



## Startling Grace

- \* The process of reconciliation begins with Joseph's patient explanation to his brothers
- \* He enjoins his brothers to "draw near" in v. 4
- \* And again reasserts his identity — along with a "proof point" ... **What is it?**

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## Startling Grace

- ◆ He discloses a detail known only to the 10 and himself — "I am the one you sold"
- \* **In addition to proof, what else is accomplished by this declaration?**
- ◆ For the first time their sin is publicly — if not widely — exposed ...

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## Startling Grace

\* Now — who was hearing this for the first time?

- ◆ Benjamin — I'm sure the brothers never shared what really happened to his brother
- ◆ This is part 1 of what will be more public exposure of the brothers "long ago sin"

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## Startling Grace

\* Having "called out their treachery — What comes next?"

- ◆ Joseph's formal forgiveness expressed by way of an explanation
- ◆ He affirms their sin — but acknowledges God's "greater good"

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## Startling Grace

- ◆ Turn to Gen 3:15ff — noting vv. 15, 19, 21
- \* In vv. 14-15 we see the final stage of reconciliation
- \* What do we see in this final stage?
  - ◆ Restored fellowship

READ 45:14-15

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## Startling Grace

- \* The restored fellowship is expressed in two ways — what are they?
  - ◆ Loving embrace - vv. 14-15a
  - ◆ Talk time - v. 15b
- \* What do you think they talked about?

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## Startling Grace

- ◆ Let me assert up front, my answer is “sanctified speculation.” With that said ...
- ◆ I think this may be where the brothers FINALLY confessed, and ...
- ◆ Laid their past animosity to rest

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## Startling Grace

- \* Note now the brothers who hated Joseph so much that they couldn't speak to him on friendly terms — cf. Gen 37:4 [READ]...
- \* Are now “chatting away” with Joseph

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## Sollicitous Bounty

- \* Pharaoh is pleased to discover a means to honor and reward Joseph
- \* He and his servants are obviously grateful for Joseph's leadership, and ...
- \* Pharaoh is quite secure in his reign —  
**Why would I say this?**

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## Sollicitous Bounty

- ◆ Because bringing Joseph's family could create conflicts of loyalty ...
- \* Yet Pharaoh is solicitous to Joseph
- \* **What does Pharaoh pledge?**
  - ◆ An invitation to Joseph's extended household

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## The “Swag”

- \* Emboldened by Pharaoh, Joseph equips the brothers for the return journey
- \* His supply falls into two categories — **what are they?**

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## The “Swag”

- ◆ Actual provision for the journey - v. 21
- ◆ But also a whole lot of SWAG!
- \* **Why?**
  - ◆ I suspect to convince his father to come
- \* The “swag” would communicate that ...

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## The “Swag”

- \* Now — one more thing ...
- \* Why does Joseph tell the brothers not to quarrel on the way?
  - ◆ Because they were going to have to “come clean” with Jacob to get him to Egypt ..

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## The “Swag”

- ◆ So they could have easily been reduced to petty bickering over who was more at fault
- \* Boice offers an interesting thought ...
- \* He calls this Joseph’s OT equivalent of the New Commandment in John 13:34

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## The “Swag”

- \* “... love one another, even as I have loved you ...”
- \* The time for deceit and quarreling is over ...
- \* Now its time to unite as a family!

READ 45:25-28

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## Stunning Reveal - Part 2

- \* Now the 2<sup>nd</sup> stunning reveal
- \* First the brothers learned Joseph is alive in v. 3, and now ...
- \* Jacob learns the same in v. 26 and is understandably stunned

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## Stunning Reveal - Part 2

- \* What is Jacob's first reaction?
  - ◆ Incredulity — and who knows what other attendant emotions
- \* So the brothers first approach to convincing their father was their personal testimony — “He is alive”

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## Stunning Reveal - Part 2

- \* Of which testimony, Jacob is rightly skeptical
- \* I'm sure the brothers hoped that their word alone would win the day, and ...
- \* That Jacob would be so joyful so as not ask any “pesky” questions

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## Stunning Reveal - Part 2

- \* What “clinches the deal?”
  - ◆ The wagons
- \* They were “uniquely Egyptian” and there is no way the brothers could have connived to bring this about, and ...
- \* For Jacob this was decisive

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## Stunning Reveal - Part 2

- \* That said — the cumulative effect of their witness, their full disclosure and the wagons ...
- \* Revived Jacob’s spirit and changed his outlook from “gloom” to “hope”

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## Genesis 46-50

THE FINAL CHAPTER(S)

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## Opening Thoughts

- \* Gen 46 marks the beginning of the final act of Genesis ...
- ◆ The nation will be resettled in Egypt
- ◆ And — The Patriarchal leadership will reach its end ...

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## Opening Thoughts

- \* Giving way to theocratic leadership
- \* Where God will “rule” through His appointed leaders ...
- \* The first and foremost of whom will be Moses

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## Opening Thoughts

- \* It also marks the beginning of the end of our time in Genesis 😞
  - ◆ Which has spanned two years, and — Sixty lessons to date
- \* It has been a rich time for me and I hope also fruitful for you

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## Opening Thoughts

- \* In fact — I have taught Gen 1-11 multiple times ...
- \* But this is the 1<sup>st</sup> time I've gone through the entire book — so THANK YOU!
- \* As we get a little closer to the end, I'll map out what I'm thinking to do next 😊

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## The Big Picture

TEXT	TITLE
Gen 46-47:12	Resettlement in Egypt
Gen 47:13-26	Joseph's Leadership and Legacy
Gen 47:27-48	Joseph's Portion
Gen 49-50:14	Jacob's Prophetic Blessings
Gen 50:15-26	The Magnanimous Pardon

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## Genesis 46-47:12

RESETTLEMENT IN EGYPT

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### Initial Reflections

- \* Gen 46 marks an inflection point in the Israel's history
- \* They will leave the promised land and embark upon ...
- \* What will be a 400 year sojourn

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## Initial Reflections

- \* Egypt is the perfect place because ...
  - ◆ The Egyptians pride and disdain for foreigners — particularly shepherds
  - ◆ Geographic isolation away from the cities
  - ◆ And no possibility of intermarriage — thus maintaining ethnic and religious purity

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## Initial Reflections

- \* Yet on the positive side, they can avail themselves of Egyptian advancements
- \* So — all-in-all they could grow and develop their national identity ...

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## Initial Reflections

- \* Awaiting the testing that will arise later from severe persecution, and ...
- \* Lead to their redemption and deliverance from Egypt

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## Structure of the Text

- \* Sacrifice and Affirmation - 46:1-4
- \* The “Recording” of the Families - vv. 5-27
- \* The Emotional Reunion - vv. 28-30
- \* Joseph’s “Resettlement” Wisdom - vv. 31-34
- \* Resettlement in Goshen - 47:1-12

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## Sacrifice and Affirmation

- \* His mind made up, “Israel” sets out for Egypt ...
- \* The journey starts from Hebron where the family has been living since their return from Haran

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## Sacrifice and Affirmation

- \* And they pause to worship in Beersheba
- \* The Beersheba is just over 25 miles from Hebron — thus likely arriving on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of their journey

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## Sacrifice and Affirmation

- \* Why did Jacob not sacrifice and seek affirmation in Hebron?
  - ◆ Text does not explicitly say, but I can surmise a couple of possibilities
- \* First would be that he was overwhelmed with the prospect of seeing Joseph, and ...

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## Sacrifice and Affirmation

- \* A strong sense of divine providence owing to ...
  - ◆ The brothers personal testimony
  - ◆ The evidence of Joseph's prominence in Egypt
- \* So I don't think it was purely an act of self will on Jacob's part

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## Sacrifice and Affirmation

\* More likely though is this ...

- ◆ Beersheba was, at that time, the Southern extremity of the land of promise
- ◆ So as he was about to leave the place God told him to go ...
- ◆ The momentous character of what he is about to do strikes home with sharp clarity, and ...

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## Sacrifice and Affirmation

- ◆ He realizes that God has not yet spoken directly w/r/t this endeavor, and ...
- ◆ There had been previous “self-willed” pilgrimages to Egypt that ...
- ◆ Had not turned out so well — Remember Abram sojourn to Egypt??

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## Sacrifice and Affirmation

- ◆ Abraham's home base after the "offering of Isaac" - Gen 22:19
- ◆ Where the LORD appeared to Isaac to confirm the covenant blessings - Gen 26:23
- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> Covenant with Abimelech — this one with Isaac - Gen 26:26ff

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## Sacrifice and Affirmation

- ◆ Isaac's home — from where Jacob departed to Haran after his deception - Gen 28:10
- \* So — maybe more than you wanted to think about, but ...
- \* Beersheba is a quite reasonable, if not ideal, site for Jacob's worship

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## Sacrifice and Affirmation

- \* Jacob offers his sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac — **Why the qualifier?**
  - ◆ Again — no clear textual answer ...
  - ◆ Perhaps “Patriarchal” solidarity
  - ◆ Or — childhood memories of Beersheba

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## Sacrifice and Affirmation

- \* Now — We are not told if Jacob made any specific petitions ...
- \* But in v. 2 God speaks to Jacob in visions of the night — note the plural ... [visions](#)
- \* Which would surely cause Jacob to recall prior patterns and take notice!

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## Sacrifice and Affirmation

- ◆ He quells any fear that Jacob has about going down to Egypt
- \* The nature of the fear is not clear, but it was either ...
- ◆ Fear of leaving the land w/o clear “Divine sanction” (my preference), or ...

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## Sacrifice and Affirmation

- ◆ Fear of what he would encounter in Egypt
- \* Then God provides a reason for why he should not be afraid — **What?**
- ◆ Because this is where the “great multitude” promises of the A.C. will be fulfilled!

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## Sacrifice and Affirmation

- \* But rather God will go down with “the nation of Israel,” and ...
- \* He will bring the nation back
- \* These are rich promises of reassurance at a time of deep uncertainty

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## Sacrifice and Affirmation

- \* **And how does the vision end?**
- ◆ Jacob learns he will die in Egypt ...
- ◆ Along with the sweet assurance that his “lost” son will close his eyes —
- ◆ Instead of dying in sorrow (“bring my gray hair to Sheol in sorrow”) ...

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