



Outline – Friday Bible Study, June 29, 2018

The Book of Genesis: The Joseph Narrative

(Genesis 45) “The Undercover Brother (Finally Discovered)”

“The Bible is a book.” A unified covenant document with one message about one person:

ORDO SALUTIS: O _____ OF SALVATION

HISTORIA SALUTIS: H _____ OF SALVATION

PACTUM SALUTIS: C _____ OF SALVATION



I. Israel: Swearing by their Faithfulness [To their own Hurt] (44:18–34 cf. Prov 20:6)

1. “We are faithful men” (42:11). Do we look like the kind of men who would chase after money when the life of our father’s favorite son was on the line? (44:8; 37:26)
2. Joseph’s Plan: “Operation Homecoming.” The Bait? Baby Benjamin. (43:29)
3. Reuben’s Oath [Anti-Gospel] (42:37) vs. Judah’s Oath [Actually-Gospel] (43:9)
4. The Life Pledge [Chain Reaction]: (Genesis 42)
 - a. Joseph is no more
 - b. Reuben’s sons will die
 - c. Judah will be exiled
 - d. Benjamin is no more?
 - e. Jacob’s grief will do him in
5. Bearing the Blame after Breaking the Bread [Eye for an Eye] (42:21)
6. “How can we Justify ourselves?” [“God has found our Guilt”] (42:16* cf. John 16:8)
7. Heart Check: Searching the Minds and the Hearts (Rev 2:23 cf. Jer 17:10)
 - a. A Word of Assurance: “The Bread was Paid For” [the Brother is Free] (Gen 42-43)
 - b. A Flashback: Breaking Bread over their Brother’s Burial (37:25 cf. 2 Pet 2:19–22)
 - c. A Heart Test for Israel: “Take the Bread and Eat.” [A Reversed Gospel] (44:17)

II. There Must be Blood: Divine Justice Demands a Sacrifice (42:22) [HISTORIA]

1. Reading the Bible like a Book: Climactic Peaks in the Book of Genesis
 - a. Proto-Gospel
 - b. Abrahamic Gospel
 - c. Gospel of Abraham, Isaac, and...
2. Calamity in the Ancient World: Understood as an Act of God and Divine Justice (42:22)
3. If Divine Justice Requires a Sacrifice: Why does Judah get to go free? [Him or Us]
 - a. Spotlight off of Judah (Long-Range Gospel Image)
 - b. Spotlight back on Joseph (Short-Range Gospel Image)
4. The Realization of a Past Work of Finished Grace: The Bread really was Paid For
5. . . . And Joseph is Alive. The Final Challenge is Believing it! (45:3, 26* cf. Luke 24:5–6)

III. Face to Face and Finally . . . Forgiven (42:22) [ORDO]

1. “I am Joseph!” . . . And they were dismayed at his presence. (45:3)
2. “Please, come closer . . . do not be grieved or angry” (45:4)
3. “. . . because God sent me” [to preserve life] (45:5)
4. He kissed all his brothers and wept—and afterwards his brothers spoke with him (45:15)

IV. The Sacrifice of Joseph and the Problem of Evil [PACTUM]

1. “Therefore . . . it was not you who sent me here, but God.” (45:8)
2. The Problem of Evil: Persistent Evil within the Creation of a Good and Holy God
3. Centered on the Paradox of God’s Sovereignty and Human Responsibility
4. Warning: God is not accountable for providing an answer (Job 38:4)
5. God’s Sovereignty and Human Responsibility both proclaimed unflinchingly (Acts 2:23)
6. The Cross demands Accountability for human sin [for Justice’s sake] (2:23b)
7. The Cross requires Assurance of God’s sovereignty [for Assurance’s sake] (2:23a)
 - a. Can we blame God? (Rom 9:19–24) _____
 - b. Can we shirk our responsibility? (Prov 28:13) _____
8. The Evil is _____ and the Good is _____ [The Cross converts both] (Rom 8:28–39)