

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS ROUND TWO — GENESIS 43

1. Jacob Orders The Brothers To Get More Food — v.1-2

- The famine continued, and Jacob's family needed more grain.
- The text does not say how long the first installment of grain lasted, but Simeon is in prison the whole time and Jacob has not acted!

2. Judah Convinces Jacob To Let Them Go To Egypt With Benjamin — v.3-10

- At this point in the narrative Judah will become the significant son. The leadership of Reuben has been diminished.
- Judah reminded his father that without Benjamin their long trip to Egypt would be in vain.
- Jacob scolds the brothers for telling the Egyptian leader that they had another brother.
- When the bread was eaten it was time to decide. If they do not go for bread, all of them will die, including Benjamin and Jacob.

3. Jacob Sends Them With Money And Gifts For The Egyptian Leader — v.11-14

- Jacob suggested that they take some of their best products to "the man" as a gift.
- When it was time to return to Egypt for more food, Jacob instructed them to take double the money so they could pay for the previous purchase as well as for additional grain.
- Jacob's assent to let Benjamin go ended with prayer for the brothers' and Benjamin's safety and with a cry of being a helpless victim of circumstances.

4. Joseph Invites The Brothers To Dinner — v.15-18

- The items listed would be unique to Canaan and would be sought after in Egypt.
- Perhaps they figured that the kindness from the Egyptian leader was just the prelude to an execution.

5. The Brothers Explain About The Money; Treated Well In Joseph's House — v.19-23

- It seems that Joseph had shared with the members of his own household and Egyptian associates about his personal faith in the covenant God of Abraham.
- So concerned were the brothers to protest their ignorance of the means of the money being returned and to express their desire to settle this debt (**Ge.43:20-22**) that they missed the steward's clear reference to the God of Israel.

6. Emotionally Charged Meeting With Joseph And His Brothers — v.24-30

- The brothers expected to be taken as slaves and have everything stolen (**Ge.43:18**). Yet Joseph treated them with kindness.
- Joseph was especially affected at meeting his only full brother, Benjamin, whom he last saw as only a small child.

7. The Dinner Tables Are Segregated — v.31-32

- Not only was Benjamin singled out for a special seat but also for extra food. Joseph wanted to see the other brothers' reaction.
- Joseph was trying to see if the same character traits which exploded in his own situation twenty years earlier were still present.
- Exclusivism kept the Egyptians sensitive to the social stigma attached to sharing a meal table with foreigners (**Ge.46:34**).

8. Joseph Arranges Them By Order Of Birth And Favors Benjamin — v.33-34

- The arrangement of the brothers was so amazing because they sensed it couldn't happen by chance.
- The mysterious accuracy of the seating (oldest to youngest) brought a sense of exposure to divine intervention.
- Joseph wanted to see how the brothers reacted when the younger brother (in this case, Benjamin) was favored, because they resented it so much when Joseph was favored by his father.

