



VAYIGASH - HE APPROACHED

Genesis 44:18 to 47:27
Ezekiel 37:15-28
Colossians 1:1-29

Joseph's Life: Part Three The Brothers At The Altar

It had been a long journey for Joseph leading up to these events in his life. As the Torah portion opens, we read of one last heart test Joseph had for his brothers. How would they respond to his stated intention of keeping their youngest brother Benjamin while the rest of the brothers were sent on their way? Judah risks his life pleading for Benjamin's freedom. He knows that approaching and initiating conversation with a high-ranking official in Pharaoh's court without being summoned could be punishable by death. Judah shared with passion, detailing in chronological order their journey from beginning to end and how the brothers had complied with all that this overseer had asked of them. Judah then shared about their family life, focusing on Benjamin and his father's love for him. That was the main thrust of Judah's story. He also disclosed to Joseph that he was the one who guaranteed Benjamin's safety to their father.

📖 **Genesis 44:27-29** "Your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons. One of them went away from me, and I said, He has surely been torn to pieces. And I have not seen him since. If you take this one from me too and harm comes to him, you will bring my gray head down to the grave in misery.'"

"He has surely been torn to pieces" is a prophetic picture of the twelve tribes of Jacob/Israel separating in the future. History reveals that the tribes did become two kingdoms or two houses - the House of Judah and the House of Israel - with many of the tribes assimilating into the Nations around them *for a season*. Following the pattern of this prophetic biblical narrative, we see in this modern day the twelve tribes now being drawn together by the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh*. Because of this, it is imperative that Benjamin is with them, as he will be the liaison at the future reunification of the Whole House of Israel (Ezekiel 37; Hebrews 8:8-10; Acts 1:6; Romans 11:25-26; Revelation 21:12).

📖 **Romans 11:25-26** "I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you [*believers*] may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles [*Nations*] has come in, and in this way all Israel will

be saved. As it is written [Isaiah 59:20]: ‘The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob [Israel].’ (NIV)

Although Judah was Jacob’s son through Leah, he did not appear reticent or jealous as he acknowledged Rachel’s children were Jacob’s beloved ones. Jacob loved all of his children but Rachel’s sons had a special place in his heart. All of the brothers now understood this and accepted it in their hearts. After his plea for mercy, Judah, in the act of self-sacrifice, offered his life for Benjamin’s life so the boy could return to his father.

Joseph Declares Himself – He Is Alive! Genesis 45

Joseph could no longer contain his emotions. He cried out, “*Have everyone leave my presence!*” Joseph wept so loud that even the Egyptians who had left his presence heard him. There was no outsider with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers.

Just as Joseph revealed his identity privately to his brothers, likewise Yeshua revealed Himself as Messiah to His Israelite brethren, the offspring of the Whole House of Jacob/*Israel*, all twelve tribes.

🌿 **John 20:19** “Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled [*privately*], for fear of the Jews [*Pharisees and the elders*], Jesus/*Yeshua* came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’”

🌿 **Luke 19:41-42** “As Yeshua approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it and said, ‘If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes.’”

Joseph said to them, “*I am Joseph,*” but his brothers were unable to answer him, as they were terrified. Here they stood in the presence of this mighty man. So shocked were they by his words, they could scarcely comprehend or fully take in what he was saying. Secret iniquities long suppressed and concealed suddenly flooded their consciousness. They struggled to grasp the fact that this man standing before them was actually *Joseph, their brother.*

If you had schemed the murder of a man twenty years earlier and now had him standing before you as one of the most influential people of the land, having authority over life and death, you might think that your life was in imminent danger. But more so, here he was their flesh and blood. As the brothers so freely took away Joseph’s life, now Joseph was in the position to take theirs.

Iniquities done in secret will always be seen by God/*Elohim*. If we do not deal with them in our lives, eventually the offenses will be exposed. The brothers’ crimes had now caught up with them. They feared God/*Elohim* was repaying them not only for their murderous hatred toward Joseph but also for the lies they had told their father about his beloved son. The truth was, the

brothers were looking at resurrection life. Joseph had been dead to them and was now standing before them – *alive!* (Genesis 37:2-11).

In the same way, Yeshua was dead to His disciples and then stood before them alive after His crucifixion.

🌿 **Genesis 45:4** Joseph said to his brothers, “*Come close to me.*”

Likewise, Scripture says, “Now in Christ Jesus/*Yeshua HaMashiach* [we] who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ/*Yeshua*” (Ephesians 2:13). Once [we] were alienated from God/*Elohim* and were enemies in [our] minds because of [our] evil behavior. But now he has reconciled [us] by Christ’s/*Yeshua*’s physical body through death to present [us] holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation” (NIV Colossians 1:21-22; John 20:26-28).

Joseph declared again, “*I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!*” Oh, the brothers’ worst fears now openly revealed! Joseph, reading their anguish, said, “*Do not be distressed and angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God/Elohim sent me ahead of you*” (Genesis 45:5).

🌿 **John 11:49-52** “But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, ‘You people don’t know anything! You don’t see that it is better for you if one man dies on behalf of the people, so that the whole nation won’t be destroyed.’ Now he didn’t speak this way on his own initiative; rather, since he was high priest that year, he was prophesying that Jesus/*Yeshua* was about to die on behalf of the nation and not for the nation alone, but so that he might gather into one the scattered children of God/*Elohim* [all twelve tribes of Jacob].”

Joseph had freely forgiven them. Notice the brothers did not respond at this point. Forgiveness is the theme of this study.

Forgiveness

It had been a long twenty-two-year absence. Joseph had given himself up to save his brothers and now they stood before him. At their reunification, many emotions raced through his mind.

Yeshua, of whom Joseph was a type and shadow, anguished in the Garden before giving himself up for the deliverance of His people (Luke 22:39-44).

Why couldn’t Joseph’s brothers recognize him? Bitterness had grown in their hearts that led to their selling Joseph into slavery and because of that, they could not *see* spiritually. It was not Joseph who had been in slavery all these years - *it was his brothers*. They were slaves to the evil inclinations of their hearts.

🌿 **Mark 7:20-23** “And He [*Yeshua*] said, ‘What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications,

murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

Bitterness was the stronghold that prevented Joseph’s brothers from *seeing* the truth before their eyes. All this needed to be revealed, taken responsibility for, and repented of before they could truly *see* him. What happened to Joseph’s brothers will be the same for believers today if they harbor deception and lies within their hearts. Sadly, due to pride, many choose to hide or ignore sin issues rather than seek forgiveness. Without forgiveness, trying to move forward will only leave a trail of shattered lives in its path, and the past will ever be in the present, as we will soon see in the lives of the brothers.

We are learning that the stronghold of bitterness can host seven spirits: unforgiveness, resentment, retaliation, anger, hatred, violence, and murder (and murder with the tongue). Family alienation, both biological and spiritual, is rampant in our society today. God’s/*Elohim* people can no longer deny or excuse sin. Scripture says that if they do, they will suffer poverty, blindness, and nakedness. Only by recognizing iniquity in the heart, taking full responsibility for sin by repenting, then asking for forgiveness will the guilt, consequence, and fear from past iniquity finally be resolved (removed), with the door remaining shut. Then the soul will find rest and peace flood the heart. Following this pattern of holiness, for all past sin, will respect and honor be restored, and the blind given sight once again. Only then can a family (spiritual or physical) come together and be whole again.

📖 **Revelation 3:15-18** “I know *your* works [*sins of dishonor*], that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ - and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked - I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may *see*.”

Joseph had matured in his thirteen years as a slave. While a youth in his father’s house he had studied in the *tents of Jacob* and was familiar with Torah. By the age of seventeen when he was sold into Egypt, he chose to keep a Torah lifestyle. That wisdom saved his life many times over as it will also save those of his family. His brothers had not successfully engaged in this way of life yet, which reflected in the immoral character of their hearts. That is what necessitated their deliverance so they could reestablish Covenant relationship with God/*Elohim* once again.

For some, forgiveness and repentance may not come easily due to the layers of hardness surrounding the heart. Believers, like Joseph’s brothers, tried to hide their dishonesty behind fabricated stories for years hoping they will stay undetected. Concealing unforgiveness and justifying or lying will not drive the guilt away. This conduct deprives people of a full life in Yeshua, as unrepentant and unforgiving lifestyles separate believers from His love. Left unchecked bitterroots can even grow to physical ailments within the body.

Leviticus 16 teaches us that we must forgive others. Yeshua confirmed this, saying,

- ✠ **Matthew 5:23-24** “If you [*believer*] are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother then come and offer your gift.”
- ✠ **Matthew 6:14** “For if you [*believer*] forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive you.”
- ✠ **Mark 11:25** “If you [*believer*] hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you.”
- ✠ **Luke 11:4** “Forgive us our trespasses (Strong’s G266 *hamartia*: sin, from G264 *hamatoano*: to miss the mark), for we also forgive everyone their trespasses.”
- ✠ **1 Corinthians 11:27-30** “Therefore [*believer*], whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord/*Adonai* in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord/*Adonai*. But let a man [*believer*] examine himself, and so let him [*believer*] eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he [*believer*] who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s/*Adonai*’s body. For this reason many [*believers*] are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

Yeshua taught that the difference between *life* and *death* in our lives rests on the choices *we* make for *ourselves* every day, as His Kingdom is built on a service of holiness. He taught that nothing outside of a person could make him or her unclean nor dishonor God/*Elohim* or others unless they chose to.

- ✠ **Mark 7:15** “There is nothing that enters a man [*believer*] from outside which can defile him [*believer*]; but the things which come out of him [*believer*], those are the things that defile a man [*believer*].”

The teaching from Deuteronomy 28 states that if God’s/*Elohim* people touch death, they receive death. If they touch life, they receive His Life. In effect, Scripture is saying, “*Keep guard over My Word, the Gospel spoken at Mt. Sinai, that now resides in your heart, and you will live in my Rest (Presence with authority and power). If you do not observe My Words (given at Mt. Sinai), you will still live in My Presence but miss living under My provisions and authority. Therefore, you will have life, but life without the full benefits and blessings.*”

Yeshua made it very clear in His Word that His people must walk in repentance and forgive others. That is His commandment. If they do not forgive, they *miss the mark*, as all sin is the sin of dishonor. His people cannot approach the altar nor offer daily offerings without first cleansing themselves and forgiving their brother or sister. Otherwise, if they do not forgive, they defile the altar, mock God/*Elohim*, and pronounce judgments upon *themselves*.

Believers who choose not to walk in their redemption are prone to criticizing of others. They sight all kinds of causes, as did Joseph's brothers, blaming others for *their* discontentment. Not one Scripture in all of Torah, from Genesis to Revelation, will substantiate criticism of others to justify sin in our selves. However, many Scriptures demonstrate that if God's/*Elohim* people personally attend to their sin, they will be given new hearts (Ezekiel 11:19-20).

🌿 **2 Chronicles 7:12-20** “Then the LORD/*Yahweh* appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: ‘I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer *made* in this place. For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, and do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, ‘You shall not fail *to have* a man as ruler in Israel.’ But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them, then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples.”

Yeshua's blood covers ALL sin: past, present, and future (Hebrews 9:12). The calling is to be a *holy* people; therefore, our walk must match the confession/oath/vow we made with Him. When His people commit their lives to living in Him yet, hold unforgiveness (*dishonor*) against a brother (*or any other sin in thought or deed*) that action prevents the Body of Yeshua from functioning under His anointing and resurrection power. With so much defilement, His people will not even be allowed to approach the altar. If they are so arrogant as to approach in that condition, their life will suffer poverty and even be shortened by an early death (spiritual and/or physical) (Hebrews 13:12; 1 Peter 2:9; 3:11).

🌿 **1 Corinthians 11:28-31** “But let a man [*believer*] examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup [*the altar/marriage covenant*]. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. *For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.*”

As believers in Yeshua, are we confident in our salvation and walk of righteousness? We may be born again, but have we learned to walk in the redeemed lifestyle we have so freely been given? As His people, called by His Name, can we distinguish between what *Scripture* (He) says is holy and what is not? Do we know His Feast Days, what they mean, and how to observe them? Do we keep them? Do we know how to cleanse the heart and raise the dead? All these are principles in God's/*Elohim* word that are elements containing Yeshua's mercy. These must be learned for them to be understood so they can be observed. These are questions all *believers* need to ask themselves. However, many have been told that these basic primary elements are '*old and have*

passed away, no longer relevant now that they are under the New Covenant.’ Many do realize that by coming into agreement with that theory, they will bypass the vital organs that shape Yeshua’s body.

How does restoration begin? *The word* is the source of all life. It is the wisdom that holds the heart of the universe. Wisdom is learned by *personally* reading *the word* for ourselves, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh*, from the beginning, where *life* began in Genesis (and not skip over Leviticus). Therein lies all of the answers our heart seeks after. His *words* are the source of all life. They are trustworthy to build upon. Walking in His principles leads to sanctification, holiness, and abundant enduring blessings. Therefore, repentance and forgiveness are keys in every believer’s life that will heal the sick, make the lame to walk, enable the blind to see, and resurrect the dead – all called *elementary things* in Hebrews 6:1-2. A walk of righteousness and sanctification provides extra oil for the Bride’s lamp and creates the white linen (wedding) garments (Ezekiel 44:23-24; Matthew 25:1-13; Revelation 19:8).

The teaching of Joseph is a huge blessing for those who take hold of it. If God’s/*Elohim* people are looking for a breakthrough in their lives, they can pray and even cry out, but if they are holding unforgiveness, the plea or petition for help will not yield results. Not until forgiveness is prayed with a sincere heart will the fruit of repentance be witnessed in our lives.

✿ **2 Timothy 1:8-11** “Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord [*Yeshua*], nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God/*Elohim*, who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus/*Yeshua HaMashiach* before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.”

✿ **2 Timothy 3:14-17** “But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus/*Yeshua HaMashiach*. All Scripture [*Genesis to Revelation*] is given by inspiration of God/*Elohim*, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God/*Elohim* may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

✿ **Hebrews 3:15; 4:1-2** “As has just been said: ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion’ (Psalm 95:7-8). Therefore, since the promise of entering his [*Shabbat*] rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel [*Torah*] preached to us, just as they did [*at Mount Sinai*]; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith [*they disobey/dishonored Yahweh’s covenant*].”

The level to which we forgive, is the level of blessing we receive.

📖 **James 1:22** “Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. *Do what it says.*”

📖 **1 Peter 3:7** “Husbands [*Yeshua’s priesthood*], likewise, dwell with them [*your wife*] with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, *that your prayers may not be hindered.*”

Further Revelation Genesis 45

Joseph spoke to his brother’s about the famine and the reason why they were in Egypt, saying,

📖 **Genesis 45:6-7** “For two years now there has been famine in the land and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. But God/*Elohim* sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance” NIV (Psalm 105:17).

Joseph continued, “He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God/*Elohim* (Genesis 45:8). Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God/*Elohim* has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me don’t delay’” (2 Corinthians 1:10).

In the same manner, Yeshua also prayed for His disciples, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted Him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those you have given Him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God/*Elohim*, and Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*, whom you sent” (John 17:1-3).

Joseph revealed they would be living near him in the land of Goshen.

Likewise, Yeshua told believers,

📖 **John 13:2-4** “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’ 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. And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

Goshen is also referred to as the *land of lights* (Exodus 10:23), which is prophetic of the coming of the Messiah Yeshua, the Light of the world who brings light (freedom from slavery) to the nations (John 8:12; Isaiah 51:4). One of the primary objectives of our Redeemer is the deliverance of the twelve tribes from the nations and the removal of the yoke of slavery from within their camp (Matthew 10:6; 15:24; Luke 15:4-6).

In all Joseph’s sharing, it was evident; he held no retribution in his heart toward his brothers, as God’s/*Elohim* plans were higher than their plans - *to bring about a great deliverance*. They, on the other hand, needed to take responsibility for their contempt against him. Only after Joseph reported all the news to his brothers did he approach Benjamin. He threw his arms around him

and wept. Joseph then kissed and embraced all of his brothers and also wept over them (Genesis 45:14).

Pharaoh offered carts to help bring their father Jacob and household to Egypt. The carts also give us prophetic insight into the night of Passover when carts would be used to deliver the Israelites from Egypt (Genesis 45:21).

When it was time for the brothers to journey back to Jacob, Joseph furnished them with provisions.

✚ **Genesis 45:22-23** “To each of them he gave new clothing [*signifying change in status*] but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five sets of clothing [*reflection of Torah*]. To his father he gave ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other provisions.”

Ten signified completion and multiplication. It was also prophetic of the future ten *lost* tribes of Jacob who will return from captivity (Acts 26:7; James 1:1; Revelation 21:12). These, together with the grain, representing God’s/*Elohim* Word/Torah, would confirmation to Jacob that Joseph was indeed alive and had kept the Torah lifestyle from his youth. Only Torah principles could produce abundant prosperity in a time of famine (end times).

When Joseph sent his brothers home, he warned them saying, “*Do not quarrel on the way!*” Joseph knew they were still reticent after the reveal and would talk among themselves out of Joseph’s hearing.

✚ **Philippians 3:13-14** Paul wrote to the saints at Philippi, “Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God/*Elohim* has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus/*Yeshua HaMashiach*.”

Once home, the brothers shared with their father Jacob that Joseph was alive. At first, he did not believe them, and then his sons told him everything Joseph had asked them to say. It was not until Jacob saw the carts, the signal that Joseph was indeed alive, that Jacob’s spirit revived.

“And *Israel* said, ‘I’m convinced! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die’” (Genesis 45:27-28).

Jacob Goes To Egypt Genesis 46

With the news that Joseph was alive, Jacob was free to go to Egypt. He departed with his whole family, all their livestock, and possessions. Feeling overwhelmed he stopped on route and offered sacrifices at Beersheba. This was the same location where years earlier Isaac had confirmed the firstborn blessing over Jacob before fleeing his brother Esau. Now in his old age, God/*Elohim* spoke to Jacob in a night vision calling him *Israel* and said, “*I am God/Elohim, the God/Elohim of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation*”

there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes” (Genesis 28:10; Genesis 46:3-4).

✚ **Acts 7:9-15** “Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God/*Elohim* was with him and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt. So Pharaoh made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace. Then a famine struck all Egypt and Canaan, bringing great suffering, and our ancestors could not find food. When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our forefathers on their first visit. On their second visit, Joseph told his brothers who he was, and Pharaoh learned about Joseph’s family. After this, Joseph sent for his father Jacob and his whole family, seventy-five in all. Then Jacob went down to Egypt, where he and our ancestors died.” (NIV)

As they approached their destination, Jacob sent Judah on ahead to Joseph, who had come out to meet his family in Goshen/*the land of light*. A deeper understanding of this Scripture reveals how Jacob ardently desired to witness this *Melchizedek* union of his two children, Judah and Joseph (Judah representing the kingly side (*melech*) and Joseph, the priestly side (*zadok*). This reunion would foreshadow the people of *the House of Israel* and *the House of Judah* coming together in one heart in Yeshua (Genesis 46:28; Acts 1:6, 26:7; James 1:1; Revelation 21:12).

✚ **Genesis 46:29-30** “So Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; and he presented himself to him, and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while. And Israel said to Joseph, ‘Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you *are* still alive.’ Joseph’s second dream was now fulfilled” (Genesis 46: 29-30; 37:2-11).

Joseph appeared before his father at the age of forty. Forty relates to a period of probation, trial, and tribulation leading to elevation.

Pharaoh

Joseph now prepared his family to meet Pharaoh. Pharaoh received them and asked their occupation. Shepherding was considered the lowest of all professions, which helped keep the Israelites from mingling with Egyptian society and locate them as far away as possible in the land of Goshen. Before returning to serve Pharaoh, Joseph promised to care for his family keeping them regularly supplied with food. Even though the world around them had entered into a deep famine, those following the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did not lack but were brought increased prosperity. It will be the same for believers. If they find themselves in a time of famine (*end times*), when they obey God/*Elohim*, keeping pure hearts before Him, there will always be provision for their lives. That is His Covenantal promise to His people.

Although his family was with him, Joseph remained faithful in God/*Elohim* assignment - that of looking after Pharaoh’s interests. There were still five years of famine ahead with a considerable amount of work to accomplish. Therefore, he continued to execute Pharaoh’s affairs and sold grain to its people. Later he would trade grain for land. Soon Pharaoh owned all of the lands.

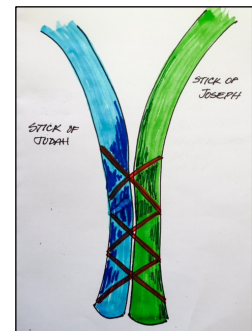
Afterward, Joseph gave grain to the people and taught them to return one-fifth of their harvest. In this way, the people did not starve, and the land was not left desolate.

One Nation Under One King

Ezekiel 37

Ezekiel was from a priestly family of the sons of Zadok. Around the year 597 or 596 BC, at the age of twenty-five, he was exiled along with the House of Judah into Babylon. Five years later Ezekiel was called into prophetic office and became a student of Jeremiah. His prophetic calling was to the ten northern tribes – the House of Israel.

📖 **Ezekiel 37:15-28** “Again the word of the LORD/*Yahweh* came to me, saying, ‘As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: *For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions*. Then take another stick and write on it, *for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel, his companions*. Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand.’”



“And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, ‘Will you not show us what you mean by these?’ – ‘say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD/*Adonai Elohim*: Surely I will take the stick of *Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim*, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of *Judah*, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand. And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.’”

“Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD/*Adonai Elohim*: Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God/*Elohim*.’”

“David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children’s children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God/*Elohim*, and they shall be My people. The nations also will know that I, the LORD/*Yahweh*, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.’”

The prophecy of Ezekiel is still unfolding today. *Judah, the House of Judah* and those associated with him is coming together with *Joseph through his son Ephraim, the House of Israel* and those related to him. Yes, opposition has risen between the Two Houses but a faithful remnant *from* the House of Judah and a true remnant *from* the House of Israel, those who walk in the understanding of Ezekiel 37, are coming together unified in heart becoming one in Yeshua under His blood Covenant. Scripture does not say everyone must come into the tribe of Judah or that everyone is to come into the tribe of Joseph. Scripture says that all twelve tribes will be recognizable, unified by the Spirit/*Ruach*, for one purpose and one heart - to serve Yeshua in His Kingdom on earth. No longer will there be a separation between the Jews and Joseph (*gentile*). All are coming home as one in understanding, purpose, and heart just as God/*Elohim* foretold through His prophets and through the testimony of His Son, Yeshua (For more information on the unity of man's heart in Yeshua, please refer to the *Eikev* study in the Deuteronomy section of Sheepfold Gleanings www.sheepfoldgleanings.com). (Acts 1:6, 26:7; Hebrews 8:8-10; James 1:1; Revelation 21:12).

🌿 **2 Chronicles 30:10-13** “So the runners passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun; but they laughed at them and mocked them. Nevertheless some [*a remnant*] from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. Also the hand of God/*Elohim* was on Judah to give them ***singleness of heart*** to obey the command of the king and the leaders, at the word of the LORD/*Yahweh* [*to meet at His appointed time*]. Now many people, a very great assembly, gathered at Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread [*Passover*] in the second month.”

To be continued...

Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

Reference

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Ezekiel 37 - One In Heart: Eikev/Deuteronomy www.sheepfoldgleanings.com
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