

Dear Joseph,

A lot has changed since you passed away—oh, probably over three thousand years ago—by now. We know your story; it is written in *our* Holy Book. You are the father of us—in the West and we all are enjoying the birthright blessing **given to you** and passed on to your descendants.



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We are probably living better than you ever imagined. We drive motorized horses and camels. We shop in super, supermarkets. We communicate in the blink of an eye. We live in comfort under regulated heating and cooling systems. We go on holidays. Some of us have boats and holidays homes—and there's lots and lots of us, your descendants. We are in the millions!

The descendants of your son, Ephraim revelled in wealth and power as a world super-power for about 250 years. The sun never set on their empire because they had people scattered over many countries all over the world. Manasseh shared in their wealth for awhile, but *our* God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob pulled them out and gave them their own land. There was a battle, but God prevailed. They too, have enjoyed riches of wealth, land, resources, and power.

Should I say?

Umm... I feel a need to apologize. Umm... In bitter disappointment, I tell you that Ephraim and Manasseh have failed you and worse still, *our* God and—your mother weeps—“A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping. Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted because her children are no more” (Jeremiah 31:15). Joseph, please don't worry. I know I have upset you, but things will work out—eventually. You see this is what the Lord says, “Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded. They will return from the land of the enemy. So there is hope for your future. Your children will return to the land” (Jeremiah 16:17).



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It is a long story filled with anger, jealousy, disobedience and revenge. Ephraim was at one time well respected by God and his brothers. “When Ephraim spoke, men trembled; he was exalted in Israel. But he became guilty of Baal worship and died. Now they sin more and more—” (Hosea 13:1-2).

Where do I begin?

I know you loved your people that's why you asked that after you die, your bones travel with them out of Egypt and into that 40 year stay in the desert before arriving in the Promised land. You could have been buried with your father, Jacob, but you chose to stay in Egypt and travel with them—as if in spirit. You understood why you were sent ahead of your family: to **preserve for them a remnant on earth** and **to save them by a great deliverance** (Genesis 45:6-7). Reading between the lines, I suspect you knew of our great falling away from *our* God.

Do you still linger in spirit?

There is a remnant who live in truth and love for Yahuah to this day. The end-time remnant will witness to the whole world. They will fight to awaken their brothers, sisters and all others who listen. And, as there was the great deliverance out of Egypt—the Exodus in your time where your brothers were saved, there will be **again** another deliverance, but it will be far greater—**saving hundreds of millions!** Sometimes, a stubborn spirit upon repentance brings a deeper repentance. I say this with the hope that it is true and so, your soul can rest for your children who will soon enter into the suffering of Jacob's trouble. In that time of distress, their stubborn spirit will be broken and their repentance will be deep and everlasting. *Our* God has prophesied it. "I have surely heard Ephraim's moaning: 'You disciplined me like an unruly calf, and I have been disciplined. Restore me, and I will return, because you are the Lord my God. After I strayed, I repented; after I came to understand, I beat my breast. I was ashamed and humiliated because I bore the disgrace of my youth'" (Jeremiah 18-20).



Should I mention?

Well—it was a long time ago, but our forefathers rebelled terribly against *our* God. He divorced us—the house of Israel! We spent hundreds of years wandering through the nations. Only in the last 250 years have we arrived in North America, Australia and New Zealand. While other nations have lived in their allotted lands for nearly 4,000 years—we, by comparison have only just arrived after being cast out from the Promised land now over three thousand years ago. Although, Ephraim has lived in the Isles for a longer period.

This divorce—well—21st century Israelites have forgotten the pain and forgotten who they are. You see two thousand years ago, Yashuah came. He died—for us. Our sins have been forgiven. We are no longer bound to a false religion. We can marry **again**. So much has happened since you passed. Our story is full of pain and suffering. But—*our* God in His goodness continues to

love us so! He has said, “Is not Ephraim my dear son, the child in whom I delight? Though I often speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore, my heart yearns for him; I have great compassion for him (Jeremiah 31:20).

God wants us to come home! He says, “Set up road signs; put up guideposts. Take note of the highway, the road that you take. Return, O Virgin Israel...” (Jeremiah 31:21).

How can I say this?

We are slow to fully return. We can return because we were given grace! You see—Joseph, Yashuah came and died for us, all of us—image that! But—our recovery has been hindered by deception and ignorance and yes, that rebellious spirit still lingers. We wandered among the nations for hundreds of years and picked up their traditions and lost most of God’s ways—*please don’t weep*. Most Believers don’t keep the Sabbath, nor God’s holy days, the Ten Commandments are often broken—*please don’t weep*. Nation-wide, we celebrate the sun god and Ishtar—*please don’t weep*. We’ve made a big mistake! We accepted grace lavishly—*please don’t weep*.

Oh, what should I say—now?

Upon receiving the wealth of the birthright blessings, we became distant from *our* God who said in Deuteronomy, “Because they do not serve Me joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity, therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, they will serve the enemies that I send against them. I will put an iron yoke on their neck—” (Deuteronomy 28:47-48).

Joseph, remember how you matured during the difficult times in Egypt. We need those difficult times, too. Watch us grow. While living in these distant lands far from our homeland of old, we will make you proud—but it is all still in the future—a future really only moments away. Our repentance is sure because God prophesied it! “I will **strengthen** the **house of Judah** and **save** the **house of Joseph**. I will restore them because I have compassion on them. **They will be as though I had not rejected them**, for I am the Lord their God and I will answer them. The Ephraimites will become like mighty men, and their hearts will be glad as with wine... Surely, I will redeem them; they will be as numerous as before. Though I scatter them among the people, **yet in distant lands they will remember me**. They and their children will survive, and they will return” (Zechariah 10:6-9).

Joseph, we will call out to *our* God and He will hear us. So, rest. Our



journey is not done. We are still running the race of righteousness. The remnant is strong and have not fallen. The rest are wounded and crawling. But, the remnant won't fail: to help them, to pick them up, to carry them, to strengthen them in truth through the Holy Spirit given two thousand years ago. Yashuah, our Saviour is working through them and they will succeed! A nation-wide repentance will take place! *Our* God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob prophesied our return to Him. It is sure.

"O mountains of Israel will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home" (Ezekiel 36:8).

"I will bring you back into your own land..." (Ezekiel 36:24).

"—there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice" (Ezekiel 34:14-16).

"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean of all your impurities and your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh... **you will be moved to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.** You will be my people and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness... Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and **you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices**" (Ezekiel 36:24-32).

Joseph, we grew into a stubborn and rebellious people who will come to see and abhor ourselves. Like the Apostle Paul, we will say that we are the least of all peoples. In that humility, we will become great and then, *our* God will proudly announce to the world that we are His people. That day of joy is close on the horizon. We will see you soon.

Until then, really I just wanted to say...

Thank you.

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich