

The Admission by Joseph

Genesis 45:1-28

- I. THE PRIVACY OF THE ADMISSION (Genesis 45:1)
 - A. The Climax of the Admission
 1. The long awaited revealing of Joseph has arrived. The immediate sequence of events and revealing are reported in this chapter.
 2. Joseph had received more than adequate proof that his brothers had changed in their character. Therefore, he could safely reveal his identity to them. Because of this he could bestow on them the many blessings which his position in Egypt enabled him to do so.
 - B. The Reason of the Privacy
 1. The propriety of his rank—This revealing was a private matter; and because of his rank, it was proper to send out all his servants.
 2. The protection of his relatives—Joseph would speak about the evil of his brothers and wisely did not want to drag the family's problems to the public (Proverbs 25:9-10; Matthew 18:15).
- II. THE PASSION IN THE ADMISSION (Genesis 45:2, 14, 15)
 - A. The Extent of this Passion
 1. *"He wept aloud"* (Genesis 45:2)
 2. He had contained his emotions long enough, and with a great deal of effort (Genesis 42:24; Genesis 43:29-31) in the visits with his brothers; now he finally lets his emotions show. These were tears of joy not of sorrow.
 - B. The Embrace of the Passion
 1. *"He fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept... Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them"* (Genesis 45:14, 15).
 2. We can certainly understand Joseph embracing Benjamin, but to graciously kiss *"all"* his brothers and embrace them... This shows that Joseph's previous stern conduct toward them in their visits to Egypt for was not vindictive but to examine them to see if they had changed in their character.

III. THE TROUBLING BY THE ADMISSION (Genesis 45:3)

A. The Brothers Were Speechless

1. *“His brethren could not answer him.”*
2. Understandably this revealing by Joseph made them speechless for a while. They did not know how to answer him.

B. The Brothers Were Scared

1. *“They were troubled at his presence.”*
2. Again, for a good reason they were troubled by his presence. They had cruelly mistreated him and now he stands before them in a position of power and authority. By his authority they could be relegated to the most severe punishment for the rest of their lives.
 - a. Note: Joseph’s brothers had been very cruel not only with him (Genesis 37:18-28), but with others as well (Genesis 34:25; Genesis 49:5)
 - b. Note: Joseph as a type of Jesus Christ: The sinner has no problem being cruel and judgmental to one another, yet, the Saviour is merciful and loving (Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 2:15-16, 17).

IV. THE PERSPECTIVE IN THE ADMISSION (Genesis 45:5-8)

A. The Comfort in the Perspective

1. *“Be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither”* (Genesis 45:5).
2. Because of the pertinence of the situation, Joseph brings up the cruelty of the brothers in selling him. The way in which Joseph deals with their treatment of him is so noble and gracious.
 - a. Note: This is reminiscent of Stephen (Acts 7:57-60).
 - b. Note: Joseph as a type of Jesus Christ: Christ did not lay the charge of his death on those that crucified him (Luke 23:34).
3. These unexpected words did not condone their sin but showed forgiveness and the Divine use of their evil. Joseph did not want them to be overly grieved and oppressed because of their past sin which they already had showed evidence of being sorrowful of it (Genesis 42:21).
4. Note: If the devil cannot keep you from repenting of your sin, he will try and keep you in constant remorse over it.

B. The Care in the Perspective

1. “*God did send me before you to preserve life*” (Genesis 45:5)
2. Joseph saw the overall purpose of his coming to Egypt. It was to be used by God to preserve life, especially the lives of his family (Israelites), God’s chosen people (Deuteronomy 7:6; Deuteronomy 14:2).

C. The Cause in the Perspective

1. *God did send... God sent me... but God*” (Genesis 45:5, 7, 8)
2. Three times Joseph refers to God being the one who is the reason for him being in Egypt.
3. God can use the wrath of man to praise Him (Psalm 76:10).
4. God is not out-witted by men’s evil ways.

D. The Calamity in the Perspective

1. “*These two years hath the famine been in the land, and yet there are five years*” (Genesis 45:6).
2. Joseph speaks of the famine’s duration to support this matter of his being sent to Egypt to “*preserve life*” (Genesis 45:5) and to encourage his brothers being receptive to his invitation to come to Egypt to live where he can better take care of them.
3. Note: Joseph as a type of Jesus Christ: The Lord reaches down to man and offers his salvation to any and all that will hear Him (John 12:32; Revelation 3:20)

V. THE PLEASURE FROM THE ADMISSION (Genesis 45:2, 16)

A. The Communication for the Pleasure (Genesis 45:2, 16)

1. “*And the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard... the fame thereof was heard in Pharaoh’s house*” (Genesis 45:2, 16).
2. In spite of the privacy of the revealing of Joseph’s identity, enough information got out so that Pharaoh heard of the reunion. The loud weeping could not be completely concealed, and the servants would not hesitate to listen. The intimacy would be concealed from the public but not the main event.

B. The Cause of the Pleasure (Genesis 45:16)

1. Why would it please Pharaoh? One reason is that it would now give Joseph a background other than the lowliness of having been a slave. Pharaoh had changed Joseph's name to help his reputation. But the fact remained that Joseph's background included that of being a slave.
2. Now he had family, and this caused Pharaoh to rejoice, for his appointee had some commendable background for his government appointment (Psalm 16:6).

VI. THE PROOF IN THE REVEALING (Genesis 45:12)

A. The Proof in the Sight

1. The brothers were stunned at the revelation, and rightly so.
2. Joseph gave them some simple proofs of his being their brother.
 - a. If they look closely at Joseph, they could see a resemblance of his identity.
 - b. When they only saw him as a ruler, they would not consider him for recognition as a brother. However, now they are urged to do so in order to see the proof that he is Joseph.
3. Note: Joseph as a type of Jesus Christ: God is ever giving us proof of Himself and His work to us (Psalm 19:1-3; Psalm 97:6; Isaiah 40:22-26; Romans 1:19-20).

B. The Proof in the Sound

1. *"It is my mouth that speaketh unto you"* (Genesis 45:12).
2. He now speaks to them in their own language (note Genesis 42:23).
3. He not only spoke their language, but if they listened closely, they would hear the familiarity of his voice [Note: Joseph as a type of Jesus Christ: Mary recognized the Master's voice once he called her by name (John 20:16)].

VII. THE REDIRECTION BY JOSEPH (Genesis 45:9-11, 17-24)

A. The Path in the Redirection (Genesis 45:9, 13)

1. Joseph sent his brothers back to bring the others back (Genesis 45:9)
2. The brothers were to tell Jacob all things that they had seen and bring him back with them (Genesis 45:13)

- B. The Proclamation in the Redirection (Genesis 45:9-11, 13)
1. The brothers were to tell Jacob of Joseph's position ("*lord of all Egypt*") and glory (Genesis 45:9, 13)
 2. The brothers were to tell Jacob of the place for dwelling (Genesis 45:10-11)
- C. The Precaution in the Redirection (Genesis 45:20-24)
1. For their care (Genesis 45:20)
 - a. "*Regard not your stuff; for the good of all the land of Egypt is yours.*"
 - b. This commandment originated with Pharaoh (Genesis 45:17-20). It meant that Jacob's family was not to worry about moving everything to Egypt, for in Egypt everything would be supplied.
 - c. It is so easy for us to get wrapped up in the cares and "*stuff*" in this life, but we need to be focused on the provisions of eternity (Colossians 3:2)
 2. For their conduct
 - a. "*See that ye fall not out by the way*" (Genesis 45:24)
 - b. Joseph knew his brothers. They were apt to fight and accuse (Genesis 42:21, 22). This could keep them from fulfilling Joseph's orders.
 - (1) Churches need this exhortation at times.
 - (2) Church feuds and fights hinder the work of God in the hearts of the people as well as the work to a lost and dying world (1 Corinthians 3:1-3; 1 Corinthians 11:18).
- D. The Provisions for the Redirection (Genesis 45:19, 21-24)
1. The wagons for the trip (Genesis 45:19, 21)
 - a. The wagons had been commissioned by Pharaoh to be sent for Joseph's family. The intent was to help the children and women on their journey. It was also to bring provisions to them.
 - b. Joseph was sending his brothers on a mission, and he supplied his brothers with the necessary provisions for that mission.
 - c. Note: Joseph as a type of Jesus Christ: God will not send or commission you for a work without enabling you (Philippians 1:6; 1 Timothy 1:12)
 2. The wardrobe for the brothers (Genesis 45:22)
 - a. To each one of his brothers he gave them "*changes of raiment.*"
 - b. The impoverishment of the famine obviously worked havoc on the brothers wardrobe, but Joseph took care of those needs too.
 - c. Note: Joseph as a type of Jesus Christ: Again, Christ exchanged his perfect sinless garments for our garments stained with sin and unrighteousness (Philippians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21) and one day we will put on that house which is from above (2 Corinthians 5:2, 4).

3. The wealth for Benjamin (Genesis 45:22)
 - a. Benjamin received preferential treatment.
 - b. However, the other brothers were of character now that this didn't matter.
4. The welfare for Jacob (Genesis 45:23)
 - a. Joseph made sure to supply his father (Jacob) with adequate food and supplies for the journey.
 - b. Note: Joseph as a type of Jesus Christ: Our Lord has given us everything we need for our journey. We have the book (The Bible), the blood (salvation in Christ), the blessed hope (the Rapture), a brotherhood (family of God), and the Spirit of God (Holy Spirit).

VIII. THE REPORTING ABOUT JOSEPH (Genesis 45:25-28)

A. The Problem in the Reporting (Genesis 45:27)

1. This message wasn't the easiest thing for the brothers to deliver. Remember they had deceived their father concerning Joseph. Yet, in spite of this, they were faithful in delivering the message that they had been commissioned to deliver.
2. At times it might be hard for the NT saint to deliver the message that God has given, yet, we must not hesitate in doing so. Paul did not shun to "*declare... all the counsel of God*" (Acts 20:27). God's people must do likewise.

B. The Particulars of the Reporting (Genesis 45:26, 27)

1. The location of Joseph (Genesis 45:26)
 - a. This was the most important news. "*Joseph is yet alive... Egypt*".
 - b. If Joseph was not alive, nothing else mattered.
 - c. Note: Joseph as a type of Jesus Christ: So, it is with Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:12-20).
2. The occupation of Joseph (Genesis 45:26)
 - a. "*He is governor over all the land of Egypt.*"
 - b. This speaks of Joseph's position, his glory, and of his greatness.
 - c. Note: Joseph as a type of Jesus Christ: The same is true of Christ, not only did he rise, but he is also exalted, glorified and great (1 Corinthians 15:20; Hebrews 1:3).
3. The words of Joseph (Genesis 45:27)
 - a. "*They told him all the words of Joseph.*"
 - b. We are to preach the word of God (Acts 20:27-31; 2 Timothy 4:2).

C. The Pessimism Concerning the Reporting (Genesis 45:26)

1. The weakness of unbelief
 - a. *“Jacob’s heart fainted, for he believed them not,”*
 - b. Weakness (*“fainted”*) and unbelief go hand in hand. The devil would have us think that Christians are weak and sissies, but the opposite is true. For unbelievers are the ones who are weak and sissies in the most important matters of life (Deuteronomy 31:6, 7; Joshua 1:6, 9).
2. The willingness of unbelief
 - a. Jacob was more willing to doubt than to believe.
 - b. When the brothers brought home the coat rent stained with blood, Jacob was willing to believe without question (Genesis 37:33).
 - c. Here the evidence was great for belief, but Jacob was slow to believe. This is typical humanity. That is why unbelief is honoured, and faith is mocked.

D. The Proof for the Reporting (Genesis 45:27)

1. They told him all the words of Joseph (Genesis 45:27a)
2. Unbelief must not silence the message that God has given us to (Romans 10:17). The word of God is essential for faith.
3. *“When he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived”* (Genesis 45:27b)
4. The wagons were indisputable evidence. The wagons were distinctly Egyptian.
5. Note: There is enough indisputable evidence in the world to verify the message of the word of God. Critics simply refuse to look at the “wagons” of evidence.

E. The Prospects from the Reporting (Genesis 45:26)

1. *“Israel said, it is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive; I will go and see him before I die.”*
2. Jacob had some very good prospects of his son being alive, unlike this world.
3. Without this fact of Joseph being alive, the prospects are nil. Note: Joseph as a type of Jesus Christ: The same is true concerning to the gospel of Christ. Our prospects are all based on a living Saviour, as was already noted... If Christ is not alive, then our hope is lost (1 Corinthians 15:17).
4. *“I will go and see him.”* Jacob had hope and joy of seeing his son again. Thus it is true of the believer, we joy and hope in seeing our Saviour one day (1 John 3:2, 3).