

Genesis 50:15-21

Exegetical Notes by Rev Richard Jordan

50:15

וַיֵּרְאוּ אֶחָיו-יֹסֵף כִּי-מָת אָבִיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ יִשְׁטַמְנוּ יוֹסֵף
וְהִשָּׁב יִשְׁבֵּי לָנוּ אֵת כָּל-הַרָּעָה אֲשֶׁר גָּמְלָנוּ אֹתוֹ:

ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ ἀδελφοὶ Ἰωσήφ ὅτι τέθνηκεν ὁ πατὴρ αὐτῶν εἶπαν μήποτε μνησικακήσῃ ἡμῖν Ἰωσήφ καὶ ἀνταπόδομα ἀνταποδῶ ἡμῖν πάντα τὰ κακὰ ἃ ἐνεδειξάμεθα αὐτῷ
Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?"

אָבִיהֶם - 17x in Genesis, construct noun w/3rd masc pl suffix - *their father* - a powerful image, one that both binds and divides, one who gives and is owed... and perhaps the most powerful metaphor to speak of God and his relation with mankind

9:23 Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it upon both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness

31:53 The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us." So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac,

49:28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel; and this is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him.

50:15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil which we did to him."

יִשְׁטַמְנוּ - qal imperfect, 3x in BHS * any form 6x in BHS - *bear a grudge, cherish animosity* - another powerful image, a verb, but not one necessarily of visible action, and perhaps that's what makes the concept so subversive.
Gen 27:41 Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

Gen 49:23 The archers fiercely attacked him, shot at him, and harassed him sorely;

*Gen 50:15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil which we did to him."

*Psalms 55:4 My heart is in anguish within me, the terrors of death have fallen upon me.

Job 16:9 He has torn me in his wrath, and hated me; he has gnashed his teeth at me; my adversary sharpens his eyes against me.

*Job 30:21 Thou hast turned cruel to me; with the might of thy hand thou dost persecute me.

μνησικακήσῃ - aorist active subjunctive, any form 5x in LXX [does not occur in NT]- *to remember wrongs done one, remember past injuries* -

Gen 50:15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil which we did to him."

Prov 21:24 "Scoffer" is the name of the proud, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride.

Ezek 25:12 "Thus says the Lord GOD: Because Edom acted revengefully against the house of Judah and has grievously offended in taking vengeance upon them,

Joel 4:4 [3:4e] What are you to me, O Tyre and Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia? Are you paying me back for something? If you are paying me back, I will turn your deeds back upon your own heads swiftly and speedily.

Zech 7:10 do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor; and let none of you devise evil against his brother in your heart."

וְהִשָּׁב - hifil infinitive absolute, 7x in BHS - 1. *bring back, lead back, carry back, cause to go or come back* 2. *put back, replace* 3. *restore* 4. *give back, pay back, recompense* 5. *rescue, revive, restore* 6. *repulse turn, push back* 7. *answer, abate* 8. *recall* 10. *make change, revoke, annul, hinder* 11. *accept back, let oneself be turned back* -

Gen 24:5 The servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land; must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?"

Gen 50:15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil which we did to him."

Deut 22:1 "You shall not see your brother's ox or his sheep go astray, and withhold your help from them; you shall take them back to your brother.

יִשְׁבֵּי - hifil imperfect, 36x in BHS - for def see above -

Gen 50:15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil which we did to him."

Exod 21:34 the owner of the pit shall make it good; he shall give money to its owner, and the dead beast shall be his.

Deut 32:43 "Praise his people, O you nations; for he avenges the blood of his servants, and takes vengeance on his adversaries, and makes expiation for the land of his people."

Isaiah 43:13 "I am God, and also henceforth I am He; there is none who can deliver from my hand; I work and who can hinder it?"

Psalms 54:7 For thou hast delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

Job 9:13 "God will not turn back his anger; beneath him bowed the helpers of Rahab.

Prov 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

The occurrence of the verb twice in this verse, both in the hifil, stresses a very real concern on the part of Joseph's brothers, they know what they deserve, and this repetition emphasizes it.

כָּל-הָרָעָה - *all the evil* - 41x in BHS - *πάντα τὰ κακά* in the LXX, below

Gen 50:15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil which we did to him."

Deut 31:18 And I will surely hide my face in that day on account of all the evil which they have done, because they have turned to other gods.

Judg 9:57 God also made the men of Shechem pay for all their wickedness. The curse of Jotham son of Jerub-Baal came on them.

Jer 1:16 And I will utter my judgments against them, for all their wickedness in forsaking me, they have burned incense to other gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands.

Job 2:11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eli'phaz the Te'manite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Na'amathite. They made an appointment together to come to condole with him and comfort him.

πάντα τὰ κακά - 26x in LXX -

Gen 48:16 the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and in them let my name be perpetuated, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

Gen 50:15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil which we did to him."

גַּמְלָנוּ - *qal perfect, 15x in BHS - deal fully or adequately with, deal out to. 2. wean. ripen.* -

Gen 50:15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil which we did to him."

Gen 50:17 Say to Joseph, Forgive, I pray you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, we pray you, forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

1Sam 24:18 And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the LORD put me into your hands.

Isaiah 63:7 I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel which he has granted them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

Psalms 136 I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Psalms 103:10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities.

50:16

וַיִּצְוּ אֶל-יֹסֵף לְאמֹר אָבִיךָ צִוָּה לְפָנַי מוֹתוֹ לְאמֹר:

καὶ παρεγένοντο πρὸς Ἰωσήφ λέγοντες ὁ πατήρ σου ὤρκισεν πρὸ τοῦ τελευτῆσαι αὐτὸν λέγων

So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died,

וַיִּצְוּ - *piel 3rd masc pl - lay charge (upon), give charge (to), charge, command, order* - 487x in piel in BHS, 27x

in Genesis - In our society there is little respect for a command, it is politically incorrect in current society, so while we may think it right to suggest, God, as Lord of All, does not suggest, but commands, and in Joseph's Egypt, a ruler can command, and in the family of Israel, the father can command, and the only response available is to obey, not to obey is to remove oneself from the family, and there was no life outside the family.

2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;

3:11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

3:17 And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

6:22 Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

7:5 And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

27:8 Now therefore, my son, obey my word as I command you.

28:1 Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, "You shall not marry one of the Canaanite women.
 45:19 Command them also, Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come.
 49:29 Then he charged them, and said to them, "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,
 49:33 When Jacob finished charging his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed, and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.
 50:2 And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel;
 50:12 Thus his sons did for him as he had commanded them;
 50:16 So they laid the charge on Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died,

לְאמֹר אָבִיךָ - 4x in BHS - *your father said* -

Gen 47:5 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you.
 Gen 50:16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died,

אָבִיךָ - 19x in Genesis - *father w/2nd masc sing suffix - your father* -

12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.
 26:3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you, and will bless you; for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will fulfil the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.
 28:13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants;
 46:3 Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt; for I will there make of you a great nation.
 47:5 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you.
 48:1 After this Joseph was told, "Behold, your father is ill"; so he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.
 49:8 Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you.
 49:26 The blessings of your father are mighty beyond the blessings of the eternal mountains, the bounties of the everlasting hills; may they be on the head of Joseph, and on the brow of him who was separate from his brothers.
 50:6 And Pharaoh answered, "Go up, and bury your father, as he made you swear."
 50:16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died,
 50:17 Say to Joseph, Forgive, I pray you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, we pray you, forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

צָוָה - *piel perfect - lay charge (upon), give charge (to), charge, command, order* - 2nd time in this verse - the sense being they laid the charge and presented the command which had [ostensibly] been given -

לְפָנָי - 43x in Genesis - *before the face of, in the presence of* - How can you do anything underhanded if all you do is done in plain sight? How can you sin, if you know you are always in the presence of God? And again, how is it that we come into the presence of God? If we do know understand who we are, and do not comprehend who God is, how can we come before his presence in a proper manner?

4:16 Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, east of Eden.
 6:11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence.
 24:40 But he said to me, The LORD, before whom I walk, will send his angel with you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son from my kindred and from my father's house;
 41:46 Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went through all the land of Egypt.
 47:7 Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father, and set him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.
 48:15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has led me all my life long to this day,
 50:16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died,
 50:18 His brothers also came and fell down before him, and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

מוֹתוֹ - *death [the opposite of life]* - 7x in Genesis - its use in Genesis seems to be reserved for solemn occasions that are also crossroads of life.

21:16 Then she went, and sat down over against him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Let me not look upon the death of the child." And as she sat over against him, the child lifted up his voice and wept.
 25:11 After the death of Abraham God blessed Isaac his son. And Isaac dwelt at Beer-la-hai-roi.
 26:18 And Isaac dug again the wells of water which had been dug in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham; and he gave them the names which his father had given them.
 27:2 He said, "Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death.
 27:7 Bring me game, and prepare for me savory food, that I may eat it, and bless you before the LORD before I die.'
 27:10 and you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies."

50.16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying "Your father gave this command before he died,

לְאמַר - qal inf const - 81x in Genesis, 6x in Ch.50- note how this frames a collection of “sayings” - the words which are remembered, and recorded.

50.4 And when the days of weeping for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying "If now I have found favor in your eyes, speak, I pray you, in the ears of Pharaoh, saying

50.4 And when the days of weeping for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying "If now I have found favor in your eyes, speak, I pray you, in the ears of Pharaoh, saying

50.5 My father made me swear, saying I am about to die: in my tomb which I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall you bury me.' Now therefore let me go up, I pray you, and bury my father; then I will return."

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50.16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying "Your father gave this command before he died,

50.25 Then Joseph took an oath of the sons of Israel, saying "God will visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."

50.17

**כֹּה־תֹאמְרוּ לְיוֹסֵף אָנָּה שָׂא נָא פְּשַׁע אֶחָיִךְ וְחַטָּאתָם
כִּי־רָעָה גְמָלוֹךְ וְעַתָּה שָׂא נָא לְפֶשַׁע עַבְדֵי אֱלֹהֵי אָבִיךָ
וַיִּבְכֶּ יוֹסֵף בְּדַבְרָם אֵלָיו׃**

οὕτως εἶπατε Ἰωσηφ ἄφες αὐτοῖς τὴν ἀδικίαν καὶ τὴν ἁμαρτίαν αὐτῶν ὅτι πονηρὰ σοὶ ἐνεδείξαντο καὶ νῦν δεῦξαι τὴν ἀδικίαν τῶν θεραπόντων τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ πατρός σου καὶ ἔκλαυσεν Ἰωσηφ λαλούντων αὐτῶν πρὸς αὐτόν

'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

תֹּאמְרוּ - qal imperf 2nd masc pl - 4x in Genesis - say

אָנָּה - we urgently (or fervently) beseech - 12x in BHS - this is not something between equals, but recognizes that the other has higher status, and is under no obligation to grant the request - there is no sense in which one can play let's make a deal, with God; even though we oft foolishly act in this manner - what we need is something we do not deserve, and recognizing our unworthiness, we ask humbly.

Gen 50.17 Say to Joseph, Forgive, I pray you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, we pray you, forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

Exod 32:31 So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Alas, this people have sinned a great sin; they have made for themselves gods of gold.

2Kings 20:3 "Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in faithfulness and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in thy sight." And Hezeki'ah wept bitterly.

Isaiah 38:3 and said, "Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in faithfulness and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in thy sight." And Hezeki'ah wept bitterly.

Jonah 1:14 Therefore they cried to the LORD, "We beseech thee, O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood; for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee."

Jonah 4:2 And he prayed to the LORD and said, "I pray thee, LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that thou art a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repentest of evil.

Psalms 116:4 Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I beseech thee, save my life!"

Psalms 116:16 O LORD, I am thy servant; I am thy servant, the son of thy handmaid. Thou hast loosed my bonds.

Psalms 118:25 Save us, we beseech thee, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech thee, give us success!

Dan 9:4 I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying "O Lord, the great and terrible God, who keepest covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

Neh 1:5 And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

Neh 1:11 O Lord, let thy ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants who delight to fear thy name; and give success to thy servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." Now I was cupbearer to the king

שָׂא - qal imperative, 59x in BHS, 6x in Genesis - lift, take, carry - do not miss the image, sin is a burden, we cannot remove it from ourselves, but it must be lifted from us. Why? Because sin is a debt, and debts are not

removed until they are paid in full, and we cannot pay such a debt. So when one begs for forgiveness it is always in humility, and in Christ, the burden has been lifted.

13:14 The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes, and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;

21:18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him fast with your hand; for I will make him a great nation."

27:3 Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me,

31:12 And he said, Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that leap upon the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.

50:17 Say to Joseph, Forgive, I pray you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, we pray you, forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

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פָּשַׁע - *transgression* - 93x in BHS, 9x in Pentateuch -

Gen 31:36 Then Jacob became angry, and upbraided Laban; Jacob said to Laban, "What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me?"

Gen 50:17 Say to Joseph, Forgive, I pray you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, we pray you, forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

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Exod 22:8 If the thief is not found, the owner of the house shall come near to God, to show whether or not he has put his hand to his neighbor's goods.

Exod 23:21 Give heed to him and hearken to his voice, do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression; for my name is in him.

Exod 34:7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Lev 16:16 thus he shall make atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel, and because of their transgressions, all their sins; and so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which abides with them in the midst of their uncleannesses.

Lev 16:21 and Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins; and he shall put them upon the head of the goat, and send him away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness.

Num 14:18 The LORD is slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of fathers upon children, upon the third and upon the fourth generation.'

וְחַטָּאתָם - *sin* - 140x in Pentateuch, 4x in Genesis -

4:7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is couching at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it."

18:20 Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomor'rah is great and their sin is very grave,

31:36 Then Jacob became angry, and upbraided Laban; Jacob said to Laban, "What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me?"

50:17 Say to Joseph, Forgive, I pray you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, we pray you, forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

The wonderful thing about having these in parallel [Sin and Transgression] is that it is thus inclusive, legalists often try to justify themselves saying, I wasn't over the line [transgression]; thus the confession here is an all inclusive one, the sins of commission and omission are both confessed.

כִּי־רָעָה - 21x in BHS - *because of evil* -

גָּמְלוֹךְ - *deal fully or adequately with, deal out to* - 37x in BHS - qal perfect 15x in BHS - see 50:15 above

וְעַתָּה - *adverb of time, now* - 40x in Genesis, 3x in ch 50 - note how it moves the action forward

50:5 My father made me swear, saying I am about to die: in my tomb which I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall you bury me.' Now therefore let me go up, I pray you, and bury my father; then I will return."

50:17 Say to Joseph, Forgive, I pray you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, we pray you, forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

50:21 So do not fear, I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he reassured them and comforted them.

אֶשָּׂא - 2nd time in verse, see above - *beseech* -

לְפָשַׁע - 2nd time in verse, see above - *transgression* -

עֲבָדָי - exact form [masc pl construct] 334x in BHS, 32x in Genesis -his servants -

50:2 And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel;

50:7 So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,

50:17 Say to Joseph, Forgive, I pray you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, we pray you, forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

אֲלֹהֵי עֲבָדָי - 5x in BHS - servant of Elohim - whether one regards this as sincerity or irony, one cannot deny the power of the claim which they make for themselves, they may not have acted much as servants of God before, I prefer to mark the repentance as sincere, and that God had seen their change of heart, and had changed them, as God always does of those who finally choose to live by faith.

Gen 50:17 Say to Joseph, Forgive, I pray you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, we pray you, forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

Dan 9:11 All Israel has transgressed thy law and turned aside, refusing to obey thy voice. And the curse and oath which are written in the law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him.

Neh 10:30 We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons;

1Chron 6:34 [49e] But Aaron and his sons made offerings on the altar of burnt offering and on the altar of incense, doing all the work of the most holy place, to make atonement for Israel, according to all that Moses the servant of God had commanded.

2Chron 24:9 And proclamation was made throughout Judah and Jerusalem, to bring in for the LORD the tax that Moses the servant of God laid upon Israel in the wilderness.

אֱלֹהֵי - Elohim

אָבִיךָ - your father - 19x in Genesis, in ch.50 vs 3, 16, 17 - see above -

וַיִּבְכּוּ - to weep and wail in grief - any qal, 112x in BHS, 16x in Genesis - there seem no examples present of the Crocodile tears that, as they say, can be turned on and off like a faucet. Why the weeping? Sorrow over the death of his father, and joy over the repentance of his brothers. ...

21:16 Then she went, and sat down over against him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Let me not look upon the death of the child." And as she sat over against him, the child lifted up his voice and wept.

23:2 And Sarah died at Kir'iath-ar'ba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan; and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

27:38 Esau said to his father, "Have you but one blessing my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father." And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

29:11 Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and wept aloud.

33:4 But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

37:35 All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and said, "No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father wept for him.

42:24 Then he turned away from them and wept; and he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

43:30 Then Joseph made haste, for his heart yearned for his brother, and he sought a place to weep. And he entered his chamber and wept there.

45:14 Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck.

45:15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

46:29 Then Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen; and he presented himself to him, and fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while.

50:1 Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him, and kissed him.

50:3 forty days were required for it, for so many are required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.

50:17 Say to Joseph, Forgive, I pray you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, we pray you, forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

50:18

וַיִּלְכוּ גַם-אֶחָיו וַיִּפְּלוּ לְפָנָיו וַיֹּאמְרוּ הִנְנּוּ לְךָ לְעֲבָדִים:

καὶ ἔλθόντες πρὸς αὐτὸν εἶπαν οἶδε ἡμεῖς σοι οἰκέται

Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves."

וַיִּלְכוּ - qal - go, come, walk -

גַּם-אָחִיו - 2x in BHS - גַּם - denoting addition, also, moreover - אָחִיו - ah! alas!

Gen 50:18 His brothers also came and fell down before him, and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

Jer 12:6 For even your brothers and the house of your father, even they have dealt treacherously with you; they are in full cry after you; believe them not, though they speak fair words to you."

וַיִּפֹּל - 447x in BHS, 18x in Genesis - *fall* -

50:1 Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him, and kissed him.

50:18 His brothers also came and fell down before him, and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

וַיִּפְּלוּ לְפָנָיו - 38x in BHS - *fall on their faces* -

Gen 4:5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

Gen 4:6 The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen?"

Gen 17:3 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,

Gen 17:17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

Gen 44:14 When Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, he was still there; and they fell before him to the ground.

Gen 50:1 Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him, and kissed him.

Gen 50:18 His brothers also came and fell down before him, and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

וַיֹּאמְרוּ הִנְנּוּ - 96x in BHS, 22x in Genesis - *say, Behold*

22:7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

27:2 He said, "Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death.

42:2 And he said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live, and not die."

50:5 My father made me swear, saying, I am about to die: in my tomb which I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall you bury me.' Now therefore let me go up, I pray you, and bury my father; then I will return."

50:18 His brothers also came and fell down before him, and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

לְעַבְדֵי - 50x in BHS - *your servants*

Gen 44:9 With whomever of your servants it be found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves."

Gen 47:4 They said to Pharaoh, "We have come to sojourn in the land; for there is no pasture for your servants' flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan; and now, we pray you, let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen."

Gen 50:18 His brothers also came and fell down before him, and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

50:19

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יוֹסֵף אַל-תִּירָאוּ כִּי הִתַּחַת אֱלֹהִים אָנִי:

καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς Ἰωσήφ μὴ φοβεῖσθε τοῦ γὰρ θεοῦ εἶμι ἐγώ

But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?"

תִּירָאוּ - qal imperfect 153x in BHS, 8x in Genesis - *be afraid* - how often do we need to be told not to be afraid

15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

21:17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear

26:24 And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father; fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your descendants for my servant Abraham's sake."

35:17 And when she was in her hard labor, the midwife said to her, "Fear not; for now you will have another son."

43:23 He replied, "Rest assured, do not be afraid; your God and the God of your father must have put treasure in your sacks for you; I received your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.

46:3 Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt; for I will there make of you a great nation.

50:19 But Joseph said to them, "Fear not, for am I in the place of God?"

50:21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he reassured them and comforted them.

הִתַּחַת אֱלֹהִים - 4x in BHS - *underneath, or in the place of Elohim* - very strong words!

Gen 30:2 Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

Gen 50:19 But Joseph said to them, "Fear not, for am I in the place of God?"

Ezek 10:20 These were the living creatures that I saw underneath the God of Israel by the river Chebar; and I knew that they were cherubim.

Hosea 4:12 My people inquire of a thing of wood, and their staff gives them oracles. For a spirit of harlotry has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the harlot.

θεοῦ εἶμι ἐγώ - 3x in LXX - it is perhaps even more emphatic -

Gen 50:19 καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς Ἰωσήφ μὴ φοβεῖσθε τοῦ γὰρ θεοῦ εἶμι ἐγώ But Joseph said to them, "Fear not, for am I in the place of God? Ezek 28:2 καὶ σὺ υἱὲ ἀνθρώπου εἶπὸν τῷ ἄρχοντι Τύρου τάδε λέγει κύριος ἀνθ' ὧν ὑψώθη σου ἡ καρδία καὶ εἶπας θεός εἶμι ἐγώ κατοικίαν θεοῦ κατώκηκα ἐν καρδίᾳ θαλάσσης σὺ δὲ εἶ ἀνθρώπος καὶ οὐ θεός καὶ ἔδωκας τὴν καρ' Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because your heart is proud, and you have said, I am a god, I sit in the seat of the gods, in the heart of the seas,' yet you are but a man, and no god, though you consider yourself as wise as a god --

Ezek 28:9 μὴ λέγων ἐρεῖς θεός εἶμι ἐγώ ἐνώπιον τῶν ἀναιρούντων σε σὺ δὲ εἶ ἀνθρώπος καὶ οὐ θεός ἐν πλήθει Will you still say, I am a god,' in the presence of those who slay you, though you are but a man, and no god, in the hands of those who wound you?

50:20

וְאַתֶּם הִשְׁבַּחְתֶּם עָלַי רָעָה אֲלֵהִים הִשְׁבַּחְתֶּם לְטֹבָה לְמַעַן

עֲשֵׂה כִּי־וַיִּזְהַרְתִּי עַם-רַב:

ὑμεῖς ἐβουλεύσασθε κατ' ἐμοῦ εἰς πονηρά ὁ δὲ θεὸς ἐβουλεύσατο περὶ ἐμοῦ εἰς ἀγαθά

ὅπως ἂν γενηθῆ ὡς σήμερον ἵνα διατραφῆ λαὸς πολὺς

Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.

I cannot help of thinking of this verse in terms of Romans 8:28 "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

וְאַתֶּם - you

הִשְׁבַּחְתֶּם - qal perfect - 25x in BHS - count, reckon. . esteem, value, regard -

Gen 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Gen 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Jer 11:19 But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more."

רָעָה - 13x in Genesis - evil -

50:15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil which we did to him."

50:17 Say to Joseph, Forgive, I pray you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, we pray you, forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

אֱלֹהִים - Elohim

הִשְׁבַּחְתֶּם - qal imperfect, see above, this verse

לְטֹבָה - 6x in BHS - good

Gen 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Deut 23:7 [6e] You shall not seek their peace or their prosperity all your days for ever.

Psalms 16:2 I say to the LORD, "Thou art my Lord; I have no good apart from thee."

Psalms 65:12 The pastures of the wilderness drip, the hills gird themselves with joy,

Psalms 68:11 The Lord gives the command; great is the host of those who bore the tidings

Ezra 9:12 Therefore give not your daughters to their sons, neither take their daughters for your sons, and never seek their peace or prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever.'

לְמַעַן - for the sake of, on account of, to the intent or in order that

עָשָׂה - qal - *make* - 150x in Genesis

כִּיּוֹם - 5x in Genesis - *like day*

לְהַחֲיֵה - hifil infinitive construct - 10x in BHS - *live*

Gen 6:19 And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.

Gen 6:20 Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you, to keep them alive.

Gen 19:19 behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life; but I cannot flee to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me, and I die.

Gen 45:7 And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

Gen 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

עַם־רַב - 14x in BHS - *great or many people*

Gen 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Num 21:6 Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

50:21

וְעַתָּה אַל־תִּירָאוּ אֲנֹכִי אֶכְלָלְכֶם וְאֶת־טַפְּכֶם וַיְנַחֵם אוֹתָם וַיְדַבֵּר עַל־לִבָּם:

καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς μὴ φοβεῖσθε ἐγὼ διαθρέψω ὑμᾶς καὶ τὰς οἰκίας ὑμῶν καὶ παρεκάλεσεν αὐτοὺς καὶ ἐλάλησεν αὐτῶν εἰς τὴν καρδίαν

So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

וְעַתָּה - adverb of time, *now, at this time* - 40x in Genesis

תִּירָאוּ - qal imperfect, *fear* - 8x in Genesis - see 50:19 above

אֲנֹכִי - pronoun, *I*

אֶכְלָלְכֶם - piel imperfect - *sustain, maintain, contain, support, nourish* - 8x in BHS -

Gen 50:21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he reassured them and comforted them.

Prov 18:14 A man's spirit will endure sickness; but a broken spirit who can bear?

2Chron 6:18 "But will God dwell indeed with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!

טַפְּכֶם - *extend or spread* - 52x in BHS, 8x in Genesis -

47:12 And Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their dependents.

50:21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he reassured them and comforted them.

וַיְנַחֵם - 108x in BHS, 9x in Genesis - *comfort* - the root has to do with breathing deeply, a physical display of feeling usually sorrow compassion or comfort. In the Niphal the sense is most often "repent" while in the Piel the sense is comfort, and the sense is that comfort one finds in Isaiah 40:1-2 "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 40:2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins." Another nice metaphor, Isaiah 66:13 "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem."

5:29 and called his name Noah, saying, "Out of the ground which the LORD has cursed this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the toil of our hands."

6:6 And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

6:7 So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the ground, man and beast and creeping things and birds of the

air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

24:67 Then Isaac brought her into the tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

27:42 But the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah; so she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Behold, your brother Esau comforts himself by planning to kill you.

37:35 All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and said, "No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father wept for him.

37:35 All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and said, "No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father wept for him.

38:12 In course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died; and when Judah was comforted, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.

50:21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he reassured them and comforted them.

וַיִּנְחֵם - piel, 47x in Genesis -

עַל-לֵבָם - 32x in BHS - *to their hearts, tenderly* - the totality of man's inner nature, emotion, thought & will, but emotion is what seem to be referred to most often. It rarely refers to the physical organ.

Gen 34:3 And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob; he loved the maiden and spoke tenderly to her.

Gen 50:21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he reassured them and comforted them.

1Sam 1:13 Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard; therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman.

Isaiah 40:2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

Isaiah 47:7 You said, "I shall be mistress for ever," so that you did not lay these things to heart or remember their end.

Isaiah 57:1 The righteous man perishes, and no one lays it to heart; devout men are taken away, while no one understands. For the righteous man is taken away from calamity,

Jer 12:11 They have made it a desolation; desolate, it mourns to me. The whole land is made desolate, but no man lays it to heart.

Jer 31:33 But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Ezek 14:3 "Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces; should I let myself be inquired of at all by them?"

Mal 2:2 If you will not listen, if you will not lay it to heart to give glory to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings; indeed I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart.

Cant 8:6 Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, jealousy is cruel as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a most vehement flame.

A Few Ideas:

when God leads man to repent, not only does he create faith, but also enables us to serve God, something which sin had previously prevented.

Revenge, as acting in the place of God, therefore a form of idolatry. Christians don't get revenge, they rather spread the good news of forgiveness

sometimes it is not until all the props are taken away, that we realize that we cannot stand, and when you cannot stand, it is hard to remain "proud" - but it is when you find that you cannot get up off the floor, that you let go, and seek not what you deserve, but mercy.

Pride keeps families apart, but the forgiveness by grace through faith in Christ, brings God's family together, and the gathered family is a family of thankfulness and praise.

Hebrew Verb refresher

Qal	simple active
Niphal	simple passive
Piel	intensive active
Pual	intensive passive
Hiphil	causative active
Hophal	causative passive
Hithpael	reflexive