

Vayigash (He approached)
Genesis 44:18-47:27
Ezekiel 37:15-28
Acts 7:9-16

The Brother Who Brought Forth the Reunion

We cannot imagine the depth of emotion that churned inside of Joseph the day Judah approached him. On the one hand he may have desperately desired to reveal himself to his brothers, but on the other, the question remained whether he could trust them. The testing of their hearts would reveal whether they had changed or if they were still full of selfish hatred. Had the famine and the trials Joseph put them through truly made a difference?

To test this change, Joseph set up his beloved brother Benjamin by placing his special goblet in Benjamin's grain sack. It is very important to understand the picture here. Without going into full detail, the goblet is used for wine which can represent faith brought by the blood of the Passover Lamb. Grain, as we described last week, depicts the words of the Torah. The picture we see is the youngest son bringing together faith and obedience to Torah in one package. It is the possible loss of Benjamin that stirs Judah to responsibly step forward to defend and offer himself as a substitute for Benjamin. This response was confirmation for Joseph that indeed a change in his brothers had occurred. The revelation increased the churning of suppressed emotions in Joseph that erupted into the declaration of just who was standing in front of them. The words "I am Joseph, your brother" burst forth to resound within the walls of the palace and completely stun his brothers. These words unlocked the healing process of reconciliation. A great work orchestrated by HaShem many years earlier, a work of bringing His family together was now in the final stages. The twelve boys, stood together, redeemed as one family.

Take a moment and consider the last sentences you have just read. From the earthly view, the emotions, questions and thoughts going through all these boys must have been overwhelming. The events that unfolded in front of them had never been a part of their wildest dreams! A heavy weight of guilt was lifted off their shoulders. Now they were together, Echad, "One." Take it to the heavenly realm! Have you ever read these words and thought not only of the excitement in the earthly realm, but also in the heavenly realm? The joy of reconciliation resounding in the presence of our King!

Back to earth now. Let's look again at Benjamin. I believe his behavior to be a prophetic picture of a people who will be used in the Last Days to bring forth a reunion far greater than the one we read of in Egypt. There is a family reunion which I see being staged before our eyes. There is a people prophesied in the life of Benjamin who are being raised as the key to that reunion. Remember, it was Benjamin who was found with the goblet and the grain together in his pack. I see this as a remnant of people who, in the Last Days are walking in faith in Messiah as well as obedience to His Torah. Yah will use these people to soften the hearts of the rest of the family, especially Judah.

The revelation to grasp is that we who are living by faith in Messiah and who are choosing to follow Torah need to stand up and begin to proclaim who we are in Him. We need to boldly proclaim the faith we have and the lifestyle we are walking in, then with our great words all will change and the family will be reunited, right? **Not so fast.** Go back and look at the part of Chapter 44 which tells the story of the goblet and grain being found in Benjamin's pack. Notice that Benjamin never says a word! Benjamin does not defend his faith, he silently stands. He allowed his faith and integrity to speak for him. What an amazing picture.

Let's bring this lesson forward to the present day. Many of us yearn not only for His Kingdom to come, but for His family to walk together as one. I believe that is not only our yearning, but it is the Father's as well. We see this yearning brought forth in the words of Yeshua in John 17, "That they may be echad." Some of us even see that we are being used just as Benjamin was in his day. (That thought is humbling.) But, in our zeal to see that day of reunion come forth have we learned the greatest lesson Benjamin teaches us? It is not the proclamation of our great knowledge of Torah and obedience that will bring reconciliation. It is our love, faith and obedience that will have greater volume with our brothers. Father will use it to work through us to change hearts. It is just by being who we are in Him. Benjamin was the key to unlock the hearts of his brothers, not with words and actions, but by being the man he was.

Messiah calls us to go into the entire world and search for His brothers. He told us the way to do that was to be a light, not a siren! In case you missed the analogy, lights do not make noise. Benjamin's behavior exemplifies that point. It is a lesson for us to take to heart.

As for the reunion? May it be soon and in our day!