

**Genesis 46: 26-31; “Because You are Still Alive”, Sermon # 111 in the series
“Beginnings, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on July 5th, 2020,
in the Morning Worship Service.**

This morning we have come to the tender story of Joseph’s being re-united with his beloved father. Theirs was a very special relationship. This passage shows us that it was not only that Jacob had a great and special love for his son Joseph, but it ought to be very obvious that Joseph had a very great and special love for his father as well. Joseph’s love to his father Jacob and the way that he expresses here, are a good picture of Christ’s love for His kinsmen after the flesh, the Jews, who will one day come to understand that He is alive and that He is their Savior and Lord. And so the question that I would like to ask at this hour is this – How is Joseph’s meeting his father Jacob similar to the meeting of Christ and His ancient people the Jews, on the day of their conversion as a nation? I would assert to you that the actions and emotions of Joseph and Jacob towards each other on the occasion of this meeting, are very much like what the actions and emotions of our Lord Jesus and the Jews will be like on that glorious day. Let me give you 4 evidences from our text that this is so.

1st of all – There is in this passage, a very real typical Significance of Joseph and Jacob to Christ and the Jews.

We have seen in our study of the life of Joseph that there are many typical similarities between the life of Joseph and the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. 23 years before this time, Joseph was loved by his father but hated by his brothers. The Lord Jesus was loved by His Father from all eternity and sent into this world to save sinners. He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him. Joseph was sold into slavery into Egypt by his brothers who were envious of his dreams and angry about them. They thought to kill him at first, but finally sold him for 20 shekels of silver to some Midianite traders who took him down to Egypt. Here in Egypt, however, he was found faithful and trustworthy in everything he did. For doing the right thing, in refusing the invitations from Potiphar’s wife to sleep with him, he was thrown into prison. The Lord Jesus, even though He did the right thing in all things, He was sold by one of his own disciples for 30 pieces of silver. He was then crucified for telling the Jewish leaders that He was the Son of the Living God.

Joseph was brought out of the dungeon after several years because he favorably interpreted the dreams of a butler of Pharaoh. He correctly interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh about the 7 years of plenty, and the 7 years of famine, and for this was promoted to the highest station, the 2nd in position to Pharaoh. The Lord Jesus, having suffered the cruel death of the cross, was raised from the dead. Death could not hold him, and God highly exalted Him to His right hand and made Him Lord of heaven and earth. Joseph stored up grain like the sand on the seashore during the seven years of plenty and He was able to sell grain to all the nations of the earth when the famine came. The Lord Jesus, because of his death and sufferings was able to merit the favor with God to be able to open up the storehouses of heaven and bring the blessings of salvation to each and every sinner who comes to him. All of these things are the overview of the similarities of Joseph’s life with the life of our Lord Jesus.

When Joseph had told his dreams to his brothers those many years before, his brothers had envied and hated him. But his father kept the matter in mind. It says in Genesis 37: 3 – “Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age.” “Also he made him a tunic of many colors.” I have shown you in the past that this relationship is a picture of the relationship that God the Father had with Jesus Christ his Son. But this morning I want to show you that Jacob is a picture of the whole Jewish people on the day of their conversion to Jesus Christ. They will one day be converted in a national way and brought into

the Church. They will not have a separate program and another dispensation for themselves after Christ returns. Rather, they shall be saved sometime here in the future, and their salvation at that time will be like life from the dead to the church, as I shall show you at a later point in this message.

To set the stage for what I will say to you later, I need to point out to you that a good number of the Jews came back to their Promised Land after the devastation of the holocaust during World War II. And they became a political nation once again after 1900 years. But they have never yet come to saving faith in their Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. If anything should have brought them, humanly speaking, to believe in Him, it was that time period when they escaped Hitler's extermination program, and were providentially enabled to come back into their ancient land once again. But they did not come to faith in Christ. They are still to this day in unbelief. And so we see that the only way that they will be spiritually saved will be when God through Christ stretches out His hand to do so. But the Bible clearly teaches that there will be a day coming when Jacob shall receive God's word in the New Testament Scriptures that their Messiah is still alive, and the two shall really spiritually meet.

2nd – You see in this passage a real eagerness on the part of both Jacob and Joseph for this meeting.

Our text says in verse 28 – “Then Jacob sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out before him the way to Goshen.” I hope that you understand that the way to come to know Jesus Christ, and the way to come back to Him to be revived and renewed, is not always clear to the one who Christ's salvation comes to. It has not been clear to God's ancient people, the Jews, for the better part of 2,000 years. They will need the witness of Christians to come to that place. But you see here that there was an eagerness on both Joseph and Jacob's parts? Jacob did not know the way to Goshen. He needed Joseph to direct Judah to “point out the way for him”. In the conversion of the Jews it will be the same way. The Jews have been looking for their Messiah for a long, long time. But they do not know that Jesus Christ is alive; that He is risen from the dead. This is the picture of Jacob and his sons before Joseph revealed himself to them.

When we Gentiles try to tell the Jews that it is so, that Jesus is alive, they are like Jacob, when he first heard the news. In Genesis 45: 26 it says – “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”, it says. His heart stood still because he did not believe them. The unbelieving Jews still need to be shown the way. Let me ask – Is our generation the appointed generation to do that? Who shall show them the way? Well turn with me to Romans 11, and I will show you a little more about this grand and glorious subject. In verse 7 the Apostle Paul gives us some of the reasons that God has had to hide the truth of the reality of Jesus Christ being the Messiah from the Jews. “What then?” “Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.” “Just as it is written: ‘God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, to this very day.’”

In verse 11 then, Paul says – “I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall?” That is; that they should no longer exist as the ancient people of God, even though the New Covenant has come and the division between Jew and Gentile has been broken down by Jesus Christ? “Certainly not!” That was Paul's answer. “But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.” There it is; plain as the nose on your face. They have fallen, but they have not fallen finally, or forever, as a people in God's sight. Instead, God has ordained that through their fall, salvation would come to the Gentiles. Now what I am trying to show you is that this is the picture of Joseph in Egypt with the great wealth of grain to give out to all the hungry world. His brothers sold Joseph down to Egypt, because of their envy and hatred, but God meant it for great good. But eventually, we should understand, the Jews will come down to Egypt to find grain as well. For it says in Romans 11, verse 12 – “Now if their fall is riches for the

world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!" So you see, there will be tremendous spiritual blessing that will come to the whole world when the Jews come to know their Messiah Jesus Christ.

Now look down at verse 25. "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in." "And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.'" My beloved brethren; this is the joy that we as the largely Gentile Church of Jesus Christ should have this morning. We know that this "partial hardening", this blindness, has happened to physical Israel. And what should we conclude? That God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ will not have anything more to do with them, except to save a remnant in all generations as He has since the time Jesus ascended to heaven?

No, no, it simply cannot be! At some point in the future of this present Church age, the Deliverer will come out of Zion and He will turn ungodliness away from Jacob; that is, the whole nation of them. The Lord Jesus will make ready his chariot and go up to Goshen. The converted Jews will be brought into the Church. They will come and live in Goshen. They will yet be a blessing to the whole world because of Jesus Christ our Lord. The Lord will put forth a mighty act of saving power upon the hearts of the whole nation of the Jews, at a certain point in time in this one present Church age in which we now live. But you will say to me – But are they not enemies at the present time to Jesus Christ? Well, yes they are. But look at how it is worded in verse 28. "Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers." "For the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable."

That is; just as God once called Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to be his special people, even so, all of their physical descendants are beloved for the sake of those fathers, and the promises given to them. Just as Joseph was sent by God before them into Egypt, even so, the Lord Jesus was sold by the Jews to the death of the cross in order that He might become their deliverer as a people, and that He would become the Savior to many in the whole world. Down through this Church age thus far, the Jews as an ethnic people have not been eager to see Christ and to know Him as their Messiah, because they rejected Him when he came the first time. Many years have now come and gone since then, but someday in a time of spiritual famine, they will come looking for the grain of Truth and will find it in the New Testament Scriptures which will confirm their own Old Testament Scriptures.

They will not recognize immediately who they are dealing with. But God will providentially order all of the circumstances necessary, to see the whole family of the Jews brought to faith in the living Christ. He will reveal himself to them in God's time. And having their eyes open they will then see that God is leading them into Christ's Church. Right now, it would seem to them as going down to live in Egypt. How will God do this great work in their minds and hearts? Well, Judah must "point the direction", as it says in Zechariah Chapter 12, if you will turn over there with me. The time of spiritual famine and difficulty for the Jewish nation and people is coming in which only the Lord can defend them. But God will help them politically, and He will also save them spiritually.

It is described for us here in verse 6 of Zechariah 12 in this way – "In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves, they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place – Jerusalem." "The Lord will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than Judah." "In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be

like God, like the Angel of the Lord before them.” Now notice that the Lord will save the tents of Judah first. Judah was the one who Jacob sent on ahead to Joseph to bring back word to him of how he was to come to him. Judah is the tribe which the Lord Jesus Christ is from. He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. It will be the glory of the Lord to Israel to have the tribe of Judah saved first, as it will give the whole nation clear direction of what they too should do. We Gentile Christians may be able to be of great help in this relation to this first ingathering by preaching the gospel to Jews and praying for their conversion. We should be eager and willing where we can, to witness to them. For we do not know, whether our witness may be the very thing that God will use to start this whole chain of events. Certainly God will honor our desires and prayers for the advancement of Christ’s kingdom. And it will be greatly advanced when the Jews as a nation are converted and come into the Church.

3rd – There will be great emotion on the part of the Lord Jesus and his ancient people on the day of the conversion of the Jews.

Verse 29 says – “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.” What great emotion is shown by Joseph here on this occasion. What great emotion he has shown in every step of his revealing himself to his brethren. When he revealed himself to his brothers and Benjamin in Chapter 45, verse 9, he says to his brothers – “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.’” “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.” “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.” “And behold your eyes and the eyes of your brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you.” “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.” “Then he fell on his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck.” “Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.”

Now I would insist that most of us, if not all of us here this morning, have very little idea of how much love our Lord Jesus Christ has, for those for whom He has died. We see it as we look back at the cross. But we simply do not understand it as we should, as a present reality in all the situations of our life. But this love is pictured so very well by Joseph in these verses. Will you not believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has great and mighty affections, and a love for His brethren which is infinitely beyond your greatest conception? Will you not believe that His affections are proportionately great to His being a glorified Savior? I know that you know that Christ’s love for His people is very great. The Apostle Paul declares it to be so in Ephesians 3: 18. In that place he prays that every believer may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

This Scripture is telling us that the Love of Christ is something that we do not comprehend yet as we should. Paul says that it is something that must be prayed for; it is something which must be brought to you by Christ Himself, by means of the Holy Spirit. Have you tasted of this love? Have you experienced the great feelings which the Savior has for you, even since you first believed? “E’er since by faith I saw the stream, Thy flowing wounds supply, redeeming love has been my theme and shall be till I die.” “Dear dying Lamb, thy precious blood shall never lose its power, till all the ransomed church of God be saved to sin no more.” Oh dearly beloved of Christ; can you see how great the love of the Lord Jesus is toward you; that He not only died for your sins, but His great feelings and affections yearn over you to the shedding of tears, so that you would know the reality and power of His love for you?

The proof of this is seen in the conduct of great men of God weeping over sinners in order that they would see Christ's love. Think of the Apostle Paul. He wanted so much to see the Jews, his kinsmen according to the flesh, to be converted, and come to know the reality of what we are speaking of here this morning; that he says in Romans 9: 1 – "I tell you the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart." "I wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh." Paul understood that the love of Jesus Christ is that great. And I am saying to you now that if you understand how great the love of Jesus Christ is for you, it will reduce you to tears.

Look back at Zechariah 12 with me once more. I want you to look at the verses which follow the ones that I read to you earlier. The Lord Jesus is the One and the only One who can deliver you from all of your enemies. He alone can deliver you from the world and all its allurements. He alone can deliver you from the sinful lusts of your flesh which you mourn over, the better that you understand your sinful self. He alone can deliver you from the schemes of the Devil to take your soul captive to do his will as he did Peter when the armed mob came to take Jesus in the garden and Peter later denied his Lord three times. The Lord Jesus, alone, has loved the sinful but elect people among the Jews so much that He will bring them to Himself with Everlasting Love.

Look at verse 10. "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced." "Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn." "In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo." "And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves; all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves." "In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness." Now, my friends, you can apply these verses in principle form and speak of repentance in both a general and specific sense. But exegetically it must be seen in the context of the actual coming conversion of the Jews. It can be nothing else as far as I can see. And when this happens, when the Jews are brought to mourn over their past piercing of Christ, then Christ Himself shall "weep on Jacob's neck a good long time."

How great in our Lord's mind is His sorrow in relation to His remembrance of this very long time that Jacob has been desolate and in a state of unbelief. For many generations, for almost two thousand years, it has been so! How great will be the exaltation of His heart when He sees what He has longed for, come to pass in the conversion of His ancient people, and the bringing them to Goshen; into the Church! Zephaniah 3: 17 says – "The Lord your God is in your midst." "The Mighty One will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love." "He will rejoice over you with singing." What great joy there is in Jacob's heart that day when he saw Joseph! And even so, there will be joy and rejoicing for many generations in the time of the Millennium, when the Jews shall be brought into the Church, and then the Church, Jew and Gentile shall arise and shine for her light has come; when the glory of the Lord will rise upon Christ's Bride. (Isaiah 60: 1) What a glorious time in the history of the Church it shall be.

4th – Jacob's greatest witness to the world will come after Israel's conversion to Christ.

Jacob says in verse 30, to Joseph – "Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you are still alive." You see, Jacob was thinking that now that this tremendous thing had happened, and he saw Joseph alive, and not only alive, but reigning over all of Egypt, that he was ready now

to die. It does remind me very much of Simeon in Luke chapter 2, verse 25. Simeon was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. "It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ." "So he came by the Spirit into the temple." "And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 'Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.'" It was enough for Simeon to have seen the Lord's Christ, the One who was not only his personal Savior, but he knew that Jesus was the salvation of all men who will trust in Him. Will you not do this today, if you have never trusted in the Lord Jesus? In order to be saved from your sins, to be saved eternally, it is enough that you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you shall be saved.

But this was not the end for Jacob yet, as we shall see in the next chapter, and it is not the end for the one who believes in Jesus today. Your greatest witness, it may be, is yet to take place. Some people are saved when they are past their prime, and sometimes they wonder – What can I do to advance the kingdom of God and Christ? You need to remember that sometimes an older person may do in a few months or a few years what it might take others converted at a younger age, a lifetime to do. The person converted when they are older is just beginning to be a witness, but, oh, what a witness it can be by the grace of Christ. My own dear father was like this. He was converted at the age of 58, and yet what a witness he bore in our family, and in the 2 churches that he attended before he died at the age 75 and went to heaven. He knew the Lord for only 17 years. I have known Christ for almost 44 years now, and I still feel that I have a long way to go to live up to my Dad's example of living the Christian life.

My father is remembered often by many Christians that knew him as a prayer warrior, and as a good example of Christ's love to all. He wept over me in relation to my coming to faith in Christ. He wept over others in my family for their salvation. He wept for joy when I came to Christ like the prodigal son returning to His father. May it be the case with many of here today, that we might finish our course as stronger witnesses to Christ's love and grace, than we were when began the Christian life. We can do this, even as Jacob did, when he was old. Let us remember the prayer of the Psalmist in Psalm 71: 17 – "O God, You have taught me from my youth; and to this day I declare Your wondrous works." "Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come." May the Lord's great love be revealed to you anew and afresh this day. May we all become better witnesses to Jewish people that we may know, and to all others who do not yet know of the love of Jesus Christ.