

INTRO: In our last study (**Gen 43-44**), we learned that **the Truth Comes Out!** – In this next chapter we will see **the climatic unveiling of God's Prevailing Purposes** to the Sons of Jacob.

God's Prevailing Purposes are found in...

I. THE REVEALED BROTHER (1-15) – **Context:** The brothers of Joseph stood before him without a defense as the cup of Joseph had been found in **Benjamin's Sack (44:16)**. Judah had just pleaded on behalf of Benjamin and his father Jacob, **EXPOSING a collective confession of guilt** by all the brothers over their offenses against Joseph and his father. – **The Words and Actions of Judah were so moving that it brought Joseph to a breaking point. Why?** (B/C it was evident to Joseph that **Judah had changed!** He was repentant and willing to sacrifice himself for Benjamin)

READ

A. Joseph Explodes In Tears (1-2) – The final **convincing evidence** about the hearts of the sons of Jacob **WAS 'the realized hope'** that Joseph was seeking! – So, *he made all of the Egyptian servants depart from him*. **Then Joseph Wept Aloud!** His **BURST** was heard in the hallways!

READ

B. Joseph EXPOSES his IDENTITY (3-4) – The charade was too much for him to hold up! – Joseph then said to his brothers, **"I AM JOSEPH; does my father still live?" (3a)** – *But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence (3b)* – They were **frightfully** and **rightfully shocked!** – The word **dismayed: "bahal"** means to be disturbed and terrified. A **paralyzing fear** experienced by those in war (e.g., Ex. 15:15, Judges 20:41)

- Joseph said to his brothers, **"Please come near to me. So, they came near him." (4)** – **Can you imagine their reluctance** as they slowly approached him. (*Was he joking? Taunting?*)
- Then he said: **"I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt."** (*I'm sure that made them feel better... Ha! – The Shock... The Doubt... Possibility... The Joy... The Fear... The Awkwardness, Etc.!*)
- **Sensing their shame** Joseph immediately sought to comfort them. – In His sermon on the mount, Jesus teaches that His disciples are to be peacemakers, **(Matt 5:9) says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."** (*Are you a peacemaker in hard situations*)

READ

C. Joseph EXPLAINS God's PURPOSES (5-8) – In a very odd way, he explained that **'they' were also used by God (5)** – *"...do not be grieved or angry with yourselves..."* Joseph **did not want them to feel upset with themselves**. – It was Joseph's desire for his brothers to get past their grief and anger as well. – Paul, instructs the same for believers when dealing with a repentant sinner: **"on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow."** (2 Cor 2:7)

...God sent me before you...

- **For Preservation (6)** – Joseph saw the situation from an **ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE**. – He realized that God used a FAMINE and his brothers **FOUL INTENTIONS** towards him to bring about **God's Prevailing Purposes!** **This perspective also helped Joseph FORGIVE them completely!**
- **For Posterity (7-8)** – To bring a **Future and a Hope** for them and their offspring. **A Parallel...**

Application would be **JESUS**, who was ultimately **SENT** to save our lives and **bring deliverance**. Jesus said, **"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. (Luke 23:34)**

P/A – When we are Forgiving and Comforting, we can likewise Explain God's Purposes to others!

P/A – Joseph's sorrows were for a purpose (8) – God used them to preserve his family and provide the conditions for it to become a nation. Joseph was a victim of men, but **God turned it around for His glory. None of it was for a loss!** (Guzik)

READ

D. Joseph ENCOURAGES RECONCILIATION (9-15) – Simply spoken...Go get dad!

- Tell dad that I'm **ALIVE** and **tell him about my POSITION (9) – God has made me Lord of EGYPT!**
- Also **tell him about God's PLAN** regarding the **5 additional years of FAMINE**, then **tell him about the arrangements** I made with Pharaoh, King of Egypt! **(10-13)**
- But what I love most is in **(14-15)**, **Joseph fell on his brothers and kissed and wept on them.** – **True forgiveness and restoration allows UNITY and even INTIMACY!** Joseph was **The Revealed Brother**, but he was also **the Brother who Revealed LOVE!** (An Initiator of it!)

P/A – (1 Thess 4:9) But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another. – **This is how brotherly love should look!** – (Heb 13:1) *Let brotherly love continue.*

God's Prevailing Purposes are also found in...

II. THE RESOURCES OF PHARAOH (16-24) – In His infinite wisdom, God would use Joseph's relationship with Pharaoh to PROVIDE the FUTURE RESOURCES Israel would need to Survive and Thrive for the next 400 years in Egypt!

READ

A. Joseph's Family is BLESSED by PHARAOH (16-20) – Pharaoh delighted to learn of Joseph brothers (16). – But where do you think this FAVOR came from? – (Psalm 84:11) For the Lord is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. God's grants favor to His servants! – Some OT examples of God's Favor: NOAH (Gen 6:8), who God provided protection and deliverance for as he found grace in the eyes of the Lord. – ABRAHAM received God's Favor (Gen 18:3), and the added distinction of being called God's friend (Isa 41:8, James 2:23). – MOSES also received God's Favor, and the unique blessing of seeing God's glory (Ex 33:17-23).

- Pharaoh also commanded his brothers to **Go Get The Family! (17-19) – He provided everything they needed! – Pharaoh even designated the land of GOSHEN for Jacob's family!** It was the perfect land for Jacob's herds to graze.
- Pharaoh also commanded them **NOT** to be **CONCERNED** about Provisions **(20) – I love (Psalm 34:10) "The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing."** – This verse assures us that when we seek the Lord, we will lack nothing good. **God's provision is abundant, and He meets our needs according to His perfect plan!**

READ

B. Joseph's Brothers BLESSED by JOSEPH (21-24) – It began with the brothers gladly accepting Pharaoh's provisions (21). – P/A: In scripture, a change of clothes resembles a new beginning. – In (22), **Joseph gave them new garments!** – Previously in (37:23), **they stripped Joseph of his Robe of Many Colors!**

- Joseph specifically sent an **abundant supply** to his father for a safe trip and return (23)
- Lastly, we see that **Joseph gave his brothers Encouragement (24)** – He sent them away, **But he particularly ADMONISHED his brothers (24)**, see that you don't become troubled along the way. – The literal meaning of the phrase "become troubled" is to get upset or argue. – Joseph was aware that **HIS BROTHERS** would be tempted to act in selfish or unspiritual ways as soon as they left his presence. They needed to prepare for and avoid this. – (cf. Psalm 133:1) Dwell in unity... i.e. **'don't let you mind play tricks on you!'**

Finally, God's Prevailing Purposes are Revealed in...

III. THE RETURN OF HOPE (25-28) – As they left Egypt with Blessings and Provisions from Pharaoh and their brother Joseph, **they were HOPEFUL!** – All of which they were **bringing back to Canaan**, back to their father JACOB, whom they had left **WITHOUT HOPE** when they departed!

READ

A. The Brothers Return to Jacob Safely (25-26), **bringing Good News to their father**. – (Prov 12:25) Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.

- **What is the Good News?**
 - 1) **JOSEPH IS ALIVE!**
 - 2) He is also the Gracious Governor!
 - 3) He wants the whole family to move to Egypt,
 - 4) He will provide for the entire family... land and all! – The text then infers that: Jacob almost had a HEART ATTACK! (26)

READ

B. But this time, JACOB's senses did not fail him (27-28). – He heard and saw it all and his Spirit was revived!

- Back in (42:36) Jacob grievously stated: "All these things are against me." – Now ISRAEL responds by saying, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die." – The wonderful reunion of the father and son in Egypt is so described in the following Ch.

CLOSING THOUGHTS: At this point, **Joseph was 39 years old**, which means that he was away from his family for 22 YEARS, based on (37:2). – **But when the truth finally came out, Joseph came to understand that God**, not circumstances, not wicked men, not good men or bad men, controlled his life. – **Everything came together for the greatest good** because **God was in charge!** – (Eph 1:11b) tells us that, God works all things after the council of His will. i.e., all according to **GOD'S PREVAILING PURPOSES**.