

Joseph Makes Himself Known

45 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵ 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.

⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. 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. ⁸ “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay.

¹⁰ You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’ ¹² “You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you.

¹³ Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.” ¹⁴ Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

¹⁶ When the news reached Pharaoh’s palace that Joseph’s brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased. ¹⁷ Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers, ‘Do this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan, ¹⁸ and bring your father and your families back to me. I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you can enjoy the fat of the land.’

¹⁹ “You are also directed to tell them, ‘Do this: Take some carts from Egypt for your children and your wives, and get your father and come. ²⁰ Never mind about your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours.’” ²¹ So the sons of Israel did this. Joseph gave them carts, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he also gave them provisions for their journey. ²² To each of them he gave new clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels ^[b] of silver and five sets of clothes.

²³ And this is what he sent to his father: ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other provisions for his journey. ²⁴ Then he sent his brothers away, and as they were leaving he said to them, “Don’t quarrel on the way!” ²⁵ So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. ²⁶ They told him, “Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is ruler of all Egypt.” Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them.

²⁷ But when they told him everything Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. ²⁸ And Israel said, “I’m convinced! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.”

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

1. What questions were provoked within you?
2. Did anything confuse you?
3. Did anything move you emotionally?
4. Did God instruct you to do something?
5. Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Finally, after listening to Judah, Joseph could no longer contain himself

He must have been completely overwhelmed with emotion

Joseph sent all of his attendants away

He wept so loudly that Pharaoh's household heard.

Have you ever felt so emotionally overwhelmed by something?

Do you think his brothers were scared by this outburst? perhaps thinking retribution for stealing Joseph's cup and money would be coming?

He revealed his identity to his brothers.

Imagine the rush of confusion and horror which swept over Joseph's brothers when they heard him say, "I am Joseph."

What may Joseph have said to convince his brothers he was indeed Joseph?

Why, after all Judah had said to him, would he again ask if his father was alive?

The brothers were so full of fear they couldn't answer

Joseph obviously seeing their terror has compassion on them and asks them to come close to him.

But he does remind them of what they did to him!!!!

Don't you think after all he'd been through he might have felt he had the right to be angry?

Is there such a thing as 'justified anger'?

Once again Joseph shows that God's hand is on his life.

He tells his brothers not to be angry with themselves for having sold him into slavery

Joseph knows that it was God's plan for his life to be sent into Egypt.

How can we see God's plans for our lives? Jeremiah 29:11 says 'For I know the plans I have for you.....'

Joseph wants to see his Father

Joseph uses his great authority to allow his brothers to bring him and all their families to live safely in Goshen.

The brothers leave with an incredible amount of food and clothing

Again they see one of the brothers being treated more favourably... Benjamin this time

Joseph tells his brothers not to argue on the way home

Can you imagine the conversation? How are they going to come clean to their father about what they'd done to Joseph

What convinced Jacob that Joseph was still alive?