

## Joseph--Genesis 43

### The Brothers Eat Lunch at Joseph's House

#### I. Additional Scriptures...

1. A Psalm asking God to be gracious (Ps 67:1).
2. A condition of rebellion is evidenced by not acknowledging God's provision (Jer 5:23-24).
3. Give us this day our daily bread should be our petition (Mt 6:11).

#### II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Patriarchy.**

Joseph was 17 years in his father's home; he spent 2 years as a steward in Potiphar's home; he then spent 11 years in the Egyptian prison because of lies of Potiphar's wife; his rise to second in command of Egypt has taken place and seven years of plenty in Egypt has now passed. Now we find Joseph enjoying the success of his seven years of preparation in this time of famine throughout the earth. His powerful position brings about the fulfillment of his boyhood dreams.

#### III. Summary.

This chapter begins back in the Promised Land with Joseph's family, where the famine was SORE in the land. Jacob asks his sons to go again to Egypt to purchase more corn. Judah tells his father they are willing to go to Egypt only if he allows them to carry Benjamin with him. When Jacob objects that they had ever mentioned Benjamin, the brothers said it was in answer to a direct question. Judah pledges to be surety for Benjamin and urges that they go quickly.

Jacob sends them off with gifts, double money, and Benjamin. He also sends them away with a blessing, asking God's mercy that they be returned to him.

At the sight of Benjamin in Egypt, Joseph commanded that a special meal be prepared in his house for his brothers. The brothers being fearful because of the money that had been left in their sacks on the previous trip tried to explain to the steward of Joseph's house. The steward immediately sought to relieve their anxious minds. The brothers received very special treatment at Joseph's house.

As Joseph faces his brothers in his home in Egypt, they bow themselves to him to the earth (v. 26). Joseph asks about their father and they report he is in good health. The sight of his younger brother, Benjamin, stirred deep emotions in Joseph and he had quickly to separate himself from them to weep. Next there came a 3-section meal: Joseph ate alone; the Egyptians in the house ate to themselves; and Joseph's brothers ate to themselves. Food was sent to the brothers and Benjamin's plate was filled five times greater than the others.

#### IV. Outline.

1. Jacob instructs his sons to return to Egypt for more food (1-2).
2. Judah is willing IF he will allow Benjamin to go also (3-5).
3. Jacob does not understand why they even mentioned Benjamin (6).
4. The brothers answer that it was because they were asked very specific questions (7).
5. Judah volunteers to be surety for Benjamin (8-10).

6. Jacob relents and sends Benjamin along with gifts and double money (11-14).
7. The brothers go to Egypt and stand before Joseph (15).
8. Joseph commands that they be brought to his house (16-17).
9. The brothers try to explain about the money that had been left in their sacks (18-22).
10. The steward of Joseph's house told them, "Peace be to you" (23).
11. Joseph's brothers were welcomed at his house (24-25).
12. A meal is served and Joseph is overcome with emotion at seeing Benjamin once again (26-33).
13. Five times the portion given the other brothers is given to Benjamin (34).

## V. Questions.

### True or False

01. \_\_\_\_\_ Judah was willing to return to Egypt upon certain conditions.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Benjamin was given a super abundant meal at Joseph's house.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ Jacob sent the brothers prepared in case the returned money from the previous trip had been an oversight.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ This chapter mentions the weeping of Joseph.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ Simeon is reunited with his brothers in this chapter.

### Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. \_\_\_\_\_ When Judah was explaining to his father about their previous trip he said the man they dealt with had: (a) solemnly protested; (b) specifically charged; (c) kindly asked—that they not come back without the younger brother.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ The seating of Joseph's brothers for the meal in his house was arranged: (a) according to their mothers; (b) according to age; (c) there was no seating arrangement.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ The gift Jacob sent did not include: (a) a little balm; (b) corn; (c) a little honey; (d) spices; (e) myrrh; (f) nuts and almonds.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ How many times is it mentioned in this chapter that the brothers bowed to Joseph: (a) once; (b) twice; (c) five times.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The steward of Joseph's house said that someone had given the brothers treasure in their sacks—who: (a) Mighty Joseph; (b) the Pharaoh; (c) your God.

### Fill in the Blanks

11. "For except we had \_\_\_\_\_, surely now we had returned this second time."
12. "... Bring these men \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and make ready; for these men shall \_\_\_\_\_ with me at noon."
13. Jacob's closing statement was: "If I be \_\_\_\_\_ of my children, I am bereaved."
14. Matt 6: \_\_\_\_\_ "Give us this day our daily \_\_\_\_\_."
15. "And the men were \_\_\_\_\_ because they were brought into Joseph's house."

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

Answers will be given on next week's handout

**[ANSWERS: Lesson 01-06...** 1—False, 56-57; 2—True, 40; 3—False, 52; 4—True, 42; 5—True, 46; cf., 37:2; 6—a, 40; 7—c, 37; 8—c, 42; 9—a, 50; 10—b, 47; 11—4:8, Daniel, spirit; 12—sand, sea, 49; 13—wisdom, given; 14--41:51, firstborn, toil; 15—all lands, bread, 54].

**VI. Lessons & Applications.**

1. ...*Go again and buy us a little food* (Gen 43:2). These words from Jacob would take his family one step closer to the time when there would be a grand reunion for him with his missing son and the further development of the promise to Abraham.
2. ...*that we may live and not die...* (Gen 43:8). That the famine was indeed SORE in the land is seen here. The stores of food had reached emergency levels and something had to be done. The only relief would be given at the hands of the mistreated brother. How ironic is their situation.
3. *And take double money in your hand...*(Gen 43:12). It is quite obvious here that Jacob is an honest man and has raised his sons to be honest men. He does not want them to be falsely charged with dishonest gain regarding the money that had come back with them in their sacks. The importance of honesty is a need often mentioned in Scripture (Acts 6:3; Rom 12:17; 2 Cor 8:21; 13:7; 1 Pet 2:12). It is one of the eight things upon which the Christian's mind ought to be centered (Ph 4:8).
4. *And God Almighty give you mercy before the man...*(Gen 43:14). Perhaps this descriptive term ALMIGHTY (used here by Jacob) helps us understand where Joseph derived his exalted view of God. These were desperate times, however, for the ones with strong faith in Jehovah they need not become times of desperation. The parting words of Jacob to his sons would be used to remind them of Who it is that is ultimately in control of all matters.
5. *If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved* (Gen 43:14). A father's worst nightmare. Here is a very simple statement that every father can understand well. Whatever earthly possessions Jacob had at this time (and likely it was quite a lot), would not provide him any comfort if these precious sons did not come back to him. It is the same type of love Jesus alludes as representing the love of the Heavenly Father toward us in the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:20).
6. ... *Because of the money...*(Gen 43:18). The reaction of Joseph's brothers to the kindness about to be shown to them could only be explained in their minds by suspicion of ill will toward them. Evidently their consciences had begun to be activated by the recent events and they were fearful God's judgment was to come upon them. The discussion with their father about how many brothers there were in the family must have set their minds to turning. How much better is for there to be a clearing of guilt by handling sins in the God-ordained way? Having a right relationship with God through the remission of sins provides a wonderful peace (Ph 4:7).
7. *And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother...* (Gen 43:30). This touching scene speaks volumes about the love of Joseph. It was not only Benjamin, but all of his family that Joseph wanted to embrace and reunite. It was in God's plan that such a reunion would be provided very soon.
8. *And he washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself...*(Gen 43:31). The time had not yet come for the revelation to take place and Joseph was determined to bring this to an end in a proper way. Can we just imagine how much Joseph longed to see his father and to have all of his brothers in Egypt with him to enjoy the bountiful situation in which the Lord had placed him.
9. ...*but Benjamin's mess was five times so much as any of theirs* (Gen 43:34). The drama of Joseph's reunion with his brothers continues. It is almost like a comedy as we know the situation and think about how the other brothers were thinking. What must have been going through their minds as they tried to figure out this situation.

**VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.**

U I C H A M B E R B V D S A W R T Y U O  
 W E S D B X Z C V W A S H E D B H J K I  
 P O I K J R N M Y T G R F G B N M C W E  
 E M R F V B O H J K I B T B J Y E A R N  
 A A X C V Y O U N G E R Y H N M I O L K  
 A R Q X C V B G G T Y O H S J K L I O P  
 Z V O W E R T Y U H J T M F E G H E C V  
 A E B B O W E D X C T H V B H R J K Y U  
 S L E A E F H G B P R E F V E D V C W S  
 X L I Z A Q W S R E D R C V F R T A G B  
 B E S N H Y U E J R E F R A I N E D N J  
 M D A L O P S M J U Y H N A B G T R F T  
 V F N R E E D C X S B O W E L S W A Z X  
 S W C S N C D E R F V B G T Y I N M J U  
 I K E T L O P D H M J U Y H N B V G T R  
 F V D E C W O S C E T I M E S A Q E W S  
 W E E P C O F R V G A B B E N J A M I N  
 Q A Z X G S W I E D C L R F V B G T Y H  
 B G T Y U J F K O P I K T M N H Y T G B  
 E D F T G B H Y U J M I K H L O P I U H

[The following words are from the section of Genesis 43 which tells about the brothers visit in Joseph's house (vv. 26-34). Find the words in the puzzle above.]

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|---------------|---------------|
| 01. brought   | 02. present   |
| 03. bowed     | 04. servant   |
| 05. good      | 06. health    |
| 07. alive     | 08. obeisance |
| 09. Benjamin  | 10. younger   |
| 11. brother   | 12. bowels    |
| 13. yearn     | 14. weep      |
| 15. chamber   | 16. washed    |
| 17. refrained | 18. marvelled |
| 19. five      | 20. times     |