

Promotion & Processional

* What is the assessment of “God’s” advice?

- ◆ It was universally deemed to be “good” by both Pharaoh and all his “attendants”
- ◆ BTW: the word translated “proposal” is more literally translated as “word” or “advice” ... thus “God’s advice”

* But where will they find such a man?

- ◆ Why he is right before our very eyes!!

* Why is Joseph the right man for the job?

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- ◆ Because he has a “divine spirit” — v. 38

* Now we have to consider how we are to take the words “spirit” and “divine” in v. 38

- ◆ They translate the Hebrew words רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים — and can be ...
 - Small “s” or CAPITAL “S”
 - Small “g” or CAPITAL “G”

* What do you think — and why?

- ◆ NASB = divine spirit ... suggesting Joseph has some “heavenly spirit” from the pantheon of deities

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- ◆ ESV, NKJV, NET = Spirit of God, suggesting the Holy Spirit
- ◆ TNIV, NLT = spirit of God, Not sure what they are saying??
 - Maybe by capitalizing “God” the Holy Spirit is implied
 - Maybe the “spirit” is an angel — or maybe just hedging
- * I would lean towards “all CAPS” based on ...
 - ◆ The Hebrew words אֱלֹהִים רוּחַ appear together 16x's

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- ◆ 11x's — in Gen 1:2; Exod 31:3; 35:31; Num 24:2; 1 Sam 10:10; 11:6; 19:20, 23; Ezek 11:24; 2 Chron 15:1; 24:20 it is clearly “Spirit of God” ... signifying the “Holy Spirit”
- ◆ 4x's — in 1 Sam 16:15, 16, 23; 18:10 it is “spirit from God,” but modified by the adjective “evil” so clearly cannot be the Holy Spirit
- ◆ So — when the words appear together w/o a “modifying adjective” (75%) it seems to indicate the presence of the Holy Spirit, and ...

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- * In v. 38, the Hebrew words appear absent a modifying adjective, so ...
 - ◆ I prefer “Spirit of God” indicating the Holy Spirit ...
- * Which makes this the first instance of the work of the Holy Spirit in “people” in the OT
- * So — It’s time for a QUICK excursus on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the OT

Excursus

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OT

The Holy Spirit in the OT

* The primary works of the Holy Spirit include ...

- ◆ **Being active in creation:** Gen 1:2; Job 33:4
- ◆ **Empowering (filling) for service**
 - Gen 42:38 — Joseph!!!!
 - Num 11:24-25 — empowering Israel's "elders"
 - Judg 3:10 (Othniel); 6:34 (Gideon); 11:29 (Jephthah); 13:25 (Samson); 1 Sam 10:10 (Saul); 16:13 (David)
- ◆ **NOTE** — the empowering was temporary and is a foreshadowing of the NT ministry of **permanent indwelling**

The Holy Spirit in the OT

* Secondary works that foreshadow the NT ministry of the Holy Spirit include ...

- ◆ **Instructing and admonishing:** Neh 9:20, 30;
 - ◆ **Leading:** Ps 143:10;
 - ◆ **Being rebelled against:** 106:33; and
 - ◆ **Having His counsel rejected:** Isa 30:1
- * So — both of the forgoing categories demonstrate the **presence** and **work** of the Holy Spirit in the OT

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- * Questions — and “search” over — Pharaoh appoints Joseph “to the job” in v. 39 ...
 - ◆ Again “bowing” to God’s sovereignty
- * What is the job description? — vv. 40-41
 - ◆ Everyone will be subject to you — v. 40a
 - ◆ Your word will be obeyed — v. 40b
 - ◆ Only in the throne will Pharaoh exceed Joseph’s power — v. 40c
 - ◆ He is set over the entirety of Egypt’s holdings — v. 41

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- * In other words, Joseph has enormous power
 - ◆ Yet it will not corrupt him ...
- * How does Pharaoh affirm Joseph’s promotion?
 - ◆ Signet ring - marking legal authority ... v. 42a
 - ◆ Clothing & jewelry - marking regal authority ... v. 42b
 - ◆ Processional - marking regnal authority ... v. 43

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- * After the processional, Pharaoh reinforces Joseph's absolute rule and authority - v. 44
- * Then he gives Joseph an Egyptian name and wife - v. 45a-b ...
- * And Joseph — went forth - v. 45c ...
- * In other words, he immediately “set to workin’”

Years of Plenty

- * We start with a time marker — what is it?
 - ◆ Joseph is 30 years old when he takes the reigns
 - ◆ Who does that bring to mind?
 - CHRIST!!
- * So how many years has God taken to prepare Joseph for His purposes?
 - ◆ 13 years ... Note Gen 37:2
- * Joseph surveys the land and establishes his tactical plan — what is it?

Years of Plenty

- ◆ A storage and distribution system ...
 - With the storehouses established in the cities to stockpile the harvest from its surrounding fields
- ◆ What is challenging and interesting about this approach?
 - It required a number of loyal Lieutenants!!
 - But it was efficient from a transport and future distribution perspective
- * The harvest was so plentiful that it was “beyond measure” — just as God had revealed!

Joseph's Progeny

- * We learn that Joseph has 2 sons in the years of plenty
 - ◆ Manasseh is the firstborn — means “making to forget”
 - I don't think he means it in a fully literal sense, but rather in the sense of joy that overcomes sorrow
 - ◆ Ephraim is the second — means “fruitfulness” and likely reflecting on both the harvest and his life
- * What is interesting about the boys names?
 - ◆ They are both Hebrew names suggesting that Joseph is maintaining his ethnic and cultic identity

Years of Famine

- * Just as God had foretold through Joseph, the 7 years of famine followed the “7” of plenty
- * Not only this — we learn it was a worldwide famine
 - ◆ Likely meant to express that it extended beyond Egypt to the known world
- * Famished the people cry out to Pharaoh —
What does he do?

Years of Famine

- ◆ He sends them to Joseph!
- * What does Joseph do?
 - ◆ He sells grain to the people
- * Why does he sell the grain?
 - ◆ It creates a “self-governing” meter ...
 - ◆ If people have to pay for something, they are unlikely to take more than what they need, demonstrating ...
 - ◆ Joseph has a keen sense of human nature!!

Years of Famine

- * Verse 57 closes the narrative by reinforcing the worldwide nature of the shortage ...
- * And paving the way for the events of chapters 42-45 — “The Road to Reconciliation” ...
- * Which I’ve “retitled” from “The Road to Goshen” because it much better captures the essential message of these chapters

The Road to Reconciliation

GENESIS 42-45

Opening Thoughts

- * As we enter into Gen 42-45, Joseph is poised to fulfill the content of his two dreams ...
 - ◆ Having interpreted “others” he is now about to “live out” his!
- * Now remember, God is maneuvering the family to sequester them in Egypt and protect them from entanglements as they grow, but ...
 - ◆ He can't do that until he has unified them as a family ...
- * Thus the emphasis of Gen 42-45 is what?
 - ◆ RECONCILIATION.

Opening Thoughts

- * The antagonists in the reconciliation are the ten brothers who have sinned against ...
- * The two protagonists — namely, Joseph and Jacob
- * Remembering the parallels with Christ, Joseph is most like Christ in these chapters ...
 - ◆ Namely — Joseph will expose his brothers sin **so that** he can display his grace!
 - ◆ Which is **precisely** what Christ does ... He exposes and convicts us of sin **so that** He can display His lavish grace in salvation

Opening Thoughts

- * So — while the overriding theme of these chapters is straightforward ...
 - ◆ Namely, God's sovereign actions to reconcile the family
- * The details of the narrative — especially in Gen 42 dumbfounded me for some time!!

The Big Picture

TEXT	TITLE
GEN 42	THE FIRST JOURNEY TO EGYPT
GEN 43	THE RETURN TO EGYPT
GEN 44	THE FINAL TEST
GEN 45	THE SHOCKING REVELATION

Genesis 42

THE FIRST JOURNEY TO EGYPT

The Flow of Gen 42

- * Verses 1-5 “Frame Narrative”
- * Verses 6-17 take us “Back to the Future”
- * In vv. 18-25 the “Embers of Reconciliation are Fanned”
- * Followed by the “Embers of Recognition Dawning” in vv. 26-28
- * Verses 29-34 record “The Journey Recounted,” and
- * Verses 35-38 end with “The Original Eeyore”

The Narrative “Framed”

- * V. 1 doesn't fully capture the humor or reprimand conveyed by the Hebrew verb form ...
 - ◆ Jacob chastises the brothers for their lack of initiative with the obvious solution “right before their eyes”
- * Now, why do you think the brother may have been procrastinating over the obvious?
 - ◆ Because — to the best of their knowledge — Egypt is where Joseph is!
 - ◆ What if they were to encounter Joseph on their journey ??????

The Narrative “Framed”

- * I think this opening verse gives us a clue to what will follow, which is? ...
 - ◆ To awaken the brother's consciences!!
- * Which provides us with a good implication ...
 - ◆ A guilty conscience may be suppressed, or become dormant, but it never goes away until it is dealt with!!
- * So, the brothers inaction is less confusion as to what to do and more a reflection of Egypt being the LAST place in the known world the brothers would want to go!

The Narrative “Framed”

- * Yet this is what their father “commands” them to do — and off they go to Egypt ... **Who goes?**
 - ◆ All but Benjamin
- * **Why does Benjamin remain?**
 - ◆ Could be favoritism rearing its head again — and this certainly plays into the reason, but ...
 - ◆ I think it is more likely that Jacob knows and has lived with the character of his 10 sons, and ... Naturally fears for Benjamin's safety
- * Having lost Joseph he will not risk Rachel's only surviving son

Back to the Future

- * Now these verses gave me all kinds of consternation!!
- * **Why have I labelled these verses “Back to the Future?”**
 - ◆ Because it is entirely possible that Joseph may be “reenacting” the events of Gen 37:18ff**
- * Think about it for a moment ...
 - ◆ Joseph had once before come and given a bad report
 - ◆ I can envision the brothers unspoken thoughts as he arrives again in Gen 37:18, namely ...

**I'm indebted to JMBoice for this idea

Back to the Future

- ◆ “Here comes that dreamer again” (spoken) — [to spy on us](#) (unspoken)
- * Continuing the thought line, and parallel ...
 - ◆ Had this accusation been made, Joseph would have surely protested his innocence ...
 - ◆ Just as the brothers do here, and ...
 - ◆ Upon the brothers objection to Joseph’s “protests,” he would surely have tried to defend his innocence ...
 - ◆ Just as the brothers do also

Back to the Future

- * And — Joseph throwing them into prison is reminiscent of his being thrown into the pit!!
- * Now, I cannot be dogmatic about this, but there is one convincing clue in vv. 21-22 ... **What is it?**
 - ◆ The brothers conclusion w/r/t the reason for their imprisonment, namely...
 - ◆ Their sin against Joseph!!

Back to the Future

- * So, whether you buy *my sanctified speculation*, or not, Joseph is clearly purposeful in vv. 6-17
- * *And that purpose is ...?*
 - ◆ Probe the condition of his brother's hearts, and ...
 - ◆ A bigger idea I'll develop — NEXT WEEK
- * Notice how deliberately Joseph goes about it ...
 - ◆ FIRST, in vv. 6-7 we get a summary overview of this section — with the details following in vv. 8-17

FOR NOW ...


