

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

Gen. 45

Review

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

II. THE PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

B. The Pilgrim: Isaac, 25:19—27:46

C. The Propagator: Jacob, 28:1—36:43

D. The Provider: Joseph, 37:1—47:26

1. Joseph's Background, 30:24-25
2. Joseph's Boyhood, 37:1-11
3. Joseph's Betrayal, 37:12-36
4. Joseph's Brother, 38:1-30
5. Joseph's Bondage, 39:1—40:23
6. Joseph's Blessing, 41:1-44
7. Joseph's Bride, 41:45-52
8. Joseph's Brethren, 41:53—47:10
 - a. The Mystery Phase, 41:53—44:34
 - (1) How Joseph's Brethren were Burdened, 41:53—42:34
 - (2) How Joseph's Brethren were Bewildered, 42:35—43:34
 - (3) How Joseph's Brethren were Broken, 44:1-34
 - (a) The Conspiracy, 44:1-3
 - (b) The Confrontation, 44:4-15
 - i. Disaster Descending, 44:4-12
 - ii. Discernment Dawning, 44:13-15
 - (c) The Confession, 44:16-34
 - i. Judah Offering to Share the Blame, 44:16-17
 - ii. Judah Offering to Shoulder the Blame, 44:18-34

Tonight, we begin looking at Gen. 45:1-24, “***The Majesty Phase***” when Joseph reveals to his family all the glory that is now his in Egypt. This phase is a symbolic teaching to the Lord’s future dealings with the nation of Israel, as well as practical lessons for us today. This incident will be a good picture of then the nation of Israel realizes the identity of the Lord Jesus as their reigning king.

b. The Majesty Phase, 45:1-24

(1) The Revelation of Joseph, 45:1-16

(a) Of His Person, 45:1-16

i. A Sudden Revelation, 45:1

Gen. 45:1 Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.

❖ Judah was interceding on Benjamin's behalf and suddenly Joseph cleared the room to reveal himself to his brothers.

Jn. 9:25 He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner *or no*, I know not: **one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.**

ii. A Sobering Revelation, 45:2

Gen. 45:2 And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard.

❖ Both Joseph and Jesus wept openly over loved ones (see Jn. 11:35.)

iii. A Simple Revelation, 45:3a “And Joseph said unto his brethren, I *am* Joseph; doth my father yet live?...”

❖ The revelation was sudden, sobering, and simple: “...I *am* Joseph...”

Zech. 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and **they shall look upon me whom they have pierced**, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

Zech. 13:6 And *one* shall say unto him, **What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded *in* the house of my friends.**

- ❖ Joseph immediately expressed concern for his father – “...doth my father yet live?...”
- ❖ He was like Jesus, always concerned about pleasing His Father:

Jn. 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for **I do always those things that please him.**

iv. A Successful Revelation, 45:3b
“...And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence.”

- ❖ The revelation was successful in convicting his brothers: they were “troubled at his presence.” = they were terrified!
- ❖ The brothers were speechless – “...And his brethren could not answer him...”
- ❖ The guilty sinner will stand speechless before holy God!

Mt. 22:11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? **And he was speechless.**

(b) Of His Purposes, 45:4-16

i. His Purpose in Pardon, 45:4-5

❖ He Deals with Their Guilt, 45:4

Gen. 45:4 And Joseph said unto his brethren, **Come near to me**, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I *am* Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.



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- Joseph invited his brothers to "Come near to me" (Gen. 45:4).
- Jesus invites us to "Come unto me" (Mt. 11:28).
- The closer a believer gets to the Lord Jesus, the more spiritual truth will be understood.

Jas. 4:8a "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you..."

- Joseph forgave his brothers for the evil they did to him (Gen. 45:4; Gen. 14-15).

- Jesus' first words on the cross were words of forgiveness for those who wronged Him (Luke 23:34).

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them**; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

- Joseph comforted his brothers who felt guilty about betraying him (Gen. 45:4).



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- Jesus' disciples were comforted from the guilt of abandoning Jesus at the cross (Jn. 20:19).

Jn. 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you.**

❖ Forgiveness is a special fruit of grace flowing from a tender heart like the Savior.

Eph. 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

Summary

God used Joseph to resolve each of these recurring problems in Abraham's family:

- Instead of exacting revenge, Joseph reconciles with his brothers and restores family unity by extending forgiveness. (Gen. 45:1–15)
- Joseph preserves his family (and the world) amid severe famine through wisdom and administrative genius. (Gen. 41:25–35; 47:13–26)

Mt. 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and **he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.**

- Joseph, like Jesus, holds all things together for his family.

Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For **by him** were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:**

17 And he is before all things, and **by him all things consist.**

Conclusion

- ❖ When a sinner is revealed the wickedness and hopelessness of personal sin, contrasted with the holiness of the Savior, conviction permeates the consciousness of the heart and creates the troubling of the soul.

Jn. 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.