

# JOSEPH'S BROTHERS GO TO EGYPT — GENESIS 42

## JACOB SENDS HIS SONS TO BUY GRAIN — v.1-4

- Jacob thought that the brothers somehow had been a part of Joseph's death, and he would not trust something similar to happen to Rachel's only remaining child, Benjamin.
- Jacob noticed a strange expression among the brothers when Egypt was mentioned.
- Joseph's brothers had lived with a terrible secret for 20+ years.

## THE SONS OF JACOB BOW DOWN BEFORE JOSEPH — v.5-6

- They knew that in this time of famine, their lives literally depended on this Egyptian official.
- By sending Joseph to Egypt, they provided the way for the dreams would be fulfilled.
- This reminded Joseph of the dream he had some 20+ years before, that his brothers would bow down to him (Ge.37:5-8).



## JOSEPH INTERROGATES HIS BROTHERS AND IMPRISONS THEM — v.7-17

- Their presence in Egypt confirmed the truth of his dreams, but not their fulfillment. Joseph knew that all the family must come to Egypt under his rulership.
- The brothers are called, “spies.” A family will rarely risk almost all of its sons in a dangerous spying mission, which probably explains the brothers' statement that they were all sons of one man.
- Benjamin was his only full brother, and Joseph wanted to see him face to face.



## JOSEPH GIVES TERMS FOR THEIR RELEASE FROM PRISON — v.18-20

- After a three-day custody of the brothers, Joseph altered his plan and suggested keeping only one in prison while the other nine returned.
- His test guaranteed Benjamin's safe passage to Egypt, something Joseph had every reason to worry about in view of his brothers' treatment of himself.

## THE GUILTY CONSCIENCE OF JOSEPH'S BROTHERS AT WORK — v.21-25

- They thought this mess was before them because of the way they treated Joseph before, and their conscience was pricked. A guilty conscience sees every trouble as sin's penalty.
- When the light of God's word shines on our conscience, it is reliable and trustworthy.

## THE BROTHERS FIND THEIR MONEY RETURNED — v.25-28

- Joseph restored his brothers' money to them out of the goodness of his heart.
- The guilty consciences of the brothers are hard at work, bringing every adversity back to God.



## THEY RETURN TO JACOB AND TELL HIM THE STORY — v.29-35

- Each time Jacob's sons had left home they returned with more money but minus a brother (Ge.37; 42).
- The brothers repeat the lie again and will be proven dramatically wrong.

## JACOB'S REACTION — v.36-38

- Reuben's offer was an attempt to assure his father, but it was weak. How would killing Jacob's grandsons console Him? Choosing between losing his son (Simeon) or two grandchildren, is not much of a choice.

