made to Abraham, Isaac, and even Jacob would’ve come to nothing. Joseph’s entire life demonstrated the truth that Paul declared to the Roman believers.

***Romans 8:28-39***

***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.***

***29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.***

***30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.***

***31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?***

***32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?***

***33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.***

***34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.***

***35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?***

***36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.***

***37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.***

***38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,***

***39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

***Genesis 45:9-11***

***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 told his brothers to return quickly to their father and give him the news. He invited Jacob to settle in the land of Goshen with all of his children, grandchildren, flocks, herds, and everything else. Thus, Jacob and also Joseph’s brothers came under Joseph’s authority and care, just as God had long ago promised Joseph that they would. The urgency of the hour was what Joseph was trying to get over to his brothers. He was, also, telling them, it was not second-hand information. When the Trumpet blows to call us, it will be Jesus, Himself blowing the trumpet. Here is another symbolism. This seven years of famine is like the seven years of tribulation about to come to the earth. Jesus will take (rapture) his brethren before the tribulation. Woe be unto those who are left during the seven years of tribulation. We, like Joseph, must be prepared to sacrifice our liberty for the salvation of our family.

***1 Thessalonians 4:15-18***

***15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.***

***16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:***

***17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.***

***18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.***

***Genesis 45:12-15***

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

***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."***

***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."***

***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."***

Full of emotion, Joseph and his brothers were reunified. Both Joseph and Benjamin wept, and Joseph proved his renewed intimacy with his brothers by offering each one a kiss. It had taken twenty-two years, but Joseph and his brothers were finally reconciled. Here too, the symbolism cries out. Benjamin represented the original (physical) Israel. We Christians (spiritual Israel) are represented by the other brothers. Benjamin was a whole brother. The others were half-brothers. The Jew is the natural branch. We have been adopted and grafted into the tree. They were no longer afraid when he hugged and kissed them. All was forgiven, never to be remembered again. Pharaoh was delighted because Joseph's brothers had come, and it had made Joseph so happy. All this time, Joseph was highly respected by the Pharaoh and his servants. All Egypt was grateful to Joseph for his plan to keep them alive. Whatever it takes to made Joseph happy made everyone happy.

**QUESTIONS**

1. How did it affect Jacob when Judah pled for Benjamin?
2. Who did Joseph send out?
3. What did Joseph do when he can stand it no longer?
4. Who heard Joseph crying?
5. When Joseph revealed who he was, what did he immediately ask them?
6. Why could the brothers not answer?
7. Who did Joseph tell them planned this?
8. How many years of the famine had past?
9. How many years were left?
10. God told Abraham this would be the beginning of what?
11. What had God made Joseph to Pharaoh?
12. Does God ever use the ungodly to accomplish His purpose? Explain.
13. Where did Joseph send his brothers?
14. What land were they to dwell in?
15. What did the seven years of famine remind us of?
16. When we are called, who will call?
17. When did the brothers talk with Joseph?
18. Who did Benjamin represent spiritually?
19. Who did the brothers represent?
20. How did Pharaoh feel about all this?