

The Restoration of Joseph's Brothers

(Part 2)

“Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, ‘Have everyone leave my presence!’ So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph! Is my father still living?’ But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come close to me.’ When they had done so, he said, ‘I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ ‘So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. ¹⁰ You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’ ¹² ‘You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. ¹³ Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.’ ¹⁴ Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him!’” (Genesis 45:1-24)

God had a good plan for each and every one of us as we can read in Jeremiah 29:11-13 *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” ¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”* The story of Joseph confirmed that God was with him even in the very bad situations of his life when his brothers betrayed him and he was accused by Potiphar’s wife and thrown in prison. It is so impressive of how God care and love extend to each and everyone of us even in the very difficult point of our lives.

God was with Joseph by taking him out of jail and put him in a high position in Egypt. But the plan of God is not yet fully fulfilled in the life of Joseph unless he will be meeting with his brothers. Lessons we learn more from Joseph’s story.

6- People’s betrayal becomes God’s mission for us today: Joseph said to his brothers the following: *God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.* Joseph had a deep understanding, he was not looking to the offenses that his brothers had done against him, instead he is seeing it from another perspective; that God who knows what is going on in the future had sent Him ahead of all his brothers and on behalf of the family to prepare a suitable place for them in Egypt. God did the same when HE sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to save us

from sin and death. Jesus died for our sins on the cross; He was buried and rose from the death on the third day to give us eternal life. And He ascended to heaven ahead of us to prepare a place for us in the heavenliest, and He will come again and take us to be with Him and forever as He promised, *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”* (John 14:1-3) As Jesus forgave us on the cross we ought to forgive others who betray us, and we must understand that we need to love those who hurt us and love them and welcome them in the name of Lord to be restored and be part of the spiritual family, the church.

7- Show maturity and understanding: Joseph understood the plan of God for salvation and deliverance for his brothers, and he understood that what had happened in the past is part of that plan. Eleven brothers with their families are going to be restored back to God and to the plan of God. Eleventh brothers are the eleventh tribes of Israel and without them God’s plan will be hindered; they are part of the people of God. Those who entered Egypt, Jacob and his twelve children and their wives and their children they were seventy two only, but after 400 years they become around two millions. So without the restoration of the eleventh brothers back to Joseph and without the suitable place that God had prepared for them through Joseph in Egypt that total population of the people of God will not be possible. So for us today when we are restoring one person back to God and to the plan of the Lord and to the church we are looking forward to the more multiple people who will be part of the family of God in the time of future. God wants us to be tune with the same mind of Him and working hand with hand with Him so that His will be done in the lives of all the people whom He called for eternal glory.

8- Time of testing is required: Joseph met his brother in their first journey (Read Genesis 42-44) but he did not declare himself to them only in their second journey. Joseph was requesting them to bring to him his brother Benjamin; he was testing whether they will do with his brother Benjamin what they had done to him. If they would throw away Benjamin without any concern just to save their lives as they did with him then he can conclude that they are not yet repented. Joseph told them in Genesis 42:19-20 that they will be tested as we can read here, *“If you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here in prison, while the rest of you go and take grain back for your starving households. But you must bring your youngest brother to me, so that your words may be verified and that you may not die.” This they proceeded to do.”* What Joseph had done brought conviction to his brothers of their previous sin and offence as we can read here: *“They said to one another, “Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that’s why this distress has come on us.”* (Genesis 42:21)

My Dear and Beloved: Testing is required but forgiveness and love must be prevailing. God wants us to be mature enough to go on, *for we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do* as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I thank you for your Word that gives me a real understanding and wisdom that come from you. Lord captivates my mind with your love and grace so that I will work with you to restore others and brings them into your kingdom. Equip me Lord for this mission, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.*