

## Come Close

Shalom,

Two inspiring themes are shown in the Torah portion named **Vayigash**, or “**And he approached**” found in **Genesis 44:18—47:27**. They are **forgiveness** and **repentance**, and they are the heart of God’s plan to restore mankind to right relationship with Him.

We see an amazing display of **forgiveness** in the life of Joseph, who through his trust in God, was assured that, in spite of all the bad and unjust treatment he had received, he would see God’s word to him fulfilled. Not only did he maintain his trust, but he refused to become bitter and unforgiving toward those who had wronged him. He loved when it would have been natural to hate, and **through Love, he was empowered** to stand in faith for twenty-two years until the manifestation of his dreams were realized

*Galatians 5:6 (KJV) <sup>6</sup> For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.*

We see that **Joseph is a wonderful type of Yeshua the Messiah** Who came unto His own, but they refused to receive Him. The Son of God came to this earth in a human body, went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, and yet He was rejected by the ones He loved so much.

*John 1:12 (TLV) <sup>12</sup> But whoever did receive Him, those trusting in His name, to these He gave the right to become children of God.*

Just as YHWH, Who is Love, existed eternally, and out of His loving nature, has always been forgiving, so His forgiveness has always been extended to those who will position themselves to take it, for **God’s forgiveness is in Him, and just as He has always existed, in the same way that He has given unto us all thing that pertain unto life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3), His forgiveness is already a fact, existing in Him before the foundation of the world.** The way to position ourselves to take, or receive, what He has already given is to believe that He is what He says in His Word, and, with our tongues, speak what He says is ours. We can see that **forgiveness is already accomplished for those who approach God with repentance and faith just as Judah approached Joseph seeking for favor and mercy.**

To **repent** in Hebrew is *shuv*, and what a wonderful and powerful word it is, for in repentance we come close through the heart condition, or position of **approaching**, that will enable us to receive the grace of God, without which we would be trapped in an errant and sinful course without remedy. Our loving God was not willing to leave us in the condition that our choices had made for us, He made a way, through trusting and repentance, for us to turn from sin and disobedience back to relationship with Him.

Now, **repentance** to some, means that one has had a **change of mind**, and to others, it represents that one has made a **change in direction**, but I believe that the truth of repentance is found in **God's grace which works in us to bring about the desire to change and turn from wrong thinking and acting unto a mind and will of obedience**. This can only be accomplished in the spirit realm as a person, forgiven through the grace and mercy of God, is given a new heart and nature. This is very important to realize, for even the act of repentance cannot be carried out in the flesh as a work for which we can take credit. Remember, our righteousness is a gift from God, through Jesus the Messiah. It is never based on works of righteousness that we have done

**No part of the plan of God for mankind could have been accomplished without Jesus, the Messiah coming to earth, in the flesh, to carry out the eternal sacrifice for sin.** This is certainly cause for **great celebration**, not only at this season, but **may we be continually rejoicing and mindful of good tidings of great joy to all people**. Let's choose to approach our LORD with a determination to abide in Him, and produce much fruit in His Kingdom.

*Luke 24:45-47 (CJB) <sup>45</sup> Then He opened their minds, so that they could understand the Tanakh, <sup>46</sup> telling them, "Here is what it says: the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day; <sup>47</sup> and in His Name repentance leading to forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to people from all nations, starting with Yerushalayim.*

*John 1:14 (TLV) <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. We looked upon His glory, the glory of the One and Only from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*Colossians 1:14 (KJV) <sup>14</sup> In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

**Have a wonderful time of celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Yeshua HaMashiach!**

Terry