

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 45

Chapter forty-five is the high point to the story of Joseph and his brothers. Remember this is a seamless story with no chapter breaks in the original Hebrew text. The story is dramatic in every way. If you have read along in these chapters, you realize immediately the intensity with which the story is rehearsed generation after generation until Moses is inspired and instructed to write it down for all time and eternity. Joseph sees the hurt in Judah's heart and the sheer desperation in his voice. Remember Joseph had been put in a pit to die. Judah did not want to see his brother die in a pit or his blood to be shed, so he was the one who suggested that he be sold to a passing caravan of Ishmaelites/ Midian traders on their way to Egypt (Genesis 37:26-27). No doubt Joseph's mind went back to Judah's voice as he more than likely was the one who negotiated his price of slavery and now, he was pleading for the life of his brother Benjamin and the hope of his father Jacob. Joseph could not restrain himself any longer and rushed all the Egyptians from his presence. What he was about to do was not for godless eyes and ears. Joseph revealed himself visually and audibly to his estranged brothers, no doubt speaking to them in the native tongue and dialect that only one of Jacob's own children could. He let them see that he was indeed a Hebrew. Remember his head would have been shaved with all the makeup and trappings of an Egyptian, they had no idea that this was Joseph. It had been years since they had seen his face or heard his voice. They were petrified when Joseph told them that he was their brother that they had sold into slavery. Joseph then stated the truth that has been the hope and encouragement of a thousand generations since, **"And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So 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" (vv. 7-8). Pharaoh hears that Joseph's family has come to Egypt and he tells Joseph to send his brothers with a royal caravan and bring his father Jacob to Egypt to be near him. This he does in a royal way and his brothers returned to Canaan to get their father and bring him to see Joseph, his beloved son. The chapter concludes as Jacob, now an old man, ready to die, gets news that his long-lost son was alive and Prime Minister of Egypt, and He wants to see his father. The last verse of this watershed chapter is this; **"Then Israel said, 'It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die'"** (v. 28). Notice Moses does not call his father "Jacob" now, but "Israel" *one who had struggled with God* and limped away but was changed forever!

Prayer and Action Steps

*This remarkable journey with Joseph is an encouragement to the child of God that even when the enemy of our souls means to harm us and thwart God's plan, God can take even the bad things that someone does to you meant to hurt you and turns it around for our good and His glory. Sounds like the Apostle Paul may have read this story many times and gleaned God's truth to, under the inspiration of God, pen these words, **"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God and to those who are the called according to His purpose"** (Romans 8:28). Before you read another word, pause, and thank God for His love and providential care in your life. He sees what you have gone through and what you are going through. He knows about all the hurt and sorrow in your heart, because of your own choices and the choices others have made concerning you over which you have no control. He sees. He knows. He cares. He is working it all out for your good and His glory...If you love Him and truly are called to be His child. Trust in Him today.*

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
