

Chapter 43

Read and meditate on Genesis Chapter 43 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class

At the end of Chapter 42, Jacob's refusal to allow the sons to bring Benjamin to Egypt kept them in Canaan till the grain they had brought back was consumed. Now, without another option, he instructs them to return to Egypt.

Read Verses 1-10

Judah reminds Jacob that they cannot return without Benjamin.

1. Why would it be Judah, not Reuben, the oldest, who approaches his father? Genesis 35:22

Reuben's sin kept him separated from his father.

2. Search Scripture about how our sin separates us from our Heavenly Father.

What provision do we have today, that Reuben did not have then? How can sinful man approach the Father?

1John 1:9

Verse 6 "Israel said", not "Jacob said".

Israel (God strives)

Judah takes personal responsibility for Benjamin's safety, saying in verse 9, *"I myself will take responsibility for him! You may demand him back from me. If I do not bring him back to you and present him to you, then you can let me take the blame forever."*

What a beautiful picture of Jesus, who is the Lion from the Tribe of Judah. He took responsibility for all man when he left the Father and came down. He lived a perfect life so that He can present us back to the Father, safe, and freed. Had He failed in His earthly body, we could not enter the presence of the Lord.

Read verses 11-15

3. Why would Jacob send gifts with his sons to be given to the “Egyptian official”, on this trip?

Read Proverbs 17:8, Proverbs 21:14, Deuteronomy 10:17 Which stood out to you? Why?

Read Genesis 32:17-18

Jacob also humbled himself before his angry brother, Esau, by sending gifts.

Verse 12

“Bring double the silver” Jacob is preparing his sons for any scenario. In Chapter 42:11, they told Joseph that they are honest men. If they are to be accused, they have the funds to show that it was a mistake not a theft.

Verse 14 *“May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man, that he may release your other brother along with Benjamin. As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved.”*”

There it is! The *first* time we read Jacob mentioning the Lord, in this chapter.

Ellicott’s Commentary **“God Almighty.**—Heb., *El Shaddai*, the name by which Abraham’s covenant (Genesis 17:1) was renewed to Jacob (Genesis 35:11).”

Although he is very anxious about the situation, he finally calls on the faithful God of Promise as a prayer of protection and a blessing.

Once again, he mentions Benjamin by name. Is it possible that he assumes that the blessed lineage was to be passed down by way of Rachel, instead of Leah or the concubines?

Verses 16,17

Compare these verses to Luke 15: 22-24 What do you find?

Read Matthew 5:46

4. What other verses can you find that teach us how to treat those that have wronged us?

Joseph had already forgiven his brothers in his heart.

5. What is the danger of not forgiving people quickly? Find Scripture to back up your answer.

Read verses 18-24

Where is their faith? Israel sent them off with the blessing of El Shaddai, yet they are fearful instead of trusting.

Ellicott's Commentary "**Your God** . . . —Either Joseph had instructed his steward what to say, or he had trained his household generally in the truths of his religion. The word for "treasure" means *hidden treasure*, or as we call it a "windfall." By bringing out Simeon he would remove their worst fears, and so at last they consent to go in."

Genesis 43:26, "*When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the gift which was in their hand, and they bowed down to the ground before him.*"

Once again, the brothers are bowing to Joseph as his dream indicated. This time Benjamin joins them. The eleven sheaves.

"[*God be gracious*] Joseph, in his dignified greeting of benediction, is made to use the word *Elohim* in its general sense of "the Divine Being," as it would be used by an Egyptian.

Cf. Genesis 39:9. The Sacred Name, Jehovah, is avoided."

Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges

Verse 30,31

Joseph could not contain his emotions any longer, he had retreat to his private chamber.

6. Joseph wept. Why?

Verse 32

Matthew Poole's Commentary **"That is an abomination unto the Egyptians;** not so much from their pride and disdain of other people, as from their superstition and idolatry; partly because they worshipped the creatures which the Hebrews and others did commonly eat; and partly because of some peculiar rites and customs which they had in the dressing and ordering of their diet. Whence Herodotus affirms, that the Egyptians would not use the pots nor knives of the Grecians about their food."

Read Genesis 46:34 and Exodus 8:26

Verses 33,34

Joseph seated them around the table by their age.

"The men marvelled one at another — They were greatly surprised how he should know their respective ages, so as to place them, or cause them to sit down, exactly according to their seniority, as if he could certainly divine. Some, indeed, think they placed themselves so, according to their custom; but if so, why should particular notice be taken of it? And why should they marvel at it? This was, as it were, a preparative to the discovery of himself."

Benson Commentary

Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary

"took and sent messes ... Benjamin's mess (food portion, meal) was five times—In Egypt, as in other Oriental countries, there were, and are, two modes of paying attention to a guest whom the host wishes to honor—either by giving a choice piece from his own hand, or ordering it to be taken to the stranger. The degree of respect shown consists in the quantity, and while the ordinary rule of distinction is a double mess, it must have appeared a very distinguished mark of favor bestowed on Benjamin to have no less than five times any of his brethren.

they drank, and were merry with him—Hebrew, "drank freely" (same as So 5:1; Joh 2:10). In all these cases the idea of intemperance is excluded. The painful anxieties and cares of Joseph's brethren were dispelled, and they were at ease."

7. Search Scripture on abundance or abundant. Write a favorite.

8. What has the Lord given you in abundance?
