### Genesis

## Chapter 45

1However, JoSeph couldn’t restrain himself when they were all standing there with him; so he said:  
  
 ‘Everyone else is dismissed!’  
  
As a result, nobody [from his servants were with] JoSeph when he told his brothers who he was… 2And as he spoke, he was crying.  
  
Well, soon all the Egyptians heard about this [anyway], and it was reported to the house of PharaOh. 3For JoSeph said to his brothers:  
  
 ‘I’m JoSeph! Is my father still alive?’  
  
However, his brothers couldn’t answer him, because they were in shock!  
  
4Then JoSeph told his brothers:  
  
 ‘Come closer to me...’  
  
...and they all came up to him.  
  
And he said:  
  
 ‘I... Am your brother JoSeph whom you sold into Egypt.  
  
 5‘But, don’t be upset and don’t feel guilty that you sold me here, because [it was] God who sent me ahead of you, so you could live.  
  
 6‘For this [is just] the 2nd year of the famine on the earth, and there are still 5 years to come when there’ll be no plowing or reaping!  
  
 7‘It was God who sent me ahead of you so that some of you’d survive on the earth to feed the rest of your crowd. 8Therefore, you didn’t send me here, God did! And now He’s made me like a father to PharaOh… The master of his whole house and the ruler of the entire land of Egypt!  
  
 9‘So hurry and return to my father, and tell him that this is what your son JoSeph has said:  
  
 ‘God has made me the lord of the entire land of Egypt. So come here to me, and don’t delay! 10You’ll live in the land of Gesem in [the Egyptian province of] Arabia [in Lower Egypt], where you’ll be closer to me… You, your sons, your grandsons, your sheep, your cattle, and everything that’s yours.  
  
 11‘I’ll feed you there, because the famine is going to last for 5 more years. This way, nothing that you own will be lost… Not your sons or any of your possessions!’  
  
 12‘Look at me and see!  
  
 ‘And [you], my brother BenJamin... Use your eyes [and recognize] that it’s my mouth speaking to you!  
  
 13‘So report to my father about all the glory that I have in Egypt, and about everything that you’ve seen. Then hurry and bring my father down here.’  
  
14[Well, after that], he fell on his brother BenJamin’s neck and cried, and BenJamin cried on his neck. 15Then he kissed all his brothers and cried over them, and his brothers [were finally able to] speak to him.  
  
16Well, the report of this was carried back to the house of PharaOh, for he was told:  
  
 ‘JoSeph’s brothers have come.’  
  
And this made PharaOh and his household very happy.  
  
17Then PharaOh said to JoSeph:  
  
 ‘Tell your brothers to [get] wagons and return to the land of CanaAn 18to get their father and all their possessions, and then come here to me.  
  
 ‘I’ll give them all the good things of Egypt, and they’ll eat from the [best] of our land!  
  
 19‘Now, you must give them these instructions:  
  
 ‘Tell them to take wagons from the land of Egypt to get their wives, their children, and their father, and come here. 20[Tell them] not to worry about their possessions, because all the good things of Egypt will be theirs.’  
  
21So that’s what the children of IsraEl did.... JoSeph gave them wagons, just as PharaOh the king had said, and he gave them the things that they’d need for their journey.  
  
22He also gave each of them two suits of clothes… But he gave BenJamin 5 suits of clothes, plus 300 gold coins. 23And he sent the same gifts to his father, plus 10 burros that carried a sampling of all the good things of Egypt, along with 10 mules that carried [provisions] for their journey.  
  
24So he dismissed his brothers and they left.  
  
But before they left, he told them:  
  
 ‘Don’t go away angry.’  
  
25Then they left Egypt and returned to the land of CanaAn and to their father, Jacob. 26There they reported everything to him, saying:  
  
 ‘Your son JoSeph is alive! And he’s now the ruler of the entire land of Egypt!’  
  
Well, this was so amazing to Jacob that he didn’t believe them. 27But they told him everything that JoSeph said, no matter what it was that he said to them.  
  
It was then that [Jacob] noticed the chariots that JoSeph had sent to pick him up, and that’s when the spirit of their father Jacob was restored.  
  
28And IsraEl said:  
  
 ‘If my son JoSeph is still alive, that’s wonderful! I want to go see him before I die!’