

## JOSEPH'S FAMILY REUNION

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Through an incredible series of events, Joseph's brothers show up in Egypt where they are shocked to discover, that not only is Joseph alive but he is prime minister over all of Egypt. After seeing that God was at work in their lives, changing their hearts and attitudes, Joseph revealed himself to them, forgave them for their treatment of him and assured them that the hand of God had been at work in his life from the very beginning. Now he wants to see his father and move all of his family to Egypt, where he can provide for them without reservation, for the rest of his life.

Jacob, back home, knows nothing about what has taken place in Egypt. He doesn't know that Joseph is alive, much less, prime minister over all of Egypt. He hasn't seen Joseph in over 20 years and now he is wondering if he will ever see Benjamin again. He doesn't know what to expect to hear whenever his sons arrive from Egypt, but I can promise you, he wasn't expecting to hear what he heard.

Gen 45:25-26 And they went up out of Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan unto Jacob their father, And told him, saying, Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not.

Does that sound like he heard something he was expecting to hear? The old man fainted. He passed out. His heart failed him.

Gen 45:27-28 And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived: And Israel said, It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die.

When Jacob heard what Joseph had said and he saw the evidence of Egyptian generosity, he began to believe that maybe they were finally telling the truth.

Gen 46:29-30 And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel his father, to Goshen, and presented himself unto him; and he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while. And Israel said unto Joseph, Now let me die, since I have seen thy face, because thou art yet alive.

Think of what this must have been like. After more than two decades, Jacob once more held the son that he had given up for dead. After all that he had been through, Joseph embraced his aging father, the man he had missed so much, the one he feared he would never see again. These two men stood, staring into each other's eyes. Weeping one moment, laughing the next. What a family reunion!