

BY A GREAT DELIVERANCE

Genesis 42:1 - 47:31; 50:1-26

Key Verse 45:7

" But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance."

Today we are studying the final lesson of Genesis. This lesson reveals the purpose and fulfillment of the Genesis. In the beginning there was God. God called an old man Abraham, with a vision to make him into a great nation and a blessing to all generations on earth. Abraham kept the promise of God for 25 years and conceived the promised son, Isaac. Isaac passed on the promise of God to Jacob by overcoming hardships and persecutions and remaining in the land of promise. Jacob was not an easy character, but he chose the blessing of God no matter what the cost. God made Jacob's family great by giving him 12 sons. Two of them were Judah and Joseph. God made Joseph the chancellor of the world empire of Egypt and used him to bring the house of Jacob to Egypt, where it grew into a great nation, Israel. Judah had been a heartless and cruel man, but he repented and became the leader and the father of faith from whose family the Messiah, Jesus Christ, was born. God is a God of promise. God fulfills and develops His promise from generation to generation, into a great salvation. God may bless us to be used as patriarchs of faith and, like Joseph and Judah, as leaders for God's history of salvation.

I. Joseph reconciles with his brothers (42:1 - 44:34)

Let's look at 42:1, 2. Jacob instructed his sons to go to Egypt to buy grain. He sent all his sons except Benjamin. When they arrived in Egypt, they fell down before Joseph "on

their faces." Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. Let's look at 42:9: "Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected." Joseph realized that his dreams had come true. Joseph had now become the most powerful man in the Egyptian empire after Pharaoh. In contrast, his brothers had become poor beggars. It was as Moses had said, "The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom." (Deut. 28:13). What was Joseph's secret? Let's look at 42:18: "On the third day, Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God:" In the time of persecution and humiliation, Joseph feared God. He did not grumble against God or against God's servants or against the system or the conditions, but he accepted God's training in absolute faith in God's best love and guidance, as Hebrews 12:5, 6 says, "And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son." Joseph, humanly speaking, had a terrible childhood. But he did not become a mental case, but when he feared God and held on to the promise of God, he was able to overcome all adverse circumstances,

become inwardly healthy and grow into a global leader.

In contrast, how did Joseph's brothers develop? Since they had thrown their brother Joseph into the pit and sold him as a slave to Egypt, life became a hell for them. Apart from the fact that they could no longer look their father in the eye, they became almost insane from guilt and fear. They felt persecuted by the curse of God and said, "That's why this distress has come on us." (42:21). At every opportunity they were terrified with fear, "Why has God done this to us?" (42,28.35). "God has found iniquity in your servants." (43:16b) It was as Moses wrote, "You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out." (Deut. 28:19) Romans 2:9a says, "There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil ..."

How did Joseph deal with his brothers? Did he take revenge? No. Did he forget everything by saying, "Dear brothers, it's Joseph. I'm the big boss here now. Everything is okay. Let's just forget about what happened in the past. I will make you a special price for the grain." He didn't do that either. Let's see how Joseph restored his relationship with his brothers and reconciled with his brothers.

First, Joseph tested them. He accused his brothers of being scouts. Because they were ten very different looking men, they probably looked like scouts. They then replied that they were 12 brothers of one father, one of whom was no longer there and the youngest brother had stayed at home. Joseph immediately recognized their sore spot. He tested them by challenging them to bring their youngest brother to him. He tested to see if they would come back to him. Simeon was to remain in Egypt as a hostage. When the brothers returned to Canaan and told their father Israel, he would not listen to them. Reuben made a bloodthirsty but ultimately irresponsible suggestion. He disqualified himself as a leader. Simeon and Levi had already disqualified themselves

earlier. So Israel hesitated for a long time and did not send the brothers back to Egypt.

When all the grain had been consumed, Judah took the initiative. Let's look at 43:8, 9: "Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the boy along with me and we will go at once, so that we and you and our children may live and not die. I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you, I will bear the blame before you all my life." Unlike Reuben's proposal, Judah's proposal was acceptable to Israel because he saw that Judah wanted to take personal responsibility. Thus, he allowed the brothers to go to Egypt with Benjamin. Judah became the leader of the brothers even though he was only 4th place in the birth order. Taking responsibility and bearing the blame is a crucial quality of a leader.

When they arrived in Egypt, they talked to Joseph's steward about the money they had received back. But the steward said, "It's all right," he said. "Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks; I received your silver." Then he brought Simeon out to them." (43:23) Apparently Joseph had paid the price for the grain for his brothers. The steward also brought Simeon out to them again. Then they were led into Joseph's house. Joseph came home around noon. He was glad that they had returned. He greeted his brothers kindly, inquired about their father, and also blessed the youngest brother, Benjamin. Then the brothers held a joyful feast. At the banquet, seats were given in the order of the brothers' births. The brothers were very surprised about this, but they did not ask any questions.

Therefore, Joseph had to test them further. On the eve of departure, Joseph had his silver cup hidden in Benjamin's grain bag. The next day they went back to Canaan packed with grain. When they had not gone far out of the city, Joseph's people caught up with them. Joseph's people found Joseph's

silver cup in Benjamin's grain bag and arrested him. This time the brothers did not leave the youngest alone, but returned to Joseph together under the leadership of Judah. They all wanted to become slaves of Joseph together. But Joseph wanted to keep only Benjamin as a slave. Then Judah took the floor and spoke to Joseph in a long speech. Let's look at 44:32-34: "Your servant guaranteed the boy's safety to my father. I said, 'If I do not bring him back to you, I will bear the blame before you, my father, all my life!' "Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord's slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come on my father."

Here we see the change in the brothers, especially Judah. First, Judah was changed from a cold-hearted and pitiless man to one who thought of others, especially his father, and could not look upon the wailing of his father. Second, Judah had once been a ruthless and merciless person who sold his younger brother into slavery without batting an eye. But he was changed into a person who was willing to give his life as a ransom for the life of Benjamin so that he could return to his father.

Here we can also learn about Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers. Joseph did not take the easy way out. Reconciliation does not happen through Buddhism "Forget everything!" or humanism "Improve your circumstances first" or liberal theology "God loves you and has forgiven you everything". Reconciliation happens through spiritual help and through acts of repentance. As God had once helped Abraham to offer him Isaac, so Joseph helped his brothers to practically reveal their obedience and repentance and confess their love. Joseph challenged them to return to him again and again, and also to bring their Benjamin. Joseph challenged them until they practically laid down their lives for the life of Benjamin. It was very hard for his brothers and also for Joseph. Joseph's pain-bearing, repentance-revealing

love for his brothers qualified them as faith progenitors for God's people and was the viable foundation for their reconciliation and continued cooperation for the fulfillment of God's promise. After His resurrection, Jesus not only reconciled with His disciples through a delicious stand picnic, but He dealt with Peter's spiritual concern very harshly: "Do you love me?" The Bible says that Jesus kept asking until Peter became sad. But Peter's greatness is that he did not leave, but kept confessing his love for Jesus. This was the viable foundation for Apostle Peter to be reconciled to Jesus and set up as the shepherd and rock of the church.

In this passage, we learn that through slavery, persecution and imprisonment, God fulfilled Joseph's dreams and grew him into a global leader who was able to help his brothers.

Nelson Mandela spent 27 years of his life in prison, from the age of 45 to 73. But he did not spend this time with thoughts of revenge. He studied the literature of white people to learn their language and understand their thoughts. He formed friendships with them. Eventually, he became president of South Africa, reconciling black and white citizens of the country.

We once experienced persecution. But God's servant did not fight humanly, but came to Jesus, the living stone, and he followed God's guidance to serve the world mission. Although he himself was persecuted, he served some young people during that time, including a missionary from America, with love leading to repentance, and set her up as a mother of faith for the Next Generation. He also ministered to me during medical school through the business mission and led me to repent of my wrong life goal of becoming a clinic director and helped me confess my love for God and spiritual desire to grow up as a Bible teacher and spiritual leader like Ezra with Ezra 7:10. God then used us as a spiritual headquarter for the European mission for spiritual revival and also for the cooperation mission.

Now we are experiencing persecution and humiliation again. But we may follow the best guidance of God and challenge the online mission, M-mission, mobilization of Next Generation and the formation of 10,000 one-to-one Bible study teams. With repentance-revealing love, we may serve the young people and the Next Generation and raise them up as the global spiritual leaders for this generation. In God's time, we may be used again as a spiritual headquarter for spiritual reconstruction, spiritual revival and world mission.

II. Joseph's Faith in the Promise of God (45:1-47:31; 50:1-26)

Let's look at 45:1-3. Judah's leadership and his sense of responsibility to live in Benjamin's place as a slave in Egypt moved Joseph's heart. He saw that his brothers had been changed. He sent out all his servants and wept aloud, revealing himself to his brothers: "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! 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." (45:4,5) These are very remarkable words of Joseph about the time of his slavery and imprisonment. No hurt feeling, no resentment, but love and obedience to God's best will and plan speak out of Joseph's words. What was his insight into God's plan? Let's look at 45:7: "But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance." First, Joseph was not looking at people, but at God. With Joseph, God was always the subject. Not people or circumstances, but God directing history according to His best plan. Second, Joseph was sent ahead. For Joseph, being sent ahead by God meant receiving God's special training and obeying God's plan for his life. Third, God's goal was to leave God's people and preserve their lives. Fourth, God wanted to use God's people for a great salvation. In order to leave God's people and keep them alive, God made Joseph the chancellor of the Egyptian world empire.

God also sent this disciple-making ministry ahead, especially for the Online Mission, KBG Mission, for the M-Mission, for the Mustard Seed Mission, and for the mobilization of the Next Generation through the Global Leadership Empowerment Forum, Master Courses, Inductive Bible Study, Leadership Seminars. God is using this work to leave some Next Generation workers and keep them alive that is spiritually alive so that they may be used as an exceedingly great army of God for a great salvation. I thank God for helping Peter Joseph, who turned 17 yesterday, the age when Joseph was sold into Egypt, to prepare history lectures at the Leadership Seminar through the servanthood of God, and to cooperate in the work of God through online mission and orchestra, and to learn faith by challenging the 1.0 cut at high school graduation through Deep Work. Through this, God is helping him to be sent ahead spiritually. Being sent ahead is not easy because you have to leave the comfortable life with little jokes. But God wants to send him ahead and use him for a great salvation, for his friends at EMA, and, I pray, at medical school, in the M-world, and as far as North Korea. I sometimes thought that God was holding me back by helping me leave behind my self-centered idea of becoming a clinic director. It was not an easy process for me. But more and more, I realize that God has indeed sent me ahead to grow as a leader for a great salvation. I repent that I sometimes doubted God's guidance through unbelief. I may follow God's guidance and continue to be sent ahead by challenging the online mission and M-mission at this time and fighting for the spiritual mobilization of the Next Generation and also for the pioneering work of the medical school. God is always good. God bless you to live as spiritual forerunners and be used as leaders for a great salvation.

Joseph commanded his brothers to take their father Israel to Egypt. As chancellor of Egypt, Joseph had already carefully prepared the land of Goshen for them. Pharaoh and his great ones were also very eager to help.

When the brothers returned to Canaan and reported to their father Jacob, his spirit came alive. Israel went to Egypt with all his house. On the way in Beersheba, God spoke to Jacob at night in a revelation that He would make him a great nation in Egypt and that God would also bring him up again to the land of promise. Once in Egypt, Joseph presented his brothers and father to Pharaoh. Pharaoh provided them with the best place in the land, the land of Goshen. So God used Joseph to leave his father and his whole house and keep them alive and fulfill God's plan to make Israel a great nation.

Let us still look at chapter 50. Jacob lived seventeen more years in Egypt. Before his death he gave instructions not to be buried in Egypt but in the land of Canaan with his fathers. Then he passed away. Joseph obeyed his father's instruction. Jacob, the son of Isaac, was given a funeral escort, like a Pharaoh. After Jacob's death, Joseph's brothers feared his revenge. It was their persistent distrust. But Joseph said to them, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them." (50:20,21) Joseph's faith is remarkable. He did not fear evil, for he believed that God would make it good. Joseph did not think of revenge, hatred and resentment, but his heart's desire and dream was what he worked for all his life, to keep alive a great nation, God's people. Let's look at 50:22,23 more. He dedicated himself to mobilizing the Next Generation and helping them into the fourth generation.

At the end of his life, Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." (50:24,25) Although Joseph was the chancellor of Egypt, he did not just see Egypt. His vision, according to God's promise, went much further than that. He already saw that his Egypt would perish and that God would write

the mainstream of his history through the descendants of Israel who would be brought out of Egypt. By faith, Joseph gave the instruction that his bones would be taken to the Promised Land when he left Egypt. By faith, Joseph, though an Egyptian chancellor, remained part of God's people and history of salvation. The author of Hebrews therefore summarizes Joseph's faith as follows: "By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones." (Hebrews 11:22)

Today we have learned that Joseph is the fruit of Genesis, or the promise of God. He was sent ahead by God to prepare the environment so that God's people would remain alive and grow into a great nation. For this, God set him up as the leader on the global level. As an Egyptian chancellor, he kept his identity as God's people and used his position according to God's promise to save a great nation.

Through the Genesis Bible study, we have learned that God began His work of salvation through the patriarchs of faith.

They were only one person. But they held on to the promise of God from generation to generation. From the 3rd generation, God began to make His promise great in numbers. Through Genesis, we learn that it is crucial to raise up spiritual descendants of the Next Generation, down to the third and fourth generations. The goal of Genesis can be summarized in two points: First, "a great nation." Second, "to a great salvation." Through Genesis, God has given us His promise: "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing." (12:2) And, "But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance." (45:7) God use you as patriarchs of faith through whom a great people of God will come into being. God use you as global spiritual leaders like Joseph and Judah, who may be used for a great salvation.