



Message 12-15-18
VaYigash-And He Drew Near
Genesis 44:18-47:27
Ezekiel 37:15-28
Acts 7: 12-18

Introduction

Joseph is so moved by this clear evidence of Judah's repentance that he reveals himself to his brothers, crying so loudly that it can be heard even in Pharaoh's palace.

Genesis 45:1-5

1 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So, no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. **2** And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. **3** And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. **4** So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. **5** And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. (ESV)

Joseph could not stand it any longer being with his brothers, and they did not know who he was. This is so like our relationship with Messiah Yeshua. It's of importance when you realize that Yeshua's people, the Jewish people, did not recognize Him while He walked and taught among them. Yes, there were some among the Jewish people who accepted Yeshua because of His teachings which corrected the misapplication of Torah by the nation's leaders. Joseph was in Egypt to bring about God's plan, not only because he had been sold into slavery by his brothers or was thrown into prison on a false charge. He was there because God wanted him there. He was in the right place at the right time. He would pave the way for Jacob and his sons and their families to come to Egypt to live during the seven-year draught that was coming. Jacob died in Egypt but was buried in the Promised Land in the cave of Machpelah with his father and grandfather, their wives and his wife Leah. Later, when Israel was freed from slavery in Egypt, Joseph had made them promise to take his bones out of Egypt and back to the Promised Land where he had lived as a boy. If we understand Scripture, it would appear than Joseph and his brothers were buried in Machpelah as well. I am assuming here based on what I understand Scripture to be saying.

Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, so they would know that their original intent to harm or hurt him was not their fault. It was because it was part of God's plan to save His people and have them flourish and grow to prepare them for the journey back to the Promised Land. As Joseph revealed himself, so did Yeshua. Even beyond that, Yeshua revealed Himself to the world with many rejecting Him. It was not just the Jewish people who reject Yeshua, for the most part. It is also the world at large with all these other religions competing for attention. It is basically what the Apostle Shaul said.

2 Corinthians 11:4 For if someone comes and tells you about some other Yeshua than the one we told you about, or if you receive a spirit different from the one you received or accept some so-called "good news" different from the Good News you already accepted, you bear with him well enough! (CJB)

This is what the world is doing and has been doing for a very long time. They have not known who the real Messiah is for centuries. They lost touch with the true Messiah long ago. Faith in the Son of the Almighty is what counts, but so does how you choose to see Him. What I mean is do you see a Caucasian male who is the founder of Christianity, or do you see the Son of the Holy One of Israel who was born a Jew of the line of David? And don't think to say that God chose another people, Christians, to take the place of His people, Israel, because they crucified Yeshua. This is a lie straight out of the pit of hell, my friends. Why? Because Scripture makes it very clear that we are all responsible for His death. Some Jewish leaders may have called for His death, but the Romans were the ones who crucified Him. You might say this is a technicality but **accept the truth of the Word of God that we are all responsible for His death because of our sins!**

2 Corinthians 5:14 For the Messiah's love has hold of us, because we are convinced that **one man died on behalf of all mankind** (which implies that all mankind was already dead), ¹⁵ and that **he died on behalf of all** in order that those who live should not live any longer for themselves but for the one who on their behalf died and was raised. (CJB)

The Emissary Shaul makes a clear case that Yeshua died for all because we are all dead. Dead from our sins redeemed by Him who lived, then died on behalf of all mankind so that all of mankind could receive the gift of redemption because we are all dead due to our sins but given life by the sacrifice of the Son of God – Yeshua.

Ezekiel 37:11-14

11 Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD." (ESV)

Just as we are all redeemed by the death of one man who was the once and for all sacrifice for sin, so too, the Holy One gave us life here in Ezekiel by raising the dead. This could be us, it could be Israel, or it could be both. Are we not all part of Israel? As He placed His Spirit within Adam to give him life, so He places His Spirit within us to give us life through His Son Messiah Yeshua. There is no other reality than this.

Isaiah 26:19 Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead. (ESV)

All these promises. The promise of life from the dead to sing for joy in the presence of the Father and the Son. The earth gives birth to the dead as they rise up from their graves to live forever with the Holy One of Israel or to be judged to suffer death once more forever, to be separated from the Almighty forever. I pray you make the right choice.

Isaiah 66:14 You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bones shall flourish like the grass; and the hand of the LORD shall be known to his servants, and he shall show his indignation against his enemies. (ESV)

We will know the hand of the Lord if we are His servants. The hand of the Lord is the Messiah Yeshua. He is the right hand of the Father, doing His Father's will. Those who know Messiah are those who go about His work, which is to teach others the way of Torah that reveals our sins and cause us to seek out redemption which can only be found through Yeshua, the Son of God.

Acts 7:12-18

12 But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on their first visit. ¹³ And on the second visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to Pharaoh. ¹⁴ And Joseph sent and summoned Jacob his father and all his kindred, seventy-five persons in all. ¹⁵ And Jacob went down into Egypt, and he died, he and our fathers, ¹⁶ and they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had bought for a sum of silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem. ¹⁷ "But as the time of the promise drew near, which God had granted to Abraham, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt ¹⁸ until there arose over Egypt another king who did not know Joseph. (ESV)

<1440> ἑβδομήκοντα *hebdomekonta*

Meaning: seventy

Origin: from 1442 and a modified form of 1176

Usage: seventy(3), seventy-five*(1), seventy-six*(1).

<4002> πέντε *pente*

Meaning: five

Origin: a prim. card. num.

Usage: fifty*(1), five(34), seventy-five*(1), three*(1).

I have chosen to close out this message with this tidbit from the word about how many people went down to Egypt with Jacob. In the Tanach, we are told seventy people went down while Joseph was already there along with his two sons. In Hebrew it says seventy, while in the Greek we are told it was seventy-five, but the two words used can also mean seventy, seventy-five, and seventy-six.

<07657> שִׁבְעִים shibim (988c)

Meaning: *seventy (plus Joseph's two sons born in Egypt)*

So, why is this important? Everything in Scripture is important, but nothing is more important than the promise of salvation, to walk with Yeshua, and to live a life pleasing to the Father, which is a life guided by Torah.

Acts 7:16 says: “and they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had bought.” Jacob and his sons were brought back to Canaan to rest in the tomb in Machpelah. They all desired to rest in the land that had been promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. While they did not have possession of the whole land during their lifetime, they did have what Abraham and Isaac had bought a form of *staking a claim* on what had been promised to them by the Almighty.

The important thing to remember is that redemption comes from the Father through His Son Yeshua, while the Holy Spirit brings us to the point of whether we will commit ourselves to Messiah or not. Do we choose life everlasting or everlasting death? Once again, the choice is yours. Choose wisely, my friends.

Torah Man says: “One of the greatest evidences of God's love to those who love Him is to send afflictions with grace to bear them.”

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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TORAH: LEARN IT, LOVE IT, LIVE IT AS YESHUA DID! PSALM 119.



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