

Engraving by Gustave Dore



JOSEPH MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN TO HIS BRETHREN.

***“PEOPLE CAN CHANGE”***

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**GIVE ME A LIFETIME - PART 9  
GENESIS 44**

## REVIEW NOTE:

- "What constitutes complete repentance? He who is confronted by the identical situation in which he transgressed and it lies within his power to commit the transgression again, but he nevertheless abstains...Out of repentance and not out of fear of being caught." (Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, "Laws of Repentance" 2:1)

ANCIENT  
EGYPTIAN  
DIVINATION  
AND MAGIC



Eleanor L. Harris

- Scyphomancy (Gk. skýphos, cup, or drinking bowl, and manteia, divination) is divination using a cup or goblet. This may involve forecasting or representing by using a cup of water and reading the signs specified by certain articles floating on the water. It is considered one of the oldest methods of foretelling the future by means of crystalline reflection, both in ancient Egypt and Persia. (Wikipedia)



Libation and  
Divination cups of  
silver in the XII and  
XIV Dynasty of  
Ancient Egypt

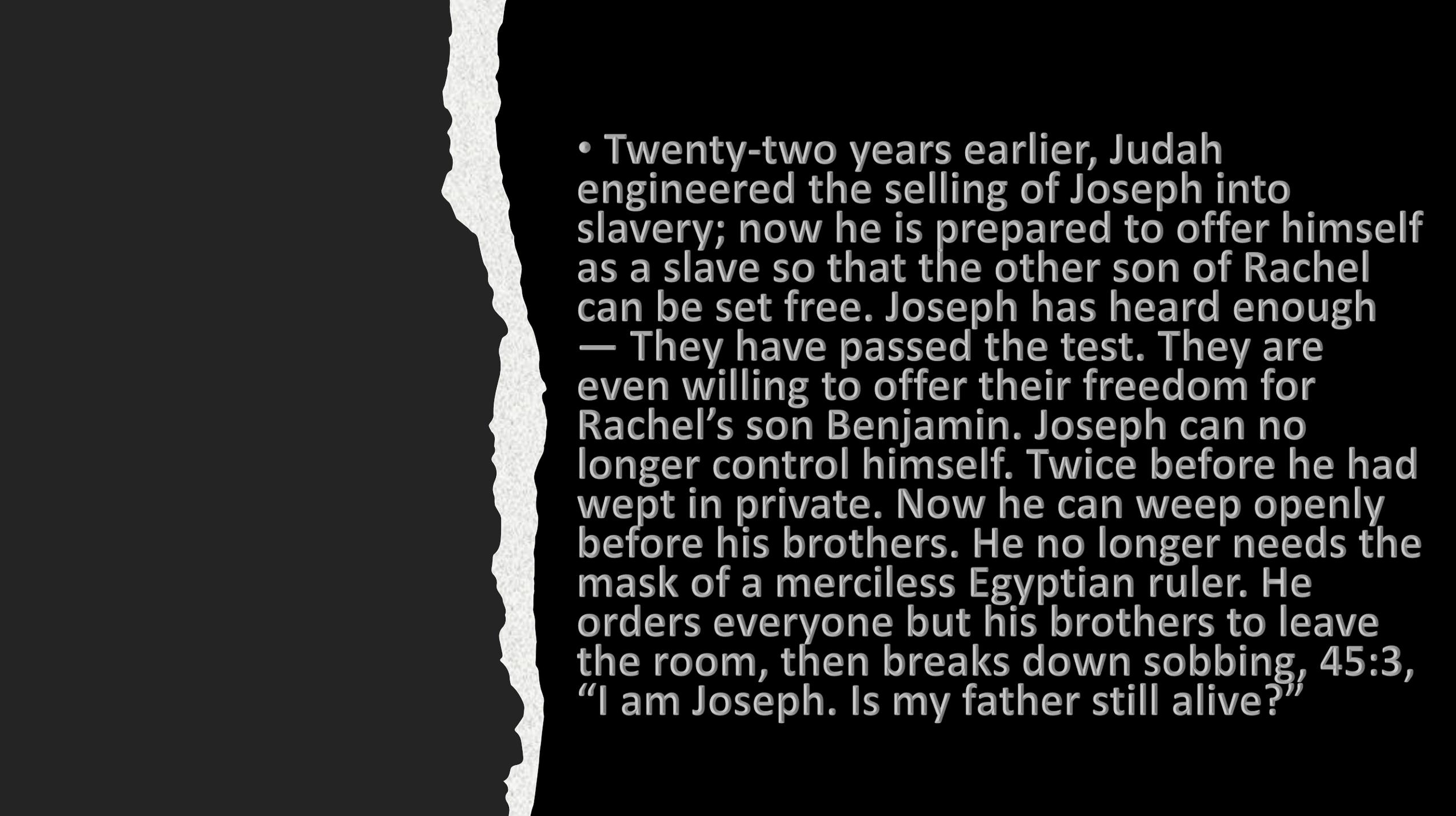


- Libation Vessel of Manuwai  
ca. 1479–1425 B.C
- Manuwai was one of three minor wives of Thutmose III

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- “Judah ... is the first person in Scripture who willingly offers his own life for another. His self-sacrificing love for his brother for the sake of his father prefigures the vicarious atonement of Christ, who by his voluntary sufferings heals the breach between God and human beings.” (Waltke, Genesis, 567)

*Finally They Rally  
Around Unification*

“They say nothing, but their actions speak louder than words. When Joseph disappeared, it was only Jacob who tore his clothes (37:34); now all the brothers do, the first clear sign of fraternal solidarity.” The brothers are still unified and not willing to give up Benjamin for their own freedom. (Wenham, Genesis 16–50, 424, 425. Hamilton, Genesis 18–50)



• Twenty-two years earlier, Judah engineered the selling of Joseph into slavery; now he is prepared to offer himself as a slave so that the other son of Rachel can be set free. Joseph has heard enough — They have passed the test. They are even willing to offer their freedom for Rachel's son Benjamin. Joseph can no longer control himself. Twice before he had wept in private. Now he can weep openly before his brothers. He no longer needs the mask of a merciless Egyptian ruler. He orders everyone but his brothers to leave the room, then breaks down sobbing, 45:3, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?"

## FOOTNOTE SLIDE 1

- Schorsch, Deborah. “Silver in Ancient Egypt.” In Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History. (New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2000)



# FOOTNOTE SLIDE 2

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- “The very one from which my master drinks and which he uses for divination” (44:5)

## ANOTHER PRE-TORAH PRACTICE

- Divination (contacting the "Divine" to foretell the future and to learn answers to otherwise unanswerable questions) was a widespread practice the Torah later condemned and outlawed (Leviticus 19:6 and Deuteronomy 18:9-10). “So important was divination in Mesopotamia that divinatory text developed into the largest single category of Acadian literature in terms of sheer number of texts” (W.W. Hallo and W.K. Simpson, *The Ancient Near East: A History*, Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1971)

## FOOTNOTE SLIDE 3

- “The Torah’s inclusion this detail is yet another example of one of the Hebrews in Genesis not observing later Jewish law—a compelling argument for the authenticity of the text. If the Torah had been written much later, as I frequently note, there would have been no mention of a great figure such as Joseph—virtually a patriarchal figure—acknowledging he engaged in divination (v. 15)” (Prager, Dennis, *The Rational Bible: Genesis, God, Creation, and Destruction* (Washington, DC, Regnery Faith, 2019), 495,496)