

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #91

Genesis 45:16-28

It is a traumatic request to ask Israel (Jacob), who is a 130 year old man (Genesis 47:9) to move to Egypt from Canaan because: 1) Canaan was land that God had given to Israel - Gen. 12:1; 2) Canaan was land in which Jacob worshipped God - Gen. 35:6; 3) Canaan was land in which God appeared to Jacob - Gen. 35:1; 4) Canaan was land in which God prospered Jacob - Gen. 35:11; 5) Canaan was land in which God protected Jacob - Gen. 35:12; 6) Canaan was land God promised to give to Jacob - Gen. 35:12. From a divine prophetic perspective, it was God's perfect will for Israel and his family to move from Canaan to Egypt (45:5-10; Psalm 105:8-24) and God had sovereignly directed all circumstances.

WHEN GOD WANTS TO SOVEREIGNLY MOVE HIS PEOPLE HE WILL MAKE IT CLEAR BY CAUSING KEY, POWERFUL LEADERS TO PHYSICALLY AND TANGIBLY DEMONSTRATE IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

The fact that it was right to move was demonstrated emotionally (45:14-15, 16); verbally (45:9-11; 45:17-18); financially (45:18-20); and spiritually (45:25-27).

RESPONSE #1 - The response of Pharaoh. 45:16-20

The noun Pharaoh comes from an Egyptian word that means the royal palace. The title came to refer to the Egyptian king who had a right to reside at the royal palace. An Egyptian king was thought to be divine and the pyramids and tombs, located in the Valley of the Kings, were built to ensure the survival of the king's influence after he died (*Grolier International Encyclopedia*, Vol. 15, p. 219). God had turned Pharaoh's heart to exalt Joseph (41:37-44) and now to accept Joseph's family. When Pharaoh learned that Joseph's brothers had come to Egypt, he responded in three positive ways:

Positive Response #1 - He responded in a positive emotional way. 45:16

The word "pleased" means this development pleased him to the extent that it made him emotionally cheerful (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 319). In fact, the Hebrew word "please" (v. 16), comes from the same Hebrew root as the word "best" (v. 18, 20, 23). Pharaoh was so pleased he wanted Joseph's family to have the best of everything.

Positive Response #2 - He responded in a positive verbal way. 45:17-20

He verbally ordered Joseph to load supplies and take Egyptian wagons to go get them and said they were to have the best of everything, including the best land in Egypt (45:20).

Positive Response #3 - He responded in a positive tangible way. 45:17-20

He gives Joseph's family food and expenses for travel (45:17); he promises them they will eat the best of food in Egypt (45:18); he gives the finest Egyptian wagons to move them (45:19);

he tells them to leave everything (45:20). The word “goods” (v. 20) includes utensils, clothing, vessels, implements, tools, arms and weapons (Ibid, p. 266 & 399). Pharaoh will give them everything. Talk about a company taking good care of its employee, Pharaoh is taking care of all his relatives and this was all due to the blessings of God. Joseph is not begging for this or trying to manipulate Pharaoh to do this, this is God doing this.

RESPONSE #2 - The response of Joseph . 45:21-24

Response #1 - He responded emotionally . 45:2, 14-15

He had wept and kissed all of his brothers.

Response #2 - He responded verbally . 45:4-11

He told his brothers not to “grieve” because God had sent him to Egypt and he wanted to take care of them.

Response #3 - He responded obediently. 45:21

Joseph obeyed Pharaoh, which as John Philips said proves that Joseph had not only forgiven the sin against him but he had also forgotten it (*Exploring Genesis*, p. 342).

Response #4 - He responded tangibly . 45:22-23

He gave his brothers wagons, provisions and clothing and to Benjamin he gave 300 pieces of silver, plus 5 changes of clothing. He gave his father 10 male and 10 female donkeys loaded with the best supplies and grain and food.

Response #5 - He responded instructively. 45:24

Joseph warned them not to quarrel on the journey. Joseph wanted unity with his family and he knew they could argue and quarrel probably over the fact that Benjamin received more than they did.

RESPONSE #3 - The response of Jacob . 45:25-28

The word “stunned” (v. 26) means that Jacob’s heart became cold. He did not believe Joseph was alive but when he saw all of the wagons, he knew it was all true.

LESSONS:

- 1) God gives His family feasts in times of famine physically and spiritually.**
- 2) God controls all circumstances concerning all people both positive and negative.**
- 3) God will make it very clear when it is time to move.**
- 4) Faithfulness to God will always pay rich dividends.**