

Jsph 13 –Sovereignty & Responsibility
Gen 45:16 - 46:30

We've seen very clearly the Divine Forgiveness
Joseph Freely gave his brothers

Thru a series of orchestrated events
the brothers found themselves in a place
where the only thing they could do

was accept the Free Gift of Forgiveness
that was being Unconditionally Offered to them

That sounds exactly like our salvation - doesn't it ?

But did you know

***God had a bigger plan when He orchestrated the events
that led to your Forgiveness & Salvation ?***

God was NOT interested in just slipping you a
"Get out of Hell free card"

& then letting you go back to living
like you were still going to hell

God has a bigger plan for you
& that plan combines - God's Sovereignty & your Responsibility

Let's Pray

Joseph had *Totally, Completely, Divinely FORGIVEN* his brothers
& he would never take back that *forgiveness*

But **AS PART** of his forgiveness

Joseph also began to reveal **God's BIGGER PLAN**

Gen 45:5-8 - ESV

5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

6 For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

7 And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

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

So it's **NOT JUST** - *You're forgiven you can go now*

It's - *You're Forgiven* - & by the way there's an **eternal plan**
that **YOU** are a part of

Did you know - Outside of Time (where God exists)
you have **always been saved**

& because of that **incredible truth**

You have **ALWAYS** been a part of **God's Sovereign Plan**

& **From the moment** of your salvation

God has been revealing **His Sovereign Plan** to you

& **SO THE QUESTION IS** - *now what ??*

This is Exactly what's *happening* to Josephs brothers

They've **just been Forgiven**

& Joseph's begun revealing God's Sovereign Plan to them

AND NOW . . . comes their RESPONSIBILITY !!

Do we have responsibility in God's Sovereign plan - ABSOLUTELY !

In **Gen 45 Vs's 5-8** - it is **ALL GOD**

God's **Sovereignty** - God's **Plan** - God's **Forgiveness**

In **Gen 45 Vs's 9-13** - It is **ALL RESPONSIBILITY**

Right on the heels of being Forgiven

& being told of God's Sovereign Plan

The brothers are shown - THEIR RESPONSIBILITY !

Gen 45:9

9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, . . .

BAAM - HURRY - GO - TELL THE STORY -

to the person you would most not want to tell the story to

The brothers must think - *Go Tell Dad . . . Tell him WHAT !!*

*(cont.) V.9 . . . ***'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry.****

Tell him - ***Come to the One who forgave us***
come quick - do not tarry

Now - what happens next is a **CONDITIONAL PROMISE**

Right on the heels of **UNCONDITIONAL** Forgiveness
comes a very clear - **CONDITIONAL** Promise

Gen 45:10-13 *The Condition is - **IF** you will do what I say*
10 You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.
11 There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.'
12 And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you.
13 You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."

What follows **Divine Forgiveness** for Joseph's brothers
is a **Requirement** for **FAITH** & **ACTION**

Just like with us

Following **Divine Forgiveness** is **ALWAYS** a **Responsibility**
for us to Move Forward in **FAITH** & **ACTION**

IF you will move forward in **FAITH & ACTION**

THEN you shall dwell in the best land

THEN you'll be near the one who has forgiven you

THEN you & your family will be cared for & provided for

IF - - THEN - *Do you see it ?*

Guys the Bible never paints God's people as Robots
We ALWAYS have a choice that must be made in FAITH & ACTION

God's plan is never derailed by Man's WRONG choices
But man ALWAYS suffers the consequences

So if you SNUB your nose at God - & go back to living in Sin

God's plan is NOT going to be derailed
but you (& those around you) WILL suffer the consequences

OK - so when you're ready to respond to God in FAITH & ACTION
Will He be there for you - will He provide what you need??

YES !! - He will provide abundantly for you to follow His commands
He'll give you everything you need . . .

Look at the incredible - abundant - provision
given to the brothers to meet their needs

Gen 45:16-20

*16 When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house, "Joseph's brothers have come," it pleased Pharaoh and his servants.
17 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan,
18 and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.'
19 And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come.
20 Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"*

Pharaoh made sure - *because of Joseph*
the brothers had **ALL they needed**
to Make their Decision of **FAITH** & **ACTION**

He **provided Abundantly** for them to do
Exactly what Joseph was *asking them to do*

HOWEVER - they still had CHOICES to make;

They had to **believe Joseph** (& believe his intentions)

They had to **believe** that this **Radical move** would be for the best

They had to **be ready** to **LEAVE** all they had **BEHIND** . . .

AND . . . they had a **difficult conversation** with their father *coming*

But they **chose correctly** - & a **400 yr change** for the *children of Israel*
was about to be **set in motion**

Gen 45:21-24

***21 The sons of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons,
according to the command of Pharaoh, and gave them
provisions for the journey.***

***22 To each and all of them he gave a change of clothes, but to
Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five
changes of clothes.***

***23 To his father he sent as follows: ten donkeys loaded with the
good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with
grain, bread, and provision for his father on the journey.***

***24 Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he
said to them, "Do not quarrel on the way."***

How many of us know that *after* we've been **forgiven by God**
there are *still times* of **Testing** & **Refining** coming

There will **ALWAYS be** opportunity to **fall** right back into the **old sins** that God just **Forgave** us for

Joseph gave his brothers **ALL they needed**
& he gave them **very specific instructions**
"do not quarrel on the way"

The little brother had **AGAIN** been given an **Un-Fair Portion**
& their **Jealousy** could've easily **taken control** of them again

& so **Joseph warns them** of the **danger** of their old **sins**
& **again** - gives them **opportunity** to **overcome** them

OK - **everything's** been pretty good so far - **BUT NOW**
The Brothers have some 'splainin to do - to Dad !!

The brothers are about to tell their **Dad**
that **Joseph** is **Alive & Well** - & has a **PLAN** for them **ALL**

Gen 45:25-26

25 So they went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob.

26 And they told him, "Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt." And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them.

Somehow - they break the news to dad
"Joseph is still alive, & he's ruler over all of Egypt"

& Jacob has a **CORONARY** - Because He **DID NOT** believe them

It's funny (back in **Ch 37**) how **quickly** Jacob believed the **BAD** news about his son

But now He gets the **BEST** news of his life
& he **refuses** to believe it . . . *sounds like us, doesn't it ?*

Fortunately the Brothers **convince him** in the next Vs

Gen 45:27-28

*27 But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived.
28 And Israel said, "It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."*

They told him **ALL** the words **Joseph told them** - to tell him
but there's **no indication** they told him the **WHOLE** story

& then they **showed him** the **wagons**
& **the spirit** of Jacob **revived**

& **Jacob** says "*It is Enough*" - *I Believe You*
I will go see my son before I Die

Now - - it's **JACOB's** turn to **RESPOND** to God's **SOVEREIGNTY**

How would the **Patriarch** handle *God's Sovereign Plan*
unfolding before him

Jacob was **IN** the land **Promised** to his Grandfather **Abraham**
& was **Promised** to his Father **Isaac**

He was **IN the Promised Land** - & *things were Pretty Good*

Besides the tragedy with Joseph -
everything else was pretty much in place

But NOW - Suddenly - There is a **Radical Crisis of FAITH**
for the Father of the Tribes of Israel

In **Gen 12** - Abraham had gone into Egypt **because of a FAMINE**
but it was NOT God's will

& God **kicked him out** of Egypt - & took him into the **Promised Land**

In **Gen 13** God had Abraham **walk thru** the Land of **Canaan**
& Promised the whole **land** to him & his descendants (*Jacob*)

In **Gen 26** - There was **ANOTHER Famine**
& Now Isaac wanted to go to Egypt - *because of the Famine*

& God told him in **Gen 26** - **DO NOT** go down into Egypt
STAY in this land & I will bless you
& **give all this land** to your offspring (*Jacob*)

Then **HERE** - in **Gen 46** - There is **yet ANOTHER FAMINE**

BUT - THIS TIME - God is **DRIVING** Jacob **INTO** Egypt
OUT OF the land God had promised to him
thru Abraham & Isaac

Certainly Jacob had heard the stories
because that's how they **passed on the truths** of God

He knew his **Grandfather Abraham** had trouble in Egypt
& was **brought** into the **Promised land** of Canaan

He knew God told His Father Isaac NOT TO go to Egypt
even though there was a Famine
but instead to STAY in Canaan & trust God to bless him

BUT NOW - God seems to be driving Jacob
to do the EXACT Opposite - of what He told Abraham & Isaac

& Jacob must decide HOW he is going to Respond
to this Sovereign Direction by God

& If Jacob only knew the end of the story - Like we do
then we'd think - for sure he'd say NO WAY

We know that this move begins a 400 yr period of Israel in Egypt
that makes them SLAVES in great difficulty

& ends with a phenomenal 40 year trek thru the wilderness
JUST TO GET BACK to where Jacob is NOW

If you & I Were God - wouldn't we just leave Jacob in Canaan NOW
& provide for him there

Instead of sending him to Egypt - Knowing it's going to be
well over 470 yrs before they get back to where there at now ??

But wait a minute
we don't know a thing about God's Ways - do we ?

We don't know WHY - HOW - WHEN - WHERE
or anything else that God knows

What if God knows EVERYTHING
& what if this is EXACTLY GOD'S PLAN

& in that Omniscience - What if God knows this is exactly what needs to happen

Turn with me back to Gen 15

The original Abrahamic Covenant - The BIG ONE

Gen 15:12-16 - ESV

12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.

13 Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.

14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

15 As for yourself, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.

16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

WHOA . . . That's EXACTLY what's about to happen

It's all going to WORK OUT - Just like God said !

There's only One Question

How are you going to RESPOND to God's SOVEREIGN PLAN?

. . . *You thought* this was about Jaco ? (*it is*)

But it is ALSO - - about YOU & ME

How are we going to RESPOND to God's SOVEREIGN PLAN ?

OK - - - back to Jacob in **Gen 46**

This is a beautiful Reunion between Jacob & God

Before we read - **Let's realize** one thing

There is **NO RECORD** of Jacob seeking God in this fashion
since **LONG BEFORE** Joseph was taken away from him

Gen 46:1-4 - *This is a return to the old Jacob*

1 So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

2 And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here am I."

3 Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation.

4 I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes."

In **FAITH & ACTION** - Jacob takes all he has - *All his family*
But then he stops at **Beersheba**

In **Gen 21** - Abraham worshiped in **Beersheba**

In **Gen 26** - Isaac worshiped at **Beersheba** (& the Lord appeared to him)

& **Now** - Jacob worships (again) at **the same place**

Jacob **worships God** there - he **seeks God** there

& **God speaks** to him there (*just like the old days*)

& God says - "**Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there . . .**

"I will go there with you - & I will bring you up again"

"& in the process - I will bless you - because Joseph your son will be with you when you die"

Well - **that's all well & good**

But **what about** the **400 yrs** - & the **Slavery** - & all that ??

Over 400 yrs later - **God delivers** on His promise

& **Israel** leaves **Egypt** over **2 MILLION** strong, & blessed

So - Jacob **Responds** to God's **Sovereignty**

By **seeking** God - **Hearing** from God - & **Acting** in Faith

Gen 46:5-7

5 Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him.

6 They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him,

7 his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters. All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

(skip to) Gen 46:26-27

26 All the persons belonging to Jacob who came into Egypt, who were his own descendants, not including Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all.

27 And the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two. All the persons of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were seventy.

FINALLY - Thru **God's Sovereignty** - AND **Man's Responsibility**
we see the **Greatest Family Reunion** of the O.T.

Gen 46:28-30

28 He had sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to show the way before him in Goshen, and they came into the land of Goshen.

29 Then Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself to him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while.

30 Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive."

Is this the result of **God's Sovereign Plan** - **YES** !!

Is this the result of **Man's Responsibility** - **YES** !!

God is AT WORK - For Good

& **Joseph** had to Join Him

& (finally) **Joseph's brothers** had to Join Him

& Now **Jacob** had to Join Him

But these aren't the **only ones** involved in **God's Sovereign plan**

YOU & **I** are also in the midst of **God's Sovereign plan** today

If you call **Jesus** your **Lord** today

He has a **Wonderful - Sovereign Plan** for your Life . . .

How are you doing on your **RESPONSIBILITY** part ??

Are you responding in **Faith & Action**

to the **Sovereign Plan**

that God has made **YOU** a part of ??

Let's Pray