



Miketz– At The End Gen. 41:1-44:17

Haftorah – Numbers 7:30; Zechariah 2:14-4:7

B'rit Hadashah- Matthew 27:15-4

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Restoration, Forgiveness & Reunion vs Revenge

Parshah Overview:

Joseph's imprisonment finally ends when Pharaoh dreams of seven fat cows that are swallowed up by seven lean cows, and of seven fat ears of grain swallowed by seven lean ears. Joseph interprets the dreams to mean that seven years of plenty will be followed by seven years of hunger, and advises Pharaoh to store grain during the plentiful years. Pharaoh appoints Joseph governor of Egypt. Joseph marries Asenath, daughter of Potiphar, and they have two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

Famine spreads throughout the region, and food can be obtained only in Egypt. Ten of Joseph's brothers come to Egypt to purchase grain; the youngest, Benjamin, stays home, for Jacob fears for his safety. Joseph recognizes his brothers, but they do not recognize him; he accuses them of being spies, insists that they bring Benjamin to prove that they are who they say they are, and imprisons Simeon as a hostage. Later, they discover that the money they paid for their provisions has been mysteriously returned to them.

Jacob agrees to send Benjamin only after Judah assumes personal and eternal responsibility for him. This time Joseph receives them kindly, releases Simeon, and invites them to an eventful dinner at his home. But then he plants his silver goblet, purportedly imbued with magic powers, in Benjamin's sack. When the brothers set out for home the next morning, they are pursued, searched, and arrested when the goblet is discovered. Joseph offers to set them free and retain only Benjamin as his slave.¹

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Joseph remembers his dream

Gen 42:1 When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?"

Gen 42:2 And he said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die."

Gen 42:3 So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.

Gen 42:4 But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers, for he feared that harm might happen to him.

Gen 42:5 Thus the sons of Israel came to buy among the others who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

Gen 42:6 Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground.

Gen 42:7 Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. "Where do you come from?" he said. They said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food."

Gen 42:8 And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.

Gen 42:9 And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them. And he said to them, "You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land."

Admission of Guilt

Gen 42:21 Then they said to one another, "In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us."

Gen 42:22 And Reuben answered them, "Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood."

Gen 42:23 They did not know that Joseph understood them, for there was an interpreter between them.

Gen 42:24 Then he turned away from them and wept. And he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

Judah offers himself in place of Benjamin

Gen 44:18 Then Judah went up to him and said, "Oh, my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not your anger burn against your servant, for you are like Pharaoh himself.

Gen 44:19 My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father, or a brother?'

Gen 44:20 And we said to my lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a young brother, the child of his old age. His brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.'

Gen 44:21 Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.'

Gen 44:22 We said to my lord, 'The boy cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.'

Gen 44:23 Then you said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall not see my face again.'

Gen 44:24 "When we went back to your servant my father, we told him the words of my lord.

Gen 44:25 And when our father said, 'Go again, buy us a little food,'

Gen 44:26 we said, 'We cannot go down. If our youngest brother goes with us, then we will go down. For we cannot see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.'

Gen 44:27 Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons.

Gen 44:28 One left me, and I said, "Surely he has been torn to pieces," and I have never seen him since.

Gen 44:29 If you take this one also from me, and harm happens to him, you will bring down my gray hairs in evil to Sheol.'

Gen 44:30 "Now therefore, as soon as I come to your servant my father, and the boy is not with us, then, as his life is bound up in the boy's life,

Gen 44:31 as soon as he sees that the boy is not with us, he will die, and your servants will bring down the gray hairs of your servant our father with sorrow to Sheol.

Gen 44:32 For your servant became a pledge of safety for the boy to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father all my life.'

Gen 44:33 Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the boy as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers.

Gen 44:34 For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would find my father."

Restoration, Forgiveness & Reunion vs Revenge

Gen 45:1 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.

Gen 45:2 And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

Gen 45:3 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.

Gen 45:4 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.

Gen 45:5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

I find it interesting that Judah is the one who offers to take Benjamin's place so his father would not be grieved and Joseph (aka Ephraim) reaches out his hand in reconciliation and forgiveness for the sake of unity! A future picture of the final restoration?

Joseph had every right to kill his brothers and be avenged for what they did to him. He could have let hatred, bitterness and revenge consume him during his captivity in Egypt, however God already revealed to Joseph the bigger picture and realized God had destined him to be their savior and deliverer and that was the reason for his suffering.

Every time I read Gen. 45:3-5 I am filled with the emotion of the moment. Imagine how the brothers felt, their guilt and shame when Joseph revealed who he was to them and showed them mercy instead of revenge!

How many of us could have done the same? Yet this is exactly what the Father asks of us regarding walking in forgiveness to those who deserve punishment instead.

I know there were many times in my own life when I struggled to forgive others. However, the Father says that if we do not forgive, we will not be forgiven. Who are we to not forgive our brothers and sisters in Messiah, when God has forgiven us!

Think of the words of Yeshua

Mat 6:12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Mat 6:14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, Mat 6:15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Mat 18:21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

Mat 18:22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Mat 18:23 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

Mat 18:24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

Mat 18:25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.

Mat 18:26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'

Mat 18:27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

Mat 18:28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'

Mat 18:29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'

Mat 18:30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

Mat 18:31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.

Mat 18:32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

Mat 18:33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'

Mat 18:34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.

Mat 18:35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Mar 11:25 And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." (ESV)

A root of bitterness will destroy our anointing, our health and defiles us!

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Heb 12:15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

Bitter Roots- How does it originate and where does it come from?

“Anything that keeps your attention will become your master” If bitterness keeps your attention it will become your master!

Bitterness is an obsessive sorrow when someone has deeply disappointed you- or wounded you. Bitterness is an obsession with an offence.

Are you trying to justify your bitterness and sorrow with a religious spirit?

Heb 12:12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,

Heb 12:13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

Heb 12:14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Heb 12:15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

Deu 29:9 Therefore keep the words of this covenant and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do.

Deu 29:10 "You are standing today all of you before the LORD your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, all the men of Israel,

Deu 29:11 your little ones, your wives, and the sojourner who is in your camp, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water,

Deu 29:12 so that you may enter into the sworn covenant of the LORD your God, which the LORD your God is making with you today,

Deu 29:13 that he may establish you today as his people, and that he may be your God, as he promised you, and as he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Deu 29:14 It is not with you alone that I am making this sworn covenant,

Deu 29:15 but with whoever is standing here with us today before the LORD our God, and with whoever is not here with us today.

Deu 29:16 "You know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the midst of the nations through which you passed.

Deu 29:17 And you have seen their detestable things, their idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold, which were among them.

Deu 29:18 Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the LORD our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit,
Deu 29:19 one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.' This will lead to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike.

Whenever somebody seeks to expose somebody- The very thing they are exposing about someone else is still alive in them. The way we cover our faults is to speak about other to cover our weakness.

We need healing...We need to walk in forgiveness.

People are drawn to people who LOVE people- NOT NEGATIVE people.

If haSatan can get you to harbor bitterness and anger he can cause you to fall spiritually.

Bitter Root judgments set off a signal that affects your immune system-to self destruct..

Laughter and Joy bring healing.

Bitterness means "Bitter gall"- Hebrew "mara" i.e. bitter herbs at Passover. Also referred to as "poison". You hurt yourself with bitterness. You lose the desire to pray-you lose your desire to live.

"Critical spirits" reveal a deeper problem. Bitterness is a tool of the enemy to destroy your life. You need "Mentors" to help you through, not 'friends'. Mentors walk you through and coach you! A good mentor will not agree with your bitterness or need for revenge but will point you to the Word and repentance. A friend at times will agree with you in sympathy, but a true friend will speak correction into your life because they care what happens to you spiritually.

When the spirit of joy returns to your life, it is always followed by focus and obedience returning.

Joseph did not allow bitterness to rob him of God's plan for his life, but allowed forgiveness to flow and God's perfect will come forth for his family. He rejoiced in his reunion with his brothers and his father and completed the circle of what God had planned for Israel all along.

Rom 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Rom 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Rom 8:30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Rom 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Rom 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Rom 8:33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Rom 8:34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Rom 8:36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

Rom 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Rom 8:38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

Rom 8:39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.