




Sowing the Word



“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.”

Genesis 45:5

Genesis 42-45

May 20th, 2009

So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.

(Nehemiah 8:8)

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Helpful Study Resource:

Explore the Book by J. Sidlow Baxter

Commentary:

The commentary used with permission throughout
this booklet is:

With the Word Bible Commentary

by Warren W. Wiersbe.

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Outline

- I. Creation (1–2)
- II. The Fall of Mankind (3)
- III. Early History of Mankind – First Thousand Years (4-5)
- IV. Noah and the Flood (6-10)
- V. Tower of Babel (11)
- VI. Abraham (12-25:18)
- VII. Isaac (25:19-27)
- VIII. Jacob (28-36)
- IX. Joseph (37-50)

Detailed Outline For This Week

- IX. Joseph (37-50)
 - A. Joseph's Early day (37)
 - B. Judah's Folly (38)
 - C. Joseph Purified (39)
 - D. Joseph in Prison (40)
 - E. Joseph Exalted (41)
 - F. Joseph Tests his brothers (42-45)
 - a. First trip of Jacob's sons to Egypt (42:1–38)
 - i. The reason (42:1–6): there is grain in Egypt.
 - ii. The recognition (42:7–8): Joseph recognizes his brothers
 - iii. The rebuke (42:9–14): Joseph accuses his brothers of being spies,
 - iv. The requirement (42:15–20): Joseph demands they bring Benjamin
 - v. The remorse (42:21–23): The guilt-stricken brothers
 - vi. The restraint (42:24): Joseph weeps
 - vii. The return (42:25–28): The brothers arrive with food & money!
 - viii. The review (42:29–38): Jacob's sons tell him all about their trip
 - b. Second trip of Jacob's sons to Egypt (43:1–44:34)
 - i. The promise (43:1–14): Judah guarantees Benjamin's safety

- ii. The preparation (43:15–17): Upon arriving, Joseph prepares table.
- iii. The panic (43:18–25): Joseph's servant reassures the brothers
- iv. The presentation (43:26–30): Joseph is "introduced" to Benjamin.
- v. The placing (43:31–34): Seated by their ages amazingly
- vi. The plot (44:1–17): Joseph's cup planted with Benjamin
- vii. The plea (44:18–34): Judah begs Joseph to release Benjamin
- c. The unveiled brother (45:1–28)
 - i. The climax (45:1–4): Joseph reveals his true identity
 - ii. The consolation (45:5–8): Joseph tells God has allowed for good
 - iii. The counsel (45:9–15): Joseph sends brothers to get father
 - iv. The command (45:16–24): Pharaoh says the same to the brothers.
 - v. The confirmation (45:25–28): Jacob believes report about Joseph.

Notes for Booklet

Chapter 42 Highlights and Helps by Pastor Jim

v.9 – Joseph remembered the dreams!

It has been twenty-two years since Joseph had been home with his family. It has been at least twenty-two years since God gave Joseph dreams of what He had for him. It is now coming to pass. As we read through Joseph's life, it does not seem that he doubted that God would fulfill His word – but it is still an amazing time to see what God promised coming to pass.

v.21 – Guilty consciences

It has been twenty-two years, and yet the brothers still remember how they treated Joseph. They still feel their guilt fiercely. Sin leaves such deep pain in our lives that it should never be taken lightly.

v.36 - Everything is against me

Jacob is being a "Jacob" in this season of his life and not an "Israel". He is not trusting God. He has obviously lost his trust in the ability of God to do more than he can see or understand; if only he knew! Jacob's song at this season of his life would be: "No one loves me, this I know. My misfortunes tell me so."

There is a sobering contrast between Jacob and Joseph; Joseph had far worse circumstances, but he never took the attitude all these things are against me

Chapter 43 Highlights and Helps by Pastor Jim

v.8 – Israel again

There is a constant battle inside Jacob that is very much like our own struggles. At times he lives and behaves like "Jacob" – seeking to control and manipulate life all in his own power. Other times, he is "Israel" one who is governed by God. Interestingly, it tells us that in this situation now...he is Israel again. In the last chapter he handled the situation of his son returning to Egypt as Jacob and now as Israel.

Chapter 44 Highlights and Helps by Pastor Jim

Chapter 45 Highlights and Helps by Pastor Jim

v.3 I am Joseph

One can only imagine what such a time seemed like...hearing that Joseph was alive, and that it was him that they were standing before.

What are Chapters 42-45 about?

In one sense, it is an amazing thing that we have before us four fairly lengthy chapters that deal with Joseph and his brothers. We ought to be asking what it is that God takes so much time to deal with in these chapters and why we need to see it. There is more here than I am sure I see – but I want to give you two thoughts – a practical one and a spiritual one.

Practically we see a lesson for us.

Joseph tested his brothers to see if they had changed. He arranged that they could do the same thing to Benjamin that they had done to him. If they were still as selfish and jealous they would repeat their folly. Is this something we can apply to our lives? Perhaps.

Biblically, we are to forgive all who sin against us – this is not an option. Yet, we are also called to be “wise as serpents and harmless as doves”. We are called not to “cast our pearls before swine”. There is a place where those who have sinned against us need to earn our trust before we join with them again. In the Christian life, we must forgive all who sin against us. But forgiveness does not mean we have a relationship with people that will allow them to hurt us again as they did in the past. Forgiveness is required, an active relationship is not. Joseph shows us an example of how we can be “wise as serpents and harmless as doves”

Spiritually there is an amazing picture.

Stephen makes note of this in his amazing message in Acts 7. When Joseph was “first” with his brothers, they rejected him, sold him and more. There are many pictures in what the brothers did to Joseph that parallel how the Jews rejected and treated Jesus at his first coming. The “second time Joseph was made known to his brothers” (Acts 7:13), they received him, recognized him. As you read Genesis 45 and here Joseph say “I am Joseph”, there is an amazing foreshadow to the tribulation when Jesus will say to the Jewish nation, “I am Jesus”. There are amazing details in these four chapters that foreshadow God’s dealing with the Jewish nation during the seven year tribulation. Again, notice that it was during a seven year famine that Joseph’s brothers discovered him...and it will be during the seven year tribulation that the Jews see Jesus!

"There is corn in Egypt."

- Genesis 42:2

By: C H Spurgeon

From: Morning and Evening

Famine pinched all the nations, and it seemed inevitable that Jacob and his family should suffer great want; but the God of providence, who never forgets the objects of electing love, had stored a granary for his people by giving the Egyptians warning of the scarcity, and leading them to treasure up the grain of the years of plenty. Little did Jacob expect deliverance from Egypt, but there was the corn in store for him. Believer, though all things are apparently against thee, rest assured that God has made a reservation on thy behalf; in the roll of thy griefs there is a saving clause. Somehow he will deliver thee, and somewhere he will provide for thee. The quarter from which thy rescue shall arise may be a very unexpected one, but help will assuredly come in thine extremity, and thou shalt magnify the name of the Lord. If men do not feed thee, ravens shall; and if earth yield not wheat, heaven shall drop with manna. Therefore be of good courage, and rest quietly in the Lord. God can make the sun rise in the west if he pleases, and make the source of distress the channel of delight. The corn in Egypt was all in the hands of the beloved Joseph; he opened or closed the granaries at will. And so the riches of providence are all in the absolute power of our Lord Jesus, who will dispense them liberally to his people. Joseph was abundantly ready to succour his own family; and Jesus is unceasing in his faithful care for his brethren. Our business is to go after the help which is provided for us: we must not sit still in despondency, but bestir ourselves. Prayer will bear us soon into the presence of our royal Brother: once before his throne we have only to ask and have: his stores are not exhausted; there is corn still: his heart is not hard, he will give the corn to us. Lord, forgive our unbelief, and this evening constrain us to draw largely from thy fulness and receive grace for grace.

***"And Joseph knew his brethren,
but they knew not him."***

- Genesis 42:8

By: C H Spurgeon

From: Morning and Evening

This morning our desires went forth for growth in our acquaintance with the Lord Jesus; it may be well to-night to consider a kindred topic, namely, our heavenly Joseph's knowledge of us. This was most blessedly perfect long before we had the slightest knowledge of him. "His eyes beheld our substance, yet being imperfect, and in his book all our members were written, when as yet there was none of them." Before we had a being in the world we had a being in his heart. When we were enemies to him, he knew us, our misery, our madness, and our wickedness. When we wept bitterly in despairing repentance, and viewed him only as a judge and a ruler, he viewed us as his brethren well beloved, and his bowels yearned towards us. He never mistook his chosen, but always beheld them as objects of his infinite affection. "The Lord knoweth them that are his," is as true of the prodigals who are feeding swine as of the children who sit at the table. But, alas! we knew not our royal Brother, and out of this ignorance grew a host of sins. We withheld our hearts from him, and allowed him no entrance to our love. We mistrusted him, and gave no credit to his words. We rebelled against him, and paid him no loving homage. The Sun of Righteousness shone forth, and we could not see him. Heaven came down to earth, and earth perceived it not. Let God be praised, those days are over with us; yet even now it is but little that we know of Jesus compared with what he knows of us. We have but begun to study him, but he knoweth us altogether. It is a blessed circumstance that the ignorance is not on his side, for then it would be a hopeless case for us. He will not say to us, "I never knew you," but he will confess our names in the day of his appearing, and meanwhile will manifest himself to us as he doth not unto the world.

With the Word Bible Commentary

Genesis 42-44

These chapters describe Joseph's dealings with his brothers and the brothers' consequent confrontations with their father. The ten brothers had sinned against both Jacob and Joseph, but they thought that Joseph was dead and their sin was safely hidden. Joseph had to deal with them patiently, honestly, and decisively, just the way the Lord works with us when we have tried to cover our sins.

Joseph's immediate goal was to get all eleven brothers to Egypt so they could bow before him and fulfill the dream God had given him more than twenty years before. His ultimate goal was to get them to confess their sins and be reconciled to him and Jacob. The men had to come to the place where their mouths were stopped (44:16; Rom. 3:19).

In a masterful way, Joseph wove these two purposes together as he spoke roughly to them, accused them of crimes, and insisted on their bringing Benjamin to Egypt. Outwardly, he was a stern ruler; but behind the scenes, he was a weeping brother.

Jacob's responses mirror our responses to God's providential disciplines: "Everything is against me!" (42:36); "Why didn't you do it differently?" (43:6); "Take a gift along" (43:11 [always the schemer!]); "If it has to be, it has to be!" (43:14). From pessimism to fatalism, and very little faith.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Ge 42:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

With the Word Bible Commentary

Genesis 45

Recognition. When Joseph saw that his brothers' hearts were humble, and when he heard them confess their sins, he knew it was safe to reveal his identity to them. Had he done it earlier, they would not have been ready for the blessings he had for them; and had he waited longer, the men might have been in total despair. Our Lord knows just how to work in our lives to bring us to submission. Joseph could have fed them and their father without going through this lengthy procedure, but it would only have further ruined their character.

Reconciliation. Joseph said, "Please come near to me" (v. 4). He had forgiven them, but they were still afraid. In fact, they would still be afraid seventeen years later (50:15–21). In Jesus Christ, we have been reconciled to God, and we need not fear judgment (Rom. 8:1; 2 Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:20). God wants us to draw near to Him (Heb. 10:19–25; James 4:8).

Reassurance. Joseph explained to them that God had sent him before them to preserve the nation so that Israel could be a blessing to all the earth (12:1–3). God's providential purpose did not minimize their sins or negate their responsibility (Acts 2:23; 3:13–18), but it did help to ease their fear and sorrow. Joseph further reassured them by giving them rich gifts and promising to care for the whole family. The gifts he sent home helped to give Jacob the assurance he needed that Joseph indeed was alive.

Joseph knew his brothers, so he admonished them: "Don't be angry with yourselves!" (v. 5), and "Don't quarrel on the journey!" (v. 24). We quickly lose the blessing when we fail to accept Christ's forgiveness and then love one another. (See 1 John 4:7ff.)

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Ge 45:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

