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## 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 demonstrated **Pharaoh's** genuine affection for **Joseph**.