

Reunited in Exile: A Beginning and an End

Rachel Sharansky Danziger * December 14th 2021 * Bereshit: The Birthplace of Human Relationships #10

1: Enter compassion

Genesis 42:8

(8) For though Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.

בראשית מ"ב:ח'

(ח) וַיִּכַּר יוֹסֵף אֶת-אָחָיו
וְהֵם לֹא הִכִּירוּהוּ:

Rashi on Genesis 42:8:3

A Midrashic explanation is: ויכר יוסף את אחיו
JOSEPH RECOGNISED HIS BRETHREN —
Now that they were in his power he recognised them as his brothers and had pity on them, והם
but when he fell into their power, "they did not recognize him" as their brother, by acting towards him in brotherly manner (Genesis Rabbah 91:7).

רש"י על בראשית

מ"ב:ח':ג'

ומ"א ויכר יוסף את אחיו
כְּשֶׁנִּמְסְרוּ בְּיַדוֹ הִכִּיר שָׂהֵם
אָחָיו וְרַחַם עֲלֵיהֶם, וְהֵם
לֹא הִכִּירוּהוּ כְּשֶׁנִּפְלַ בְּיָדָם
לְנַהֵג בּוֹ אַחֻוּהָ:

Genesis 42:21-24

(21) They said to one another, "Alas, we are being punished on account of our brother, because we looked on at his anguish, yet paid no heed as he pleaded with us. That is why this distress has come upon us." (22) Then Reuben spoke up and said to them, "Did I not tell you, 'Do no wrong to the boy'? But you paid no heed. Now comes the reckoning for his blood." (23) They did not know that Joseph understood, for there was an interpreter between him and them. (24) He turned away from them and wept. But he came back to them and spoke to them; and he took Simeon from among them and had him bound before their eyes.

בראשית מ"ב:כ"א-כ"ד

(כא) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל-אָחָיו אֲבָל
אֲשֵׁמִים | אֲנַחְנוּ עַל-אָחֵינוּ אֲשֶׁר רָאִינוּ
צָרָת נַפְשׁוֹ בְּהִתְחַנְּנוֹ אֵלֵינוּ וְלֹא שָׁמַעְנוּ
עַל-כֵּן בָּאָה אֵלֵינוּ הַצָּרָה הַזֹּאת: (כב)
וַיַּעַן רְאוּבֵן אֶתְּם לֵאמֹר הֲלוֹא אָמַרְתִּי
אֵלֵיכֶם | לֹאמַר אֶל-תַּחַטְּאוּ בְּיַלְד וְלֹא
שָׁמַעְתֶּם וְגַם-דָּמֹ הִנֵּה נִדְרָשׁ: (כג)
וְהֵם לֹא יָדְעוּ כִּי שָׁמַע יוֹסֵף כִּי הִמְלִיץ
בֵּינְתֶם: (כד) וַיִּסַּב מֵעֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּבֶה וַיָּשָׁב
אֲלֵהֶם וַיְדַבֵּר אֲלֵהֶם וַיִּקַּח מֵאִתָּם אֶת-
שִׁמְעוֹן וַיִּאָּסֶר אֹתוֹ לְעֵינֵיהֶם:

2: Taking a stand

Genesis 44:18-34

(18) Then Judah went up to him and said, “Please, my lord, let your servant appeal to my lord, and do not be impatient with your servant, you who are the equal of Pharaoh. (19) My lord asked his servants, ‘Have you a father or another brother?’ (20) We told my lord, ‘We have an old father, and there is a child of his old age, the youngest; his full brother is dead, so that he alone is left of his mother, and his father dotes on him.’ (21) Then you said to your servants, ‘Bring him down to me, that I may set eyes on him.’ (22) We said to my lord, ‘The boy cannot leave his father; if he were to leave him, his father would die.’ (23) But you said to your servants, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, do not let me see your faces.’ (24) When we came back to your servant my father, we reported my lord’s words to him. (25) “Later our father said, ‘Go back and procure some food for us.’ (26) We answered, ‘We cannot go down; only if our youngest brother is with us can we go down, for we may not show our faces to the man^a unless our youngest brother is with us.’ (27) Your servant my father said to us, ‘As you know, my wife bore me two sons. (28) But one is gone from me, and I said: Alas, he was torn by a beast! And I have not seen him since. (29) If you take this one from me, too, and he meets with disaster, you will send my white head down to Sheol in sorrow.’ (30) “Now, if I come to your servant my father and the boy is not with us—since his own life is so bound up with his— **(31) when he sees that the boy is not with us, he will die, and your servants will send the white head of your servant our father down to Sheol in grief.** (32) Now your servant has pledged himself for the boy to my father, saying, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, I shall stand guilty before my father forever.’ **(33) Therefore, please let your servant remain as a slave to my lord instead of the boy, and let the boy go back with his brothers. (34) For how can I go back to my father unless the boy is with me? Let me not be witness to the woe that would overtake my father!”**

בראשית מ"ד:י"ח-ל"ד

(יח) ויגש אליו יהודה ויאמר בני אדני
 ידבר נא עבדך דבר באזני אדני ואל-
 יחר אפה בעבדך כי כמוהו כפרעה.
 (יט) אדני שאל את עבדיו לאמר
 היש לכם אב או אח. (כ) ונאמר אל-
 אדני יש לנו אב זקן וילד זקנים קטן
 ואחיו מות ויותר הוא לבדו לאמו
 ואביו אהבו. (כא) ותאמר אל עבדך
 הורדהו אלי ואשימה עיני עליו. (כב)
 ונאמר אל אדני לא יוכל הנער לעזוב
 את אביו ועזב את אביו ומת. (כג)
 ותאמר אל עבדך אם לא ירד אחיכם
 הקטן אתכם לא תספון לראות פני.
 (כד) ויהי כי עלינו אל עבדך אבי
 ונגד לו את דברי אדני. (כה) ויאמר
 אבינו שבו שברו לנו מעט אכל. (כו)
 ונאמר לא נוכל לרדת אם יש אחינו
 הקטן אתנו וירדנו כי לא נוכל לראות
 פני האיש ואחינו הקטן איננו אתנו.
 (כז) ויאמר עבדך אבי אלנו אתם
 ידעתם כי שנים ילדה לי אשתי. (כח)
 ויצא האחד מאתי ואמר אה טרף טרף
 ולא ראיתו עד הנה. (כט) ולקחתם
 גם את זה מעם פני וקרחהו אסון
 והורדתם את שיבתי ברעה שאלה.
 (ל) ועתה כבא אל עבדך אבי והנער
 איננו אתנו ונפשו קשורה בנפשו.
 (לא) והלה בראותו כי אין הנער ומת
 והורידו עבדך את שיבת עבדך
 אבינו בגזון שאלה: (לב) כי עבדך
 ערב את הנער מעם אבי לאמר אם
 לא אביאנו אליה וחטאתי לאבי כל-
 הימים. (לג) ועתה ישב נא עבדך
 תחת הנער עבד לאדני והנער יצל
 עם אחיו: (לד) כי איה אעלה אל-
 אבי והנער איננו אתי פן אראה ברע
 אשר ימצא את אבי:

3: The opened gates

Genesis 45:1-3

(1) Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone withdraw from me!" So there was no one else about when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. (2) His sobs were so loud that the Egyptians could hear, and so the news reached Pharaoh's palace. (3) Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still well?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dumfounded were they on account of him.

Genesis 45:4-15

(4) Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come forward to me." And when they came forward, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, he whom you sold into Egypt. (5) Now, do not be distressed or reproach yourselves because you sold me hither; it was to save life that God sent me ahead of you. (6) It is now two years that there has been famine in the land, and there are still five years to come in which there shall be no yield from tilling. (7) God has sent me ahead of you to ensure your survival on earth, and to save your lives in an extraordinary deliverance. (8) So, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of all his household, and ruler over the whole land of Egypt. (9) "Now, hurry back to my father and say to him: Thus says your son Joseph, 'God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me without delay. (10) You will dwell in the region of Goshen, where you will be near me—you and your children and your grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all that is yours. (11) You can see for yourselves, and my brother Benjamin for himself, that it is indeed I who am speaking to you. (12) And you must tell my father everything about my high station in Egypt and all that you have seen; and bring my father here with all speed." (13) With that he embraced his brother Benjamin around the neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. (14) He kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; only then were his brothers **able to talk** to him.

בראשית מ"ה:א-ג'

(א) וְלֹא־יָכַל יוֹסֵף לְהִתְאַפֵּק לְכָל הַנֹּצְצִים עָלָיו וַיִּקְרָא הוֹצִיאוּ כָל־אִישׁ מִעָלָי וְלֹא־עָמַד אִישׁ אִתּוֹ בְּהִתְוַדַּע יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָחָיו. (ב) וַיִּתֵּן אֶת־קִלְוֹ בְּבִכּוֹ וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ מִצְרַיִם וַיִּשְׁמַע בֵּית פַּרְעֹה. (ג) וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָחָיו אֲנִי יוֹסֵף הָעוֹד אָבִי חַי וְלֹא־יָכְלוּ אָחָיו לְעֹנֹת אִתּוֹ כִּי נִבְהָלוּ מִפְּנָיו.

בראשית מ"ה:ד'-ט"ו

(ד) וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָחָיו גִּשְׁוּ־נָא אֵלָי וַיִּגְשׁוּ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנִי יוֹסֵף אָחֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר־מִכְרַתֶּם אֹתִי מִצְרַיִמָּה. (ה) וַעֲתָה וְאֶל־תַּעֲצְבוּ וְאֶל־יִחַר בְּעֵינֵיכֶם כִּי־מִכְרַתֶּם אֹתִי הֲנֵה כִּי לְמַחְלָה שָׁלַחַנִּי אֱלֹהִים לְפָנֵיכֶם. (ו) כִּי־נִצָּח שְׁנַתִּים הָרַעַב בְּקִרְבַּי הָאָרֶץ וְעוֹד חֲמֵשׁ שָׁנִים אֲשֶׁר אִין־חֲרִישׁ וְקִצִּיר. (ז) וַיִּשְׁלַחַנִּי אֱלֹהִים לְפָנֵיכֶם לְשׁוּם לָכֶם שְׂאֵרֵית בְּאָרֶץ וְלִהְיוֹת לָכֶם לְפָלִיטָה גְדֹלָה. (ח) וַעֲתָה לֹא־אֶתֶּם שָׁלַחַתֶּם אֹתִי הֲנֵה כִּי הֵאֱלֹהִים וַיִּשְׁימֵנִי לְאֵב לְפָרְעֹה וְלִאֲדוֹן לְכָל־בֵּיתוֹ וּמִשָּׁל בְּכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם. (ט) מִהֲרוּ וְעֲלוּ אֶל־אָבִי וְאָמַרְתֶּם אֵלָיו כֹּה אָמַר בְּנֵה יוֹסֵף שָׁמַנִּי אֱלֹהִים לְאֲדוֹן לְכָל־מִצְרַיִם רְדֵה אֵלָי אֶל־תַּעֲמֹד. (י) וַיִּשְׁבַּת בְּאֶרֶץ־גֹּשֶׁן וְהָיְתָ קְרוֹב־אֵלָי אֶתְנָה וּבְנֵיה וּבְנֵי־בְנֵיה וְצִאֲנָהּ וּבְקָרָהּ וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לָהּ... (יב) וְהֵנָּה עֵינֵיכֶם רְאוֹת וְעֵינֵי אָחִי בְנִימִין כִּי־פִי הִמְדַּבֵּר אֵלֵיכֶם. (יג) וְהִגַּדְתֶּם לְאָבִי אֶת־כָּל־כְּבוֹדִי בְּמִצְרַיִם וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר רָאִיתֶם וּמִהֲרַתֶּם וְהוֹרַדְתֶּם אֶת־אָבִי הֲנֵה. (יד) וַיִּפֹּל עַל־צוּאֲרֵי בְנִימִן־אָחָיו וַיִּבְךְּ וּבְנֵימִן בָּכָה עַל־צוּאֲרָיו. (טו) וַיִּנָּשֶׁק לְכָל־אָחָיו וַיִּבְךְּ עֲלֵהֶם וְאָחָרֵי כֹן דִּבְרָו אָחָיו אִתּוֹ.

4: Finding speech

Genesis 37: 4

(4) And when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of his brothers, they hated him so that they could not speak a friendly word to him.

בראשית ל"ז: ד'

(ד) וַיִּרְאוּ אָחָיו כִּי־אֵתָּו אֶהָב אָבִיהֶם מִכָּל־אָחָיו וַיִּשְׁנְאוּ אֹתוֹ וְלֹא יָכְלוּ דַבְּרוּ לְשָׁלָם.

Genesis 4:8

(8) Cain said to his brother Abel ... and when they were in the field, Cain set upon his brother Abel and killed him.

בראשית ד':ח'

(ח) וַיֹּאמֶר קַיִן אֶל־הֶבֶל אָחִיו וַיְהִי בְהִיטְוֹתָם בַּשָּׂדֶה וַיִּקָּם קַיִן אֶל־הֶבֶל אָחִיו וַיַּהַרְגֵהוּ.

5: The reunion

Genesis 45:26-28

(26) And they told him, "Joseph is still alive; yes, he is ruler over the whole land of Egypt." His heart went numb, for he did not believe them. (27) But when they recounted all that Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to transport him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. (28) "Enough!" said Israel. "My son Joseph is still alive! I must go and see him before I die."

בראשית מ"ה:כ"ו-כ"ח

(כו) וַיִּגְדּוּ לוֹ לֵאמֹר עוֹד יוֹסֵף חַי וְכִי־הוּא מִשָּׁל בְּכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וַיִּפַּג לְבֹו כִּי לֹא־הֶאֱמִינוּ לָהֶם. (כז) וַיִּדְבְּרוּ אֵלָיו אֵת כָּל־דִּבְרֵי יוֹסֵף אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אֲלֵהֶם וַיִּרְא אֶת־הַעֲגֻלוֹת אֲשֶׁר־שָׁלַח יוֹסֵף לְשֵׁאת אֹתוֹ וַתְּחִי רוּחַ יַעֲקֹב אֲבִיהֶם. (כח) וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל רַב עוֹד־יוֹסֵף בְּנֵי חַי אֵלַיָּה וַאֲרָאנוּ בְטָרִם אַמּוֹת.

Genesis 46:28-31

(28) He had sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph, to point the way before him to Goshen. So when they came to the region of Goshen, (29) Joseph ordered his chariot and went to Goshen to meet his father Israel; he presented himself to him and, embracing him around the neck, he wept on his neck a good while. (30) Then Israel said to Joseph, "Now I can die, having seen for myself that you are still alive." (31) Then Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell the news to Pharaoh, and say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me.

בראשית מ"ו:כ"ח-ל"א

(כח) וְאֶת־יְהוּדָה שָׁלַח לְפָנָיו אֶל־יוֹסֵף לְהוֹרֹת לְפָנָיו גִּשְׁנָה וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶרְצָה גִּשְׁן. (כט) וַיֹּאסֶר יוֹסֵף מְרַכְבָּתוֹ וַיַּעַל לְקִרְיַת־יִשְׂרָאֵל אָבִיו גִּשְׁנָה וַיִּרְא אֵלָיו וַיִּפֹּל עַל־צַוְאָרָיו וַיִּבֶה עַל־צַוְאָרָיו עוֹד. (ל) וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־יוֹסֵף אַמּוֹתַה הַפְּעַם אַחֲרַי רְאוּתִי אֶת־פְּנֵיךָ כִּי עוֹדָה חַי. (לא) וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָחָיו וְאֶל־בֵּית אָבִיו אַעֲלֶה וְאֶגִּידָה לְפָרְעֹה וְאָמַרְתִּי אֵלָיו אַחֲתִי וּבֵית־אָבִי אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ־כְּנַעַן בָּאוּ אֵלָי.

6: Jacob's favorites

Genesis 48:3-5

(3) And Jacob said to Joseph, “El Shaddai appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and He blessed me, (4) and said to me, ‘I will make you fertile and numerous, making of you a community of peoples; and I will assign this land to your offspring to come for an everlasting possession.’ (5) Now, your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, shall be mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine no less than Reuben and Simeon.

Genesis 48:21-22

(21) Then Israel said to Joseph, “I am about to die; but God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers. (22) And now, I assign to you one portion more than to your brothers, which I wrested from the Amorites with my sword and bow.”

Genesis 49:31-33

(31) there Abraham and his wife Sarah were buried; there Isaac and his wife Rebekah were buried; and there I buried Leah— (32) the field and the cave in it, bought from the Hittites.” (33) When Jacob finished his instructions to his sons, he drew his feet into the bed and, breathing his last, he was gathered to his people.

בראשית מ"ח:ג-ה'

(ג) וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל־יוֹסֵף אֵל שְׁדַי נִרְאָה־אֵלַי בְּלוֹז בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתִי. (ד) וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי הַנְּגִי מִפְּרֹךְ וְהַרְבִּיתֶךָ וְנִתְּתֶיךָ לְקָהָל עַמִּים וְנִתְּתִי אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת לְזֶרְעֶךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ אַחֲזֶת עוֹלָם. (ה) וְעַתָּה שְׁנֵי־בָנֶיךָ הַנוֹלָדִים לְךָ בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם עַד־בְּאֵי אֶלְיָה מִצְרַיִמָּה לִי־הֵם אֶפְרַיִם וּמְנַשֶּׁה כְּרְאוּבֵן וְשִׁמְעוֹן יְהִי־וּלִי:

בראשית מ"ח:כ"א-כ"ב

(כא) וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־יוֹסֵף הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי מֹת וְהִנֵּה אֱלֹהִים עִמָּכֶם וְהֵשִׁיב אֹתְכֶם אֶל־אֶרֶץ אֲבֹתֵיכֶם. (כב) וְאַנִּי נִתְּתִי לְךָ שְׂכָם אֶחָד עַל־אֲחֵיךָ אֲשֶׁר לְקָהָתִי מִיַּד הָאֱמֹרִי בַחֲרֹבִי וּבְקִשְׁתִּי. {פ}

בראשית מ"ט:ל"א-ל"ג

(לא) שָׁמָּה קָבְרוּ אֶת־אֲבָרְהָם וְאֶת־שָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ שָׁמָּה קָבְרוּ אֶת־יִצְחָק וְאֶת־רִבְקָה אִשְׁתּוֹ וְשָׁמָּה קָבַרְתִּי אֶת־לֵאָה. (לב) מִקְנֵה הַשָּׂדֶה וְהַמְעָרָה אֲשֶׁר־בֶּן מֵאָת בְּנֵי־חַת: (לג) וַיְכַל יַעֲקֹב לְצַוֹת אֶת־בָּנָיו וַיֹּאסֶף רַגְלָיו אֶל־הַמֶּטֶה וַיְגֹעַ וַיֹּאסֶף אֶל־עַמּוּיוֹ:

7: "My son"

Genesis 49:8-12

(8) You, O Judah, your brothers shall praise;
Your hand shall be on the nape of your foes;
Your father's sons shall bow low to you. (9) Judah is a lion's
whelp;
On prey, my son, have you grown.
He crouches, lies down like a lion,
Like the king of beasts^a—who dare rouse him? (10) The
scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet;
So that tribute shall come to him
And the homage of peoples be his. (11) He tethers his ass to a
vine,
His ass's foal to a choice vine;
He washes his garment in wine,
His robe in blood of grapes. (12) His eyes are darker than
wine;
His teeth are whiter than milk.

בראשית מ"ט:ח-י"ב

(ח) יהודה אַתָּה יְהוּדָה
אֶחָיִךְ יְדָה בְּעַרְףְּ אֹיְבֶיךָ
יִשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ לָךְ בְּנֵי אָבִיךָ: (ט)
גֹּדֵר אַרְיֵה יְהוּדָה מִטָּרֶף בְּנֵי
עֲלִיתָ כְּרֹעַ רֶבֶץ כְּאַרְיֵה
וּכְלָבִיא מִי יִקְיָמֶנּוּ: (י) לֹא־
יִסּוּר שִׁבְטֵ מִיְהוּדָה וּמַחְקֵק
מִבֵּין רַגְלָיו עַד כִּי־יָבֹא
שִׁילָה וְלוֹ יִקְהַת עַמִּים:
(יא) אֶסְרֵי לְגַפְוֹ עֵירוֹה
וְלִשְׂרָקָהּ בְּנֵי אֶתְנֶן כַּבֵּס
בַּיַּיִן לְבָשׂוֹ וּבְכֹס־עֲנָבִים
סוּתָהּ: (יב) חֹכְלִילִי עֵינַיִם
מִיַּיִן וּלְבֹן־שָׁנִים מִחֶלֶב: {פ}

8: Brothers, again

Genesis 48:17-20

(17) When Joseph saw that his father was placing
his right hand on Ephraim's head, he thought it
wrong; so he took hold of his father's hand to move
it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's. (18) "Not
so, Father," Joseph said to his father, "for the other
is the first-born; place your right hand on his head."
(19) But his father objected, saying, "I know, my
son, I know. He too shall become a people, and he
too shall be great. Yet his younger brother shall be
greater than he, and his offspring shall be plentiful
enough for nations." (20) So he blessed them that
day, saying, "By you shall Israel invoke blessings,
saying: God make you like Ephraim and
Manasseh." Thus he put Ephraim before
Manasseh.

בראשית מ"ח:י"ז-כ'

(יז) וַיֵּרָא יוֹסֵף כִּי־יָשִׁית אָבִיו יְדֵי־יְמִינוֹ עַל־
רֹאשׁ אֶפְרַיִם וַיִּרַע בְּעֵינָיו וַיִּתְמַךְ יַד־אָבִיו
לְהַסִּיר אֶתְּהָ מֵעַל רֹאשׁ־אֶפְרַיִם עַל־רֹאשׁ
מְנַשֶּׁה: (יח) וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָבִיו לֹא־כֵן
אָבִי כִי־יָדָה הַבְּכוֹר שְׁנַיִם יְמִינָה עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ:
(יט) וַיִּמָּאֵן אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר יְדַעְתִּי בְנֵי־יְדַעְתִּי
גַם־הֵנּוּ יִהְיֶה־לָּעַם וְגַם־הֵנּוּ יִגְדְּלוּ וְאוֹלָם
אֶחָיו הַקָּטָן יִגְדֵל מִמֶּנּוּ וְזָרְעוֹ יִהְיֶה מְלֹא־
הַגּוֹיִם: (כ) וַיְבָרְכֵם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לְאִמּוֹר בְּךָ
יְבָרֵךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר יְשָׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים
כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכַמְנַשֶּׁה וַיִּשָּׂם אֶת־אֶפְרַיִם לִפְנֵי
מְנַשֶּׁה:

9: An end and a beginning

Genesis 50:4-8

(4) and when the wailing period was over, Joseph spoke to Pharaoh's court, saying, "Do me this favor, and lay this appeal before Pharaoh: (5) 'My father made me swear, saying, "I am about to die. Be sure to bury me in the grave which I made ready for myself in the land of Canaan." Now, therefore, let me go up and bury my father; then I shall return.'" (6) And Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you promise on oath." (7) So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the officials of Pharaoh, the senior members of his court, and all of Egypt's dignitaries, (8) together with all of Joseph's household, his brothers, and his father's household; only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the region of Goshen.

Genesis 50:24-26

(24) At length, Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. God will surely take notice of you and bring you up from this land to the land that He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." (25) So Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "When God has taken notice of you, you shall carry up my bones from here." (26) Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years; and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.

Genesis 12:7

(7) The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I will assign this land to your offspring." And he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.

Yoram Hazoni, *The Philosophy of Hebrew Scripture*, 127-8:

"...mighty though Joseph may be, he is not free. No longer a shepherd like his fathers, he is instead a servant to Pharaoh in the house of bondage. There is no question, of course.. that a man such as Joseph necessarily feels himself free as he gives out orders to others... But compelling as this experience may be, it is an illusion. The first among slaves may be powerful, but a slave he remains, subject to annihilation by his master at a moment's notice, at Pharaoh's house no less than in that of Potifar... when once he is faced with the prospect of Pharaoh's wrath and a possible loss of favor, Joseph is struck with the selfsame terror of the Hebrew slaves facing that other Pharaoh generations later. (127-128)

בראשית נ'ד-ח'

(ד) ויעברו ימי בכיתו וידבר יוסף אל בית פרעה לאמר אם-נא מצאתי חן בעיניכם דברו-נא באזני פרעה לאמר: (ה) אבי השביעני לאמר הנה אנכי מת בקברי אשר פריתי לי בארץ כנען שמה תקברני ועתה אעלה-נא ואקברה את אבי ואשובה: (ו) ויאמר פרעה עלה וקבר את-אביה באשר השביעה: (ז) ויעל יוסף לקבר את-אביו ויעלו אתו כל-עבדי פרעה וקני ביתו וכל זקני ארץ-מצרים: (ח) וכל בית יוסף ואחיו ובית אביו רק טפם וצאנם ובקרם עזבו בארץ גושן:

בראשית נ'כ"ד-כ"ו

(כד) ויאמר יוסף אל-אחיו אנכי מת ואלהים פקד יפקד אתכם והעלה אתכם מן-הארץ הזאת אל-הארץ אשר נשבע לאבותם ליצחק וליעקב: (כה) וישבע יוסף את-בני ישראל לאמר פקד יפקד אלהים אתכם והעלתם את-עצמותי מזה: (כו) וימת יוסף בן-מאה ועשר שנים ויחנטו אתו ויישם בארון במצרים:

בראשית י"ב:ז'

(ז) וירא יהוה אל-אברם ויאמר לזרעה אתן את-הארץ הזאת ויבן שם מזבח ליהוה הנראה אליו: