



## 14- Heal a Family / Build a Nation

01/24/2010 - Jim Johnson – Gen. 45:1-46:4

God used 8 chapters of Genesis (37-44) to outline the grim details of Jacob's sad and messy family. It makes a person wonder if God had a grand purpose in all that mess? He did and Gen. 45 reveals several. In the last episode, Benjamin had been framed for stealing Joseph's silver cup. The brothers were contrite and broken.

### Genesis 45:1-4

Joseph was convinced that his brothers were ready to be a family. He therefore revealed himself to his brothers and left them speechless. They were overcome by a mixture of terror, guilt, and grief. Joseph said to them, "Please come closer to me." Once they did he said, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt." This made it clear that he really was Joseph. He spoke to them in Hebrew and no one else but the brothers knew that Joseph had been sold as a slave to Egypt except Joseph. Finally all the barriers were down – and the family had come together.

This was God's first purpose in all the troubles. **To bring the family \_\_\_\_\_**

The family had experienced 22 difficult years. Adversity tends to break down the issues that keep people apart and melds them together in a unity that could not be achieved in any other way.

### Genesis 45:5-8

Joseph invited his brothers to put the past behind them as he had already done. He helped them to see the bigger picture – that though they had sent him to Egypt, God was in it. He sent him there to preserve life.

And this was God's second purpose – **He used the troubles to \_\_\_\_\_ life**

God had a plan. God used his long journey to eventually put him in charge of the food distribution program. He was put there because God planned to use Joseph to preserve the lives of the Egyptians and his own family.

**God used the troubles to provide a better \_\_\_\_\_ –9-20**

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ wanted his family in Egypt – 9-15

Joseph suggested that the family move to Egypt, to the land of Goshen, where they would be near and would experience plentiful provision.

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ also wanted his family in Egypt. – 16-20

Pharaoh also ordered them to come. He also promised they would live and eat well.

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ also wanted the family in Egypt – 21-28

When the brothers arrived home they shared the news with Jacob, who was shocked. The overloaded wagons from Egypt convinced him they spoke the truth. He decided that he would go visit his boy in Egypt.

#### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ also wanted the family in Egypt – 46:1-4

On the way to Egypt God spoke to Jacob in a dream. He repeated the promise he had once made to Abraham to take the seed of Abraham and make a great nation from him. He promised to make it a reality, through Jacob, but in the land of Egypt.

## **PROBLEM**

God called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees and told him to go to Canaan land. The promise was dependent on his willingness to go to Canaan. Abraham obeyed and went, but his family had not made much headway towards becoming a great nation, due to division. Now that the family was healed and ready to grow, God chose to move the family from the promised land to Egypt. Why?

### **1. To \_\_\_\_\_ the family.**

There was a great famine, and this family needed to be physically sustained. God was moving them to the bread basket region of Egypt.

### **2. To \_\_\_\_\_ the family**

During a famine the fertility rate of a culture drops due in part to the lack of good nutrition which interferes with conception and full term pregnancies. It also affects the willingness of folks to have more children. You can't grow a great nation unless you are having babies. A reliable food source in Egypt would make that possible.

### **3. To \_\_\_\_\_ the family**

Canaan land was made up of a patch work of tribes. When one tribe grew too large they posed a threat and would be attacked by the others. It would be tough for this family to grow into a great nation in Canaan. Continual tribal warfare would decimate the family. In Egypt, however, they would dwell in a place which was isolated from the world and sheltered by the strongest government in existence at that time. They would be protected by Joseph, lord of Egypt. In fact, there in Goshen they would experience 400 years of peace. They did not go to war once during that time.

It was a fantastic plan. Put a family of about 70 people into a protective greenhouse, feed them, protect them and let them grow and multiply. 400 years later you would have a nation that numbered between 1 and 3 million people. A nation that Moses would lead back home. God used the events to provide a home where the family could grow

**CONCLUSION** - What do we learn from all this:

**God uses the \_\_\_\_\_ of today to provide a much better future for tomorrow.**

---

## **FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. What is the primary trouble spot in your life at the moment?
2. Knowing that God has a plan for your troubles, make a list of what possible good could come of it.
3. Jacob learned to lose his life in order to save it. Are you ready to do the same?