

**Passage:** Genesis 43

**Title:** The Forging of a Nation (a man/women)

**Summary:** The Lord continues to break and remake these 10 brothers into the men of God they need to be, as they will be the foundation of the great Nation Israel. God is forging them, and fashioning them, so He may do something great with them and in them. God does the same today, for every one of us, and it is a high calling, but worth it all..... so that God may be glorified! Join us as we study a passage that is not just about the sons of Jacob, but each and every one of us.

### **Genesis more than history book / It is His-story**

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

**Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### **Outline:**

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### **Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers**

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

### **Joseph not Line of Messiah**

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

### **Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good**

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

*(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) *"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."*

### **Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well**

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, let's go for it, let's cut the lines, put the sails up, and let's live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, let's go for it, let's not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) *And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

### **Last Study / Dream Passes / Joseph Tests their Hearts – Any Repentance**

In chapter 42 we saw Joseph's dream come to pass as his 10 brothers (Benjamin not included) came to Egypt to buy grain for the famine was severe in all the lands. His brothers bow down before him just as he had dreamed some 20 years prior. Joseph then starts to work on his brothers to see where their heart was at, were they as mean and callous some 20 years later, as they were when they sold him into slavery. Was his brother Benjamin all right, how was his father Jacob, was he still alive. Was there any repentance in their hearts for the thing they had done to him?

### **Works Them / Spies / Imprisoned / Money in the Sacks**

So Joseph works them, he accuses them of being spies to start this drawing out process. They say we are not, we are sons of one father, and we have 2 other brothers, one is at home, and the other is not. Joseph cast them all into prison, but after 3 days of thinking about it he says ok one will stay here (Simeon), and the rest will go home, and when you return for more grain your younger brother had better be with you or else I know you are spies. Then just to stir it up a little more, Joseph has his servant put their money they brought to buy the grain, back into the sacks of grain, so it makes them look as thieves.

### **Sons Released / Jacob – Gen 45**

When they return they tell Jacob all that happened, and Jacob says all these things are against me. As we had said last study, Jacob had no idea that all things were working together for good. Jacob's faith was weak, he forgot all the past promises of God, he had no idea that chapter 45 was coming!

### **Outline: Genesis 43**

- The Brothers Force to Face Their Past; back to Egypt (43:1-7)
- Judah's Change; Put the Guilt Upon Me (43:8-10)
- Jacob Has to Let Benjamin Go; Has to Trust the Lord (43:11-14)
- The Brothers Brought to Joseph's House; Their Guilt Follows Them (43:15-25)
- The Brothers Dine Together; Joseph Weeps (43:26-34)

### **Prayer**

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

**Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)** <sup>12</sup> *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

### **The Brothers Force to Face Their Past; Back to Egypt (43:1-7)**

**(Genesis 43:1 NKJV) Now the famine was severe in the land.**

**(Genesis 43:2 NKJV) 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."**

### **Face the Past**

God is forcing them to face their past there was grain anywhere else in the world they would have went there and we would have had a story as they would win in a different direction. And I'm thankful I think God does that to us puts us into a place we have no choice but to face our past and deal with our past so that we can be set free from our past. He chastens them (us) because they/we are sons/daughters.

*(Hebrews 12:5 NKJV) And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*

*(Hebrews 12:6 NKJV) For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."*

*(Hebrews 12:7 NKJV) If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?*

*(Hebrews 12:8 NKJV) But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.*

**(Genesis 43:3 NKJV) But Judah spoke to him, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"**

**(Genesis 43:4 NKJV) "If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food.**

**(Genesis 43:5 NKJV) "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.'"**

### **Not for Simeon**

So they aren't going back for Simeon, but because they are hungry. Some family!

### **The Man – Missed their Brethren**

Again, they call Joseph the man, they did not recognize him as their brother, as the one who would preserve their life, their salvation; just as the people of Israel have missed their brother, their Messiah.

### **Mean Guy / Starve or Starve**

These boys are like trying to tell Dad, you just don't get it. This man's serious. We're not gonna slip in and slip out. He was serious, and you need to be serious, and no. That no Benjamin, no food, no food, no life, we all die.

The boys are saying no Benjamin, no trip. Dad this guy was mean, he was tough, he is not messing around, if we return without Benjamin not only won't we get grain, we will be killed or imprisoned as spies. So the situation is this, stay there at home and watch each other starve to death, or go to Egypt without Benjamin and get thrown in prison and watch each other starve to death, or watch each other get killed.

### **Impossible Situations / No Family Prayer / Jacob – angles – wrestles – descendants**

You know Christian sometimes God puts us in situations that seem impossible, He does so that we will see Him work, so we will have no choice but to trust in Him.

Sadly what we won't read in this chapter is the family saying let us pray, let us seek the Lord, let us trust the Lord. Not even Jacob who had seen the angels ascending and descending while the Lord stood on top of the ladder, even after he had wrestled with the Lord, even after God promised him the land and to make his descendants number the stars in the sky.

### **Jacob's faith Weak / What happened to Jacob? / We Need Each Other – Stay Strong**

Jacob's faith was weak, what had happened over the years to weaken it we do not know, but his lack of faith is evident here. Christian, we need each other, we really do. We need each other to keep us strong:

*(Proverbs 27:17 NKJV) As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.*

## **To Speak Wisdom**

To speak wisdom into our lives:

*(Proverbs 11:14 NKJV) Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.*

## **Intercede in Prayer**

To do battle for each other in the spiritual realm through intercessory prayer:

*(Ephesians 6:17 NKJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

*(Ephesians 6:18 NKJV) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;*

*(Ephesians 6:19 NKJV) and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,*

*(Ephesians 6:20 NKJV) for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

## **Thank You / Accountable - Strong**

I thank each and every one of you, for you keep me strong, you keep me accountable before the Lord, and I know how you are praying for me and my family. Thank You, and may the Lord richly bless you and your family for that.

**(Genesis 43:6 NKJV) And Israel said, "Why did you deal so wrongfully with me as to tell the man whether you had still another brother?"**

## **Jacob Pours Heart Out**

Back in 43:6, Jacob poured out his heart. Jacob pours his heart out saying, if anything happens to Benjamin, my heart just can't take it. That'll be the end of me. I barely survive losing Joseph. I can't believe I'm still alive and my heart is beating, the pain of losing one of my sons in such a way, to be torn to shreds by... a wild animal. 20 some years ago, I've been hurting for 20 years. I haven't even healed. I still just barely make it day by day and now the thought that something would happen to another son. Just take my life right now because my heart's gonna fail me. And the thought of it. And you know what we have here? It's more than a narrative of a story. It's the heart of Jacob before his sons, that still doesn't break them of what they did. Not just the Joseph. But to Jacob, and not just to Jacob, But Benjamin, the brother. had to live all those years without a big brother of the same mother. And here Jacob, heart, broken, laid out, bare, and these boys still don't have any remorse for the lie that they told their father.

*(Genesis 42:36 NKJV) And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me: Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin*

**(Genesis 43:7 NKJV) But they said, "The man asked us pointedly about ourselves and our family, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?' And we told him according to these words. Could we possibly have known that he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'"**

## **Give us a Break / It happens to Us / Don't Beat Self Up**

Hey dad how did we know that the guy was going to say that, give us a break. The man down there is a nutcase. I've been there, I've done things that I thought seemed so right, and then they blew up in my face and I'm going I wish I just hadn't done anything; but truly how could we know? We do that to our friends and family, but truly who knew it would turn out badly. Christian don't beat yourself up, do your best and commit the rest; and should it turn badly say Lord you knew, therefore I know you will use this.

And here, is a rare version of mind reading between men, 'cause usually mind reading only happens between the husband and the wife. Saying, How couldn't you know that he was gonna ask that question about your brother that would set this whole scenario up? Why didn't you know that's what he was thinking? And again, it's very rare that it happens between men only. It's usually something that we see demonstrated between husbands and wives, the expectation of mind reading.

## **Judah's Change; Put the Guilt Upon Me (43:8-10)**

**(Genesis 43:8 NKJV) Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones.**

**(Genesis 43:9 NKJV) "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.**

**(Genesis 43:10 NKJV) "For if we had not lingered, surely by now we would have returned this second time."**

### **Someday – Surety will Come through Judah / Jesus – Mission Accomplished – None Lost**

Verse 8, here we see Judah is beginning to be broken down. As it was he who said, Let's sell him, now here he is willing to say, If anyone's gonna bear the burden of death in this manner, then I will step forth, and I will take that burden, and let death come upon me, so that others can be free. And here, we see a beautiful picture in that, through Judah, will come the Lion of Judah, our Messiah, who will step forth, and say, If anyone's gonna die, so that others can live, it shall be me are greater than Judah, Jesus Christ.

Someday there would come One from the lineage of Judah would do that very thing; Jesus would come from the lineage of the Judah, and He would become the surety for every man, He would assure that all who would come would stand before the Father safely. Jesus took the blame forever, the guilt and the shame, yet He would say "Mission Complete":

*(John 3:16 NKJV) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

*(John 17:11 NKJV) "Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are."*

*(John 17:12 NKJV) "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled."*

### **First Rueben now Judah – Willing to Step Up<sup>1</sup>**

First it was Rueben saying I will risk it, not it is Judah, and really in the end all are willing to be put in harms ways, and God is bringing what was once a divided brotherhood and bringing them into one.

For God is forging a Nation.

It reminds me of God forging our Nation. Have you ever heard the story of the Speedwell?

*I think everybody has heard of the Mayflower, but how many have heard of the Speedwell? You see originally the Pilgrims set out on two ships - the Mayflower and the Speedwell. Both were deemed sea worthy when they were looking to hire ship and crew. The Pilgrims set sail for the New World on August 5, 1620 on the Speedwell and the Mayflower, but only 3 days into the voyage they had to turn back because the Speedwell was taking on water through the seams of the ship's haul. So they caulked the seams and set sail again one week later. Once again they had to turn around for the same problem. When back in port the shipwrights in England did an intensive search to find the loose seam. They crawled along every inch of the ships haul holding a candle up to the seam. The method in those days was that if there was a gap in the seam, the air from outside would cause the candle to flicker or go out, but after a thorough search they still could not find a gap. Obviously, there was no water coming in the seams while at port, or else they would not have needed the candles.*

*The resultant of this was that the Pilgrims had to abandon the two ship plan and all squeeze in together on the one ship - the Mayflower. This hardship caused several of the original passengers to become discouraged and decide not to go, some questioned whether God was really in this plan or not, and then there were those who just couldn't handle the hardships and difficulties they had encountered. But there is another explanation: God was using the Speedwell's problem to separate the wheat from the chaff. As William Stoughton later put it: "God sifted a whole nation, that He might send choice grain into this wilderness."*

*About 20 of them willingly dropped out. William Bradford wrote, "Like Gideon's army this small number was divided, as if the Lord, by this work of His Providence, thought these few were still too many for the great work He had to do."*

*If God wanted to unify the group He could not have picked a better way. The Pilgrims lived on the Mayflower in what is called the "tween deck". The tween deck is the deck between the top of the ship and the cargo hold. All 102 Pilgrims had to cram into a space equivalent to the size of a volleyball court. To make matters worse there was no fresh air or light (all hatches had to be battened-down due to stormy weather). The duration of this confinement was 66 days.*

*Distance isolates people, confinement brings them closer together. The Lord prepared the Pilgrims to stick together before they ever set foot on American soil knowing full well that if they tried to live apart in the New World they would fall one by one, either to Indian attacks, starvation, or the extremities of the cold winters. By the time the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, they were united as one. We can see all the way back then the great American saying that separates us from all other nations, "United We Stand, Divided We Fall".*

### **Jacob Has to Let Benjamin Go; Has to Trust the Lord (43:11-14)**

**(Genesis 43:11 NKJV) And their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: Take some of the best fruits of the land in your vessels and carry down a present for the man; a little balm and a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds."**

**(Genesis 43:12 NKJV) "Take double money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was an oversight.**

### **Paying Honor / Certain Things are Worth the Money**

Verse 11, Jacob's sending forth a gift of luxury items that apparently... he is stewarding well. But they did not have to break into, to eat or use. And some will say he's trying to manipulate the situation, but historically, through time, even down the street to the White House, we see people coming to visit dignitaries, and leaders, and rulers from other countries, they bring gifts from their country as a means to give honor, and say, I see you for your position. And this is my acknowledgment of this gift to you for who you are.

And so, I don't see Jacob trying to connive the situation. He sends double money, which, uh, not a bad plan there, 'cause you never know what the current price of food is, and Jacob's, what good's the money, if we all die, if we need to spend whatever the price is, spend it.

And I think there's something there for us, as believers as well. That, you know, there's just certain things that life and death's on the line, and I may not be talking about food... per se, but we have to be willing to spend... precious resources, trust that the Lord will provide and replenish for things such as life and death of the gospel. to the outer parts of the world. Much is given, much is required. And I feel strongly that not only does America have the best Bible training to send missionaries, whether short term or long term. We also have the greatest financial means to do such a thing. And I don't believe that we will ever find ourselves lacking, whether individually or as a church, and I commend this church for our involvement in missions, and all that the Lord does through this ministry that will have eternal impact on it amazingly.

**(Genesis 43:13 NKJV) "Take your brother also, and arise, go back to the man.**

**(Genesis 43:14 NKJV) "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!"**

### **God Almighty**

I think one of the revealing words that show us that Jacob is not trying to connive, that he's being governed by God in the manner of sending the blessings of the luxury gifts to Joseph, is that God calls him Israel. in this scenario, whereas the last time we saw Jacob, in our last chapter, he was acting totally like a Jacob. Not trusting the Lord, thinking all things are against them, and putting the blame on everybody, rather than looking at the situation, saying, This is the situation, I can complain about it, and try to manipulate it, or I can rest in it, and settle into it. Then my God sees me, and that he is on the move, and that there is a promise that he has given me, that I will have an inheritance of children, that will bless the whole world, and outnumber the stars in the sky. And I think that's what he's starting to do here in this passage.

And I like Jacob putting back into play, God Almighty, is he who he's trusting. He who is on the throne. And though this man may be second in command of all the world right now, there's still a God almighty who's greater than he. And I'm gonna trust in God Almighty. And him and him alone. And if he chooses to move the heart of the second in command, he'll do it. And the second in command chooses to move his hand against us. He'll have to get through God Almighty first, and there's again another great word for us, that we can put man in such a powerful position, and forget that there's a God Almighty between us and that person, whether that be relationship, or a boss, or a coach, or someone who's just harsh in your life, and they seem that they have the power, you need to always remember that you have God Almighty in between you and that person, and then you can rest. And call upon the name of the Lord God Almighty.

Remember this, there is a God Almighty between you and the devil, there is a God Almighty between you and that problem you have, there is a God Almighty between you and anything and everything..... because You are His!

### **Jacob had to Let Benjamin Go**

Verse 14 Jacob yields, and he has to let Benjamin go. He can't hold on to him forever. Because in the end, he would have suffocated Benjamin to the point of death and starvation. He has to let him go. And

Benjamin willingly wants to go, let's not miss that. He wants to be the man he wants to be, a man, and he's not saying, No, dad, don't let them take me. We see that Benjamin was willing to go. And here's a word for parents. All of us. It's so hard. But there is a place and a time that we have to let our children go. We have to let them go and be their own man and be their own woman, and let them go and live, even in what may be risky, dangerous. because we must be careful that we don't suffocate them, and starve them out to a place of a famine that they die, because we... protect them, and overprotect them to the point that they are stunted, and cannot. go out on their own. So, parents, there's a time. And it's not when they're 30. It's not when they're 40. is when God says, it's their time now, let them go, and trust me that I have them. It's not easy. It's not easy. And I'm not saying it is. But we have to train them up in the way they should go and trust the Lord, their lives into his hand. Regardless of the heartbreak, it could cause us.

[Proverbs 3:5-6 \(NKJV\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

### **The Brothers Brought to Joseph's House; Their Guilt Follows Them (43:15-25)**

**(Genesis 43:15 NKJV) So the men took that present and Benjamin, and they took double money in their hand, and arose and went down to Egypt; and they stood before Joseph.**

**(Genesis 43:16 NKJV) 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."**

### **Slaughter**

Imagine the boys hearing Joseph. As he speaks, we get the whole sentence. They're hearing it word by word, and it starts with, take these men and slay. They must have dropped in their hearts that they were doomed.

Now mind you Joseph is second in command in all of Egypt so therefore he's living in the palace he has servants we'll see he has other dignitaries eating with him these boys no doubt had to be thinking we are now being made into slaves and servants

**(Genesis 43:17 NKJV) Then the man did as Joseph ordered, and the man brought the men into Joseph's house.**

**(Genesis 43:18 NKJV) Now the men were afraid because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, "It is because of the money, which was returned in our sacks the first time, that we are brought in, so that he may make a case against us and fall upon us, to take us as slaves with our donkeys."**

### **Guilty Conscience – Are Suspicious People**

The guilt still bothers them even though it doesn't say that they feel guilty but what they clearly see is their suspicious and it was Shakespeare who said, "[suspicion haunts the guilty mind](#)".

These guys are guilty and when you are guilty every angle looks suspicious because it's where you live and we know that perception is reality to a man or a woman whether it is the right perception or wrong it becomes the reality, and they are suspicious of everyone because they think everyone is like them.

### **We Think God is Mad at us -Seeking Revenge / Man's Thoughts / God's Grace - Backslider**

Ohh no, we are going to his house because he is going to sell us, he is angry with us. How people still have this mindset about the greater than Joseph, Jesus. They think I have blown it badly, and now God is going to get me, He is going to inflict me to get even, He is angry with me. That is not the Lord, for He is merciful and loving, He isn't mad at you, He doesn't want to hurt you, He is not looking for revenge. That is so much how we are, that is why we think that is what is going to happen to us. God is so far above that, He loves the sinner, His grace abounds. Don't let those thoughts keep you from approaching Him; His arms are open to receive you. Listen, even if you are backslidden, for God says that He still loves the backslider. God doesn't respond like we do, although that may be how we would react when we are offended, not God. God is Love!

[\(Romans 5:20 NKJV\) Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,](#)

*(Hosea 14:4 NKJV) "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from him.  
(Hosea 14:5 NKJV) I will be like the dew to Israel; He shall grow like the lily, And lengthen his roots like Lebanon.  
(Hosea 14:6 NKJV) His branches shall spread; His beauty shall be like an olive tree, And his fragrance like Lebanon.  
(Hosea 14:7 NKJV) Those who dwell under his shadow shall return; They shall be revived like grain, And grow like a vine. Their  
scent shall be like the wine of Lebanon.*

*(1 John 4:8 NKJV) He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.  
(1 John 4:9 NKJV) In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that  
we might live through Him.  
(1 John 4:10 NKJV) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

**(Genesis 43:19 NKJV) When they drew near to the steward of Joseph's house, they talked with him at the door of the house,  
(Genesis 43:20 NKJV) and said, "O sir, we indeed came down the first time to buy food;  
(Genesis 43:21 NKJV) "but it happened, when we came to the encampment, that we opened our sacks, and there, each man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight; so we have brought it back in our hand.  
(Genesis 43:22 NKJV) "And we have brought down other money in our hands to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks."  
(Genesis 43:23 NKJV) But he said, "Peace be with you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.**

### **Shalom**

The interpreter was speaking in Hebrew so he would have said the word Shalom and God sinned in the message to them that God sees them.

### **Joseph Doesn't Know Family Wealth or Poverty / Simeon becomes a Living Map**

By the way, as we see Joseph putting the money back in the sack, what we know is, he doesn't know the financial situation of the family. And he doesn't know if they've spent all their riches on getting through the famine. He doesn't know they're bankrupt or wealthy, but what he knows is, there's only one place in the world that's gonna have this grain, and it's right here in Egypt. And if they don't have money, there ain't no coming back to Egypt. to buy grain, if this was the last of their money. So by putting the money back into the sack, Joseph is ensuring that they have to return and will return for... this... drama of redemption.

And look at this by keeping one of the brothers as well. He also... has at his fingertips a living map, that if he really needed to, he knows that the... journey is about a six week round trip, and so he knows how much grain he's given them. So he has a pretty good guess of how long it should be before they're pinched into this place. But if he needs to, he's been feeding... Simeon, he can pull him out of the prison and say, You're my living map. Take me to where the family is. And I will go see them myself. And I can bring food. I can bring rescue, equipment. I can make sure that they're taking care of, even if... they come to some foolish conclusion not to come back. Joseph is just sitting there, pondering, seeking the Lord, and I believe he's getting multiple words of wisdom and knowledge from the Lord, for the situation. And I think there's a great place for us, whatever our situation, to just sit and ponder before the Lord. Scenarios and saying... Lord, I don't wanna just come the one conclusion, 'cause there might be other avenues that you want me to consider for the situation that I'm in, whatever it is. And for you younger youth, it might be something about, you might have your dream college, that you fail the Lord's calling you to, but you might do well to have your second and third pick lined up as well.

### **Here's Brother**

And now here is your brother also.

**(Genesis 43:24 NKJV) So the man brought the men into Joseph's house and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys feed.  
(Genesis 43:25 NKJV) Then they made the present ready for Joseph's coming at noon, for they heard that they would eat bread there.**

## **Donkeys**

Look we even get the details that they fed the donkeys which we would go why give us that detail and it's because it's important God is providing for the donkeys so that the food that's heading back the Canaan would just be for the people and not for the people in these donkeys.

## **The Brothers Dine Together; Joseph Weeps (43:26-34)**

**(Genesis 43:26 NKJV)** And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed down before him to the earth.

**(Genesis 43:27 NKJV)** Then he asked them about their well-being, and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"

## **Thinking of Dad**

How is dad? Joseph wanting to hear that dad is ok. Joseph a picture of Jesus, always thinking of the Father. We will eat later, first tell me how dad is.

*(John 4:34 NKJV) Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."*

**(Genesis 43:28 NKJV)** And they answered, "Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive." And they bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves.

**(Genesis 43:29 NKJV)** Then he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your younger brother of whom you spoke to me?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son."

**(Genesis 43:30 NKJV)** Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep. And he went into his chamber and wept there.

## **Ever Weep Like This – God Catches it in a Bottle**

Have you ever wept like this? For Joseph it's 20 years since he held his little brother in his arms he had just been a baby a toddler Joseph the Big Brother no doubt Joseph doting over his baby brother Benjamin probably called him Benny. Heart aching because Jacob was robbed of Joseph and Benjamin was robbed of his Big Brother who no doubt loved and cared for him.

Joseph amazes me with his grace and mercy as he has these 10 before him And can forgive them as he will because like the rest of us we'd be saying how could you look at what you've done to me and what you've done to your very own father but Joseph trusted the Lord and the word given to him even through all of these tears

Imagine all the years in Potiphar's palace and in the prison pit and the memories and the wishing to hold Benjamin in his arms again to hear him laughing to feel his hug to enjoy the utter joy of Benjamin holding his big brother's hand and looking up to him as the Big Brother. Imagine Benjamin coming to run and jump in to bed after a scary dream or a howling wolf or storm because Benjamin doesn't have a mother she passed away at birth all that he has is Joseph as his father would have all the other children no one would have been more intimately involved in Benjamin's life but Joseph they would have shared a tent together and now here Benjamin had to be all alone for 20 years period

Joseph weeps and thus why he had to remove himself a 40 year old weeping and we have to ask have we ever wept like that and if you have know this that God caught every one of those tears that you dropped and stored them in his bottle and that you have never cried alone for the God of all comfort is always near to us when we shed tears.

*Psalm 56:8 You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?*

## **Joseph Weeps / Jesus Running to You**

Joseph holds back his emotions after some 20 years of not seeing his little brother. Joseph a picture of Jesus Christ, and do you know how He longs to see you face to face, to hold you physically. Jesus won't be sitting and saying there you are when we meet Him face to face, I believe the story of the Prodigal son is not just for a backslider repenting, but when we take our last breath on earth and come into the physical presence of the Father. God loves you, He is crazy about you, He cannot stop thinking about you, do you realize that:

*(Luke 15:20 NKJV) "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.*

*(Psalms 139:17 NKJV) How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!*

*(Psalms 139:18 NKJV) If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.*

*(1 John 3:1 NKJV) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.*

*(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

**(Genesis 43:31 NKJV) Then he washed his face and came out; and he restrained himself, and said, "Serve the bread."**

**(Genesis 43:32 NKJV) So they set him a place by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves; because the Egyptians could not eat food with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians.**

**(Genesis 43:33 NKJV) 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.**

### **Egyptians Eat at Own Table**

There were three tables, and Joseph had his own table. The other Egyptian guests had a table for themselves and then his brothers all had their table. It would be an abomination for an Egyptian to eat with a non-Egyptian at the same table

### **1 in 40 Million**

When Joseph set them at the table, he set them according to their age around the table. They looked at each other and thought, what is going on here? Do you know what the chances are of setting eleven brothers according to age around the table? Thirty-nine million nine hundred and forty-one thousand! He had about one chance in forty million to set them in the order according to age. That freaked them out. At this point, they evidently figured that this guy has some divining knowledge. In fact Joseph led them to believe that he had the capacity of divination. As we get into the next chapter we will find it quite fascinating as the plot thickens. Joseph, first of all, passes off the fact, don't you know that a fellow in my position is able to divine. They no doubt believed it, because of the order around the table and the fact that he was able to set them according to age.

**(Genesis 43:34 NKJV) 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.**

### **5x Blessings / How will You React**

Now it could be that Joseph was looking to see if the same kind of jealousy and bitterness that they had towards him was also manifested towards Benjamin. This could have been sort of a test to see if they were still the old guys that they used to be, bitterly jealous of the younger brother, who was obviously favored by the father. You know you can see a person heart when people around them prosper. It is easy to weep with those who are hurting, but sometimes it is hard to rejoice when others are receiving abundant blessing. You will know a deep work has happened in you when you can be as happy for a person when great things happen for them, when they are getting 5 times as much as you are. For some, they get upset, even bitter, why are they being blessed, they don't deserve it as much as I do. I pray harder, I serve longer, why not me. You will know what is in your heart when people are getting blessed around you, and you are not.

*So they drank and were merry with him.*

### **What a Mess of a Family**

Look at the mess of this family. Arguing, deceiving. Backbiting, slandering. It's a messed up family, and God lays it all out. On the pages before us. so that we can look at it and go, and you use them. Not only did you use them. You made them into a great nation. If what you can do in them, surely, you can do in me, and my family, and or, if you came from a messed out family, it surely declares in this passage that you're not excluded. Or removed from being used greatly by the Lord. He puts us all, lays it bare on the

page before us. to show his great mercy, his long suffering, and how he can take, and work, and do a mighty work in anyone who's willing to hang out through it all to the end with him.

### **Peter:**

We see the Lord breaking and forging the man Peter

"Depart from me; for I am a sinful man"

- Luke 5:8 (KJV) – "When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

"I do not know the man"

- (Peter's denial of Jesus)

Matthew 26:72 (KJV) – "And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man."

Matthew 26:74 (KJV) – "Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew." (Also found in Mark 14:71 and Luke 22:57.)

"Though all men shall be offended... I will never be offended"

- Matthew 26:33 (KJV) – "Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended."

Mark 14:29 (KJV) – "But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I."

"Peter, do you love me? Feed my sheep"

- John 21:15–17 (KJV) –

"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep."

### **Paul:**

We see the Lord breaking and forging the man Paul

Least of the Apostles

- 1 Corinthians 15:9 (KJV)

"For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."

Least of All Saints

- Ephesians 3:8 (KJV)

"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."

Chief of Sinners

- 1 Timothy 1:15 (KJV)

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

### **For me personally**

For me personally I thought I would move the world my dreams were as such the God might be glorified through my words and actions and ministry but as God breaks and forges a man he brought me to the place all that I want is you Lord Jesus if I can get up and spend the day with you and fellowship with your heart and be soaked in your love I'm a happy and content man and then if you choose to send me to do

anything else I'll be happy and content because I get to do it with you. And Joseph God had brought him to one thing and all those years in prison and it was his fellowship with the Lord and he could be at peace in everything and anything for it wasn't about dreams and greatness and proven to his brothers and family that he was right but Joseph and Peter and Paul all came to the one thing and it was the one great thing all they had was Jesus and that was enough

Just Give Me Jesus.

### **Outline: Genesis 43**

- The Brothers Force to Face Their Past; back to Egypt (43:1-7)
- Judah's Change; Put the Guilt Upon Me (43:8-10)
- Jacob Has to Let Benjamin Go; Has to Trust the Lord (43:11-14)
- The Brothers Brought to Joseph's House; Their Guilt Follows Them (43:15-25)
- The Brothers Dine Together; Joseph Weeps (43:26-34)

### **Prayer**

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

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