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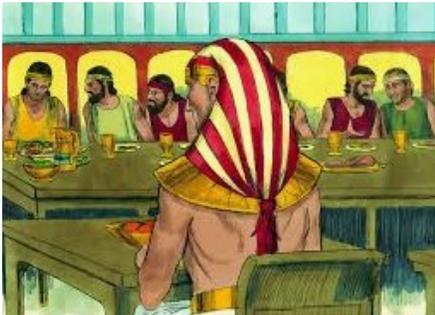
MIKEITZ/AT THE END

Bereshith/Genesis 41:1-44:17

The narrative we have been reading about the life of Yosef has been a roller coaster ride full of details and interesting characters. In addition to Yosef, his father, and his brothers we've had Ishmaelite and Midianite traders, Potiphar, Potiphar's wife, the chief jailer, the cupbearer, the baker, the Pharaoh, Asenath who became his wife, and his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, and Yosef's house steward. There have been dreams and false accusations and cover-ups and disappointments and surprise releases from prison. To summarize, however, the main character has always been יהוה, the great mover and shaper of history who is able to use all events, and even the shortcomings of all people in order to bring about a story which reflects the grand finale of the future restoration of His chosen people.

For now, our focus will be on one particular verse and the concept of “**waiting**” that threads its way throughout the Scripture:

Bereshith/Genesis 44:14 So Yehuda and his brothers came to Yosef's house, and **he was still there** (עוֹדֵנִי שָׁם); and they fell before him on the ground.



Before the above event, however, remember how the story went. The brothers had once more returned to Egypt, this time with Benjamin, to purchase grain. Upon their arrival, they had a meal where they feasted and drank with Yosef. Yosef had asked them many questions about their father. And the brothers were astonished to have been seated according to their birth order. Most likely during this meal, Yosef commanded his house steward to not only fill the brother's sacks with grain, but to put each man's money in the mouth of his sack. Also, Yosef's silver cup was placed in Benjamin's sack. After a night of partying, the brothers were sent away at the crack of dawn:

Bereshith 44:3 As soon as the morning dawned, the men were sent away, they and their donkeys.

How relieved the brothers must have been to leave this confusing place! Happily, Simeon had been returned to them. They were on their way home with full sacks of grain, and with Benjamin! They are not aware that Yosef's house steward will soon catch up with them to discover the so-called “stolen cup,” in Benjamin's sack. Before they know it, they will once again be returning to the city in shock and with fear. My, how quickly things change!

Bereshith 44:13 Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city.

Now, looking back at **Bereshith 44:14**, we notice that as they returned, Yosef “**was still there**” (דָּשַׁן עוֹרְנֵי). This is the only time this phrase appears in the Hebrew Scriptures. Yosef was “**waiting**” for them because he personally had arranged a scenario for them where they would be forced to return.

Is it not true that our Father, הוהו, “**waits**” for His people to return? Is it not true that the events that have happened and will happen in the future are all for the purpose of bringing the chosen people, Israel, back to a Father who “**waits**?”

Isaiah 65:1 "I was sought by *those who did not ask for Me*; I was found by *those who did not seek Me*. **I said, 'Here I am, here I am,'** To a nation *that* was not called by My name. ² **I have stretched out My hands all day long** to a rebellious people, who walk in a way *that is* not good, according to their own thoughts; ³ A people who provoke Me to anger continually to My face; Who sacrifice in gardens, and burn incense on altars of brick

Rav Sha’ul makes reference to these **Isaiah** verses. Will the Almighty get tired of “**waiting**?” **Has Elohim rejected His people?** And the answer... “**By no means!**”

Romans 10:21 But concerning Israel he says, "**All day long I have held out my hands** to a disobedient and obstinate people." **11:1** I ask then: **Did Elohim reject his people? By no means!** I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benyamin.

Rav Sha’ul uses himself as proof that הוהו has not “**rejected His people.**” He is patiently “**waiting,**” even if it will only be a remnant that responds to Him, serves Him and brings honor to His Name.

Yeshua also tells a story about a father who “**waits**”:

Luke 15:11 Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. ¹² "And the younger of them said to *his* father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls *to me.*' So, he divided to them *his* livelihood. ¹³ "And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there **wasted his possessions with wild living.** ¹⁴ "But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵ "Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ "And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the **pods that the swine ate,** and no one gave him *anything.* ¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸ 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, ¹⁹ "and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." ' ²⁰ "And he arose and came to his father. But **when he was still a great way off, his father saw him** and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. ²¹ "And the son said to him, '**Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.**' ²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. ²³ 'And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ 'for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.



The father has been “**waiting**” for the son who has left home with his share of the family inheritance. The son has “**wasted his possessions with wild living.**” But back at home was the father... “**waiting**” patiently for his son to return home. The son hits bottom – not even able to eat “**the pods that the swine ate.**” So, the son swallows his pride and returns to his father’s house. His father sees him “**when he was still a great way off**” because he has been “**waiting**” for him. The son repents – “**Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.**” There is restoration as a result of repentance and return.

In the book of **Jeremiah**, the prophet compares the relationship between Elohim and Ephraim with the hope of a father waiting for his distressed son to return:

Jeremiah 31:18 " I have surely heard **Ephraim bemoaning himself**: 'You have chastised me, and I was chastised, like an untrained bull; **Restore me, and I will return**, For You *are* יהוה' my Elohim. ¹⁹ Surely, after my turning, I repented; And after I was instructed, I struck myself on the thigh; I was ashamed, yes, even humiliated, Because I bore the reproach of my youth.' ²⁰ *Is **Ephraim My dear son**? Is he a pleasant child?* For though I spoke against him, **I earnestly remember him still**; Therefore, **My heart yearns for him**; I will surely have mercy on him, says יהוה.

We often speak about us “**waiting**” on יהוה’ ...waiting for His timing or waiting for an answer to prayer. But often, the Scripture tells us another story. The story of a Father who has intervened in our lives (like Yosef) to bring us back because He is “**waiting.**” In **Isaiah 30**, we have another picture of יהוה’ “**waiting.**” The context is יהוה’ has repeatedly warned His people that they must repent of worshipping other gods who they think will bring them security and prosperity. He clearly outlines the consequences of their rebellion. Elohim will send terrible judgment upon them to save them from the trap of the enemy. He is an Elohim of **patience**:

Isaiah 30:18 Therefore יהוה’ **will wait**, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore, He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For יהוה’ *is* an Elohim of justice; **Blessed are all those who wait for Him.**

Wow, consider that thought – “**יהוה’ will wait, that He may be gracious to us.**” Could we not accept that love and echo back the message, “**Blessed are all those who wait for Him.**”

יהוה’ “**waits**” because He is longing for the restoration of His children. The heart of יהוה’ is “**waiting**” for the remnant who will repent and turn to Him, to claim the forgiveness that is “**waiting**” for us in **Yeshua**:

Romans 2:4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and **patience**, not realizing that Yah’s kindness leads you toward **repentance**?

2 Peter 3:15 Bear in mind that our Adonai's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Sha'ul also wrote you with the wisdom that Yah gave him.

יהוה is involved in the lives of everyone in His creation. Why is He so “patient?”

2 Peter 3:9 Adonai is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is patient with us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

To “repent” is to “return” to the ways of יהוה. To be “restored.” When you hear these words...

Isaiah 2:3 ... "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of יהוה, To the house of Elohim of Ya'acov; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths."

...think of Yehuda and his brothers going back to the house of Yosef. He was still there, “waiting” for them. Think of the prodigal’s son, returning to his father’s house and how his father ran out to meet his son, kissing him and embracing him because he was “waiting” for him. And think of Israel, ashamed and humiliated, turning back to יהוה who is patiently yearning for him and ready to take him back in love. And then think of yourself. He is waiting for you. He is calling you to come up to the mountain of יהוה, to the house of the Elohim of Ya'acov. Let Him teach you His ways so you can follow Him in His paths!

Shabbat Shalom!

Ardelle



He Waits

1 Timothy 1:16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Messiah Yeshua might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.