



## MIKETZ - AT THE END

Genesis 41:1 to 44:17

Zechariah 2:10 to 4:7

John 6:1-71

### Joseph's Life: Part Two

Two Full Years Have Passed

Genesis 41:1

The last study ended with Joseph facing two more years in prison after the cupbearer overlooked Joseph's plea. At seventeen, Joseph was sold by his brothers and enslaved in Egypt against his will. As a servant in Potiphar's house, he had a degree of personal freedom but not freedom from the entrapments of the world around him. Life in prison was a low point in Joseph's life.

Through all his trials, he continued to flourish, as *God/Elohim* was with him. For believers, does adversity bring spiritual growth? If we were innocently put into a similar situation, would our hearts grow in mature wisdom and draw us closer to *God/Elohim* or would our hearts betray us and become embittered, turning us away from our Creator?

### Circumcision Of The Heart

Two studies previously, in *Vayishlach* Genesis 32, we learned of the *redemption/salvation of the soul* through Jacob's life. Through his son Joseph, we now learn of the *circumcision of the heart*.

During the many trials, Joseph drew life from what was written on his heart from *the Tree of Life*. Even though he was imprisoned, this wisdom still produced abundant life in him. *God/Elohim* gives believers many applicable life portraits through the lives of the patriarchs to help us better understand the maturing process of Redemption in Yeshua. Jacob and Joseph's lives, along with their many trials, are poignant examples that provide practical applications for our lives today. Joseph came from a background where his father loved him deeply. Our earthly father is to reflect our heavenly Father's love and care for us (Matthew 3:17). Jacob was such a man. Joseph was brought up knowing the Gospel, therefore very able to apply its principles in his life. The moral code accorded Joseph favor during his captivity while in a foreign land. With this strong background and foundation, he was better able to understand how to handle the many trials and extreme hardships. As Joseph prevailed, *God/Elohim* was faithful to guide him. Through it all, Joseph became an overcomer.

Numerous people have experienced unstable home lives growing up due to a lack of support from a mother or father. This can lead to many psychological, emotional, and physical problems.

The passing of a loved one, cultural backgrounds, abusive home life, or growing up orphan-like in the same home can all lead to under-development of character and maturity. Without a stable, balanced, scripturally sound family life, children who experience an imbalanced family life can process love differently than God/*Elohim* intended for them. That can significantly affect the way they perceive life and sway their personal development and emotional wellbeing. Having such a childhood does not necessarily equip an individual to handle his or her future. Broken foundations can cause a collapse of family life that never seems to break free of the cycle.

A proper Godly foundation built on the Gospel is what made the difference in Joseph's life. It is the pattern that any of us who have not had a stable background can adopt. To walk the Gospel is a choice that can break the cycle of emotional and physical poverty and bring restoration. Joseph was taught what was right in God's/*Elohim* Kingdom. Choosing to stay within the realms of life kept him strong and healthy, and changed him into a man after God's/*Elohim* own heart. That pattern followed Joseph during his many years of trial. The purpose of a challenge is to reveal *what is in our hearts*. Tests are to deliver God's/*Elohim* people and make known His mighty hand of redemption for the *salvation of our souls*.

Joseph had that decision to make after his brother's immoral turpitude against him. Was he going to rest on the knowledge and understanding that *ALL* was in God's/*Elohim* care or take matters into his own hands? Joseph chose wisely. He decided to grow in the midst of his challenges, allowing his Heavenly Father to guide, correct, and mold him into the image and destiny God/*Elohim* purposed for his life. Letting go of self (*olam hazeh/earthly realm*) until only God/*Elohim* existed (*olam haba/heavenly realm*) was the ultimate challenge for Joseph, as it is for all believers today. The way to faith is *holiness* - the corresponding action of the Gospel. A walk of holiness arrays believers in Yeshua's priesthood, the white linen wedding garments, and presents him or her as His spotless Bride (Genesis 37:4, 8; John 15:25; Psalm 35:19, 69:5; Isaiah 49:7).

## Pharaoh's Dreams

### Genesis 41

God/*Elohim* continued to prepare Joseph's life. After two full years had passed, Pharaoh was given two dreams that the attendees in his court could not interpret. It was at this time the cupbearer remembered Joseph - the one who was able to interpret dreams. Soon Joseph was summoned, bathed, and given fresh clothes in preparation for standing before the king. This process in Hebrew is called a *mikvah* and constitutes a change of status from one season to the next. In Joseph's case, his status and position changed from a prisoner to the overseer of a Nation.

Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh. In Torah, a priest begins his duties in the temple at the age of thirty. That was also the same age Yeshua began His earthly ministry (Numbers 4:3; Luke 3:23).

When the King of kings and the Lord of lords chooses His people, they too are set apart from an unclean realm and prepared to walk before Him. When His people decide to leave immoral behaviors and rise to proper moral conduct, they too will stand before kings, as Yeshua's

emissaries. Responding to the Gospel delivers *believers* from any self-imposed imprisonment and readies them to serve Yeshua, The King, in His Kingdom.

At this time, Joseph had been in Egypt for thirteen years. Imagine, starting as a young shepherd boy, sold as a slave, imprisoned, and now standing before the king of a large nation. Believers should not be surprised at this. If God's/*Elohim* people are walking in His right ways and have surrendered their lives, then they too will stand in positions acting on behalf of their Savior as His representative. God/*Elohim* will equip His people to walk in *spirit* and *truth* to bring about His purpose just as He did Joseph. Because Joseph's heart was pure, he became a tool in God's/*Elohim* hand. It was possible, as Joseph was not standing before men in *his* righteousness but in *God's/Elohim*. Joseph was chosen, as he built his foundation on Spirit, in truth and holiness. This pattern is the same for believers, as God's/*Elohim* ways never change. Holiness is the foundation we are to build our lives.

### Only God/*Elohim* Can Interpret Dreams

Genesis 41:16

Pharaoh announced to Joseph, "*I have heard it said that you can interpret dreams.*" Giving God/*Elohim* credit, Joseph said, "*No! God/Elohim will give Pharaoh the answer he desires*" (Genesis 41:16). After hearing the dreams, Joseph explained that God/*Elohim* showed Pharaoh the same event in two differing forms to confer what would soon happen in Egypt and the surrounding lands. He then suggested how Pharaoh could handle the large harvest and extreme drought conditions that were to follow. Joseph showed great confidence and wisdom for this challenging situation, as he had become proficient at managing large households and prisons left under his charge.

Joseph was humble in his sharing and entirely unconcerned about his welfare. He also undertook to advise Pharaoh to look for someone who was wise and discerning, able to manage all of the challenges that were to come. In this, Joseph never assumed anything for himself. He simply proceeded to characterize for Pharaoh, the man who would best suit the job of overseeing the project. Joseph went into great detail for what was needed and how to store the enormous harvest to augment the severe famine that was to follow.

The wisdom Joseph imparted showed that he was no longer reliant on a man but entirely at peace with the man he had become in God/*Elohim* (*Tree of Life*). With no expectations or motives, Joseph was now ready for the work that lay before him. Through this test, God/*Elohim* knew the world (*earthly nature/olam hazeh*) no longer had a hold on Joseph's heart. Therein lies the key to a believer's personal delivery. Pharaoh was so impressed with Joseph's wisdom and aptitude for the administration that he selected Joseph for the job!

🌿 **Genesis 41:38-41** "And Pharaoh said to his servants, 'Can we find *such a one* as this, a man in whom *is* the Spirit of God/*Elohim*?' Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'Inasmuch as God/*Elohim* has shown you all this, *there is* no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.' And Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.'"

At this surprising announcement, Pharaoh then placed his signet ring on Joseph, dressed him in robes of fine linen, and placed a gold chain around his neck. Joseph was then carried about in a chariot with men shouting before him, “*Make way, make way!*” Pharaoh further added, “*Without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt.*” Then he pronounced a new name over Joseph, *Zaphenath-Paneah*, which means “*Treasury of the rest*” and “*He who explains what is hidden.*”

✠ **Romans 16:25-27** Paul writes: “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashaich*, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God/*Elohim*, for obedience to the faith - to God/*Elohim*, alone wise, *be* glory through Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashaich* forever. Amen” (Matthew 5-7)

✠ **Isaiah 61:1-2** “The Spirit of the Lord GOD/*Adonai Elohim* is upon Me, because the LORD/*Yahweh* has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD/*Yahweh.*”

Isaiah gave this prophecy of the Messiah, and it was the Messiah who revealed the fulfillment of Himself to the people (Luke 4:18-19).

Pharaoh also presented Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, to be Joseph’s wife (Genesis 41:45).

### The Birth Of Two Sons Genesis 41:46-57

During the seven years of abundance, the land was so plentiful that Joseph stopped keeping records, as the harvest was beyond measure. The grain was gathered and stored in the cities. During this doubly fruitful period, two sons were born to Joseph and his wife, Asenath. The firstborn Joseph named *Manasseh* (causing to overlook), saying, “*God/Elohim overlooked all my labor and all the house of my father.*” The second son he named *Ephraim*, which means *double fruitfulness*, declaring, “*God/Elohim reproduced me in the land of my affliction.*”

As forecasted by the dreams, after the years of plenty, the seven years of famine followed. The famine was not only in Egypt but also in the surrounding lands. People from all countries were now dependent on Joseph for their very survival.

### Prophecy Fulfilled Genesis 42

In time, Joseph’s father Jacob learned of the barley in Egypt and sent his *ten* sons down to purchase grain for the family “*so that we may live and not die.*” When Jacob’s sons arrived, Joseph immediately recognized his family. However, they did not know him, as his Egyptian appearance and high position hid his true identity from them. They could not yet *see*, as their hearts were still covered with guilt for what they had done to Joseph earlier. When one dwells in

*the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil*, they are deemed wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. There was no doubt this had happened to Joseph's brothers. With murder still buried deep within their hearts, and without repentance, Joseph's brothers would not be able to see, hear or recognize Joseph even though he was standing right before them. We also note that they could not survive on the food at home, as it was not enough to sustain life (Revelation 3:17-18).

Thus far, Joseph was at peace with his life and the task that lay before him. However, upon seeing his brothers standing before him, the remembrance of his dreams would have caused his heart to reflect on the prophetic Covenant given to his great-grandfather Abraham many years earlier.

*"Your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions"* (Genesis 15:13-14).

With renewed interest, Joseph's realized the dreams and prophecies given him earlier were being lived out in real-time. He now grasped why his life had unfolded the way it had and even more came to appreciate the reason behind Pharaoh's dreams. Joseph saw the Hand of God/*Elohim* had been at work in his life this whole time. God/*Elohim* had fully orchestrated Joseph's life for one purpose - *the express preservation of his people Israel*.

The Covenant given to his great-grandfather Abraham had passed to his grandfather Isaac and then to his father, Jacob. This same Word Joseph could also firmly stand and build his life upon. That cornerstone kept him and his family alive, not only during this famine but also for many generations. God's/*Elohim* faithfulness and living Word were Joseph's source of life and guidance the whole time. Now he could see he was a chosen vessel to bring this life to his family, and that God's/*Elohim* dreams were about to unfold just as promised.

## The Stranger

Joseph was a stranger and an alien to his brothers. They saw him as a Gentile and a hard taskmaster. The brothers would soon be tested as to the sincerity of their hearts. Yes, they were children of Abraham, circumcised in the *flesh*, but it is children of *faith* (circumcision of the *heart*) who are called Abraham's *true* children (Psalm 69:8).

✠ **Romans 2:28-29** "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God/*Elohim*."

Joseph represents those of *the House of Israel* returning from the Nations. He looked Egyptian and rather worldly. Because of this, his brothers (*the House of Judah*) had not recognized him. Presently, *the House of Israel* may have the smell of pork, lobster, and crab about them and still identify with the Babylonian feasts of Christmas and Easter. Yet, they are gradually shedding their pagan identity and embracing God's/*Elohim* redemptive Kingdom lifestyle. However, they will continue to remain hidden among the Nations looking and acting like Gentiles until

God's/Elohim full number return at His appointed time – called *the fullness of the Gentiles/Nations*.

✚ **Romans 11:25-26** “Israel [*House of Judah*] has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles [*House of Israel/God/Elohim people who were captivated by the nations*] has come in. And so all Israel [*the Whole House of Israel/Jacob*] will be saved” (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 8:8-10).

With the more significant picture unfolding, Joseph was now given a clearer view as to the purpose of his involvement and role in the land of Egypt. He was sent ahead to prepare the way for his family. Today, believers living among the Nations are a likeness of Joseph. The Spirit of the Holy One/*Ruach HaKodesh* is preparing the way for Joseph's family to reunite with *the whole house of Jacob/Israel* in the return. Like Joseph, God/Elohim has given His people the keys to His Kingdom through the Gospel to walk that will unlock the task prepared in advance. If God's/Elohim people observe His Word and walk in righteousness, especially in the small areas of their lives, God/Elohim will raise them up for a much greater work to come - *the redemption of the Whole House of Israel* (John 8:39-40).

✚ **Mark 4:24-25** “Then He said to them, ‘Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.’”

### The Test Of The Heart

Under the direction of God/Elohim, Joseph started to probe his brother's hearts. He portrayed himself as a harsh man to watch their response to the demands placed upon them.

It appears Joseph's brothers did not have the life-sustaining food *in their houses*, as only the *Tree of Life* produces fruit with life-sustaining seed. Instead, they came to Joseph and said to him, “*We came to buy food.*” Their response revealed their preference and what tree (lifestyle) they were eating from. The tree they fed on diminished life. The brothers saw the difference in that Joseph possessed the grain needed to sustain them. What the brothers had yet to understand was that they were coming to Egypt to buy bread to maintain the lifestyle they were used to. Instead, they will be given the bread of redemption, leading to the eternal life of salvation.

In this present Messianic Age/*end times*, the brothers will again see Joseph as a stranger and try to buy bread from him. Joseph will be revealed to his brothers, and it will be Joseph who provides the bread that *sustains eternal life* - Yeshua (John 6:35). Even though Judah was given the Gospel through Abraham to preserve, many treated it as head knowledge and gained no life-sustaining qualities from it. If people do not eat from the *Tree of Life*, they will try and seek life from another source. Until God's/Elohim people seek *the Messiah IN the Torah*, they will search for more *knowledge* believing that *the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil* will fill the void and sustain their lives. We are told not to touch that tree, as it will produce death and an unfulfilled life (Genesis 2:17; Galatians 3:8).

In Joseph's narrative, it was Joseph who was in the *wilderness*. While there, he searched diligently for the *HEART of Torah*, the Messiah. Only when God/*Elohim* circumcised Joseph's heart did the Torah become a life-sustaining source for him (heavenly realm/*olam haba*). That life he treasured in his heart. The Messiah is found when believers rent the veil of their heart, for only then will they walk in righteousness. Joseph's brothers came to *buy* grain in the wilderness. In this Messianic age, it will be Joseph (*the House of Israel*) who will reveal the fullness of Yeshua *within* the Torah (*food*) to his brothers (*the House of Judah*). Joseph's story is a type and shadow of the Messiah. Yeshua is the Bread of Life. We come to Him, the Living Manna, for *His* life.

✿ **Genesis 41:53-54** “Then the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Egypt [*wilderness*] ended, and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. The famine was in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread [*that sustains life*].”

✿ **Exodus 16:4** “Then the LORD/*Yahweh* said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread [*life sustaining*] from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law [*Gospel*] or not.’”

When Joseph's brothers were in Egypt, he implied they were spies and imprisoned them three days to test their character. Upon their release, and at Joseph's request, they promised to return with their youngest brother Benjamin to prove their innocence. Simeon was left as collateral until their return. At this point, the brothers turned to one another in dismay saying, “*Surely we are being punished because of our brother [Joseph]*.” After paying for the grain, they left for home. On route, they discovered their payment of *silver* coins back in their sacks! Fear fell upon them. Driven by guilt for what they had done to Joseph in his youth, they said, “*What is this that God/Elohim has done to us?*” (*Genesis 42:28*).

At home, Jacob expressed his grief over the loss of his sons. First Joseph, then Simeon, and now this Egyptian wanted Benjamin too! Did Jacob not remember the prophecy given his grandfather Abraham of his family living in another country?

✿ **Genesis 15:13-14** “Then He said to Abram: ‘Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is* not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.’”

Note: When Jacob was acting in unbelief (fleshly/carnal nature), Scripture uses his name, *Jacob*. When he believes and rests in God/*Elohim* being led by the Spirit/*Ruach*, Scripture calls him by his new name *Israel*.

## A Second Journey For Life-Sustaining Grain Genesis 43

Time passed, and Jacob once again had to consider sending his sons to Egypt for more grain. Judah reminded his father of the conditions they would have to meet for their return, recalling the vizier's warning: “*You will not see my face again unless your brother [Benjamin] is with*

you.” This was prophetic wedding language for: “*We will not see the Bridegroom [Yeshua] unless—and not until—all twelve tribes are together again*” (Acts 1:5; 26:6-7).

✠ **Luke 13:35** Yeshua said, “Look, your house is left to you desolate [*because you have not walked in my ways, but in your own ways of lawlessness*]. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD/Yahweh*’” (Psalm 118:26).

Prophetic language is not only at the time of Yeshua’s return but also of those who live and walk in His name – all those who believe in the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to do His will. It is they who will also be blessed (Deuteronomy 28:1-14).

Upon leaving, Judah pledged to his father that he would take full responsibility for Benjamin’s care and safety while away. As promised, the brothers returned to Egypt, accompanied by Rachel’s second son Benjamin - Joseph’s younger brother. They came bearing gifts from the land for Joseph with double the amount of silver. Firstly to cover the costs of the grain they had already purchased and secondly for the grain they would buy during this additional visit.

Joseph received their gifts and instructed his servants to “*Take these men to my home, and slaughter an animal and make ready; for these men will dine with me at noon*” (Genesis 43:16).

We see Joseph setting a meal before his brothers at noon. This meal reveals three prophetic pictures. The first was of Yeshua, who would also sit with His twelve brothers to eat the memorial Passover meal. Secondly, it was prophetic of Yeshua our Passover Lamb and payment for the redemption of our soul. And thirdly, prophetic of the future banquet in the Messianic Age where all twelve tribes of Israel join in the Father’s house to eat at the Feast Tabernacles called the Wedding Supper of the Lamb (Genesis 22:8; John 1:29, 35-36; Revelation 19:9).

✠ **Luke 22:29-30** Yeshua said, “And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

The brothers spoke to Joseph at the *entrance of the house*, explaining that as they returned home from their first trip to Egypt, they discovered the payment for the grain in their sacks. This was also symbolic of our confession of sins at the door of salvation before receiving redemption through Yeshua - the Door of Life.

✠ **John 10:1-4** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.”

As the brothers presented themselves *in the house*, Joseph had the stewards wash their feet. Washing represented a change of status and consecration. In this same way, Yeshua also washed His disciple's feet (John 13:5).

At noon (the sixth hour of prayer), the brothers were ready to receive the meal offering. When Joseph drew close to them, they presented their gifts and twice bowed down before him to pay him honor. They then introduced Benjamin. So overcome with emotion at seeing his younger brother, Joseph removed himself to weep.

At the banquet table, Joseph had the brothers seated in their birth order, from the eldest to the youngest. Joseph sat at a separate table and had their meal served to them from his. That again demonstrated that he had the life-sustaining food. At the meal, Benjamin was given five times more than that of his brothers. Five represents grace and the receiving of the Gospel/Torah, the five books of Moses. Joseph watched his brothers to see if they demonstrated jealousy over the favoritism shown Benjamin (Genesis 43:32-34; Luke 22:12-16).

## The Cup Of Redemption Genesis 44

The time had come for the brothers to return to their father, Jacob. Joseph instructed his servants that each man was to be given as much new grain as possible (symbolic of Yeshua, the Bread of Life/Torah) and that their silver was to be returned to them as well. Redemption cannot be purchased from *the Tree of Life*. It is a gift. That is Yeshua's mercy toward us. While we were still sinners, Yeshua died for us (Romans 5:8).

🌿 **1 Timothy 2:5-6** "For there is one God/*Elohim* and one mediator between God/*Elohim* and men, the Man Christ Jesus/*Yeshua HaMashiach*, who gave himself as a ransom for all men."

At the same time, Joseph gave instructions for his personal silver cup to be placed inside Benjamin's sack along with his grain money. The silver cup refers to the cup of redemption Yeshua drank on behalf of the Whole House of Israel at the Passover meal. His cup is hidden in the Torah - the bread (grain) of Life - as Yeshua is *the Bread of Life* (Genesis 44:1-2; Numbers 15:1-5; Matthew 26:42).

🌿 **John 6:33-35** "For the bread of God/*Elohim* is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Then they said to Him, 'Lord, give us this bread always.' And Jesus/*Yeshua* said to them, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.'"

🌿 **John 6:47-51** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

## The Discovery

As the men made their way home, Joseph sent his steward after them declaring they had stolen the master's cup. In this final test, Joseph wanted to know how they would react if anything should happen to Benjamin. In their defense, the brothers vehemently denied they had stolen this valued cup. So sure were they that they pronounced a vow and oath, "*Anyone among your servants with whom it is found shall die, and we also will become slaves to my lord*" (Genesis 44:9). With this pledge declared, Joseph's cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

In the past, *Jacob* had innocently pronounced a death sentence over his wife Rachel while her father Laban looked for his stolen idols. That was at the beginning of her pregnancy with *Benjamin*. Iniquities continue through the generations if repentance has not taken place. We now see the next generation, Benjamin's brothers, innocently pronounce a death sentence on him, which indentured them all to Joseph (Genesis 31:32).

In grief, the brothers tore their garments, revealing the condition of their hearts. It was a sorrowful group that journeyed back to Joseph. No longer did they plead or defend themselves. The sin committed against Joseph had now revisited them. Twenty-two years after having caused their father to go into mourning over their lies and murderous deeds spoken against Joseph, their iniquity had come full circle upon them. And now, it included their innocent younger brother Benjamin. They were falsely accused of a crime they had not committed and went through deep anguish over the seriousness of their situation. They indeed needed a kinsman redeemer to survive this. At last, they experience the renting of the veil of their hearts (circumcision of the heart) (Genesis 44:13; Hebrews 10:19-20).

Altogether the brothers fell prostrate before Joseph begging for mercy. All eleven brothers bowed before him, fulfilling the dream Joseph was given many years earlier. "*My sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf*" (Genesis 37:7). This picture is also prophetic of the day when every knee will bow before the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords, *Yeshua Ha Mashiach* (Romans 14:11).

## The Confession

Judah stepped forward on behalf of his brothers. He knew *God/Elohim* had revealed their sin. In effect, his words implied an admission of the earlier crime committed against Joseph. Knowing this was the hand of *God/Elohim*, Judah committed them all in slavery to Joseph, along with Benjamin. Only when Joseph indicated that his mind was set solely on Benjamin did his brother Judah, Benjamin's guarantor, come forward with *his whole heart* to defend his brother and plead Benjamin's case (Genesis 44:16-17).

🔱 **Zechariah 2:11** "Many nations will be joined with the LORD/*Yahweh* in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the LORD/*Yahweh* Almighty has sent me to you."

🔱 **Zechariah 3:4** "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you."

🌿 **Zechariah 3:7** “If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.”

🌿 **Zechariah 4:11-14** “Then I answered and said to him, ‘What *are* these two olive trees - at the right of the lampstand and at its left?’ And I further answered and said to him, ‘What *are these* two olive branches that *drip* into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden *oil* drains?’ Then he answered me and said, ‘Do you not know what these *are*?’ And I said, ‘No, my lord.’ So he said, these *are* the two anointed ones [*sons of fresh oil*], who stand beside the Lord/*Adonai* of the whole earth” (Revelation 11:3-4; Jeremiah 2:18-21, 11:10,16-17; 12:15; Hosea 1-2).

*To be continued...*

*Shabbat Shalom*  
*Julie Parker*

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