

**God's Prevailing Grace:  
The Blessings of Reconciliation  
Genesis 45:1-47:27  
October 4, 2023**

Sin and its effects on lives have consistently been seen throughout Genesis.

In Genesis 43-44 we began to turn the corner in the narrative of Jacob's family from a family divided by conflict and sin to a family on the road to reconciliation and restoration. This passage detailed the brothers' second visit to Egypt. When the brothers arrive in Egypt:

- They're brought to Joseph's house.
- Simeon is returned to them.
- They have a great feast with Joseph.
- They're amazed as they're seated in birth order.
- Their hearts are tested as Benjamin receives five times the serving that the other brothers receive.

One final test of the brothers' hearts is undertaken as they leave to return to Canaan:

- Joseph's cup is placed in Benjamin's sack of grain.
- Joseph's steward overtakes the brothers and commences a search.
- When the cup is discovered in Benjamin's sack all the brothers return to Joseph's house.
- Judah takes his place as the leader of the family and pleads to Joseph for the life of his brother.

As we studied Genesis 43-44, we saw the heart transformation that took place within these brothers.

Tonight's passage is another demonstration in this portion of Genesis of God's prevailing grace.

### **I. Gracious Revelation (Chapter 45)**

After Judah's impassioned plea at the end of Genesis 44, verse 1 of chapter 45 tells us that Joseph could no longer control his emotions.

Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers and speaks directly to them and not through a translator.

Imagine that you're one of the brothers and you're standing before the Egyptian prime minister who suddenly sends everyone out and then speaks to you in your native language telling you that he is your brother whom you have grievously sinned against by plotting to kill him and later selling him into slavery!

But in this gracious revelation of Joseph, he seemingly senses their fear and says in verse 4 “Come near to me, please.”

Note that in verses 5-8 Joseph did not excuse what they did or absolve them of what they willfully did in selling him into slavery. But in addition to that in these statements Joseph wrested from his brothers any sense that they were ultimately in control and pointed them to the One who was and is and will always be in control – God!

After Joseph indicates to them that they are to go to get their father and their families because there will still be five more years of famine.

Pharaoh learns of his brothers’ arrival. Pharaoh speaks to Joseph and commands him concerning his family, in many ways reiterating Joseph’s instructions to his brothers.

“Do not quarrel on the way” – these are wise words for brothers who might be given to quarreling as they consider all that occurred during their second visit to Egypt and as they consider how they’re going to explain to their father all that occurred during their second visit to Egypt.

*What characteristics of God are shown in Joseph’s words and actions in Gen. 45?*

After the brothers arrive in Canaan Jacob is told that Joseph is still alive and that he’s the ruler of Egypt and Jacob’s heart initially goes numb (stunned – NIV).

## **II. Promise-filled Relocation (46:1-27)**

As Israel begins the journey to Egypt verse 1 of chapter 46 tells us he comes to Beersheba. Beersheba was a place of worship for the patriarchs.

As God appears to Jacob at Beersheba it should be remarked that this will be the last instance where God will speak directly to man in Genesis and the next instance of God speaking to man will be 430 years later when he speaks to Moses in Exodus 3.

And after giving us the words that God spoke to Jacob the rest of the chapter details the names of Jacob’s family members who settled in Egypt.

*Consider the promises that God previously spoke to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3), Isaac (Gen. 26:2-5), and Jacob (Gen. 28:13-15). What are the similarities and differences between what God previously spoke to them and what He speaks to Jacob in Gen. 46:3-4?*

*In what ways are the partial fulfillment of those previous promises seen in Gen. 46?*

### **III. Sovereign Separation (46:28-47:27)**

As Jacob and his family arrive in Egypt, Judah is sent ahead of Jacob further cementing his role as the leader of the family. The family is directed to settle in Goshen. Here Joseph and Jacob are reunited.

Joseph then gives instructions to his brothers and the rest of the household on how to respond to Pharaoh when they are questioned by him. He presents a plan to keep the family separate from the Egyptians by indicating that his family members are shepherds and keepers of livestock.

At the beginning of chapter 47 Pharaoh meets the members of the household and they respond as they were instructed by Joseph.

Jacob also meets Pharaoh.

And after this meeting verse 11 tells us that "...Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded." The nature of this separation is even more pronounced as one contrasts Jacob's family gaining possession of land in Egypt with the approach undertaken between Joseph and the Egyptians as the famine grew more severe.

As the Egyptians are giving their money, giving their livestock, and then selling their land and themselves in exchange for grain and seed, the contrast is seen in verse 27.

*In what ways are the partial fulfillment of the previous promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob seen in Gen. 47?*

*What are points of application that can be drawn from Genesis 45:1-47:27 by the first hearers and by us?*