

## Chapter 45

If we didn't have the opening verses of chapter 37 we would think Joseph is the main character of the story and that this portion of Scripture was the climax, but since we know that this portion of the book is about "the generations of Jacob" (37:2), we know to keep reading.

**45 Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out,** These last two or three chapters were the process of guiding his brothers into repentance while he himself had to have a real sense of Providence... which is evident in verse 8. **"Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him<sup>a</sup> while Joseph made himself known to his brothers.<sup>2</sup> And he<sup>b</sup> wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.** If you were assigned to keep Joseph safe, what would you think once you were put out and heard weeping?

<sup>3</sup>**Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?"** Jacob would believe a lie until his dying day if it were not for **Joseph's** persistence with **his brothers**

**could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.<sup>4</sup> And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother,** Joseph was probably fixed up like a world-empire despot (and of course it had been 22 years since his **brothers** had gotten rid of him). <sup>d</sup>**whom you sold into Egypt.<sup>5</sup> But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; <sup>e</sup>for God sent me before you to preserve life.<sup>6</sup> For these two years the<sup>f</sup> famine** This means we are 9 years past his first time before Pharaoh. This makes Joseph 39 and his father around 130 years old. *has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.* <sup>7</sup>**And God<sup>g</sup> sent me before you** We will never help anybody as counselor if we don't quickly point to **God's** involvement in the big picture.

**to preserve a<sup>1</sup> posterity for you in the earth** Joseph said they would not be looking at each other for him to save them if they had not sinned. What room is there for regret? There is no salvation for Joseph's brothers if they don't sin in the first place. In the salvation meta-narrative of Scripture, nobody who is perfect has a Savior. Joseph can feed the whole world because of the sins of his brother. This is so Christ-like. See Zechariah 12:10 & 13:6 as a place to consider this. John 20:21 is beautiful thing, given the disciples' failure to stick it out with Jesus.

**and to save your lives by a great deliverance.<sup>8</sup> So now it was not you who sent me here, but<sup>h</sup> God** We would rather say "Joseph was a poor theologian." However, he walked with **God** for some time and knew the character of Christ. **God sent**—through hatred, envy, indiscretion, bitterness, slavery, Ishmaelites (and therefore adultery), favoritism, or any kind of wickedness—this man to Egypt.

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<sup>a</sup> Acts 7:13

<sup>b</sup> Gen. 43:30; 46:29

<sup>c</sup> Gen. 43:27; Acts 7:13

<sup>d</sup> Gen. 37:28; 39:1; Ps. 105:17

<sup>e</sup> Gen. 45:7, 8; 50:20; Ps. 105:16, 17

<sup>f</sup> Gen. 43:1; 47:4, 13

<sup>g</sup> Gen. 45:5; 50:20

<sup>1</sup> remnant

<sup>h</sup> [Rom. 8:28]

**and He has made me <sup>i</sup>a father to Pharaoh**, he married the daughter of a priest so maybe that is why he is called **a father**? He was known, after all, as a diviner. **and lord of all his house, and a <sup>j</sup>ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.**

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<sup>i</sup> Judg. 17:10; Is. 22:21

<sup>j</sup> Gen. 41:43; 42:6