

## Genesis 45

**Read Genesis 45:1-8:** Joseph finally reveals himself to his brothers. They are speechless and almost unable to process what is happening. Today, the Jews are still blinded to the truth about the savior of the world, Messiah Jesus. A day is coming when they will be overcome with emotion and surprise. To turn to Jesus is to gain understanding.

*“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. (Zechariah 12:10)*

*Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech— <sup>13</sup>unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. <sup>14</sup>But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains un-lifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. <sup>15</sup>But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. <sup>16</sup>Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. <sup>18</sup>But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3)*

God always uses any good or evil to fulfill his plan. He is never mocked or short-circuited. Joseph’s brothers sold him to total strangers. He forgave them and inadvertently saved them from future starvation.

**Genesis 45:9-28:** This is where Jacob’s family all comes to Egypt, as previously predicted long prior. It is forced by a famine; but it is necessary for future reasons.

*<sup>12</sup>Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. <sup>13</sup>Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. <sup>14</sup>And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup>Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup>But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” (Genesis 15)*

It was critical, as God warned Abram long beforehand, that his descendants would have to get out of the land of their inheritance for a while. The Canaanites became a hedonistic society who God destroyed. Surely, Israel would have been contaminated by their evil practices. Upon their return to the homeland, 400 years later, God would destroy them.

*“When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, <sup>2</sup> and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. <sup>3</sup> Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. <sup>4</sup> For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. <sup>5</sup> But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire. <sup>6</sup> “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; <sup>8</sup> but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (Deuteronomy 7)*

Israel became a nation in Egypt. Egypt was called the land of cruel bondage. Prior to that, they were just children of Jacob/Israel. Jacob’s family arrived with only 70 persons; but they left with 600,000 men (probably around 2,000,000 people with women and children).

*And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.” (Exodus 19:6)*

We tend to think of Jews as people who live in Israel; or whose descendants are from Israel. The children of Israel lived in Canaan, Egypt, the desert, back in Canaan and all over the world. God is with them. In fact, the bible talks about how God is our nation and our home. That is hard to visualize. I suppose that if God is holding together our sub-atomic particles...and the bible describes us as a passing vapor...that he is intimately attending to innumerable things on a molecular level, a cellular level and an organ level. Not to mention the atmosphere on the

earth, and its perfect influence upon us as well as the universe as it pertains to us as well.

*Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. <sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. (Psalm 90)*

*<sup>2</sup> In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And where I go you know, and the way you know.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14)*

Does God have a house for us, or are we part of his house?

*“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. (Revelation 21: 3)*

*Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, <sup>5</sup> you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup> Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,” (1 Peter 2)*