

“How God Applies Salvation”

Genesis 43

- Through the Joseph narratives, God is telling the story (again) of human sin and redemption.
- We see God at work in the life of Joseph AND in the lives of Joseph's brothers.

BACK TO EGYPT

1. The food from their first trip to Egypt was running out—the brothers must return to Egypt. v.1-15

- Joseph's brothers knew they could not return without bringing Benjamin down to Egypt.
- Judah steps up as leader and pledges to take responsibility if Benjamin does not return to Jacob.

2. Joseph's brothers are summoned to Joseph's house. v.16-25

- They are dealing with their guilty conscience (about Joseph—and the money returned from the first trip).

3. Joseph met them again face to face—including his younger brother Benjamin. v.26-34

- The brothers bow down before Joseph—again fulfilling the dreams Joseph had in 37:5-11.
- Benjamin's portion was 5 X's. Joseph is watching... will they again be jealous of a favored brother?

THE ORDER OF SALVATION IN A PERSON'S LIFE

→ The ordo salutis (Latin for “the order of salvation”) explains how God works salvation in someone.

- Romans 8:29-30: For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

1. Predestination (Election) – before the foundation of the world God chose some (not all) to be saved.

→ Our final destination (heaven or hell) is decided by God not during our lifetime, but before we are even born.

- Romans 8:29: Those whom he foreknew he also predestined. ('foreknow' = to love beforehand)
- Ephesians 1:4-5: He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.

→ Predestination (aka. “election”) is in the Bible. The only question is whether it is conditional (on the condition of something I do) or unconditional (not based on something I do). The Bible says it is unconditional.

2. Calling – the work of God's Spirit by which he draws/compels someone into a state of salvation.

- Romans 8:30: Those whom he predestined, them he also called.
- 1 Cor. 1:9: God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son.

→ There is an “outward” call that many may hear. There is an “inward” call that some hear.

- Matthew 22:14: Many are called, but few are chosen.

3. Regeneration – the theological term used to describe spiritual rebirth—being born again.

- John 3:3: Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- Ephesians 2:5: even when we were dead in our trespasses, he made us alive together with Christ
- 1 Pet 1:3: According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope...

4. Conversion (consisting of Faith and Repentance)

- Acts 13:48: And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.
- Acts 16:14: A woman named Lydia was listening...the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.
- BOTH faith and repentance are given by God. They are things we do—but only because God moved us to believe and repent. Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 11:18

5. Justification – an act of God's free grace where he pardons all our sins and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only because of the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

→ Being declared righteous – because of His righteousness, not mine. A ‘judicial’ or courtroom category.

- Romans 3:22: ...the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.
- Romans 5:1: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. Adoption – an act of God’s free grace whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God.

→ A relational category or status. We are adopted into God’s family.

- John 1:12-13: But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
- 1 John 3:1: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.
- Galatians 4:5: ...that we might receive adoption as sons.

7. Sanctification – the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are continually renewed by God’s Spirit more and more to die to sin and live rightly.

- Romans 6:12-14: Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you.

→ Present = surrender yourselves to God, NOT to sin. Do not surrender to sin.

8. Glorification – the time when all believers (both living and dead) will have full and complete redemption of our bodies in heaven. No more sin—or even the ability to sin.

- Romans 8:30: ...and those whom he justified he also glorified.
- 1 Corinthians 15:52-53: ...in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

→ At the return of Jesus Christ, the bodies of believers will be raised, transformed and reunited with our souls.

Back to “How people truly change”...

Often, spiritual “sickness” or “struggle” is some distortion, misunderstanding, or lack of living in the fulness of what is already ours in Christ Jesus. Some examples:

Regeneration – not just a new worldview (I’m now a member of a club or a party), but a new spiritual life/begin.

Justification – living with a guilty conscience vs. a clean conscience because of Christ’s holiness & resume

- Heb. 10:22: let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Sanctification – 1 John 3:9 – and our deliverance from the reigning power of sin

Adoption – In Christ, he gave us a right to all the privileges of the sons of God.