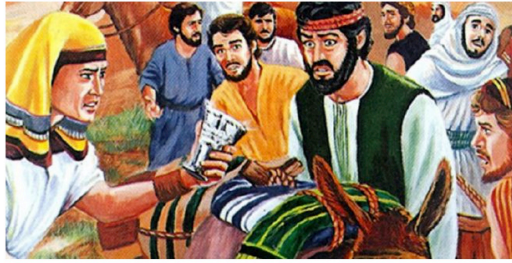


Genesis 43 & 44



Joseph's Brothers Pass The Test

Now the famine was severe in the land. And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food."

Genesis 43:1-2

But Judah spoke to him, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.' If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food. But if you will not send him, we will not go down; for the man said to us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"

Genesis 43:3-5

I myself will be surety for him; from my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever. For if we had not lingered, surely by now we would have returned this second time."

Genesis 43:9-10

Take your brother also, and arise, go back to the man. And may **God Almighty** give you mercy before the man, that he may release your other brother and Benjamin. If I am bereaved, I am bereaved!"

Genesis 17:1 (1x) Genesis 28:3 (2X)
Genesis 35:10-11 (3X)
Genesis 43:13-14 (4X)

God has a way of dethroning us, taking all of us to the end of ourselves. Making us realize that He is Almighty and we don't have to have everything figured out. And that being Almighty, God is more than capable to take care of everything and everyone.

El Shaddai, Almighty God who can do anything, I place my life, my family, in your hands, your will. My desire is that you would grant us mercy in the eyes of the Lord of the land, that he may release both Simeon and Benjamin.

But God,
whatever the outcome,
even if I lose my child,
so be it.
Whatever happens,
I choose to be Israel,
one governed by God.

When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Take these men to my home, and slaughter an animal and make ready; for these men will dine with me at noon." Then the man did as Joseph ordered, and the man brought the men into Joseph's house.

Genesis 43:16-17

God not only had to take the family of Israel out of the corrupt environment of Canaan, but He had to put them among an ethnically separated people who would not often intermarry or mingle with them.

God simply sent Joseph on ahead to make the arrangements.

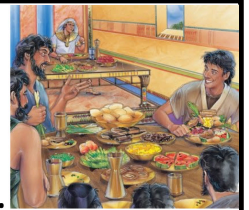
Reference: Gen 43:31-32 / Gen 46:27

And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth; and the men looked in astonishment at one another.

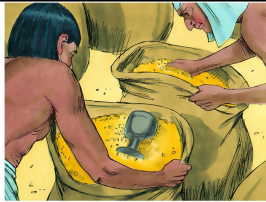
Genesis 43:33



Then he took servings to them from before him, but Benjamin's serving was five times as much as any of theirs. So they drank and were merry with him.



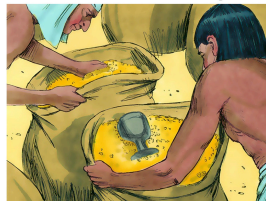
Genesis 43:34



Also put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his grain money." So he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken. Gen 44:2

and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city.

Genesis 44:11-13



But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so; the man in whose hand the cup was found, he shall be my slave. And as for you, go up in peace to your father."

Genesis 44:17

But if you take this one also from me, and calamity befalls him, you shall bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave.'

"Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad's life,

Genesis 44:29-30

it will happen, when he sees that the lad is not with us, that he will die. So your servants will bring down the gray hair of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave. For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father forever.'

Genesis 44:31-32

Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?"

Genesis 44:33-34