

The Holy Days – The Law V  
April 29, 2006

Genesis 45

- 1 Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers.
- 2 And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.
- 3 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live (*still in good health*)?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.
  - Can you imagine how stunned they were?
  - "dismayed" means speechless, astonished or dumbfounded
- 4 And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt."
  - He had to repeat it since their shock made it hard to grasp
- 5 "But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.
  - Notice how this is a main theme that flows throughout the book of Genesis
  - No matter how much man schemes and plots to fulfill what he thinks to be God's will – God overrides and He accomplishes His Will His Way!!!
    - Abraham and Sarai
    - Ishmael and Isaac
    - Esau and Jacob
    - Joseph and Judah
  - As Jesus said "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."
  - Wouldn't it be wonderful to look at all adversities in this manner?
- 6 "For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.
- 7 "And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity (*remnant*) for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.
- 8 "So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.
  - If only we could all see things this way!
- 9 "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry (*delay*).
- 10 "You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have.
- 11 "There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine."
- 12 "And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you.
- 13 "So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here."

The Holy Days – The Law V  
April 29, 2006

- 14 Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck.
- 15 Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.
  - Don't you imagine they had a lot to talk about?
- 16 Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well.
- 17 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and depart; go to the land of Canaan.
- 18 'Bring your father and your households and come to me; I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land (*the choicest produce*).
- 19 'Now you are commanded-do this: Take carts out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives; bring your father and come.
- 20 'Also do not be concerned about your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"
- 21 Then the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them carts (*wagons*), according to the command of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey.
- 22 He gave to all of them, to each man, changes of garments; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments.
- 23 And he sent to his father these things: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and food for his father for the journey.
- 24 So he sent his brothers away, and they departed; and he said to them, "See that you do not become troubled along the way (*don't quarrel amongst yourselves*)."
- 25 Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father.
- 26 And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them.
  - Jacob almost died of the shock
- 27 But when they told him all the words which Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived.
- 28 Then Israel said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

Genesis 46

- 1 So Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.
- 2 Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."
- 3 So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.
- 4 "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

The Holy Days – The Law V  
April 29, 2006

- 5 Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob, their little ones, and their wives, in the carts (*wagons*) which Pharaoh had sent to carry him.
- 6 So they took their livestock and their goods, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him.
- 7 His sons and his sons' sons, his daughters and his sons' daughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt.
- 8 Now these were the names of the children of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who went to Egypt: Reuben was Jacob's firstborn.
  - 9-26 gives the lineage
- 27 And the sons of Joseph who were born to him in Egypt were two persons. All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy.
  - Seventy came in
  - Over 600,000 went out at the Exodus
- 28 Then he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out before him the way to Goshen. And they came to the land of Goshen.
  - Goshen was a grazing area in the eastern Nile delta
- 29 So Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; and he presented himself to him, and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while.
- 30 And Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you are still alive."
- 31 Then Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh, and say to him, 'My brothers and those of my father's house, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me.'
- 32 'And the men are shepherds, for their occupation has been to feed livestock; and they have brought their flocks, their herds, and all that they have.'
- 33 "So it shall be, when Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?'
- 34 "that you shall say, 'Your servants' occupation has been with livestock from our youth even till now, both we and also our fathers,' that you may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination (*loathsome*) to the Egyptians."
  - The Egyptians raised cattle not sheep
  - Similar to the rivalries of the Old West in the USA
  - Joseph directed them to use "livestock" without identifying which kind

Genesis 47

- 1-6
  - Joseph presented his brothers to Pharaoh as they had been instructed
  - Some translations use the word "shepherds" but the word was generic without identifying the type of domesticated animals
- 7 Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob and set him before Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.
- 8 Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How old are you?"

The Holy Days – The Law V  
April 29, 2006

- 9 And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage (*sojourning*) are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage."
  - Jacob equates life as a pilgrimage – knowing the his final destination is not during this life
- 10 So Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh.
- 11-24
  - Joseph's family is situated in Goshen (the land of Rameses)
  - The famine continues
  - Joseph manages the famine successfully
  - His actions resulted in a strong centralized government in Egypt
- 25 So they said, "You have saved our lives; let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants."
  - Voluntary slavery was normal in this culture
- 26 And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt to this day, that Pharaoh should have one-fifth, except for the land of the priests only, which did not become Pharaoh's.
- 27 So Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly.
- 28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the length of Jacob's life was one hundred and forty-seven years.
- 29 When the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "Now if I have found favor in your sight, please put your hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me. Please do not bury me in Egypt,
- 30 "but let me lie with my fathers; you shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place." And he said, "I will do as you have said."
- 31 Then he said, "Swear to me." And he swore to him. So Israel bowed himself on the head of the bed.

Genesis 48

- 1 Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph was told, "Indeed your father is sick"; and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.
  - Wife of Joseph was Asenath – an Egyptian
- 2 And Jacob was told, "Look, your son Joseph is coming to you"; and Israel strengthened himself (*collected his strength*) and sat up on the bed.
- 3 Then Jacob said to Joseph: "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me,
- 4 "and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.'
- 5 "And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

The Holy Days – The Law V  
April 29, 2006

- 6 "Your offspring (*children*) whom you beget after them shall be yours; they will be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.
- 7 "But as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."
- 8 Then Israel saw Joseph's sons, and said, "Who are these?"
- 9 And Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me in this place." And he said, "Please bring them to me, and I will bless them."
- 10 Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. Then Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them.
- 11 And Israel said to Joseph, "I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your offspring!"
  - Israel did not expect to ever see Joseph again, and now he has seen Ephraim and Manasseh as well
- 12 So Joseph brought them from beside his knees, and he bowed down with his face to the earth.
- 13 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him.
  - The right hand was to bless the eldest - Manasseh
- 14 Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, *guiding his hands knowingly*, for Manasseh was the firstborn.
- 15 And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day,
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> blessing went to Joseph
- 16 The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads; Let my name be named upon them, And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."
  - They were most likely teen-agers at this time
- 17 Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.
  - Joseph thought his father had mistaken the boys
- 18 And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head."
- 19 But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations (*a melting pot*)."
  - Ephraim shall become a multitude of nations – greater than his brother's descendants
  - Manasseh shall become a great people
  - Manasseh = Making Forgetful
  - Ephraim = Fruitfulness
    - Indicating to make one's negative past to be forgotten and to make their future to be fruitful

The Holy Days – The Law V  
April 29, 2006

- Similarity to baptism
- 20 So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!'" And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.
- 21 Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am dying, but God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers.
- 22 "Moreover I have given to you one portion above your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow."

Genesis 49

- 1 And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:
- 2 "Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, And listen to Israel your father.
- 3 "Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.
- 4 Unstable as water, you shall not excel (*will no longer excel*), Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it -He went up to my couch.
  - 35.22
  - the elimination of Reuben's rights as the firstborn made room for the preeminence of Joseph and Judah
  - Joseph took over the rights of the firstborn
  - Judah was to become the strongest
- 5 "Simeon and Levi are brothers; Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place.
- 6 Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; For in their anger they slew a man, And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox.
- 7 Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob And scatter them in Israel.
  - 34.25
  - Simeon virtually disappears from the Biblical accounts – assumed to have been absorbed by Judah
  - Levi was given the priesthood
    - No land
    - No portion of the inheritance
- 8 "Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you.
- 9 Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?
- 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh (*the Messiah*) comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.
- 11 Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes.
- 12 His eyes are darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk.
  - Messianic – the scepter

The Holy Days – The Law V  
April 29, 2006

- Judah was to be the preeminent brother
- Judah was the royal tribe
- Judah was the strongest
- Young lion = strong warrior
- “Obedience of the nations (or people)” is plural – meaning all nations will be ruled by Judah - Messianic
- 13 "Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea; He shall become a haven for ships, And his border shall adjoin Sidon.
  - Name means “lofty abode”
  - Wordplay = a cipher for the extension of the Promised Land into the “far recesses”
  - Zebulun had a mediocre maritime position
- 14 "Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between two burdens;
- 15 He saw that rest was good, And that the land was pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden, And became a band of slaves.
  - Issachar = wordplay on the word for “wages”
  - The good rest is another allusion to the Promised Land
  - His was a basically docile existence in Canaan
- 16 "Dan shall judge his people As one of the tribes of Israel.
- 17 Dan shall be a serpent by the way, A viper by the path, That bites the horse's heels So that its rider shall fall backward.
- 18 I have waited for your salvation, O LORD!
  - Dan = wordplay on “he will judge”
- 19 "Gad, a troop shall tramp upon him, But he shall triumph at last.
  - A wordplay on almost every word in this verse (troop, tramp, triumph are all wordplays on the name Gad)
  - Gives hope in the final defeat of their enemy
- 20 "Bread from Asher shall be rich, And he shall yield royal dainties.
  - No wordplay in this verse
- 21 "Naphtali is a deer let loose; He uses beautiful words.
  - Also brief
- 22 "Joseph is a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a well; His branches run over the wall.
- 23 The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him.
- 24 But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel) (*the Messiah*),
- 25 By the God of your father who will help you, And by the Almighty who will bless you With blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.
- 26 The blessings of your father Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.
  - Notice the multiple use of the word blessings – stressing Joseph as the most blessed
  - Joseph received the longest blessing

The Holy Days – The Law V  
April 29, 2006

- Joseph had taken over the rights of the firstborn
- The most blessed nations of the current era are the United States and Great Britain
- 27 "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he shall devour the prey, And at night he shall divide the spoil."
  - Similar to Judah
  - Moses called Benjamin "the beloved of the Lord"
- 28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.
- 29 Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,
- 30 "in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place.
- 31 "There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.
- 32 "The field and the cave that is there were purchased from the sons of Heth."
- 33 And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

Genesis 50

1. 1 Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him, and kissed him.
2. 2 And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel.
3. 3 Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those who are embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.
4. 4 And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying,
5. 5 'My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, I am dying; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me." Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back.'"
6. 6 And Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear."
7. 7 So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,
8. 8 as well as all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's house. Only their little ones, their flocks, and their herds they left in the land of Goshen.
9. 9 And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen, and it was a very great gathering.
10. 10 Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father.
11. 11 And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a deep mourning of the Egyptians." Therefore its name was called Abel Mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan.
12. 12 So his sons did for him just as he had commanded them.

The Holy Days – The Law V  
April 29, 2006

13. 13 For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place.
  - Israel was buried near Abraham and Isaac
14. 14 And after he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father.
15. 15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him."
  - They felt like Joseph would turn on them since their father was now dead
  - They felt that Joseph was kind to them to honor his father.
16. 16 So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying,
17. 17 "Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.'" Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.
18. 18 Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants."
19. 19 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?
20. 20 "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.
  - Again – why can't we all look at our "enemies" in this light?
21. 21 "Now therefore, do not be afraid; *I will provide for you and your little ones.*" *And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*
22. 22 So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years.
23. 23 Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees.
24. 24 And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."
25. 25 Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."
26. 26 So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.
  - Moses took Joseph's body out of Egypt and Joshua buried him in the land of Shechem

Why is the book of Genesis included in the Torah?

1. To show that the Law of God pre-existed the Mosaic times
2. To show that God's will can be accomplished without human intervention – and often, in spite of human intervention
3. To establish the lineage leading to the Messiah