

Israel Moves to Egypt

Joseph 10; Genesis 45:9 – 50:26

By Scott Huckaby

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Genesis 45:9-15, Joseph Plan for His Brothers

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 five years of famine.”’

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.

v9-15 – What did Joseph tell his brothers to do?

To return to their father and tell him about Joseph being alive in charge in Egypt. That he needs to move to Egypt because there will still be 5 more years of famine.

Genesis 45:16-24, The Brothers Sent to Canaan

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.’”

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 three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments. ²³ And he sent to his father these things: ten

donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten 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.”

v16-20 – How did Pharaoh react to learning about Joseph’s brothers?

He told them to take carts to make their move to Egypt easier and not to worry about what they’d have to leave behind because the best of Egypt would be theirs.

v20 – What is the significance of Joseph’s brothers being told not to be concerned with what they leave behind?

As Joseph’s brothers were told not to be concerned with what they leave behind, so too should the followers of Jesus look ahead and not back [130]:

Philippians 3:13 – *Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead*

Jesus reinforced this idea when He said:

Luke 9:62 – *No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God*

And Jesus also said in Luke 17:32 – “Remember Lot’s wife.” The context of this is warning Israel about the time of God’s Wrath that precedes the Millennial Kingdom... that His faithful should not get so caught-up in the cares and worries of the world that they miss out on going into the Kingdom.

- The basic principle here applies in the Church Age... don’t be so caught-up in the cares of the world that you miss out on Jesus coming for us.

How do Christians look back when they should be looking ahead?

They get too caught up in their life in the world and do not give enough attention to the reality of eternity.

Colossians 3:1-2 – *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Can someone be so heavenly-minded they are no earthly good?

No... having an eternal perspective motivates to do works that have value both in this world and in eternity.

What is the danger in not having an eternal perspective about all things?

The more a person concerns themselves with the affairs of this world neglecting eternal matter, the more concern there should be that you have a genuine relationship with the Lord.

1 John 2:15 – *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

v21-24 – How did Joseph send off his brothers?

He gave them carts and provisions for the journey. Benjamin got money and extra clothing.

v24 – What is the significance of Joseph telling his brothers to not be troubled when they parted?

As Joseph told his brothers to not be troubled when they parted, so too did Jesus [131]:

John 14:1-2 – *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

What would be a better translation of “mansions”?

The original Greek word is “mone” which means: a staying, abiding, dwelling, habitation, abode. We may indeed have a mansion in the New Jerusalem but this passage is talking about a place for us in heaven at the conclusion of the Church Age.

Genesis 45:25-28, The Brothers Report to Israel

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. 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.”

How were the brothers received by their father Jacob when they returned to Canaan?

He had a hard time believing them that Joseph was alive but came around to accept it the more they told him about Joseph. His spirit revived when he realized it had to be true.

v26 – What is the significance of Israel not initially believing the report that Joseph was alive?

As Israel did not initially believe the report that Joseph was alive, neither did the disciples of Jesus [132]:

Luke 24:10-11 – *It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.*

What is the conventional wisdom about resurrection of the dead in our day?

It is about the same as in Jesus' day... considered to be an idle tale, a myth by naturalists who believe this material universe is all there is and thus there is no life after death.

v28 – What is the significance of Israel believing and saying about Joseph, “It is enough?”

As Israel believed and said about Joseph, “It is enough,” Jesus said about all who believe, “It is finished” [133]:

John 19:30 – *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

What was Jesus saying here? What was finished?

His paying the penalty for our sins was finished. His mission on earth was completed.

v28 – What is the significance of Israel saying, “my son is still alive?”

As Israel said about his son Joseph, “my son is still alive,” the same was said by a messenger of God about His Son, Jesus [134]:

Matthew 28:6 – *He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

What did the disciples see when they looked at the empty tomb?

John 20:6-7 – *Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.*

The burial cloths were as you would expect if the body had just disappeared from inside them. When Jesus was resurrected, His burial cloths just collapsed on to themselves without a body to enclose.

Genesis 46 – Jacob journeys to Egypt and lists the descendants with him. Jacob settles in Goshen meets his son Joseph.

Genesis 47:1-12 – Jacob is presented to Pharaoh and his sons are made stewards of Pharaoh’s livestock.

Genesis 47:13-26, Joseph Deals with the Famine

¹³ Now there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine. ¹⁴ And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, for the grain which they bought; and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh’s house.

¹⁵ So when the money failed in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, “Give us bread, for why should we die in your presence? For the money has failed.”

¹⁶ Then Joseph said, “Give your livestock, and I will give you bread for your livestock, if the money is gone.” ¹⁷ So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the cattle of the herds, and for the donkeys. Thus he fed them with bread in exchange for all their livestock that year.

¹⁸ When that year had ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, “We will not hide from my lord that our money is gone; my lord also has our herds of livestock. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands. ¹⁹ Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants of Pharaoh; give us seed, that we may live and not die, that the land may not be desolate.”

²⁰ Then Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every man of the Egyptians sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. So the land became Pharaoh’s. ²¹ And as for the people, he moved them into the cities, from one end of the borders of Egypt to the other end. ²² Only the land of the priests he did not buy; for the priests had rations allotted to them by Pharaoh, and they ate their rations which Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their lands.

²³ Then Joseph said to the people, “Indeed I have bought you and your land this day for Pharaoh. Look, here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land. ²⁴ And it shall come to pass in the harvest that you shall give one-fifth to Pharaoh. Four-fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and for your food, for those of your households and as food for your little ones.”

²⁵ So they said, “You have saved our lives; let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh’s servants.” ²⁶ And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt to this day, that Pharaoh should have one-fifth, except for the land of the priests only, which did not become Pharaoh’s.

How did Joseph deal with the famine?

- He sold grain until Pharaoh had all the money
- He traded grain for livestock until Pharaoh had all the livestock
- He traded grain for land until Pharaoh had all the land

What happened when the people became totally dependent on the government?

By then they were owned by the government and since the famine was over, they were given what they needed to live on and start over but 20% of their produce was to be given to Pharaoh.

If this 7-year famine was a type of the 7-year tribulation, what does this tell us about the economy of the tribulation?

First the money will fail with run-away inflation...

Revelation 6:6 – *A quart of wheat for a denarius*
The economy will become socialist with the government owning everything...

Daniel 11:24 – *he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches*
Property will be confiscated and the wealth will be moved around. As is stated by the World Economic Forum about the Great Reset, you will own nothing and be happy. People will be totally dependent on and subservient to the centrally controlled government...

Revelation 13:17 – *no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name*

The famine caused the money to fail back in Joseph’s day, what will cause the money to fail during the Tribulation?

God will stop holding together the world’s fiat money systems allowing run-away inflation and scarcity due to disruptions in production and distribution.

- Central bank digital currency will replace our current fiat money. This Digital currency will use block-chain encryption like Bit-Coin but all transactions will be on an electronic ledger managed by the central bank.

Why will people accept a “great reset” to socialism?

There will be wide-spread suffering from the money being worthless. As back in Joseph’s day, people will give up their property in order to live and make it possible for the government to “spread the wealth around.”

How does total dependance on the centrally controlled government generally work out?

- Back in Joseph's day – Joseph gave up some of the government's absolute control over the people when the famine ended allowing them to benefit from their own labor.
- But where governments sought to hold on to total control beyond when the crisis is over, it has always been a disaster (Soviet Union, Venezuela, etc.)
- In the case of the Tribulation, it will utterly fail...
Revelation 18:19 – *They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.*

Why do socialist economies always end in disaster?

- For socialism to work, total control by the government is necessary.
- With no potential for personal gain, no one is motivated to produce more than they have to, it is a formula for mediocracy.
- Socialist economies always lead to shortages and rationing.

What is the significance of Joseph using the 7-year famine to make all people subservient to Pharaoh?

As Joseph used the 7-year famine to make all people subservient to Pharaoh, so too will Jesus use the 7-year Tribulation to bring all people under His rule for the Millennial Kingdom [135]:

Ephesians 1:10 – *that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.*

The only survivors of the Tribulation will be believers.

Genesis 47:27-31 – Jacob makes Joseph vow to bury him with his father instead of Egypt.

Genesis 48 – Jacob blesses Joseph's sons

Genesis 49:1-28 – Jacob prophesies about his sons, asks again to be buried with Abraham and Isaac.

Genesis 49:29-50:14 – Jacob dies and is buried by his sons in Canaan.

Genesis 50:15-21, Joseph Reassures His Brothers

¹⁵ *When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, ¹⁷ 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." ' Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. ²¹ Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

Why did Joseph's brothers seek reassurance from Joseph after Jacob died?

They thought the only reason he was being kind toward them was because of his father Jacob.

What were the brothers who were fearful about what Joseph might do with Jacob dead forgetting?

That Joseph saw the hand of God in what the brothers did to put him in his position in Egypt (see v. 20).

v17-18 – What is the significance of Joseph suffering for the sake of his brothers?

As Joseph suffered for the sake of his brothers, so too did Jesus for our benefit [136]:

Romans 5:8 – *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

What kind of love did Jesus demonstrate by paying the sin penalty of those who trust in Him?

That is the sacrificial, unconditional agape love of God an act of the will to benefit the unlovable. This is in stark contrast to the world's concept of love as a transactional emotion which comes and goes... I love you if you love me back... and you can fall in and out of love.

v20 – What is the significance of good coming from an act of evil?

As the deliverance of Joseph’s brothers came from their evil act to sell him into slavery, so too did our deliverance come from the evil act of crucifying Jesus [137]:

1 Peter 2:24 – *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*

What pattern do we see here that helps us endure bad circumstances in this world?

God is in control and allows bad things to happen for our ultimate benefit...

Romans 8:28 – *all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose*

How is this possible? How can for example the death of a baby be considered a good thing for a parent?

God has the big, eternal picture in mind... when people see how a Christian handles the loss of a child knowing that the child is in heaven, this attracts them to Jesus. If someone ends up in heaven as an eternal result due to our brief affliction in this world that is passing away, it is well worth it.

v21 – What is the significance of Joseph comforting those who caused him to suffer for them?

As Joseph comforted those who caused him to suffer for them, so too did Jesus comfort His disciples and us by extension [138]:

John 14:27 – *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

What kind of peace was Jesus talking about here?

The peace between people and God that only comes from having a right relationship with Him made possible by Jesus paying the penalty for our sin.

Genesis 50:22-26, Death of Joseph

²² So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father’s household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. ²³ Joseph saw Ephraim’s children to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph’s knees.

²⁴ And Joseph said to his brethren, “I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” ²⁵ Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.” ²⁶ So Joseph died, being one

hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

What happened to Joseph?

Joseph lived to 110 years old and saw three generations of his descendants and asked the descendants of Israel to not leave his bones in Egypt. He also reminded them of the promises God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that they will be given their own land and that God would come for them to take them there.

v24 – What is the significance of Joseph telling Israel that God would take them to the promised land?

As Joseph told Israel that God would visit them to take them to the promised land, so too did Jesus tell us that He would visit us and take us to our promised land (heaven) [139]:

John 14:3 – *I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

When will Jesus take us to our promised land in heaven?

At the conclusion of the Church Age...

Acts 15:14 – *Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.*

When the Church Age is over, God will resume working through Israel as His representatives on earth to complete the last, 70th outstanding week of years prophesied in Daniel 9.

- Thus, the rapture of the church could happen at any time; this is the doctrine of imminence. God wants us to live a life that is ready for His return.