

Chapters 42- 43

- **A lot of text to cover**
- **Oz stranded Island story**
  - **Cast away**



A man was stranded on a deserted island. He figured he would spend the rest of his life there so he made the best of it. He build an elaborate house and put all he had into it.

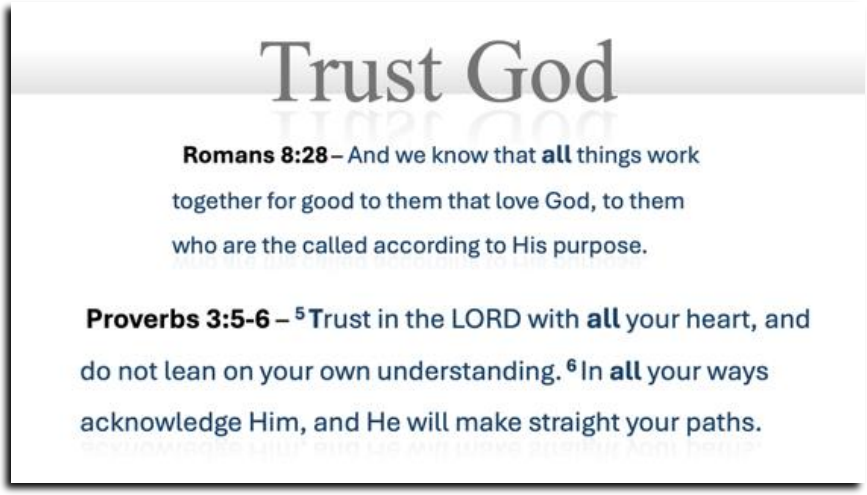




One day, when he went for a run, he looked back to see his whole work burning to the ground!



Afterward, he looked up sadly at his life's work, now destroyed. A boat pulled up to rescue him.



- Romans 8:28 – And we know that **all** things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
- Proverbs 3:5-6 – **5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. **6** In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

- **God's sovereignty on display**

- We will see how guilt imprisoned the brothers, as much as, if not more than, Joseph's physical imprisonment.
    - They were reaping what they sowed – A theme throughout Genesis
- We saw how God used Joseph's trials to prepare him for this work
- We will see the camera shift to the brothers and Jacob both trusting in their own understanding and not make room for God's sovereign work
- We will see the love of Joe and his testing and proving, which lead to true reconciliation

42:1 When **Jacob learned that there was grain** for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" **2** And he said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die."

- **Jacob learned that there was grain** –
    - This is like faith – a picture of saving faith
        - He heard there was a way to be saved
        - Then he acted.
        - Note, he didn't debate whether it was true or not.
        - Jesus saves from the wrath to come, so act/ believe on Him

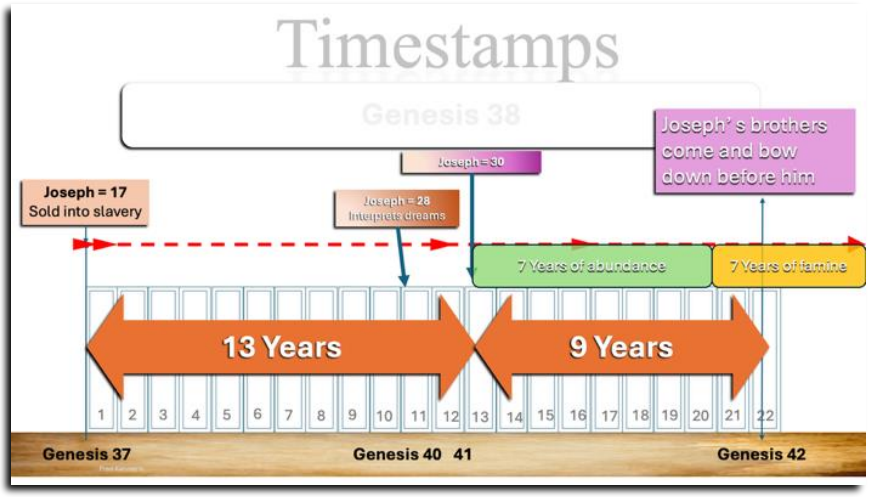
3 So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. **4** But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers, for he feared that harm might happen to him.

- Joseph's brother – Benjamin (Son of my right hand), Rachel's (His true love) son
    - Favoritism has wreaked havoc in this family.
        - Isaac wanted Esau to receive the promise and blessing, despite God's word about Jacob.

[5] Thus the sons of Israel came to buy among the others who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

[6] Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and **bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground**. [7] Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. “Where do you come from?” he said. They said, “From the land of Canaan, to buy food.”

- **Bowed –** Look at this! Twenty-two years after Joe first dreamed it as a 17-year-old kid, the dream has finally come true!
- **Time stamp**



[8] And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. [9] And Joseph remembered the **dreams that he had dreamed** of them. And he said to them, “You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land.” [10] They said to him, “No, my lord, your servants have come to buy food. [11] We are all sons of one man. **We are honest men**. Your servants have never been spies.”

- **We are honest men** – We know this statement is not true

[12] He said to them, "No, it is the nakedness of the land that you have come to see." [13] And they said, "We, your servants, are **twelve brothers,** the sons of one man in the land of Canaan, and behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and **one is no more**." [14] But Joseph said to them, "It is as I said to you. You are spies. [15] By this you **shall be tested**: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here.

- **shall be tested** – Joe wants to see if they have truly changed, or if they are the same

[16] Send one of you, and let him **bring your brother**, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. Or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies." [17] And he put them all together in custody for **three days.**

- **Bring your brother** – He wants to see Ben
- He is also testing whether they'll care for Ben, unlike how they failed to care for him.

[18] **On the third day** Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, **for I fear God**: [19] if you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined where you are in custody, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households, [20] and **bring your youngest brother to me**. So your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so.

- **On the third day** – pointing to the third day of Christ
    - Life, resurrection
    - The Torah repetitively shows life from death on the third day. Genesis 22:4; 40:20-23; 2 Kings 20:8; Ezra 6:15; Esther 5:1; Hosea 6:2.
        - Remember Abraham & three days with Isaac
        - This points to Jesus, raised to life again on the third day –Acts 10:40
- Do this and **you will live…**–

- Up to this point, they probably thought that this could be **it** for them; they were finished.
    - Three days in the clink!
- Now they have a new lease on life, if they follow Joseph's rules (law)
- **Note:** his rule (law) says, "come back with your brother"
    - All of you come back to me.

- **For I fear God** – Joseph always gives testimony **to God**
    - It is such a blessing to be around believers who constantly recognize God in all they do.
    - Joe is a man who considers God in his actions.
        - We can be people who do the same.
    - This could also be seen as a clue he is giving them because no Egyptian is going to say that.

21 Then they said to one another, "In truth **we are guilty** concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us." **22** And Reuben answered them, "Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood." **23** They did not know that Joseph understood them, for there was an interpreter between them.

- **We are guilty –** This is a great 1st step
    - Calling it the way it is
        - True repentance starts with this
    - Imagine the prison of guilt they had
    - Judah tried to get away from it but could not – Genesis 38
- Now there comes a reckoning for his blood – This is not what they think/ see
    - This is God working to save them through Joseph, not paying a penalty
- **Do you see Romans 8:28** as the lens for this whole story?
    - Romans 8:28 – And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

- Joseph understood – this must have been very hard for him to see that they knew they were wrong for so long.

24 Then he turned away from them and wept. And he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes. **25** And Joseph gave orders to fill their

- **Simeon** – was the 2nd son of Jacob, not the 1st.
  - (Tiny hint) – Simeon (**2nd**) was imprisoned so Reuben (**1st**) and the **brothers** could go free.
  - Cain & Able
    - Abel (2nd) died because of Cain's sin

bags with grain, and to replace every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. This was done for them.

26 Then they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed. **27** And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money in the mouth of his sack. **28** He said to his brothers, "My money has been put back; here it is in the mouth of my sack!" At this their hearts failed them, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, "What is this that God has done to us?"

- Notice – they understand that God is involved in this somehow.
  - However, it is not as they see it.

29 When they came to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying, **30** "The man, the lord of the land, spoke roughly to us and took us to be spies of the land. **31** But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we have never been spies. **32** We are twelve brothers, sons of our father. One is no more, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.'

[33] Then the man, the lord of the land, said to us, 'By this I shall know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me, and take grain for the famine of your households, and go your way. [34] Bring your youngest brother to me. Then I shall know that you are not spies but honest men, and I will deliver your brother to you, and you shall trade in the land.'"

[35] As they emptied their sacks, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack. And when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were afraid. [36] And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin. All this has come against me."

- All this has come against me." (Everything is against) Opposite Romans 8:28
- The brothers and now Jacob see this as punishment
    - They don't pray and inquire of God at all during this entire episode.
    - They do not leave room for God.
    - It is not true that everything is against him
        - God is for Jacob
        - God is for you!

[37] Then Reuben said to his father, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you. Put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you." [38] But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left. If harm should happen to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol."

- Kill my two sons – Really? He is trying way too hard to get Pop's favor.
    - As if this would solve anything.
    - Notice: Reuben is again acting impulsively without considering the consequences.
        - He did this when he slept with Bilhah, Jacob's concubine. Gen 35:22

43:1 Now the famine was severe in the land. [2] And when they had eaten the grain that they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, "Go again, buy us a little food." [3] But Judah said to him, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.' [4] If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food.

- Do you think Jacob maybe prayed for God to help him in this famine?
- Perhaps he was even upset with the apparent lack of help from on high.
- God does not take the easiest way; He makes the best way
    - They are not always the same
    - His path is not like electricity or water, which take the path of least resistance.
        - Sometimes His path is uphill

[5] 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.'" [6] **Israel** said, "Why did you treat me so badly as to tell the man that you had another brother?" [7] They replied, "The man questioned us carefully about ourselves and our kindred, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?' What we told him was in answer to these questions. Could we in any way know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down'?"

- **Israel** – Not called Jacob in chapter **43**. Israel is mentioned in chapter **42** "Sons of Israel"
- The law? Joseph's word to them?
    - They did not know him as their brother yet
    - His word was law
    - Jacob/ Israel thought he was saving Benjamin by not following the request for Ben to come

- By adhering to the demand of not going without Ben, they would not be saved
- The law was meant to bring them to him
    - The rule/law that brought them **back to Joseph** is the one that will provide life

8 And Judah said to Israel his father, "Send **the boy** with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones. **9** I will be a pledge of his safety. 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. **10** If we had not delayed, we would now have returned twice."

- **The boy** – "The Lad" (KJV). Ben has kids; Joseph is **39**, so he is probably **33** -Ish
    - He has **10 kids** of his own as we will soon see – Genesis 46:21

11 Then their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: take some of the choice fruits of the land in your bags, and carry a present down to the man, a little balm and a little honey, gum, myrrh, pistachio nuts, and almonds. **12** Take double the money with you. Carry back with you the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks. Perhaps it was an oversight. **13** Take also your brother, and arise, go again to the man.

14 May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man, and may he send back your other brother and Benjamin. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."
15 So the men took this present, and they took double the money with them, and Benjamin. They arose and went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph.

- May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man – Good! Finally making room for God
- if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved – He still is going by what he sees.
    - He is not living Proverbs 3:5-6 (Even though it's not penned yet)

[16] When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, “Bring the men into the house, and slaughter an animal and make ready, for the men are to dine with me at noon.” [17] The man did as Joseph told him and brought the men to Joseph's house.

[18] And the men were afraid because they were brought to Joseph's house, and they said, “It is because of the money, which was replaced in our sacks the first time, that we are brought in, so that he may assault us and fall upon us to make us servants and seize our donkeys.” [19] So they went up to the steward of Joseph's house and spoke with him at the door of the house, [20] and said, “Oh, my lord, we came down the first time to buy food.

[21] And when we came to the lodging place we opened our sacks, and there was each man's money in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight. So we have brought it again with us, [22] and we have brought other money down with us to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks.” [23] He replied, “Peace to you, do not be afraid. **Your God and the God of your father** has put treasure in your sacks for you. I received your money.” Then he brought Simeon out to them.

- **Your God and the God of your father –** A true statement

[24] And when the man had brought the men into Joseph's house and given them water, and they had washed their feet, and when he had given their donkeys fodder, [25] they prepared the present for Joseph's coming at noon, for they heard that they should eat bread there.

[26] When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present that they had with them and bowed down to him to the ground. [27] And he inquired about their welfare and said, “Is

your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?" [28] They said, "Your servant our father is well; he is still alive." And they bowed their heads and prostrated themselves.

[29] And he lifted up his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious to you, my son!" [30] Then Joseph hurried out, for his compassion grew warm for his brother, and he sought a place to weep. And he entered his chamber and wept there.

[31] Then he washed his face and came out. And controlling himself he said, "Serve the food." [32] They served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians.

[33] And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth. And the men looked at one another in amazement. [34] Portions were taken to them from Joseph's table, but Benjamin's portion was **five times** as much as any of theirs. And they drank and were merry with him.

- **FIVE – Grace**
    - In the Bible, five is often linked to God's grace, goodness, and favor, though not as formal doctrine. This pattern appears in the five books of Moses, the five loaves feeding five thousand, and Leviticus's five offerings, all reflecting His provision and grace.
    - The number 5 consistently appears in patterns throughout Scripture where we see God's grace and provision.
- And it is in God's Grace we live!