**Genesis 45:16-46:27: “From Famine to Fortune”**

Following the dramatic account of Joseph’s reunion and reconciliation with his brothers, the focus of the Joseph narratives shifts to the story of his family’s transition to Egypt. Again, we may detect the providential superintendence of the LORD in all that occurs as well as a foreshadowing of the inexhaustible riches that come to believers through Christ.

**Invitation: Pharaoh responds to the reunion report (16-24)**

-come to me in Egypt

-promise of land and food

-provisions for the journey: animals, money, clothing

-parting instruction

**Verification: Jacob receives the good news (25-28)**

-numb heart of disbelief

-words and wagons

-a focus on the well-being of the once-lost Joseph

-united in the land of the living

**Confirmation: The LORD reveals His plan for Jacob (1-7)**

-sacrifice and worship at Beersheba

-confirming visions in the night

-all offspring to Egypt

**Migration: Jacob’s descendants resettle in Egypt (8-27)**

-names there for a reason

-beginning with a barren couple

-The LORD keeps His promises

**So what?**

-Since the LORD invites you out of famine and need and into His fortune and abundance, rely on Him.

-pointing to our own famine to fortune story and connection to Christ (Luke 6:21)

-questions to ask ourselves

-Remember that that the LORD’S plans are still on schedule.

**Genesis 50:15-26: “As They Are Today”**

-“The hand of providence has been chopped off altogether and with the amputation we are left to grope alone in a hostile, or even worse, indifferent universe.” (Sproul). The LORD’S providential dealings with Joseph and his brothers culminate in a powerful drama of repentance and forgiveness.

**Background/Context**

-family gathered to Egypt (47)

-Jacob blesses Joseph’s sons (48)

-Jacob blesses his sons (49)

-Joseph and his brothers bury Jacob in Canaan (50:1-14)

**Joseph’s brothers fear retaliation (15)**

-fears/anxieties resurface: natural self-confidence broken, find selves cast utterly on the mercy of the LORD

-Jacob’s seventeen years in Egypt (47:28)

**Joseph’s brothers relay a message attributed to Jacob (16-17)**

**Joseph’s gracious and assuring response (18-26)**

-sold, slandered, snubbed

-deepened and not deadened by life’s extremities

-clarity about his place and God’s place

-compassion without minimizing sin

-compassion grounded in grace

-expressing confidence in a future “visitation” (Christ)

**So what?**

-Embracing the principle of God’s providence enables you to extend His grace to others.

-“As long as the cross stands in history, no one who knows its meaning will be able to pronounce a limitation on God’s providence.” (Boice)

-If you believe God is in control…

-“Every joy or trial falleth from above, traced upon our dial by the Sun of love. We may trust Him fully, all for us to do. They who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true.” (Havergal)

For further study:

Begg, Alistair. *The Hand of God.*

Duguid, Iain and Harmon, Matthew. *Living in the Light of Inextinguishable Hope.*

Ross, Allen. *Creation and Blessing.*