

Genesis 41-45 Chapter Study

INTRO

Since we're diving into the middle of Joseph's story, we need to do a brief recap.

So, as they often start a TV show "Previous on our Mid-Week study . . ."

Joseph's been taken out of prison where he'd served a half-dozen yrs for a crime he didn't commit,
Cleaned up and set before the Egyptian Pharaoh,
To interpret a couple dreams God gave him prophetic of what was about to come.
7 years of bumper crops would be followed by 7 years of famine so severe it would wipe out the surplus.

In the stunned silence that followed, Joseph proposed a new govt agency be established to stock-pile the surplus in preparation for the famine.

Pharaoh was so impressed, he appointed Joseph to head it up on the spot.

Joseph proved so skilled at the task, he was further promoted to be the PM over all Egypt, 2nd only to Pharaoh in terms of power.

Ch41 says Joseph **went a little native** in his role as PM.

It was embarrassing for the ever proud Egyptians that a foreigner ruled them.

So Pharaoh had given Joe an Egyptian name and married him to the daughter of an important Egyptian official.

He adopted Egyptian customs and dress.

But when his sons were born, he gave them **Hebrew** names.

His body & role was in Egypt, but his heart was back in Canaan with his family.

Ch 41 closes with the 7 yrs of plenty over & the famine begun.

It wasn't just in Egypt; it gripped the entire ME.

Word went out that Egypt had stores of grain, so people began to make their way there.

And THAT brings us now to ch. 42 . . .

Ch. 42

¹ When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" ² And he said, "Indeed I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down to that place and buy for us there, that we may live and not die."

The scene shifts back to Canaan where Joseph's family lives.

Jacob is his father & the sons mentioned here are Joseph's brothers who'd sold him into slavery 20 years before.

They neither seen nor heard of him in all that time. // They probably assume he's dead.

Jacob looks at their reserves and sees they're running thin.

So he tells his sons to head S to get supplies.

³ So Joseph's 10 brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. ⁴ But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, "Lest some calamity befall him." ⁵ And the sons of Israel went to buy grain among those who journeyed, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

Joseph's 10 older brothers set out on the mission to get relief.

They **all** went because they needed the cargo capacity of all of them to provide for the household.

The only brother who **didn't** go was Joseph's younger brother Benjamin.

Remember, Jacob, thought Joseph had been killed years before because his brother brought him his bloody clothes.

So Jacob's assumed Ben was the sole surviving son of his favorite wife Rachel.

He was not about to allow the boy out of his sight.

I say 'boy,' but Ben was a young man at his point; well into his 20's.

⁶ Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth.

Fulfilling his dream from so many years before.

⁷ Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he acted as a stranger to them and spoke roughly to them.

Then he said to them, "Where do you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food." ⁸ So

Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.

They don't recognize him because it's been 20 yrs & he's gone native.

As we'll see in a bit, he deals with them through an interpreter.

And as the custom of the time required, they kept their heads bowed & were careful not to stare at him.

He **begins** by speaking to them as would be expected of an Egyptian official dealing with riff-raff foreigners.

He's gruff & rough; acting as though he's mildly suspicious of them.

In other words, he's playing his part as PM, not brother.

⁹ Then Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed about them, and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land!"

Charging them with espionage was serious.

The Egyptians were ever paranoid about their neighbors attacking.

A time of famine when lots of foreigners were going to Egypt for supplies would be a perfect cover for spies to scout out Egypt's defenses and get the lay of the land.

And of course, if spies were caught, they were interrogated by torture, then executed.

As the story unfolds, we see Joseph's **not squeezing** them here to get even with them for what they'd done yrs before. Revenge is not at all his motive.

Rather, he applies pressure to discover what kind of men they've become.

Are they the same guys who treated him cruelly, or have the yrs changed them?

¹⁰ And they said to him, "No, my lord, but your servants have come to buy food. ¹¹ We are all 1 man's sons; we are honest men; your servants are not spies." ¹² But he said to them, "No, but you have come to see the nakedness of the land."

It looked a little suspicious that there were 10 of them.

So they explained they were in fact all brothers.

Joseph pushed back; most likely so they'd offer up more information about the family which of course he was anxious to have.

He wanted to know how his father and younger brother were.

¹³ And they said, "Your servants are 12 brothers, the sons of 1 man in the land of Canaan; and in fact, the youngest is with our father today, and 1 is no more."

Meaning, of course, Joseph.

They pass off to this, what they think is an Egyptian official, the same tale they'd told their father – that Joe was dead.

They weren't about to tell him the truth. "Yeah, we sold our lil brother into slavery a while back.

You wouldn't happen to have heard of him, have you?

We'd love to hook up with him while we're here for nachos & Cokes."

Joseph listens to their reply, but seems intractable

¹⁴ But Joseph said to them, "It is as I spoke to you, saying, 'You are spies!'

Then there's probably a pause as he lets them stand there wondering what fate he'll decide for them.

3 times he's affirmed they're spies there to scout out Egypt's weaknesses.

Then, he opens a door of hope

¹⁵ In this manner you shall be tested: By the life of Pharaoh, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. ¹⁶ Send 1 of you, and let him bring your brother; and you shall be kept in prison, that your words may be tested to see whether there is any truth in you; or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies!"

¹⁷ So he put them all together in prison 3 days.

Joseph's goal in all this was to see what they'd do under pressure.

If they were the same cruel, selfish creeps who'd sold him 20 yrs before, it wouldn't be long till they were at each other's throats.

Remember that Jacob had made it clear he intended to pass the family inheritance on to Joseph.

That's why the brothers were so jealous of him and plotted to get rid of him.

And the reason Jacob was going to give JOE the inheritance was because he was the firstborn son of his favorite wife Rachel.

Rachel had had only 1 other son, Joseph's younger brother Benjamin.

She'd died giving birth to him.

Joseph missed his lil brother badly But he also wanted to find out what his other brothers attitude would be toward Ben, now that Joseph was out of the picture.

Surely Jacob's plan was to make Ben the main heir.

Were his brother planning some "accident" for Ben as they had to Joseph?

Joseph does all this to find out his brother's intentions regarding his lil brother Ben.

He says ALL but 1 of them are to stay in Egypt till they bring Ben back to **prove** they're really all 1 family.

Then he sticks them in prison for 3 days to work it out.

Then it seems Joseph changed his mind.

One could not carry back enough supplies.

¹⁸ Then Joseph said to them the 3rd day, "Do this and live, for I fear God: ¹⁹ If you are honest men, let 1 of your brothers be confined to your prison house; but you, go and carry grain for the famine of your houses. ²⁰ And bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so. That last phrase means their audience with who they assume is some high Egyptians official is now over.

So they turn to each other and begin to talk.

Joseph look away, but he is in fact listening to them.

He'd spoken through an interpreter before, but of course, he knows Hebrew and can understand them perfectly as they turn to each other and discuss what's just happened.

²¹ Then they said to 1 another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."

Though 2 decades have passed, their conscience still bothers them.

They see what's happened to them now as cosmic pay-back.

1 of them will have to stay in Egypt while the rest return home to tell pops they've lost yet ANOTHER brother.

That's when the eldest, Reuben, pipes in with a little "I told you so . . ."

²² And Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not speak to you, saying, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us."

Back in ch37 when the brothers first plotted to get rid of Joe, they planned to kill him.

Reuben suggested they instead put him into a pit and leave him there.

His plan was to come back later and rescue him.

But Judah came up with the plan to sell him to a passing caravan.

²³ But they did not know that Joseph understood them, for he spoke to them through an interpreter. ²⁴ And he turned himself away from them and wept. Then he returned to them again, and talked with them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

Joseph saw their remorse and was overwhelmed with emotion.

He'd forgiven them and ached to be reconciled.

But he had to be sure they were safe to be reconciled to.

And the only way to gauge that was by seeing their attitude toward Benjamin.

[Forgiveness vs Reconciliation]

So, Joseph had forgiven them but needed to evaluate whether or not he could be reconciled to them.

All that would be seen in how they treated Benjamin.

That Joseph picked Simeon as the one to keep in in the Egyptian jail hints at who it was who came up with the plot to get rid of Joseph in the first place.

The massacre of the Shechemites had been his idea so we know he's cruel & treacherous.

By removing Simeon from this brothers, his counsel won't be there to poison them.

²⁵ Then Joseph gave a command to fill their sacks with grain, to restore every man's money to his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. Thus he did for them. ²⁶ So they loaded their donkeys with the grain and departed from there. ²⁷ But as 1 of them opened his sack to give his donkey feed at the encampment, he saw his money; and there it was, in the mouth of his sack. ²⁸ So he said to his brothers, "My money has been restored, and there it is, in my sack!" Then their hearts failed them and they were afraid, saying to 1 another, "What is this that God has done to us?"

The money they'd taken was for buying supplies.

If they were stopped and inspected by one of the many Egyptians patrols that moved along the route they were taking, it would look they'd STOLEN the grain.

They're sense of guilt is already running high because of their close encounter with the suspicious Egyptian PM.

They're ready for the hammer to fall at any moment.

²⁹ Then they went to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan and told him all that had happened to them, saying:

³⁰ "The man who is lord of the land spoke roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country. ³¹ But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies. ³² We are 12 brothers, sons of our father; 1 is no more, and the youngest is with our father this day in the land of Canaan.' ³³ Then the man, the lord of the country, said to us, 'By this I will know that you are honest men: Leave 1 of your brothers here with me, take food for the famine of your households, and be gone. ³⁴ And bring your youngest brother to me; so I shall know that you are not spies, but that you are honest men. I will grant your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.'" ³⁵ Then it happened as they emptied their sacks, that surprisingly each man's bundle of money was in his sack; and when they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid. ³⁶ And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me: Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me."

What Jacob says here calls us to compare Joseph's faith to his father's.

As we saw so clearly Sunday, though Joseph endured great & unjust hardship, he trusted God was doing something in the midst of it all.

He chose to keep his eyes on God rather than his circumstances.

Jacob does the opposite. He allowed the glory and goodness of God to be eclipsed by his circumstances.

We know that in all this, God was working to effect a joyful reunion between father and son.

But what does **Jacob** say? "**All these things** are against me."

Joseph would say with the Apostle Paul, "**All things** work together for good, to those who love God and are called according to His purpose."

Christian: Are all things against you or working together for good?

³⁷ Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "Kill my 2 sons if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you."

What a foolish thing for Reuben to say!

What comfort would Jacob gain by killing his grandsons?

Reuben speaks out of frustration at his father's obstinacy.

Simeon is in prison and will only be released when Benjamin is brought.

Unless they take Ben back with them, there'll be no more relief from Egypt.

³⁸ But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is left alone. If any calamity should befall him along the way in which you go, then you would bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave."

This is foolish. Jacob condemns his entire household to starvation, including his precious Ben.

Ch 43

¹ Now the famine was severe in the land. ² And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food." ³ But Judah spoke to him, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.' ⁴ If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food. ⁵ But if you will not send him, we will not go down; for the man said to us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'" ⁶ And Israel said, "Why did you deal so wrongfully with me as to tell the man whether you had still another brother?" ⁷ But they said, "The man asked us pointedly about ourselves and our family, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?' And we told him according to these words. Could we possibly have known that he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'" ⁸ Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones. ⁹ I myself will be surety for him; from my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the

blame forever. ¹⁰ For if we had not lingered, surely by now we would have returned this 2nd time.” Judah personally guarantees Benjamin’s safety.

If Ben falls into any kind of peril, Judah will take his place so Ben can return safely to Jacob. Judah was urgent because their supplies were about out. They were on the edge of starvation.

¹¹ And their father Israel said to them, “If it must be so, then do this: Take some of the best fruits of the land in your vessels and carry down a present for the man—a little balm and a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds. ¹² Take double money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was an oversight. ¹³ Take your brother also, and arise, go back to the man. ¹⁴ And may God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may release your other brother and Benjamin. If I am bereaved, I am bereaved!”

Note that Jacob is called by his new name, *Israel*, because he’s finally living by faith.

¹⁵ So the men took that present and Benjamin, and they took double money in their hand, and arose and went down to Egypt; and they stood before Joseph. ¹⁶ When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, “Take these men to my home, and slaughter an animal and make ready; for these men will dine with me at noon.” ¹⁷ Then the man did as Joseph ordered, and the man brought the men into Joseph’s house. ¹⁸ Now the men were afraid because they were brought into Joseph’s house; and they said, “It is because of the money, which was returned in our sacks the first time, that we are brought in, so that he may make a case against us and seize us, to take us as slaves with our donkeys.” ¹⁹ When they drew near to the steward of Joseph’s house, they talked with him at the door of the house, ²⁰ and said, “O sir, we indeed came down the first time to buy food; ²¹ but it happened, when we came to the encampment, that we opened our sacks, and there, each man’s money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight; so we have brought it back in our hand. ²² And we have brought down other money in our hands to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks.” ²³ But he said, “Peace be with you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money.” Then he brought Simeon out to them.

The brothers assume their transfer to a new location was prelude to an official inquiry.

So they try to pre-empt a finding of guilt by going to one of the Egyptians and telling him about what happened.

They hadn’t stolen grain on their first trip.

There must have been some misunderstanding because their money was all back in their sacks.

But they brought it back and wanted to make sure it got into the right hands.

That’s when Joseph’s steward told them HE’S the one who’d overseen their supplies on that earlier trip and everything was cool.

They need not worry in the least; he’d taken their payment.

If there was money in their sacks, it must have been God’s blessing.

Which had to then cause the guys to wonder *why* they were now at the Egyptian’s house.

This was the final phase of Joseph’s testing of what kind of men they were.

²⁴ So the man brought the men into Joseph’s house and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys feed. ²⁵ Then they made the present ready for Joseph’s coming at noon, for they heard that they would eat bread there. ²⁶ And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed down before him to the earth. ²⁷ Then he asked them about their well-being, and said, “Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?” ²⁸ And they answered, “Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive.” And they bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves.

This is now the 2nd time they bow down to him, just as he’d had 2 dreams in which they prostrated themselves before him.

²⁹ Then he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother’s son, and said, “Is this your younger brother of whom you spoke to me?” And he said, “God be gracious to you, my son.” ³⁰ Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep. And he went into his chamber and wept there. ³¹

Then he washed his face and came out; and he restrained himself, and said, “Serve the bread.” ³² So they set him a place by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves; because the Egyptians could not eat food with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians.

The tables were arranged in 3 groups.

Joseph had a table to himself; his brothers had their own table, with the Egyptian attendants at another.

Though Joseph was PM, he wasn't Egyptian & according to their customs, they could not eat together.

This ought to have been a clue to the brothers about Joseph's identity.

³³ And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth; and the men looked in astonishment at one another.

When it came time to seat the guests, Joseph had instructed his attendants to seat them according to their age, from eldest to youngest – which blew their minds.

Joseph is slowly giving them hints. He *wants* them to know what's going on.

But it's what he does next that ought to have been the biggest clue . . .

³⁴ Then he [**Jospheh**] took servings to them from before him, but Benjamin's serving was 5 times as much as any of theirs. So they drank and were merry with him.

All his life, Joseph has served because he was a servant; and that's what servants do.

We can be sure that years before, even as his father groomed him to lead the family, Joseph and served his brothers.

He served in Potiphar's house.

He served in prison.

And he served as PM.

Serving his brothers now, in this setting, was meant to reveal to them who he was.

But they weren't *ready* to see him yet; so they **COULDN'T** see him.

When Joseph arrived at Ben's place, he piled it on.

Ch 44

¹ And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, “Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack. ² Also put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his grain money.” So he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken. ³ As soon as the morning dawned, the men were sent away, they and their donkeys. ⁴ When they had gone out of the city, and were not yet far off, Joseph said to his steward, “Get up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, ‘Why have you repaid evil for good? ⁵ Is not this the one from which my lord drinks, and with which he indeed practices divination? You have done evil in so doing.’”

Joseph's test of the brothers is almost complete. There is just one last thing to determine; what will they do with Benjamin if given the chance to be rid of him?

So he gave instructions that a silver cup be put in Benjamin's sack.

Early the next morning they're sent off, because Joseph wants to get all this over with.

They aren't far away when the steward trots up, telling them all to halt.

A special & important cup is missing & the brothers are suspected of having taken it.

Joseph *knows* they've taken it, the steward *bluffs*, because he practices divination.

Of course, Joseph does no such thing; but the steward has to come up with a reason to search their sacks.

⁶ So he [**the steward**] overtook them, and he spoke to them these same words. ⁷ And they said to him, “Why does my lord say these words? Far be it from us that your servants should do such a thing. ⁸ Look, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house? ⁹ With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves.”

The brothers were *appalled* at the charge they'd stolen the cup.

Theft was abhorrent to them!

Why – wasn't their bringing back the money from the 1st batch of supplies proof of their integrity?

So abhorrent was the idea of theft, so certain were they of their innocence, they had no hesitation saying if the cup was found with them, who's ever sack it was in would die and the rest would return to Egypt as

slaves.

¹⁰ And he said, “Now also let it be according to your words; he with whom it is found shall be my slave, and you shall be blameless.”

The test wasn't to make them slaves, although that's a nice touch of irony.

The test Joseph wanted proved was what they would do with Benjamin if they had a chance to be rid of him.

Would they jump at the opportunity to ditch him so they could have a better chance at the inheritance?

¹¹ Then each man speedily let down his sack to the ground, and each opened his sack. ¹² So he searched. He began with the oldest and left off with the youngest; and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. ¹³ Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city. ¹⁴ So Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, and he was still there; and they fell before him on the ground. ¹⁵ And Joseph said to them, “What deed is this you have done? Did you not know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?” ¹⁶ Then Judah said, “What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; here we are, my lord's slaves, both we and he also with whom the cup was found.”

Judah becomes their spokesman because he intends to fulfill his pledge to Jacob to be surety for Ben.

Ben's life was forfeit but Judah offers himself in his place.

He begins by offering that ALL of them would become slaves.

Judah confesses his guilt; though what he's guilty of isn't stealing the cup.

His crime was far great; selling Joseph into slavery. It's time to pay the piper.

And if **Benjamin** can't go back home, **none of them** would because it'd be the end of their father.

They're ALL willing now to give up the inheritance and follow their brother into slavery in a foreign land. And THAT is precisely what Joseph's been hoping & waiting for; to see this broken and contrite attitude in them.

But he has to make sure Judah & the others mean it, so he grills them a little more.

¹⁷ But he [**Joseph**] said, “Far be it from me that I should do so; the man in whose hand the cup was found, he shall be my slave. And as for you, go up in peace to your father.” ¹⁸ Then Judah came near to him and said: “O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's hearing, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you are even like Pharaoh. ¹⁹ My lord asked his servants, saying, ‘Have you a father or a brother?’ ²⁰ And we said to my lord, ‘We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, who is young; his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.’ ²¹ Then you said to your servants, ‘Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.’ ²² And we said to my lord, ‘The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.’ ²³ But you said to your servants, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.’ ²⁴ “So it was, when we went up to your servant my father, that we told him the words of my lord. ²⁵ And our father said, ‘Go back and buy us a little food.’ ²⁶ But we said, ‘We cannot go down; if our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down; for we may not see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.’ ²⁷ Then your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore me 2 sons; ²⁸ and the 1 went out from me, and I said, “Surely he is torn to pieces”; and I have not seen him since. ²⁹ But if you take this 1 also from me, and calamity befalls him, you shall bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave.’ ³⁰ “Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad's life, ³¹ it will happen, when he sees that the lad is not with us, that he will die. So your servants will bring down the gray hair of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave. ³² For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father forever.’ ³³ Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. ³⁴ For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?”

This is it. This is all the proof Joseph needs to know it's time to reveal himself . . .

Since we covered vs. 1-8 Sunday, we'll just read them tonight.

¹ Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no 1 stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it. ³ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. ⁴ And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. ⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ So now 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.

The forgiveness Joseph demonstrates here is simply astounding.

It was centered in his confidence in the goodness, wisdom & power of God.

⁹ "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. ¹⁰ You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still 5 years of famine.'"

There are 5 yrs yet to go in the famine.

Jacob's extensive flocks would not survive in Canaan.

So Joseph urged them to return home, gather up all they & relocate to Goshen, the delta region of Egypt where he would make sure they were provided for.

But think about how difficult it would be for the brothers when they got home.

They would have to admit to their father what they'd done yrs before with Joseph.

¹² "And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴ Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. ¹⁵ Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him. ¹⁶ Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well. ¹⁷ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and depart; go to the land of Canaan. ¹⁸ Bring your father and your households and come to me; I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land. ¹⁹ Now you are commanded—do this: Take carts out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives; bring your father and come. ²⁰ Also do not be concerned about your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"

The relationship between Pharaoh and Joseph was tight.

He was stoked at their family being whole again.

He sent "moving vans" back with the brothers to assist in the move.

²¹ Then the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them carts, according to the command of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey. ²² He gave to all of them, to each man, changes of garments; but to Benjamin he gave 300 pieces of silver and 5 changes of garments. ²³ And he sent to his father these things: 10 donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and 10 female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and food for his father for the journey. ²⁴ So he sent his brothers away, and they departed; and he said to them, "See that you do not become troubled along the way."

Literally: "Don't quarrel or get angry with each other on the way home."

Joe doesn't want them getting suspicious & thinking he has ulterior motives; that all this is a set-up to get even with them.

He's just anxious to see them all back together as a family in a place where they can thrive.

²⁵ Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father. ²⁶ And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them.

Ever had news that seemed too good to be true?

You **wanted** to believe it, but hesitated to for fear you were being set up.

That's Jacob.

He figured the boys were mistaken.

It was obvious **THEY** believed Joseph was alive & well – but surely they had to be mistaken.

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

Note the change of names: "*Jacob*" only believed when he *saw*.

Then "*Israel*" said – "It's enough: Joseph lives."

Jacob was a *carnal* man who would only believe what his eyes told him.

Israel was the *spiritual* man who by faith knew he'd see his son again.

Joseph is an amazing picture of Jesus.

Here at the end of ch45 we see how the brothers speak of us *followers of Jesus*.

They went home after discovering who Joseph was & he'd blessed them.

Then they told Jacob *all his words & shared his blessing*.

The only way others will know **Jesus** is alive is when we **share** His words & **show** His blessing.