

FINAL STUDY NOTES - GENESIS CHAPTERS 44 & 45 - 9/9 -10/2024

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - Audio & notes - previous studies

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzlrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)

Dial by your location a

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York);

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzlrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- Beginning Tuesday, June 4, 2024, TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, Suggest using *WAZE* ([waze.com/live map](http://waze.com/live-map)) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=TK5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,85309150746# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York);

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=TK5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

HAVING TROUBLE LOGGING INTO Zoom? <https://www.technipages.com/troubleshooting-zoom-login-errors>

OPENING PRAYER

Genesis Chapter 44 – Joseph’s Cup (vs. 1-17); Judah Intercedes for Benjamin – (vs. 18-34)!
Genesis Chapter 45 – Joseph Revealed to His Brothers (vs. 1-28)!

Joseph's brothers have returned to Egypt the second time to buy grain. At the instructions of Joseph, they have brought their youngest brother Benjamin with them this time. Joseph has invited them to his house for lunch, seating them around the table according to their age. He is questioning them again concerning the well-being of their father: Is he in good health? Then he said, "Is this the younger brother," looking at Benjamin, "that you spoke to me about?" They said, "Yes." Joseph then said, "The Lord bless you my son, be gracious to

you." He yearned so much to just go over and grab him and hug him, but he was still keeping his little game going. So instead, he just couldn't hold back anymore so he went into the other room and just wept. Then he washed his face and came out and ordered lunch to be served. Joseph had Benjamin's plate piled five times higher than the rest of them. So after this time of merriment with his brothers, chapter 44, we note how the ten brothers passed this test!

As we come into the climax of this great and wonderful reunion, consider its impact on Joseph; on his ten brothers; on Judah; on Benjamin; on Jacob; and on us!

Joseph Tests His Brothers

Gen 44:1 And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack.

Gen 44:2 Also put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his grain money." So he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken.

- **Joseph is actually setting up a plot where he can get his brother Benjamin alone.** He orders his steward to fill the brothers' sacks with grain, just to the brim, then to put their gold in the mouths of the sacks, but in the sack of Benjamin put the silver cup, which was no doubt a very ornate cup.

Gen 44:3 As soon as the morning dawned, the men were sent away, they and their donkeys.

Gen 44:4 When they had gone out of the city, and were not yet far off, Joseph said to his steward, "Get up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good?"

- **In the morning as his brothers got up early to begin their journey back to the land of Canaan** to their father Jacob, they bid farewell and they take off. As they get to the city limits, Joseph orders his steward go out and pursue them and asking why they would return evil for good. Joseph said that I invited them to lunch. I was gracious to them and all. And they have returned evil for good! Someone ripped off my silver cup.

Gen 44:5 Is not this the one from which my lord drinks, and with which he indeed practices divination? You have done evil in so doing.' "

- **Joseph wanted them to believe that he had the power of divination.** That is probably why he set them according to their age around the table. They probably began to figure at that point that, hey, this guy is plugged in someplace special. So he said, "That is the cup that I divine with. One of you ripped it off."

Gen 44:6 So he overtook them, and he spoke to them these same words.

Gen 44:7 And they said to him, "Why does my lord say these words? Far be it from us that your servants should do such a thing.

- **The steward caught up with him and he did according to Joseph's command** and he said, "Hey you guys, this is not very fair. Here the man treated you so well and now you return evil and one of you ripped off his silver cup. Don't you realize that that is the cup that he uses for divination?"

Gen 44:8 Look, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house?

Gen 44:9 With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves."

- **They were shocked that they should be charged with such a crime.** So they said, "Look, search through our things. In whoever's belongings you find the silver cup in, let him be put to death and we'll all become his slaves. Earlier, Jacob had said to Laban re stealing his gods, (*Gen 31:32a*) *With whomever you find your gods, do not let him live*. We are sure we didn't do it." So they let down their sacks and they began to go through them from Reuben the eldest on down until they came to Benjamin's. As they poured out Benjamin's sack, here was the silver cup!

Gen 44:10 And he (the steward, speaking in the name of Joseph – v.17) said, "Now also let it be according to your words; he with whom it is found shall be my slave, and you shall be blameless."

- **He with whom it is found shall be my slave, and you shall be blameless.** Joseph had said in effect, Look, I don't want all of you as slaves. We'll just take the one as a slave who has the cup!

Gen 44:11 Then each man speedily let down his sack to the ground, and each opened his sack.

Gen 44:12 So he (the steward) searched. He began with the oldest and left off with the youngest; and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

Gen 44:13 Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city.

- **Then they tore their clothes. Just like Jacob had done twenty years earlier. (Gen 37:34)** *Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days.*
- **Each man...returned to the city!** Joseph is really testing his brothers to see if there has been any real change. These guys are not the most honorable guys in the world. They were a pretty rough bunch of kids growing up. They, of course, had dealt extremely treacherously with Joseph, plotting to kill him, and then selling him as a slave. Yet Joseph is aware of the fact that God is intending to create from these guys a nation, a nation that would be particularly blessed of God, a nation through which God would ultimately bring the Messiah into the world. **Would I have chosen to go back?**
- **But Joseph is putting them to the test. Twenty years have gone by** since they sold him, maybe they have changed. They've grown up now. They have families. They have children and maybe their attitude has improved. Do they bear the same animosity for Benjamin that they bore for Joseph? Do they want to get rid of him, too, like they got rid of Joseph? Are they jealous of their father Jacob's preferential treatment of Benjamin? Joseph is really putting them to the test. A test, which incidentally, they all passed when they loaded up their sacks and came back to the city.
- **If Benjamin were to be enslaved or die, probably their father would die too.** In that event they no longer desired to return home or even live. This decision on their part speaks volumes about the change in character that had taken place in their lives the past 20 years, especially in the recent period associated with the famine and their experiences in Egypt.
- **Now, had they wanted to get rid of Benjamin, they could have just taken off for home, saying,** "Well, Dad's old. If he dies, he dies. He is going to die before long anyhow. Then we will have the full inheritance, even that which belonged to Benjamin." Had they still been jealous and greedy, here was a tremendous opportunity for them to be free now of Rachel's children. Having gotten rid of Joseph, now they can get rid of Benjamin. But, instead of just taking off for home and saying, "Man, Benjamin, that was a stupid thing to do. We'll tell Dad that you're a slave in Egypt! But they all loaded up and came back into town having torn their clothes as an expression of great consternation of grief of being overcome by the circumstances! You just rip your clothes. It is horrible.

Gen 44:14 *So Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, and he was still there; and they fell (bowed down again!) before him on the ground.*

Gen 44:15 *And Joseph said to them, "What deed is this you have done? Did you not know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?"*

- Did you realize that I would know these kind of things?

Gen 44:16 *Then Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; here we are, my lord's slaves, both we and he also with whom the cup was found."*

- **Judah was clearly the spokesman for the brothers from this time on.** By now he was a strong man of godly character and compassion. He felt quite helpless, seeing the evidence of Benjamin's guilt was overwhelming. There was really no way he could prove his innocence. Significantly, even though Benjamin was the only one charged, Judah acknowledged they were all equally involved. If Benjamin was guilty, so were they all! Furthermore, he confessed their recognition that they all deserved punishment. Even though they were innocent in this particular situation, they were very guilty sinners and God has found out the iniquity of them all! He and his brothers were deeply burdened with the enormity of their deed and selling Joseph into bondage 20 years ago. Now it was only fitting that they themselves should also become slaves in Egypt for the rest of their days.
- **God has found out the iniquity of your servants!** Joseph is referring back to that selling of himself as a slave! The guilt has hung on! Over twenty years this guilt has been plaguing their conscience! Now when this real trouble overtakes them, in their minds they go back to their guilt. It is still there. It hangs on like a plague. It won't let go. So is guilt. Unconfessed sin hangs on you like a plague. You may repress it. You may bury it in the inner recesses of the sub-consciousness, but it is still there. Sooner or later it comes out to plague you. God has found out the iniquity of your servants! We are guilty."

Gen 44:17 *But he (Joseph) said, "Far be it from me that I should do so; the man in whose hand the cup was found, he shall be my slave. And as for you, go up in peace to your father."*

- *As for you, go up in peace to your father. All we want is just the guilty culprit! (Pro 17:15) He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.*

Gen 44:18 Then Judah came near to him and said: "O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's hearing, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you are even like Pharaoh.

- Judah rises up now and gives one of the most beautiful intercessions in all of the Bible!

Gen 44:19 My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father or a brother?'

Gen 44:20 And we said to my lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, who is young; his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.'

Gen 44:21 Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.'

Gen 44:22 And we said to my lord, 'The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.'

Gen 44:23 But you said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.'

Gen 44:24 "So it was, when we went up to your servant my father, that we told him the words of my lord.

Gen 44:25 And our father said, 'Go back and buy us a little food.'

Gen 44:26 But we said, 'We cannot go down; if our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down; for we may not see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.'

Gen 44:27 Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons;

- Remember Joseph is looking now to see what their attitude is toward their father. You know then your servant my father said to us, you know that my wife bore me two sons from Rachel, who was the love of his life! Rachel, of course, had died in childbirth with Benjamin.

Gen 44:28 and the one went out from me, and I said, "Surely he is torn to pieces"; and I have not seen him since.

Gen 44:29 But if you take this one also from me, and calamity befalls him, you shall bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave.'

Gen 44:30 "Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad's life,

Gen 44:31 it will happen, when he sees that the lad is not with us, that he will die. So your servants will bring down the gray hair of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave.

Gen 44:32 For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father forever.'

Gen 44:33 Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers.

- Really, Judah is passing the final test here! Not only is he unwilling to forsake Benjamin to his fate, now he is offering himself to be a substitute for Benjamin. "Let me take his place! Let me take his guilt. Let me become a slave. And let him return to his father." He is really passing the supreme test at this point! In this, Judah becomes a very beautiful type of Christ taking the place of the guilty, taking the penalty of the guilty; Christ, our substitute. *(1Jn 3:16) By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. Thus, it was from Judah and from the tribe of Judah that the Messiah was to come.* Here he is volunteering to be the substitute for his brother!
- **If I had been one of the ten brothers in this situation, how likely would my behavior have been like Judah's Christ-like in his stepping forward to take the place of Benjamin, in being a slave for life? Of the nine remaining brothers, would I have been the next or the last? Would I had volunteered as Judah did?**

Gen 44:34 For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?"

- This beautiful intercession of Judah for his brother Benjamin, in the volunteering of taking his guilt and taking his place as a slave! It is too much for Joseph!

Joseph Provides for His Brothers and Family

Gen 45:1 Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

- **He couldn't restrain himself anymore!** He ordered all his Egyptian servants out of the room.

Gen 45:2 And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.

Gen 45:3 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed (terrified) in his presence.

- **Joseph, no longer speaking through an interpreter, announced to them in their own language, "I am Joseph!"** It was like a lightning bolt! Words not only failed the brothers, but commentators as well, who had tried to describe this indescribable scene. Perhaps it is **the most dramatic confrontation** and reunion in all literature! It is far more than literature. This was the event which established the miracle nation of the Children of Israel! This was the founding of that unique people through whom the Scriptures would be given to the world, and through whom one day the Savior would come!

Gen 45:4 And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.

- **Here is another place, of the many, where Joseph becomes a beautiful type of Christ.** Jesus came to His own and His own received him not. He was despised and rejected by His brothers. The nation of Israel rejected Jesus when He came as the Messiah. He was not recognized by them the first time.
- **Joseph's brothers did not recognize him the first time they saw Him.** But the second time he saw his brothers is when he revealed himself to them. Even as Jesus will reveal Himself to Israel when He comes again as their Messiah. Not recognized the first time, but reveals Himself to them the second time. There is that great prophecy, which shall be fulfilled in (*Zec 12:10*) "*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.*
- **Now it seems that when he first said, "I am Joseph," they were so stunned** that it didn't really sink in. They were terrified. They really didn't know at this point what was going to happen. If this is Joseph, he was probably going to take vengeance on all of us now. You know, we did such a dastardly thing to him and now we are totally at his mercy and he, no doubt, is going to really get even. "I am Joseph," he said, "Please come near to me." He said, "*I am Joseph your brother whom you sold into Egypt.*

Gen 45:5 But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Gen 45:6 For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.

Gen 45:7 And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

- **This is so like Christ!** It was not Joseph's brothers that sent him to Egypt; just as it was neither the Romans or the Jews that sent our Lord to the cross, it was God! (*Joh 3:16, 17*) *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. [17] For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

Gen 45:8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

- **Joseph sees behind the obvious material things, seeing into the realm of the Spirit.** Now he sees the eternal plan of God. He realizes that his coming to Egypt was providentially ordained by God. It was a part of God's plan for the preservation of the family. God, knowing that this horrible famine was going to come, twenty years before the famine, prepared for the family of Jacob to be preserved by sending Joseph ahead to Egypt!
- **Joseph had to go through pain, much suffering, and much hardship** in order for the purposes of God to be fulfilled. How often the purposes of God are fulfilled through temporary pain and suffering. I am certain that Joseph did not understand the plan of God when he was being carried

away to Egypt, pleading with his brothers and their turning a deaf ear to him. I am certain that Joseph wasn't aware of the plan of God when he was sitting in that Egyptian jail after the false accusation of Potiphar's wife. But now God is completing the cycle! Now he is over the land, now he sees the whole purpose of God was the preservation of Israel!

- **Thinking back in my life, can I remember a situation or situations where an event or season of great difficulties was really God fulfilling His purposes in me?**
- **Psalm 105** has an interesting commentary on this particular portion of the history of Israel. (*Psa 105:16-18*) Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread. [17] He sent a man before them—Joseph—who was sold as a slave. [18] They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons. Joseph's experience in the prison wasn't all pleasant, a clubhouse. It wasn't like a lot of our prisons today. Not so with Joseph, he was in fetters. His feet were hurt with the fetter and he was laid in irons.
- **Imagine being there in jail for several years not knowing the plan or the purpose of God**, not really yet understanding. What a test of faith! What a test of faith in the love of God or the providential care of God for His children! Here is a man who's done nothing wrong, yet was despised and hated by his brothers. Here is a man who has done nothing wrong and yet was falsely accused of rape, thrown in the jail, put in irons and in fetters, suffering pains and hurts while he waits.
- **I would not have passed the test as well as Joseph.** I may have been afraid that in prison I would have been praying prayers that expressed my doubt of God's goodness and love and concern for me.
- **If I have a trial that lasts a week, I find myself really beginning to chafe and to cry out** unto God. "Oh Lord, what is going on? Why have You forsaken me? God, I have been crying for a week and You haven't answered. You haven't done anything. Why? Why?" Here he was for years in the fetters, in the chains, tested by God. I see where I have a long way to go in my trusting God!
- **There are many times in the scripture things that were intended for evil** against the children of God, God had a plan and a purpose in them and He turned them around for good. So many times we see this happening, and here is a classic example. His brothers intended it for evil, but God meant it for good. God's plan was being unfolded even in the evil designs that they had against him.
- **There is a beautiful scripture that says, (*Isa 54:17a*) No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn.** Satan may shoot his arrows at you but God will turn them around for your benefit, for your good! We have to trust in God, believing that God is in control!

Gen 45:9 "Hurry (9x in Bible, 2x here) and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry."

Gen 45:10 You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have.

- **The land of Goshen was one of the most fertile areas of Egypt.** It was in the Nile delta and it encompassed an area of about 900 square miles, which is roughly twice the size of the city of Los Angeles. So you'll come down. You'll live here near me. Tell my dad what God has done for me, making me the lord over the land.

Gen 45:11 There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine."

Gen 45:12 "And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you.

- **For Benjamin, there had never been such a day in all his life!** Indeed, he would tell his father what he had seen and heard that day! *I am Joseph your son!*

Gen 45:13 So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here."

Gen 45:14 Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck.

Gen 45:15 Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

- **Now they were rather speechless up to this point.** They didn't know who he was or what was going on. They were totally shocked! This is our little brother Joseph. They cannot believe it!

Gen 45:16 Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well.

- **Joseph was so loved in Egypt.** They realized that this fellow had actually been the salvation of the nation. Had he not interpreted the dream and had he not set up the storehouses of grain, they would really be hurting now. There would be starvation by now. They are so appreciative of Joseph, and when they hear his brothers have come, everybody is happy and rejoicing.

Gen 45:17 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and depart; go to the land of Canaan.

Gen 45:18 Bring your father and your households and come to me; I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land.

- **Come to me!** Jesus used this phrase – *come to Me*, eleven times!

Gen 45:19 Now you are commanded—do this: Take carts out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives; bring your father and come.

Gen 45:20 Also do not be concerned about your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours."

- **The red carpet is rolled out for Jacob and the family to come down into Egypt.** The commandment of the Pharaoh, "Take carts out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives; bring your father and come."

Gen 45:21 Then the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them carts, according to the command of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey.

Gen 45:22 He gave to all of them, to each man, changes of garments; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments.

Gen 45:23 And he sent to his father these things: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and food for his father for the journey.

Gen 45:24 So he sent his brothers away, and they departed; and he said to them, "See that you do not become troubled along the way."

Gen 45:25 Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father.

Gen 45:26 And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them.

- **His heart quit beating! He just couldn't believe it!** It was just too much of a shock. Joseph, the one who I loved, the one I mourned for is still alive! He is governor of Egypt! He could not believe them.
- **What situation in my life is the most similar to Jacob's, where I had felt "things are against me," has turned to where my "heart stood still," seeing God turn it to such a dramatic change at that described here?**

Gen 45:27 But when they told him all the words which Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived (chayah – restore to life).

- **Notice the words describing Jacob – going from his "heart stood still" to his "spirit revived"!** (Jdg 15:18,19) *Then he (Samson) became very thirsty; so he cried out to the LORD and said, "You have given this great deliverance by the hand of Your servant; and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?" [19] God split the hollow place that is in Lehi, and water came out, and he drank; and his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore he called its name En Hakkore, which is in Lehi to this day.*
- **(1Ki 17:17,22) Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him. [22] Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.**

Gen 45:28 Then Israel (after calling him Jacob in verses 25-27, suddenly begins calling him Israel again!) said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

- **It is enough** (rab-exceedingly abundant)! **One thing and one thing only, concerned Israel. He would be able to see Joseph again!** That was enough!
- **This is one of the most beautiful, dramatic stories in all of literature.** In fact, it is so perfect and so beautiful, it could not have been made up. It's got to be a real story. A real happening! It is one that just is so fraught with emotion and beauty! Only God could plan such a beautiful story!

- There is no greater example in the Bible of God's gracious watch and care over His own. A multiplicity of seemingly accidental and unrelated events, which appear difficult at the time are gradually woven together by His unseen and divine hand into a glorious tapestry in which every portion is ideally situated in its right place.
- For believers going through sufferings and reverses, the story of Joseph has always given assurance of ultimate understanding, whereby the believer is discovering a greater good and God receiving a greater glory than could ever have been possible without them.
- As we get into chapter 46 and 47, we find Jacob coming down and becoming settled in the land of Egypt. So next week we'll continue our journey with Jacob down into the land of Egypt.

SUMMARY

- ***If I had been one of the ten brothers in this situation, how likely would my behavior have been like Judah's Christ-like in his stepping forward to take the place of Benjamin, in being a slave for life? Of the nine remaining brothers, would I have been the next or the last? Would I had volunteered as Judah did? (Gen 44:33) Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers.***
- ***Thinking back in my life, can I remember a situation or situations where an event or season of great difficulties was really God fulfilling His purposes in me? (Gen 45:8) So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.***
- ***What situation in my life is the most similar to Jacob's, where I had felt "things are against me," has turned to where my "heart stood still," seeing God turn it to such a dramatic change at that described here? (Gen 45:26) And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them.***
- ***(Gen 45:8a) So now it was not you who sent me here, but God! Oh! I see a victory! You have taken what the enemy meant for evil, and You turn it for good!***

CLOSING SONG

SEE A VICTORY Elevation Worship (4:15/4:19)

*The weapon may be formed But it won't prosper When the darkness falls, it won't prevail
'Cause the God I serve knows only how to triumph My God will never fail Oh, my God will never fail
I'm gonna see a victory I'm gonna see a victory For the battle belongs to you Lord
I'm gonna see a victory I'm gonna see a victory For the battle belongs to you Lord
There's power in the mighty name of Jesus Every war He wages, He will win
Oh, I'm not backing down from any giant 'Cause, I know how this story ends
I'm gonna see a victory I'm gonna see a victory For the battle belongs to You Lord
I'm gonna see a victory I'm gonna see a victory For the battle belongs to You Lord
Gonna worship my way through this battle Gonna worship my way through
You take what the enemy meant for evil And you turn it for good You turn it for good (3x)
I'm gonna see a victory I'm gonna see a victory For the battle belongs to you Lord (3x)
You take what the enemy meant for evil And you turn it for good
You turn it for good (You turn it around) You take what the enemy meant for evil
And you turn it for good You turn it for good
They're working it out They're working it for my God*

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Read and study Genesis Chapters 46-48!