

<p align="center"><b>BIBLE TEXT</b> New International Version</p>	<p align="center"><b>OBSERVATIONS</b> What does the text say?</p>	<p align="center"><b>INTERPRETATION &amp; QUESTIONS</b> What does the text mean to all Christians?</p>	<p align="center"><b>APPLICATION</b> What does the text mean to me?</p>
<p><b>First IBS Division: Genesis 45:1-15</b></p> <p><b><i>Joseph Makes Himself Known</i></b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!" <sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. <sup>6</sup> For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.<sup>[a]</sup></p> <p><sup>8</sup> "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'</p>			

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<p><sup>12</sup> “You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. <sup>13</sup> Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly. ”</p> <p><sup>14</sup> Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.</p> <p><b>Footnotes:</b> a. Genesis 45:7 <i>Or save you as a great band of survivors</i></p>			
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>			
<p><b>Second IBS Division: Genesis 45:16-28</b></p> <p><sup>16</sup> When the news reached Pharaoh’s palace that Joseph’s brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased. <sup>17</sup> Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers, ‘Do this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan, <sup>18</sup> and bring your father and your families back to me. I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you can enjoy the fat of the land.’</p> <p><sup>19</sup> “You are also directed to tell them, ‘Do this: Take some carts from Egypt for your children and your wives, and get your father and come. <sup>20</sup> Never mind about your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours.’”</p> <p><sup>21</sup> So the sons of Israel did this. Joseph gave them carts, as Pharaoh had commanded, and</p>			

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<p>he also gave them provisions for their journey. <sup>22</sup> To each of them he gave new clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels<sup>[b]</sup> of silver and five sets of clothes. <sup>23</sup> And this is what he sent to his father: ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other provisions for his journey. <sup>24</sup> Then he sent his brothers away, and as they were leaving he said to them, "Don't quarrel on the way!" <sup>25</sup> So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. <sup>26</sup> They told him, "Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is ruler of all Egypt." Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them. <sup>27</sup> But when they told him everything Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. <sup>28</sup> And Israel said, "I'm convinced! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."</p> <p><b>Footnotes:</b> b. Genesis 45:22 That is, about 7 1/2 pounds or about 3.5 kilograms</p>			
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>			
<p><b>Third IBS Division: Genesis 47:13-31</b></p> <p><b>Joseph and the Famine</b></p> <p><sup>13</sup> There was no food, however, in the whole region because the famine was severe; both Egypt and Canaan wasted away because of the famine. <sup>14</sup> Joseph collected all the money that was to be found in Egypt and Canaan in</p>			

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<p>payment for the grain they were buying, and he brought it to Pharaoh’s palace. <sup>15</sup> When the money of the people of Egypt and Canaan was gone, all Egypt came to Joseph and said, “Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? Our money is all gone.”</p> <p><sup>16</sup> “Then bring your livestock, ” said Joseph. “I will sell you food in exchange for your livestock, since your money is gone. ” <sup>17</sup> So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and he gave them food in exchange for their horses, their sheep and goats, their cattle and donkeys. And he brought them through that year with food in exchange for all their livestock.</p> <p><sup>18</sup> When that year was over, they came to him the following year and said, “We cannot hide from our lord the fact that since our money is gone and our livestock belongs to you, there is nothing left for our lord except our bodies and our land. <sup>19</sup> Why should we perish before your eyes —we and our land as well? Buy us and our land in exchange for food, and we with our land will be in bondage to Pharaoh. Give us seed so that we may live and not die, and that the land may not become desolate.”</p> <p><sup>20</sup> So Joseph bought all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh. The Egyptians, one and all, sold their fields, because the famine was too severe for them. The land became Pharaoh’s, <sup>21</sup> and Joseph reduced the people to servitude,<sup>[c]</sup> from one end of Egypt to the other. <sup>22</sup> However, he did not buy the land of the priests, because they received a regular allotment from Pharaoh and had food enough from the allotment Pharaoh gave them. That is why they did not sell their land.</p> <p><sup>23</sup> Joseph said to the people, “Now that I have bought you and your land today for Pharaoh, here is seed for you so you can plant the ground. <sup>24</sup> But when the crop comes in, give a fifth of it to Pharaoh. The other four-fifths you</p>			

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<p>may keep as seed for the fields and as food for yourselves and your households and your children.”</p> <p><sup>25</sup> “You have saved our lives,” they said. “May we find favor in the eyes of our lord; we will be in bondage to Pharaoh.”</p> <p><sup>26</sup> So Joseph established it as a law concerning land in Egypt—still in force today—that a fifth of the produce belongs to Pharaoh. It was only the land of the priests that did not become Pharaoh’s.</p> <p><sup>27</sup> Now the Israelites settled in Egypt in the region of Goshen. They acquired property there and were fruitful and increased greatly in number.</p> <p><sup>28</sup> Jacob lived in Egypt seventeen years, and the years of his life were a hundred and forty-seven.</p> <p><sup>29</sup> When the time drew near for Israel to die, he called for his son Joseph and said to him, “If I have found favor in your eyes, put your hand under my thigh and promise that you will show me kindness and faithfulness. Do not bury me in Egypt, <sup>30</sup> but when I rest with my fathers, carry me out of Egypt and bury me where they are buried.”</p> <p>“I will do as you say,” he said.</p> <p><sup>31</sup> “Swear to me,” he said. Then Joseph swore to him, and Israel worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.<sup>[d]</sup></p> <p><b>Footnotes:</b> c. Genesis 47:21 Samaritan Pentateuch and Septuagint (see also Vulgate); Masoretic Text <i>and he moved the people into the cities</i> d. Genesis 47:31 Or <i>Israel bowed down at the head of his bed</i></p>			
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*Holy Spirit Space: Looking Back at Our Own Stories*