

RUSSELL SANDERS

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THE LIFE OF JOSEPH – LESSON 16

REDEMPTION

Chapter 45 of Genesis: After Judah's passionate plea Joseph was deeply moved in emotions. He ordered all other people out of the room leaving him with just his eleven brothers. He could no longer restrain the tears. He sobbed heavily and loudly such that all the Egyptians of his house and Pharaoh's house could hear it. Surely the brothers wondered what was going on.

When Joseph finally regained his composure, he said to his brothers, ***"I am Joseph. Doth my father yet live?"*** They were so astonished by this that they were dumbfounded. They were not yet sure about it, but if it were Joseph, they were troubled that at his presence they could be punished for what they had done to him as a teenager.

Joseph allayed their fears and reaffirmed his identity. He said in verse 4, ***"I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt."*** He then absolved them of guilt by telling them God's plan all along to preserve their lives and Jacob's posterity. He said, "God has made me a father to Pharaoh over all his house and the entire nation of Egypt." (my paraphrase).

He now spoke to them in their own Hebrew tongue, ***"that it is my mouth that speaketh unto you"*** rather than the Egyptian tongue he had previously used. After communing with them, and a joyful reunion with his brother Benjamin, he then told them to go back to Canaan with their asses, get their father, and bring him to Joseph.

Pharaoh learned of this and laid out a better plan. The brothers were to go to Canaan to bring back not just Joseph's father, but the entire households of the children of Jacob. He said take wagons to load everyone into, plus ten male asses (besides the brother's own asses) laden with all the goods and wealth of Egypt, and ten she-asses laden with all manner of food for their journey. He also gave to each of the ten older brothers a fine elegant garment. However, Benjamin was given five fine garments and 300 pieces of silver.

The brothers departed soon after to return to Canaan. They surely had to have been accompanied by several Egyptian servants, perhaps even some soldiers for protection. The brothers never could have managed the trip alone with thirty asses and an untold number of wagons to drive.

When they arrived home, they told everything to their father. Jacob could hardly believe it. He was so overwhelmed that he fainted. When he finally regained consciousness, he was overjoyed. He said in vs. 28, ***"It is enough (that) Joseph my son is yet alive. I will go and see him before I die."***

Redemption. Joseph had forgiven the brothers. He had redeemed them from their sin against him and against their father to whom they had been deceitful. He was now offering them a new life.

Like Joseph, Jesus has also redeemed us. We are forgiven. We are restored (reconciled) to the family of God. He has given us a new life and the promise of a new home. What Jesus has done for us parallels what Joseph did for his family about 1700 to 1800 years before Christ.

Types and foreshadows of the Old Testament era come to light in the New Testament era.