

I Beg Your Pardon

¹⁸ Then Judah approached him and said, 'I beg your pardon, my lord. Please let your servant say a word in my lord's ears, and don't be angry with your servant, since you are like Pharaoh' (Gen. 44:18).

♪ I beg your pardon, I never promised you a rose garden. Along with the sunshine there's gotta be a little rain some time. When you take you gotta give so live and let live or let go. I beg your pardon, I never promised you a rose garden. I could promise you things like big diamond rings But you don't find roses growin' on stalks of clover, so you better think it over. Well if sweet talkin' you could make it come true I would give you the world right now on a silver platter, but what would it matter? So smile for a while and let's be jolly, love shouldn't be so melancholy, come along and share the good times while we can. I beg your pardon, I never promised you a rose garden. Along with the sunshine, there's gotta be a little rain some time. I beg your pardon, I never promised you a rose garden. I could sing you a tune and promise you the moon, but if that's what it takes to hold you I'd just as soon let you go, But there's one thing I want you to know. You better look before you leap, still waters run deep and there won't always be someone there to pull you out, and you know what I'm talkin' about. So smile for a while and let's be jolly, love shouldn't be so melancholy. Come along and share the good times while we can. I beg your pardon, I never promised you a rose garden. Along with the sunshine, there's gotta be a little rain some time. I beg your pardon, I never promised you a rose garden, along with the sunshine. ♪

¹⁹ Repent, therefore, and return—so your sins might be blotted out,²⁰ so times of relief might come from the presence of Adonai and He might send Yeshua, the Messiah appointed for you.²¹ Heaven must receive Him, until the time of the restoration of all the things (restitution of all things, KJV) that God spoke about long ago through the mouth of His holy prophets (Acts 3:19-21).

Introduction

One of the most commonly translated words for repentance in the *Torah* is *t'shuvah*. However, the Hebrew word *t'shuvah* can more accurately be translated as 'turn around and return.' In Modern Hebrew, the word means to give an answer. Thus, from a *Torah* perspective repentance is to *turn around and return and give an answer to Adonai*. This concept was clearly understood by *Yeshua's* disciples: "¹⁹ Repent, therefore, and return—so your sins might be blotted out" (Acts 3:19). *Parashat Vayigash* vividly illustrates this type of repentance when Joseph's brothers return to him. When one truly experiences repentance, you immediately realize that repentance is a journey, and not a single event. The journey of repentance leads us to salvation (because it leads us to *Yeshua*). *Parashat Vayigash* demonstrates how in the process of returning to and answering *Adonai*, we are required to sacrifice and forgive in order to experience renewal. Scripture states clearly in Romans 12:1-2: "I urge you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy, acceptable to God—which is your spiritual service.² Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed (experience a metamorphosis) by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." However, metamorphosis requires time!

Pardon Requires Sacrifice

The connection between repentance, pardon and sacrifice can be seen in Gen. 44:32-34: "³² For your servant became pledge for the boy with my father saying, 'If I don't bring him back to you, I will bear the blame before my father all my days.'³³ So now, please let your servant remain as my lord's slave in the boy's place, and let the boy go up with his brothers.³⁴ For how can I go up to my father and the boy is not with me? Else I must see the evil that would come upon my father!" Judah is willing to take Benjamin's place as Joseph's prisoner. Clearly this is an act of repentance for him. Recall, *Judah* was the brother who came up with the idea to sell *Joseph* to the *Ishmaelite*. But now his heart has returned to the will of *Adonai* and as a result, he now places the needs of other individuals above his own. Because he wants to substitute himself for *Benjamin*, he is foreshadowing his descendant, Messiah *Yeshua* who substituted His life for ours! *Judah* is concerned about the ill effects that leaving *Benjamin* in Egypt would have on his father. He is demonstrating his repentance through his works by protecting his father from the grief of losing *Benjamin*. His desire to sacrifice his own needs shows how strong his love has grown. *John* 15:13 states "No one has greater love than a person who lays down his life for his friends." Thus, as a result of *Judah's* act

of love, *Joseph* was able to reveal himself to his brothers. Are you willing to sacrifice so that your family or your friend can be restored?

The Process Continues with Forgiveness

Repentance also requires forgiveness (pardon). Gen. 45:1-5 states, “*Now Joseph could no longer restrain himself in front of all those who were standing by him, so he cried out, ‘Get everyone away from me!’ So no one stood with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ² But he gave his voice to weeping so that the Egyptians heard, and Pharaoh’s household heard. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?’ And his brothers were unable to answer him because they were terrified at his presence.*

⁴ *Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Please come near me.’ So they came near. ‘I’m Joseph, your brother—the one you sold to Egypt,’ he said. ⁵ ‘So now, don’t be grieved and don’t be angry in your own eyes that you sold me here—since it was for preserving life that God sent me here before you.’ Joseph was willing to forgive his brothers for all the hardship they had caused him for all those years. Joseph’s forgiveness of his brothers made it possible to heal the division and the crack, and open the avenue that reunites his family. Healing the rift made it possible for Adonai to return Joseph to his father. As a result, all his family was able to escape the famine by living in Egypt. Joseph’s act of forgiveness and pardon was an essential part of Adonai’s plan to save the life of not only Joseph but also his brothers and ultimately his entire family. Joseph’s forgiveness healed the wounds (notice that Joseph is willing to pay the emotional costs of the harm done to him) and allows Adonai’s blessings to flow to his brothers and his father.*

The Process Ends in Restitution, Renewal, and Restoration

Repentance causes us to become renewed – to become new creations. Gen. 45:9-11 states: “⁹ *Go up quickly to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son, Joseph: God has made me lord over all Egypt. Come down to me. Don’t delay. ¹⁰ Then you’ll live in the land of Goshen, and be close to me, you and your children and your children’s children, your flocks and your cattle, and everything that belongs to you. ¹¹ I’ll provide food for you there—for the famine will last another five years—otherwise you’ll lose everything, you and your household, and everything that belongs to you.’* Because Joseph’s brothers repented and returned to Joseph, they are able to experience renewal. As renewed individuals the brothers were given a fresh start, and they were given new farms and lodgings in the land of Goshen – the very best farmland in Egypt. Joseph also guaranteed that as renewed individuals under his protection, his family would never experience poverty.

Is it possible that we can also experience the healing of family like Joseph did? Yes! And it will cost you, but it is worth every penny. Repentance is an enduring process that takes our time and energy to complete. This is because heartfelt repentance requires, sacrifice, forgiveness, and renewal. Sacrifice is required to show the world we are willing to lay our lives down for others. Forgiveness is required so that we do not hold grudges against individuals who have wronged us. Forgiveness is also required in order that our own debts can be forgiven: “*For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you*” (Matt. 6:14).

Restitution, Restoration and Renewal are also required so that we become the new creation we are intended to be: “¹⁷ *Therefore if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new!*” (2 Corinthians 5:17). When repentance is built on the process of sacrifice, forgiveness, and renewal, it is an enduring witness of the salvation that is freely given by Adonai through Yeshua to the world. It cost Messiah Yeshua everything (His life) to give it to us freely. How little in comparison is our cost compared to His eternal sacrifice?

Leave here today with a made up mind to help restore your family by forgiving those who have hurt you, by sacrificing yourself as a living sacrifice, which is after all, your reasonable service, and by allowing grace (which is the desire and the power) that Yeshua gives us all to do His will and obey Him in everything. If you do, this will be the best New Year ever. I pray it will be so. Amen!