

**“God sent me ahead
of you”**

Genesis 45

“God sent me ahead of you”

Genesis 45:1-3

1 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.

2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it. **3** 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.

“God sent me ahead of you”

“[The brothers were terrified] either because they thought they were seeing a ghost or because they were afraid of what Joseph would do to them.”

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“God sent me ahead of you”

Genesis 45:4-7

4 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! **5** 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.

6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. **7** But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

“God sent me ahead of you”

“God had a purpose to work through the brother’s jealous and cruel act.”

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“God sent me ahead of you”

Genesis 45:8

8 “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.

“God sent me ahead of you”

“Joseph had been able to come to terms with the situation because he had been able to trace the hand of God in all that had happened to him.”

Joyce G. Baldwin

“God sent me ahead of you”

Genesis 45:9-13

9 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. **10** 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.

11 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.’ **12** “You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. **13** Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.”

“God sent me ahead of you”

**“Joseph is anxious to see
Jacob as soon as possible.”**

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“God sent me ahead of you”

Genesis 45:14-15

14 Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. **15** And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

“God sent me ahead of you”

“In intimate fellowship and friendship, rather than hostility or fear, for the first time in over 20 years.”

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“God sent me ahead of you”

Genesis 45:16-20

16 When the news reached Pharaoh’s palace that Joseph’s brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased. **17** Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers, ‘Do this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan,

18 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.’ **19** “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. **20** Never mind about your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours.’ ”

“God sent me ahead of you”

**“Mention of their “children” and
”wives” conveyed the idea of a
permanent settlement. It is the
fulfillment of Judah’s plea to
escort Benjamin to Egypt.”**

NAC Genesis

“God sent me ahead of you”

Genesis 45:21-24

21 So the sons of Israel did this.

Joseph gave them carts, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he also gave them provisions for their journey. **22** To each of them he gave new clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five sets of clothes.

23 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. **24** Then he sent his brothers away, and as they were leaving he said to them, “Don’t quarrel on the way!”

“God sent me ahead of you”

“Joseph wanted nothing to delay their return, and he wanted to them to avoid mutual accusation and recrimination concerning the past.”

NIV 2011 Study Bible

“God sent me ahead of you”

Genesis 45:25-28

25 So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. **26** They told him, “Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is ruler of all Egypt.” Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them.

27 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. **28** And Israel said, “I’m convinced! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.”

“God sent me ahead of you”

“God benevolently grants the patriarch the opportunity to “see” his son in this lifetime.”

NAC Genesis

Life Applications

- **God is sovereign over His creation**
- **God brings good out of bad**

Final Thoughts

Matthew 10:29-31

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. **30** And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Final Thoughts

Romans 8:28

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.