

Beth Tephila Messianic Jewish Congregation
(Under same management for over 5779 years)

SHABBAT SERVICE

December 15th – 10:30 AM Lolo Community "Synagogue"
12:30 PM Oneg Shabbat & In-Depth Torah Study



God's awesome plot accomplished His purpose of fulfilling His promise to Abraham to make from him a great nation through which Messiah would one day bless both Jew and Gentile.



Vayigash "And he (Judah) approached...."

וַיִּגַּשׁ אֵלָיו יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר בִּי אֲדֹנָי יְדַבְרָנָא עֲבָדְךָ דָּבַר בְּאָזְנֵי
אֲדֹנָי וְאֶל-יִחָר אַפְּךָ בְּעַבְדְּךָ כִּי כְמוֹךָ כִּפְרָעָה׃

Vayigash elav Yehudah vayomer bi adoni yedaber-na avdecha
davar be'oznei

adoni ve'al-yichar apcha b'avdecha ki chamocho keFar'oh.

"**And** Judah **approached** him and said, 'Oh my lord, may your servant please speak a
word in my lord's ears,

and do not be angry with your servant; for you are equal to Pharaoh.'"

Vayigash -- Genesis 44:18 - 47:27

Joseph can be thought of as a forerunner of Messiah in the sense that he was a righteous man, who resisted Satan's influences (the **yetzer hara**), endured physical suffering, and was used by God to provide physical salvation for God's people. In **Vayigash**, Joseph would reconcile with his brothers to prepare the way for his father,

Jacob, to come to Egypt, preserve the Jewish people, and thus fulfill God's promise to Abraham to "...make your descendants as the dust of the earth..." (13:16) and preserve and prosper them in a foreign land (15:13-14).

Joseph understood the importance of repentance (**tshuvah**) before reconciliation could occur. About 22 years had passed since Joseph's brothers had last seen him, when they stripped him of his coat, dropped him into a pit, and then sold him into slavery. Therefore, when they came into his presence in Egypt, they did not recognize him. Joseph was dressed like an Egyptian monarch, and immediately put his brothers on the defense by accusing them of being foreign spies. His purpose for doing so was to ascertain whether in the intervening years his brothers had repented of their jealousy and evil deeds. He introduced a time of stress into their lives to see if their behavior had changed, so that reconciliation would be possible, but how would his brothers respond?

Reconciliation must include repentance, resulting in a change in behavior. Joseph had been testing the behavior of his brothers to decide if they had truly repented from the action they took against him. He had put the brothers into a cistern-like prison - a pit - (42:21) to remind them of what they had done to him (37:24) and listened (in Hebrew) to their feelings of guilt because of their similar treatment of him. He bound Simeon in front of them and kept him in prison as surety that the brothers would return with their youngest brother, Benjamin, and gave the other brothers grain to take back to Jacob in Hebron. Would the brothers return for Simeon or consider him payment for their grain, just as the brothers had profited by selling Joseph? When they did return, bringing their brother Benjamin with them, Joseph devised a plan by which he could enslave Benjamin but allow the rest of the brothers to return home with grain. Would they return home without Benjamin being glad to be rid of another favorite son?

Vayigash, the Torah portion for this week begins with the reaction of Judah, who had taken the leadership role of first-born in the family, and therefore had become responsible to Jacob for the welfare of Benjamin, Jacob's youngest and most favored son. **"And** (Judah) **drew near"** to Joseph to attempt to intercede for Benjamin. He told Joseph that his father, Jacob, would die if he lost Benjamin. Judah, in behalf of the brothers, offered to take Benjamin's place as Joseph's slave. Joseph had **heard the brothers' confession of guilt** for putting him into the pit and selling him. He **saw that the brothers treated Benjamin well.** Then hearing **Judah's offer to vicariously atone for the "sin" of Benjamin**, Joseph was convinced of the repentance of his brothers. Joseph could no longer control his emotions. He revealed himself to them.



Ani Yosef. Ha'od avi chai

"I am Joseph! Is my father still alive"? (45:3)

Revelation -- Reconciliation

After Joseph's revelation of himself, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt," his brothers must have been dumbfounded and afraid for their lives. Joseph had total and absolute power over them. But Joseph's attitude toward his repentant brothers illustrated his total faith in the sovereignty of God! While a prisoner, Joseph's faith sustained him and kept him going, even though he could not have known why God allowed him to be sold into slavery and imprisoned on false charges. Finally Joseph understood God's purpose for his years of separation from his family. "God sent me before you to preserve life....to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt" (45:5,7-8).

Having a "God perspective" rather than a self-perspective was the key to the faith-rest life of Joseph. Isn't it also true for us that we usually fixate on how circumstances effect us, rather than looking for God's perspective within the circumstances He has allowed? Even if we are incapable of knowing God's purposes at any given time, wouldn't we be more at peace within ourselves, if we turned over our current "circumstances" in trust to God? Perhaps this is what allowed the Maccabee clan to successfully fight against the mighty army of Antiochus and the Syrian persecution. **Faith**

and trust in God overcomes our fear and allows us to be at peace within the storms of life!

Invitation to Egypt

Joseph instructed his brothers to return to their father and tell Jacob that he was alive and, "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. And you shall live in the land of Goshen...." "There I will also provide for you, for there are still five years of famine to come..." "Tell my father of all my splendor in Egypt....and bring my father down here (45:10,11,13). " Joseph kissed his brothers, wept with them, and talked with them. After many years of separation, **repentance made reunion possible!**



"He fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept..."

The commotion was heard in the house of Pharaoh, who was pleased that Joseph's brothers had come. Pharaoh authorized Joseph to provide wagons to transport Jacob and all his household to Egypt, saying that Pharaoh would give Jacob the best of the land of Egypt. [We, too, should not concern ourselves with "goods" for what God provides for us will always be what is for our best good.]

Joseph, who knew the proclivities of his father and brothers, gave them parting instructions. He told his passive father to not delay. He told his brothers, whom he knew would have told Jacob that they had previously lied about Joseph's death, not to quarrel on the way back home.

Israel Journeys to Egypt

When Jacob heard that Joseph was still alive, he was stunned and did not believe his sons, until he saw the wagons Joseph sent to transport them. He said..."my son Joseph is still alive. I will go see him before I die."

On the way to Egypt, Jacob had the family stop at Beersheba, where God had previously told Isaac not to go into Egypt. Isaac had died just 10 years before Jacob left for Egypt. Surely Jacob wanted God's confirmation whether he should go to live in Egypt, even though his father, Isaac, had been told not to go to Egypt. Jacob had already made the decision to leave Hebron for Beersheba and therefore was already on his way to

Egypt, unless God intervened. Stopping in Beersheba gave him the opportunity to hear God's call. God called to him, "Jacob, Jacob." Jacob's reply was the classic "hineni." "Here I am, Lord, whatever you want, I will do....I'm ready and willing!" This should always be our response too, as we read God's word and here the still, small voice of the Ruach (Spirit) calling to us. And like Jacob, we already should have determined to be obedient to God and already should have taken action to make ourselves available to Him. Matthew 25 tells of the 5 prudent virgins, who had prepared themselves ahead of time to be ready to meet their bridegroom. The lesson for us from Jacob is to prepare ourselves to be ready to hear God's call, ready and willing to do all He asks of us.



The Awesome Plot -- God's Plan for Protection & Prosperity

In the last several Torah portions, I mentioned why I thought God had to take His people out of the "promised land" and into Egypt. The corruption of the dysfunctional family of Jacob by the Canaanites and their idolatrous and immoral practices had become the normal way of life for Jacob's family. Reuben the first-born, seduced his father's concubine, Bilhah, the mother of two of his brothers. Simeon, married a Canaanite woman (46:10). Judah also married a Canaanite woman, Shua (38:2), and had the habit of visiting pagan temple prostitutes, mistaking Tamar for one. Hence the "awesome plot:" God's plan to take His people to Egypt, where He had prepared a special place for their protection and prosperity. Jacob received the invitation from Pharaoh and Joseph (45:17-18) and the command from God (46:3-4) to go to Egypt. He went into Egypt with his whole extended family and met his son, Joseph, in Goshen, which was considered the best land in all of Egypt.



Jacob and five of his children met with Pharaoh and blessed him, as Pharaoh blessed the Jewish people (47:7).

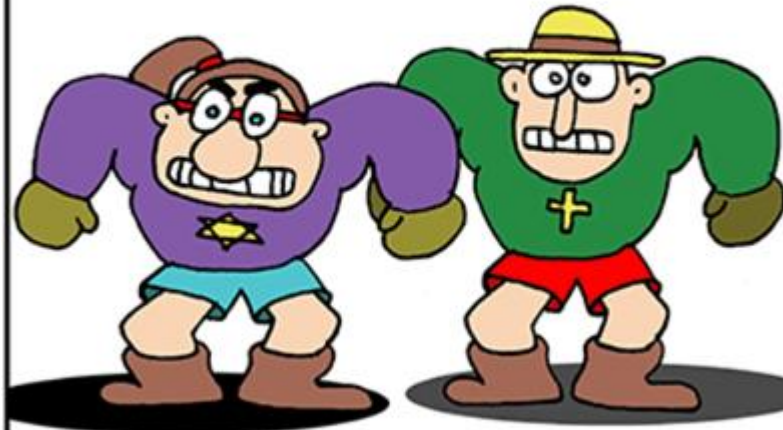
Jacob's family was given a permanent assignment of land in the district of Rameses, the best part of Goshen, and a permanent allotment of food. They lived in a protected, fertile land by decree of Pharaoh, where they were fruitful and became a prosperous nation, able to worship God unadulterated by Canaanite or Egyptian, pagan influence. God's awesome plot accomplished His purpose of fulfilling His promise to Abraham to make from him a great nation through which Messiah would one day bless both Jew and Gentile.

For those of us in the "**galut**" (exile....living outside of Israel), it is interesting to note that Israel first became a nation while in exile in Egypt. For those of us who are believers in Messiah, Yeshua, we know that this world is not our final home, either. We, too, are living in exile from our final abode with God. Still, let us live in exile as God's people, obeying His direction, and looking forward to our final return to Zion!!

SHABBAT SHALOM

Dry Bones Dry Bones Predicts

IN THE END, THE ONLY SUPPORTERS OF "PALESTINE" WILL BE LEFTIST JEWS AND THE REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY CHRISTIAN CHURCHES.



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Dry Bones

Mr. History explains how it worked out.

It was the "Arab Israeli conflict" . . . Brave little Israel standing alone against its powerful enemies, *until...*



...by calling it the Israeli "Palestine" conflict it became the powerful Israeli oppressor of the "Palestinians," *until...*



...the Iranian threat resulted in an Arab Israeli defensive alliance and the dumping of the so called "Palestinians" *who, in the end...*



...were only supported by antisemites and radical leftist Jews.

