

Restoration of Israel

(Sermon Notes)

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God's people, Israel, were scattered among the nations long before Jesus Christ was born. Today, they do not know **where** they are or **who** they are. Except for the Jews – they have all been lost in history. But we know where they are and who they are.

They are the peoples of Europe - France, England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. They are, scattered in Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They've traveled around the globe to every nation, including America, Canada, New Zealand and Australia – but they do not remember that they are brothers and sisters and all children of **Israel**. The Bible ends with a chronicle of **Israel restored** and dwelling in everlasting peace and safety.

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

God wants us to have the Big Picture. God describes the Holy City as having a great high wall – depicting the perfect peace and safety of Israel that will abound forever more. It will be much greater than the peace and safety that Israel enjoyed during the reigns of David and Solomon. That peace and safety was lost to Israel because of the sins of breaking God's Sabbath and idolatry. The Israelites went into captivity and were lost to sight – but God knows who they are. God declares through the Prophet Amos:

Amos 9:9 For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.

And that is where we find our nations of Israel today. We are dispersed and unrepentant, and certainly not worthy of the promise of a New Jerusalem.

Today, the nations of Israel are in a putrid state of affairs – spiritually disintegrating. When will God strike our sinful nations with His wrath that He calls Jacob's trouble? Jeremiah tells us that [Israel] **shall be saved** out of Jacob's trouble. [Jeremiah 30:4-7]

Daniel also makes mention of this **time of trouble**, saying that Israel - **thy people shall be delivered**. (Daniel 12:1)

God is faithful to allow His people to go into trouble for a time, only to **deliver** them out of the trouble and bring them to safety.

Psalms 34:17 The righteous cry, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.

That's good news! Here in the Book of Revelation, we see a description of the Holy City, New Jerusalem, wherein Israel dwells. It harkens back to the imagery of a **walled city** that is safe and protected. And we get into a description of the City here in:

Revelation 21:12 [It] had a wall, great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the **names** of the twelve tribes of the **children of Israel** [sons of Jacob]:

Ezekiel 48:31-34 The gates of the city shall be after the names of the tribes of Israel: three gates northward; one gate of **Reuben**, one gate of **Judah**, one gate of **Levi**. And at the east side four thousand and five hundred: and three gates; and one gate of **Joseph**, one gate of **Benjamin**, one gate of **Dan**. And at the south side four thousand and five hundred measures: and three gates; one gate of **Simeon**, one gate of **Issachar**, one gate of **Zebulun**. At the west side four thousand and five hundred, with their three gates; one gate of **Gad**, one gate of **Asher**, one gate of **Naphtali**.

Think about how important this subject of **Jacob's sons** still is, one thousand years into the future. At the future time of the new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. So we know that – in the very end – **Israel is restored**. That's our title today.

On God's daily chart of the many things He has to do – there is one overriding task on His long ranging agenda – and that is the **restoration** of His people – **Israel**.

It does not seem to us as though **it is on God's mind** today – but it is very much on His mind every day. Can you imagine that – that far in the future?

Each of Jacob's sons will have his name, Joseph, Benjamin, Reuben, Judah... and so forth, boldly engraved above one of the doors to the eternal Holy City – New Jerusalem.

God has **not forgotten** His people Israel. But, as we look around us today, **all of Israel** has **forgotten** their God.

Psalms 106:21 They have **forgotten God** their Savior, which has done great things **in Egypt**.

That is what we are going to talk about today... what God did back in Egypt. What is God going to do with us all?

It was the same with Jacob, Joseph and all the other sons of Jacob – children of Israel. God allowed them to go **into** Egypt for the express purpose of delivering them **out of** Egypt. The apostle Paul bemoaned the fact that Israel had rejected God, but he found great solace in the fact that **Israel would be restored**.

Paul's personal prayer to God was for Israel, that they might be saved (Romans 10:1). Holding the name *Israel* in respect, Paul refers to them in their sinful state as *Jacob*: Quoting Isaiah 59:20-21 Paul writes of a **repentant** Israel in:

Romans 11:26 All Israel **shall be saved**: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.

This prophecy is clearly speaking of the nations of America and Great Britain, including all its English speaking peoples. Jacob blessed the sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, and said, "Let my name be named upon them." (Genesis 48:16)

In today's sermon we are looking at the first reconciliation of the children of Israel, which foreshadows – looks forward to – the future **restoration of Israel**. Jacob's modern descendants today have a key role yet to play in God's Plan.

Let's take a look at what God will continue to be doing with Jacob/Israel and his twelve sons. God says that He is going to bring about the restitution of all things. That means, even though this is not God's **society** or **world** today, God's system of things is going to be reinstated in the future beginning in the millennium. It is going to be a wonderful time when it all comes to fruition.

We saw last Sermon that Canaan, the home of Jacob and his twelve boys, was hit hard by the famine – in fact they were the reason that God sent seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. God gives us a lot of detail here – because He wants us to know how intricately involved His is in His people Israel and our ultimate restoration.

Genesis 42:1 Now when Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another?

They were all standing around waiting for someone else to do something.

Genesis 42:2 And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is grain in Egypt: get you down there, and buy for us from there; that we may live, and not die.

They were about to starve to death – and this is only the second year of the famine.

Genesis 42:3 And Joseph's **ten** brothers went down into Egypt to buy corn.

Genesis 42:4 But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brothers; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him.

Benjamin is the last son of Rachael – and Jacob is very protective of him.

Genesis 42:5 And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those [from other countries] that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

Not just Egypt.

Genesis 42:6 And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brothers came, and **bowed down themselves before him** with their faces to the earth.

Wow! Joseph recognized them right away. How could Joseph **contain** himself and **refrain** from saying anything to them. Remember Joseph dream when he was seventeen years old? And the ten brothers didn't even realize it – YET!

Genesis 37:5-7 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brothers: and they **hated** him yet the more. And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and **made obeisance to my sheaf**.

Remembering how cruel they had been to him, Joseph could have been tempted to say, "I'm not selling you anything – get out of here."

But he was bigger than that! Joseph was a Godly man – and he knew that he was being used by God for a much greater purpose. In order to be in God's Kingdom, those brothers had a serious **lesson** to learn. How would Joseph teach it to them – insuring that they would never forget the lesson?

Genesis 42:7 And Joseph saw his brothers, and **he knew them**, but made himself strange unto them, and spoke roughly unto them [in a foreign language.]; and he said unto them, **Where are you from?** And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food."

Genesis 42:8 And Joseph knew his brothers, but they knew not him.

Joseph easily put it all together – knowing where they were from, but the brothers had no clue that Joseph would be in such a high position. They had no suspicions at all.

Genesis 42:9 And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; To see the vulnerableness of the land ye are come.

Joseph's mind must have been spinning – not only remembering how his brothers had treated him so cruelly – but more than that realizing that God was working out something tremendous. Right then and there Joseph must have thought to put a plan into action that would culminate in Jacob, his father, being brought down into Egypt.

Genesis 42:10 And they said unto him, Nay, my lord, but to buy food are thy servants come.

Genesis 42:11 We are all one man's sons; we are true men, thy servants are no spies.

Joseph needs a way to activate his plan.

Genesis 42:12 And he said unto them, Nay, but to see the vulnerability of the land ye are come.

Genesis 42:13 And they said, Thy servants are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and, behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and **one is not**. [Meaning that one is dead.]

They do not admit to Joseph that there was, "No love lost" between them. How ironic – standing before Joseph – they postulate that he is dead – "one is not."

Genesis 42:14 And Joseph said unto them, That is it that I spoke unto you, saying, Ye are spies:

Joseph tells them that they are going to have to prove that they are not spies.

Genesis 42:15 Hereby ye shall be proved: By the life of Pharaoh ye shall not go forth hence, except your **youngest brother come hither**.

Oh, how they hated to hear those words. The brothers are seriously "caught between a rock and a hard place." Joseph would hold them hostage for Benjamin. The thought rushed through their mind – "Who's going to tell dad?"

Genesis 42:16 Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be kept in prison, that your words may be proved, whether there be any truth in you: or else by the life of Pharaoh surely ye are spies.

Genesis 42:17 And he put them all together into ward three days.

He let them think about it long and hard...

Genesis 42:18 And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God:

Joseph relents and shows mercy – giving God the credit in their presence! That was a remarkable disclosure in a Pagan land – speaking through an interpreter.

Genesis 42:19 If ye be true men, let **one** of your brothers be bound in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses:

Genesis 42:20 But bring your youngest brother [Benjamin] unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so.

They agreed to those terms' of Joseph's. The brothers began to realize and **admit** that they had **brought** all these circumstances upon themselves.

Genesis 42:21 And they said one to another, We are verily **guilty** concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us.

Reuben said, "I told you so."

Genesis 42:22 And Reuben answered them, saying, Spoke I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required.

Genesis 42:23 And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for he spoke unto them by an interpreter.

As cruel as his brothers had been to Joseph, he had compassion – and he lost it emotionally – and broke down crying – but did not allow his brothers to see.

Genesis 42:24 And he turned himself about from them, and wept; and returned to them again, and communed with them, and took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes.

Genesis 42:25 Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way: and thus did he unto them.

Genesis 42:26 And they laded their asses with the corn, and departed thence.

Genesis 42:27 And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder in the inn, he spotted his money; for, behold, it was in his sack's mouth.

Genesis 42:28 And he said unto his brothers, My money is restored; and, lo, it is even in my sack: and their heart failed them, and they were afraid, saying one to another, What is this that God hath done unto us?

What is going on?

Genesis 42:29 And they came unto Jacob their father unto the land of Canaan, and told him all that befell unto them; saying,

Genesis 42:30 The man, who is the lord of the land, spoke roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country.

Genesis 42:31 And we said unto him, We are true men; we are no spies:

...Wishing that they had been truer from the beginning.

Genesis 42:32 We be twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is not, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.

Genesis 42:33 And the man, the lord of the country, said unto us, Hereby shall I know that ye are true men; leave one of your brothers here with me, and take food for the famine of your households, and be gone:

Genesis 42:34 And bring your youngest brother unto me: then shall I know that ye are no spies, but that ye are true men: so will I deliver you your brother, and ye shall do your business in the land.

Genesis 42:35 And it came to pass as they emptied their sacks, that, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack: and when both they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid.

Genesis 42:36 And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: **Joseph is not**, and Simeon [in an Egyptian jail] is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me.

It's too much! Showing some character, Ruben guarantees Benjamin's safe passage and return.

Genesis 42:37 And Reuben spoke unto his father, saying, Slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee: deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him to thee again.

Jacob would not hear of it and put his foot down.

Genesis 42:38 And he said, My son shall **not** go down with you; for his brother **is dead**, and he is left alone [of Rachael's sons]: if mischief befall him by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.

Jacob had already determined that Joseph was dead, and that he would grieve Joseph until the day he too, died. They were at an impasse and nothing was decided – no decision or action on what to do about Benjamin. Time went on, and no new crops were harvested.

Genesis 43:1 And the famine was sore in the land.

Genesis 43:2 And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the corn which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said unto them, Go **again**, buy us a little food.

Judah gets bold and tells his father that **unless** Benjamin goes with them – nobody's going back down to Egypt for more food.

Genesis 43:3 And Judah spoke unto [Jacob], saying, The man [Joseph] did solemnly protest unto us, saying, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother [Benjamin] be with you.

Judah issues an ultimatum:

Genesis 43:4 If you [Jacob] wilt send our brother [Benjamin] with us, we will go down and buy food for you:

Judah issues an ultimatum:

Genesis 43:5 But if thou wilt not send him, we will not go down: for the man said unto us, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you.

Genesis 43:6 And Israel said, Wherefore dealt ye so ill with me, as to tell the man whether ye had yet a brother?

Jacob is flustered, bewildered and a little irrational.

Genesis 43:7 And they said, The man asked us straitly [specifically] of our state, and of our kindred, saying, Is your father yet alive? Have you another brother? And we told him according to the tenor of these words: [How] could we certainly know that he would say, Bring your brother down?

The brothers told Jacob, "This man Zaphnathpaaneah [Joseph] in Egypt is really smart!" (Using the Egyptian name for Joseph)

Genesis 43:8 And **Judah** said unto Israel his father, Send the lad [Benjamin] with me, and we will arise and go; that we may live, and not die, both we, and thou, and also our little ones.

Even Judah is coming around, and he is trying to make amends for selling Joseph into slavery.

Genesis 43:9 I will be surety for him; of my hand shall thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever:

Judah is a little pushy and disrespectful – if not frustrated: We could have gone and returned home by now had we not procrastinated!

Genesis 43:10 For except we had lingered, surely now we had returned this second time.

So Jacob said, “Take the best of what we have and try to appease this Egyptian.”

Genesis 43:11 And their father Israel said unto them, If it must be so now, do this; take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds:

Genesis 43:12 And take double money in your hand; and the money that was brought again in the mouth of your sacks, carry it again in your hand; peradventure it was an oversight:

Jacob finally relents and allows them to take Benjamin.

Genesis 43:13 Take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man:

Genesis 43:14 And God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother, and Benjamin. If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.

Genesis 43:15 And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand, and Benjamin; and rose up, and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.

Genesis 43:16 And when Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the ruler of his house, Bring these men home, and slay [an animal], and make [a feast] ready; for these men shall dine with me at noon.

Genesis 43:17 And the [ruler of his house] did as Joseph bade; and the man brought the [brothers] into Joseph's house.

Genesis 43:18 And the [brothers] were afraid, because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, Because of the money that was returned in our sacks at the first time are we brought in; that he may seek occasion against us, and fall upon us, and take us for bondmen, and our donkeys.

Genesis 43:19 And they came near to the steward of Joseph's house, and they communed with him at the door of the house,

Trying to explain...

Genesis 43:20 And said, O sir, we came indeed down at the first time to buy food:

Genesis 43:21 And it came to pass, when we came to the inn, that we opened our sacks, and, behold, every man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight: and we have brought it again in our hand.

We didn't know... – honest, we had no idea.

Of course, Joseph is way ahead of them... guiding every move and decision.

Genesis 43:22 And other money have we brought down in our hands to buy food: we cannot tell who put our money in our sacks.

The steward of Joseph's house is a **Pagan unbeliever** – and yet he greatly **respects** Joseph's faith because Joseph has been such a good **example** and **representative** of God in the use of his authority.

Have you ever thought about it, that's the reputation we will have among the people in the World Tomorrow – when we will be among the people saying, “this is the way walk ye in it?” (Isaiah 30:21)

Genesis 43:23 And he said, Peace be to you, fear not: **your God**, and the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks: I had your money. And he brought Simeon out unto them.

Genesis 43:24 And the man brought the men into Joseph's house, and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys fodder.

The steward of Joseph's house made them feel right at home.

Genesis 43:25 And they made ready the present [that Jacob sent] for when Joseph came at noon: for they heard that they should eat [lunch] there.

Genesis 43:26 And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and **bowed themselves to him** to the earth.

They bowed again!

Genesis 43:27 And he asked them of their welfare, and said, Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spoke? Is he yet alive?

Genesis 43:28 And they answered, Thy servant our father is in good health, he is yet alive. And they **bowed down their heads**, and made obeisance.

Again! That's the third time Joseph's dream is fulfilled.

Genesis 43:29 And [Joseph] lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother [Rachael's] son, and said, Is this your younger brother, of whom ye spoke unto me? And he said, **God be gracious** unto thee, my son.

Joseph was not vindictive, vengeful, cruel or angry. He did not try to get even. Joseph's only agenda was to do God's will. He was a man of God, not easily offended.

Genesis 43:30 And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn [feeling deep emotion] for his brother [Benjamin]: and he sought somewhere to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there.

He just broke down and sobbed. Then he got his composure and cleaned up to go back to his own table by himself.

On Joseph's table was a large beautiful **ornate chalice**/goblet - to which the Egyptians attributed mysterious powers – because that is what the magicians did. To the magicians, that goblet was their crystal ball.

Genesis 43:31 And [Joseph] washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Set on bread – “let's eat.”

Joseph sat at one of the **three** tables – by himself.

Genesis 43:32 And they set [Joseph] by himself, and for them by themselves, and for the Egyptians, which did eat with him, by themselves: because the Egyptians might not eat bread with the Hebrews; for that is an abomination unto the Egyptians.

The Egyptian protocol amazed the brothers as they were each told where they were to be seated – eldest to youngest – without inquiring their ages.

Joseph had previously clued in his maître d'.

Genesis 43:33 And they sat before [Joseph], the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men **marveled** one at another.

The brothers realized that they were being easily outmaneuvered by the cunning Egyptians who outsmarted them at every move.

Genesis 43:34 And [Joseph] took and sent [servings] unto them from before him: but Benjamin's portion was **five times** so much as any of theirs. And they drank, and were merry with him.

They loaded food and meat onto Benjamin plate till it was overflowing. Meanwhile Joseph is fast at work on the next stage in his plan.

Genesis 44:1 And [Joseph] commanded the steward of his house, saying, Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put every man's money in his sack's mouth.

Genesis 44:2 And put my cup, the silver cup [the divining goblet], in the sack's mouth of the youngest, and his corn money. And he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken.

Genesis 44:3 As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their donkeys.

They were probably reveling that they had pulled it off – and were headed home.

Genesis 44:4 And when they were gone out of the city, and not yet far off, Joseph said unto his steward, Up, follow after the men; and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good?

“You stole the large beautiful **ornate ceremonial chalice!**”

Genesis 44:5 Is not this it in which my lord drinks, and whereby indeed he divineth? Ye have done evil in so doing.

Genesis 44:6 And the [steward] overtook them, and he spoke unto them these same words.

Genesis 44:7 And the [brothers] said unto him, Wherefore saith my lord these words? God forbid that thy servants should do such a thing:

Genesis 44:8 Behold, the money, which we found in our sacks' mouths, we brought again unto thee out of the land of Canaan: how then should we steal out of thy lord's house silver or gold?

Genesis 44:9 With whomsoever of thy servants it be found, both let him die, and we also will be my lord's bondmen.

The steward said, “I’m only looking for the one guilty party.”

Genesis 44:10 And he said, Now also let it be according unto your words: he with whom it is found shall be my servant; and ye shall be blameless.

Genesis 44:11 Then they speedily took down every man his sack to the ground, and opened every man his sack.

Genesis 44:12 And he searched, and began at the eldest, and left at the youngest: and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

What a nightmare! It seemed as if their hearts would fail them at that moment.

God blinded their reasoning to the point that they fell for the same trick a second time.

Genesis 44:13 Then they rent their clothes, and laded every man his donkey, and returned to the city.

It seems that Judah was laden with guilt more than the others – and it was he who convinced Jacob to let Benjamin come down.

Genesis 44:14 And Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house; for he was yet there: and they fell before him on the ground.

Again! Is that the fourth time?

Genesis 44:15 And Joseph said unto them, What deed is this that ye have done? Don't you know that such a man as I can certainly divine?

Joseph is playfully toying with them, “don't you know that I can see into the future?”

And Joseph **could** – because he was making it happen!

“You should know better than to try to pull the wool over my eyes.”

Judah says, “We'll all be your slaves.” “ God has exposed our sin of selling our brother into slavery.”

Genesis 44:16 And Judah said, What shall we say unto my lord? What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? God has exposed the **iniquity** of thy servants: Behold, we are my lord's servants, both we, and he also with whom the cup is found.

Genesis 44:17 And [Joseph] said, God forbid that I should do so: but the man [Benjamin] in whose hand the cup is found, he shall be my servant; and as for you, “*get you up in peace [and return] unto your father.*”

You are free to go.

Genesis 44:18 Then Judah came near unto him, and said, Oh my lord, let thy servant, I pray thee, speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not thine anger burn against thy servant: for thou art even as Pharaoh.

Judah issues a fervent **heartfelt** appeal for Jacob's sake. Judah reiterates how it all took place back in Canaan.

Genesis 44:19 My lord asked his servants, saying, Have ye a father, or a brother?

Genesis 44:20 And we said unto my lord, We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, a little one; and his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother, and his father loves him.

Genesis 44:21 And thou said unto [us] thy servants, Bring him down unto me, that I may set mine eyes upon him.

Genesis 44:22 And we said unto my lord, The lad cannot leave his father: for if he should leave his father, **his father would die**.

Genesis 44:23 And thou said unto thy servants, Except your youngest brother come down with you, ye shall **see my face no** more.

Genesis 44:24 And it came to pass when we came up unto thy servant my father, we told him the words of my lord.

Genesis 44:25 And our father said, Go again, and buy us a little food.

Genesis 44:26 And we said, We cannot go down: if our youngest brother be with us, then will we go down: for we may not see the man's face, except our youngest brother be with us.

Genesis 44:27 And thy servant my father said unto us, Ye know that my wife bare me two sons:

Genesis 44:28 And the one went out from me, and I said, Surely he is torn in pieces; and I saw him not since:

Genesis 44:29 And if ye take this also from me, and mischief befall him, ye shall bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.

Genesis 44:30 Now therefore when I come to thy servant my father, and the lad be not with us; seeing that his life is bound up in the lad's life;

It will **just kill him** if we go home without Benjamin.

Genesis 44:31 It shall come to pass, when he sees that the lad is not with us, that **he will die**: and thy servants shall bring down the gray hairs of thy servant our father **with sorrow** to the grave.

Judah tells Joseph – "I'm responsible."

Genesis 44:32 For thy servant **became surety** for the lad unto my father, saying, If I bring him not unto thee, then I shall bear the blame to my father forever.

Judah says take me – I beg of you. That is a Godly attribute – he's laying his life down! Judah is actually laying his life down for Benjamin!

Genesis 44:33 Now therefore, I pray thee, let thy servant abide instead of the lad a bondman to my lord; and let the lad go up with his brothers.

Genesis 44:34 For how shall I go up to my father, and the lad be not with me? Lest peradventure I see the evil that shall come on my father.

Judah poured his heart out to Joseph **selflessly**, not selfishly.

Genesis 45:1 Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and **he cried out** to his staff, "Make everyone leave me now." And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself **known** unto his brothers.

Picture the reconciliation taking place – the twelve **sons of Jacob** – alone in a room. Joseph broke down. He totally lost it.

Genesis 45:2 And he wept [and sobbed] **aloud**: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard.

Joseph's brothers must have wondered what in the world was going on? Joseph knows what is about to happen – but they have **no** idea. Joseph switches from the Egyptian tongue and begins to speak in the Hebrew language – face to face with them. He probably took off his imposing royal headdress and imperial robe.

Genesis 45:3 And Joseph said unto his brothers, I am Joseph; does my father yet live? And his brothers could not answer him; for they were shocked and stunned at his presence.

The brothers were tongue-tied. It was too much too fast.

They had to switch from being in deep trouble – to the realization that Joseph yet lives – as a great ruler – all in an instant!

Genesis 45:4 And Joseph said unto his brothers, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said [again], I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.

Joseph knew that God's hand was guiding his life – even more controlling than Joseph's own benevolent manipulative efforts with his brothers.

Brethren, do we see God's work toward the **restoration of Israel** in our own lives? It is there!

****Genesis 45:5** Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for **God did send me** before you **to preserve life**.

For the **restoration of Israel** – which God would do countless times...

Joseph is a type of Jesus Christ – to deliver his brethren. The name Jesus means, "Deliverance." After the incredible story of Joseph and his brothers in Egypt – when Joseph reveals himself as their brother – Joseph reveals how it was **God who had orchestrated the entire epoch**.

Genesis 45:6 For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years more, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest.

****Genesis 45:7** And God sent me before you to **preserve you a posterity** in the earth, and to save your lives by **a great deliverance**.

The Exodus would be an even greater deliverance later on.

Genesis 45:8 So now it was not you that sent me hither, **but God**: and he hath made me a **father** to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

Joseph rightly **credits** God for the entire turn of events.

Brethren, do you realize that we – today – are in the midst of an even greater turn of events – the deliverance and **restoration of Israel** – a spiritual Israel?

Genesis 45:9 You hurry, and go up to my father [Jacob], and say unto him, Thus says **thy son Joseph** [who is alive, by the way], God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, do not hesitate:

What a shock that is going to be to Jacob!

Genesis 45:10 And thou shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shall be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast:

Joseph is now thirty-nine years old. (Genesis 41:46 + 7 years of plenty and 2 years of famine + 39)

Genesis 45:11 And there I will nourish you; for yet there are five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty.

The brothers are rebounding and thinking, "Is this really Joseph?"

Genesis 45:12 And, behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my mouth that speaks unto you.

Joseph says, "Look, you are moving to Egypt, lock, stock and barrel."

Genesis 45:13 And ye shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that ye have seen; and ye shall haste and bring down my father hither.

Genesis 45:14 And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck.

Genesis 45:15 Moreover he kissed all his brothers, and wept upon them: and after that his brothers **talked with him**.

Yes, things like, “we did bow down before you – just like you said!”

For the first time in their lives – they were finally family.

Genesis 45:16 And the fame thereof was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, Joseph's brothers are come: and it **pleased Pharaoh well**, and his servants.

Brethren, it chokes me up just to read about it. Can you imagine the reconciliations to come...?

Genesis 45:17 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Say unto thy brothers, This do ye; lade your beasts, and go, get you unto the land of Canaan;

Genesis 45:18 And take your father and your households, and come unto me: and I will give you the good of the land of Egypt, and ye shall eat the fat of the land.

And I want you to travel “first class.”

Genesis 45:19 Now thou art commanded, this do ye; **take you carriages** out of the land of Egypt for your little ones, and for your wives, and bring your father, and come.

Don't pack your stuff – just come as you are – there's plenty here for you. It is like going to the Feast when we leave everything behind – and don't look back! Here's a new set of clothes for each of you.

Genesis 45:20 Also regard not your stuff; for the good of all the land of Egypt is yours.

Genesis 45:21 And the **children of Israel** did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the commandment of Pharaoh, and gave them provision for the way.

Genesis 45:22 To all of them he gave each man changes of raiment; but to Benjamin he gave **three hundred pieces of silver**, and **five** changes of raiment.

Genesis 45:23 And to his father [Jacob] he sent after this manner; ten donkeys laden with the good things of Egypt, and ten she donkeys laden with corn and bread and meat for his father's trip.

Genesis 45:24 So he sent his brothers away, and they departed: and he said unto them, [Take care – be careful – God be with you] See that ye fall not out by the way.

Genesis 45:25 And they went up out of Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan unto Jacob their father,

Genesis 45:26 And told him, saying, Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he did not believe them.

It was too much to believe!

Genesis 45:27 And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the carriages which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived:

Our Patriarch Jacob was hard to convince – so we'll see in a moment where God intervened to convince Jacob/Israel to go down into Egypt to be with Joseph.

Genesis 45:28 And Israel said, It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die.

For Jacob, it was as if Joseph had risen in the resurrection. [Compare to Abraham thinking that Isaac was as good as dead – only to have his life preserved.] Jacob, too, gives God all the credit.

Genesis 46:1 And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac.

Genesis 46:2 And God spoke unto Israel in the **visions of the night**, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I.

God reminds Jacob of His promises to Abraham.

Genesis 46:3 And he said, I am God, the God of thy father [Isaac]: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee **a great nation**:

God says, "I'll be **with you** the entire time." And brethren, that applies equally to us today – God is with us – do you **believe** it enough to "pack up" and do what God says we are to do?

Genesis 46:4 I will go down with you into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon your eyes. [because the eyes of Jacob were dim for age (48:10)]

Genesis 46:5 And Jacob rose up from Beersheba: and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, and their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him.

Genesis 46:6 And they took their cattle, and their goods, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him:

Genesis 46:7 His sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters, and all his seed/children brought he with him into Egypt.

We have looked at just a few of the details of preparations God was bringing about for the Children of Israel to survive – and to go into the Promised Land. We saw how, in advance, God was working to bring His people, the **restoration of Israel**, Spiritual Israel, into the future Family of God and the Kingdom of God.

Brethren, we are right in the middle of the **restoration of Israel**.

End: Restoration of Israel

Extra notes:

Acts 7:13 And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh.

Acts 7:14 Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls. [75]

Acts 7:15 So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers,

Acts 7:16 And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem.

Acts 7:17 But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,

Genesis 46:15 These be the sons of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob in Padanaram, with his daughter Dinah: all the souls of his sons and his daughters were thirty and three.

But if you count the names there are only thirty-two. That's because Levi's wife was pregnant - and God counts the unborn babies as human beings.

Jacob's three wives, eleven sons, daughters, and grandchildren came to 66 people plus 9 wives.

These 75 people grew to almost three million over the next 215 years.

66 + Jacob, Joseph and the two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Menassah, came to 70.

Exodus 1:5 And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls: for Joseph was in Egypt already. [70]