

Timeline of Truth – Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers (Gen 45:1-28)

REVIEW: Joseph's Brothers Pass Joseph's Final Four Tests	
<p>³² So they set him a place by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves; because the Egyptians could not eat food with the Hebrews, for that <i>is</i> an abomination to the Egyptians. ³³ And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth; and the men looked in astonishment at one another. ³⁴ Then he took servings to them from before him, but Benjamin's serving was five times as much as any of theirs. So they drank and were merry with him. *** UPDATE on RESEARCH QUESTION ***</p>	<p>Joseph Tests Their Attitude Towards Benjamin (PASS)</p>
<p>¹³ Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city. ¹⁴ So Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, and he <i>was</i> still there; and they fell before him on the ground.</p>	<p>The Brothers Respond Together (PASS)</p>
<p>¹⁶ Then Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; here we are, my lord's slaves, both we and <i>he</i> also with whom the cup was found."</p>	<p>Judah Acknowledges Guilt as a Group (PASS)</p>
<p>¹⁸ Then Judah came near to him and said: "O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's hearing, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you <i>are</i> even like Pharaoh. ¹⁹ "My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father or a brother?' ²⁰ "And we said to my lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a child of <i>his</i> old age, <i>who is</i> young; his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.' ²¹ "Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.' ²² "And we said to my lord, 'The lad cannot leave his father, for <i>if</i> he should leave his father, <i>his father</i> would die.' ²³ "But you said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.' ²⁴ "So it was, when we went up to your servant my father, that we told him the words of my lord. ²⁵ "And our father said, 'Go back <i>and</i> buy us a little food.' ²⁶ "But we said, 'We cannot go down; if our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down; for we may not see the man's face unless our youngest brother <i>is</i> with us.' ²⁷ "Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons; ²⁸ 'and the one went out from me, and I said, "Surely he is torn to pieces"; and I have not seen him since. ²⁹ 'But if you take this one also from me, and calamity befalls him, you shall bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave.' ³⁰ "Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad <i>is</i> not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad's life, ³¹ "it will happen, when he sees that the lad <i>is</i> not <i>with us</i>, that he will die. So your servants will bring down the gray hair of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave. ³² "For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him <i>back</i> to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father forever.' ³³ "Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. ³⁴ "For how shall I go up to my father if the lad <i>is</i> not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?"</p>	<p>Judah Appeals & Begs to Take the Blame (PASS)</p>

<p>¹ Then</p>	<p>1. The Timing of Joseph's Revelation</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>2. Joseph Sends Everyone <u>Away</u> but His Brothers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph is overcome with intense emotion • Joseph cries out his command for privacy (why?)
<p>² And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard <i>it</i>.</p>	<p>3. Joseph <u>Weeps Loudly</u></p>
<p>³ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I <i>am</i> Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.</p>	<p>4. Joseph <u>Reveals Himself (Statement #1)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His first statement, and his first question (language?)
<p>⁴ And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I <i>am</i> Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.</p>	<p>5. Joseph Reveals Himself (Statement #2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asks them to move close • Statement #2, with more information
<p>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. ⁶ "For these two years the famine <i>has been</i> in the land, and <i>there are</i> still five years in which <i>there will be</i> neither plowing nor harvesting. ⁷ "And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ "So now <i>it was</i> not you <i>who</i> 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.</p>	<p>6. Joseph Explains <u>God's View of Events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not be grieved or angry with yourselves • God sent me before you to preserve life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Five more years of famine • God sent me before you <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To preserve a posterity for you in the earth ○ To save your lives by a great deliverance • God is ultimately in control • God has made me: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A father to Pharaoh ○ Lord of all of Pharaoh's house ○ A Ruler throughout all the land of Egypt

<p>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. 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 <i>there are</i> still five years of famine."</p>	<p>7. Joseph <u>Instructs</u> His Brothers to Bring His Father</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hurry... • Say this (speak in first person): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ God has made me lord of all of Egypt ○ Come down quickly ○ You will dwell in the land of Goshen ○ You shall be near me (+all your family, flocks & herds) ○ I will provide for you – reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> #1: <i>To protect all of you from poverty</i> #2: <i>Because there are still five years of famine</i>
<p>¹² "And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that <i>it is</i> 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."</p>	<p>8. Joseph Reviews the <u>Evidence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your eyes / Benjamin's eyes have seen me • My mouth speaks to you • Hurry...bring my father down here (i.e. with everyone)
<p>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.</p>	<p>9. Joseph Continues in <u>Intense Emotion</u> at the Reunion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His closeness to his full brother Benjamin • His closeness to his half brothers • His brothers see his care, and talk with him
<p>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. 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 <i>is</i> yours."</p>	<p>10. Pharaoh Encourages Joseph to Move His <u>Family</u> to Egypt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharaoh's house hears about Joseph's brothers • Pharaoh & his servants are pleased (Joseph's testimony) • Pharaoh Instructs Joseph to tell his brothers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Take food home ○ Bring your father & families back ○ I give you the best of Egypt ○ Eat the fat of the land ○ Take carts from Egypt to bring your families back ○ Leave your stuff – we have plenty
<p>²¹ Then the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them carts, 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 <i>pieces</i> of silver and five changes of garments. ²³ And he sent to his father these <i>things</i>: 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."</p>	<p>11. Joseph's Brothers Head Home with <u>Goods & Good News</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph Loads His Brothers with Provisions & Gifts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carts & provisions ○ Gifts for his brothers ○ Gifts for Benjamin (why? – not a test this time...) ○ Gifts for his father • Joseph Sends His Brothers Away <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Joseph Tells Them to Stay Out of Trouble
<p>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 <i>is</i> still alive, and he <i>is</i> governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them.</p>	<p>12. Joseph's Brothers Return to <u>Canaan</u> with the News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacob's Sons Give Him Shocking News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shock #1: Joseph is still alive ○ Shock #2: Joseph is governor over all of Egypt • Jacob Is Unable to Bring Himself to Believe It <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ He was anticipating possibly losing some/all of his sons
<p>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, "<i>It is</i> enough. Joseph my son <i>is</i> still alive. I will go and see him before I die."</p>	<p>13. Joseph's Brothers Give <u>Evidence</u> to Support the News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They tell him everything Joseph had said • He sees everything they brought (proof of their words) • Jacob believes and decides to go to Joseph.

