

# Pharaoh told Joseph: Return to Canaan and Bring Your Father and Families Back to Me

**45: 16-20**

It didn't take very long for the news of **Joseph's** reunion with **his brothers** to reach the ears of **Pharaoh**. **Yosef** was respected by all of **Egypt**. He had saved **them** from starvation and **they** were grateful. **When the news reached Pharaoh's palace that Yosef's brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased (45:16)**. As much as **Joseph** was respected, for any **Pharaoh of Egypt** to be **pleased** to see a family of Semitic herdsmen from **Canaan** was unusual to say the least.

**Pharaoh** had such a high regard for **Yosef** that he said to him, **"Tell your brothers to load their animals and return to the land of Canaan, and bring your father and your families back to me. I will give you the best of the land of Egypt where you can enjoy the fat of the land" (45:17-18)**. This is an expression denoting the best products of the **land**, including oil, corn, wine and wheat. The famine would not last forever, and when it was over **the fat of the land** would be theirs. This was a very generous offer by **Pharaoh**.

Such an invitation coming from an **Egyptian Pharaoh** for Semites was only possible during the Hyksos rule. Normally, an **Egyptian Pharaoh**, who was truly **Egyptian**, would never, and I mean *never*, allow this to take place. However, the Hyksos, being the Semitic conquerors of **Egypt**, made it possible for another Semitic family to be honored in this way.

**You are also directed to tell them, to take some carts from Egypt for your children and your wives, and get your father and then come back to live here (45:19)**. This would make the journey easier for **them** because then **they** would not have to walk, and would have been especially helpful to the **children**. These **carts** normally had two wooden wheels, and were drawn by oxen or horses. They were unique to **Egypt** and could be used even where there were no roads. **Pharaoh** continued to show his concern: **Never mind about your bulky household belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours (45:20)**. Again, this would absolutely *never* happen with a truly **Egyptian Pharaoh**. Taking **all** their bulky household **belongings** would obviously slow them down, and **Pharaoh** wanted **them** to come without delay. This highlights the seriousness of the famine at that time, and it demonstrates **Pharaoh's** genuine affection for **Joseph**.