

18-19 Bible Study #5

10/9/18

Genesis 42-50

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Genesis 42

Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

Genesis 42

- **Genesis 42:1-2**

- As we discussed at the end of **Genesis 41**, “all the earth” came to **Egypt** to buy grain from **Joseph**, because the famine was severe everywhere
- **Jacob (Israel)** and his family were aware that there was food in **Egypt** so he told his sons (less **Benjamin**) to go there to procure food
- He refused to send **Benjamin** because he was the only son left from his favorite (now deceased) wife **Rachel**

Genesis 42 (Cont)

- Further on in the story, we will see some very strange actions by **Joseph** which will also be related to **Benjamin**
- Father Sebastian pointed out that we cannot follow this story unless we understand **Joseph's** fascination with his younger brother **Benjamin** who he has not seen since being sold into Egypt

Genesis 42 (Cont)

- **Genesis 42:3-6**

- Most likely, the reason that *Joseph's* brothers did not recognize him was that he probably spoke to his servants in Egyptian who translated his words into Hebrew
- He was also decked out as a royal *Egyptian* of some sort similar to what one would see in **Egyptian** hieroglyphics

Genesis 42 (Cont)

- **Genesis 42: 7-28**

- Here the brothers are bowing down to *Joseph* just as predicted in his first dream
- Look at the irony of their statement that they were “honest men” not spies
- Their statement that they are 12 brothers of one man and their youngest brother had remained with their father will become a major issue

Genesis 42 (Cont)

- Because **Joseph** has not seen his little brother in all these years, he demands that they bring him to **Egypt**
- **Joseph** also demanded that **Simeon** (#2) remain until they returned with **Benjamin**
- This is another reason why we must know which son is from which mother
- On their way home they found their money in their bags!

Genesis 42 (Cont)

- **Genesis 42: 29- 38**

- *Jacob* must have wondered if the man making these demands could be trusted
- At this point, *Jacob* believed that he had lost *Joseph* and now *Simeon* and he only had *Benjamin* left from his favorite wife *Rachel*
- *Ruben* (# 1) appeals to *Jacob* to meet *Josephs'* demands by guaranteeing his safety at the price of the lives of his two sons
- Because *Jacob* does not trust the **Egyptian** (*Joseph*) look what happens next in **Genesis 43**

Genesis 43

Joseph's Brothers Bring Benjamin to Egypt

Genesis 43

- **Genesis 43:1-14**

- The famine grew worse causing the family to discuss what to do
- **Judah** stepped up and warned his father that they could not go back to **Egypt** without their younger brother **Benjamin**
- **Jacob** finally relented due to the severity of the famine, and put his trust in **Judah** who took full responsibility for **Benjamin**

Genesis 43 (Cont)

- **Genesis 43:15-34**

- Upon their arrival in **Egypt**, the brothers were shocked and confused when they were invited to dine at ***Joseph's*** house *
- At the meal, ***Benjamin*** was given a portion of food five times that given to his brothers
- The passage ends with them enjoying themselves

Genesis 44

Joseph Detains Benjamin

Genesis 44

- **Genesis 44:1-13**

- After allowing the brothers to return to **Canaan**, *Joseph* set up a brilliant trap causing their return to **Egypt**
- He accused them of stealing his “divining cup” which had been hidden in *Benjamin’s* bag
- It was obvious that *Joseph* wanted his little brother to stay with him in **Egypt**
- Some see *Joseph’s* actions as strange
- But, if we think how we would respond to the events that had happened to *Joseph*, what would we think?
- *Joseph* wanted his brothers to stay in **Egypt**, especially **Benjamin**, and he also wanted to see his father

Genesis 44 (Cont)

- **Genesis 44:14-34**

- **Joseph** rebuffed his brother's pleas and demanded that only **Benjamin** remain behind
- He stated that the rest of them could go home
- Then, **Judah** stepped up and explained the situation concerning his father to **Joseph**

Genesis 44 (Cont)

- **Judah** explained that if they returned without **Benjamin**, their father would die of a broken heart
- He further explained how he had taken responsibility for the safe return of the boy
- He even pledged to remain as **Joseph's** slave if the boy could return home
- As we will see, this finally led to **Joseph** to losing his composure and revealing himself to his brothers

Genesis 45

Joseph Makes Himself Known to His Brothers

Genesis 45

- **Genesis 45:1-5**

- **Joseph** revealed himself to his brothers and told them that they had done one evil thing to him, but God used that action for a good
- God allowed all this to happen to **Joseph** for the purpose of preserving life
- This is a foretaste of how the actions of the Jews toward **Jesus** and the cross ended with our salvation through his resurrection₁

Genesis 45 (Cont)

- **Genesis 45:6-28**

- *Joseph* directs his brothers to return home and bring the rest of their family to **Egypt**
- *Jacob* agrees to go and see *Joseph* before he dies
- Father Sebastian reminded us that God is ultimately the “author of history”
- We have our wills and purposes, but God has His will and His purpose related to the events that come into our lives
- Just as we now can see God’s purpose in *Joseph’s* deliverance to **Egypt**, we need to look again at what happened at the Crucifixion of Jesus as a part of God’s divine plan

Genesis 46

Jacob Brings His Whole Family to Egypt

Genesis 46

- **Genesis 46:1-7**

- Jacob decided to go to Egypt
- On the way, he stopped at **Beersheba** and offered sacrifices to God of his father Isaac
- God told him to go down to Egypt
- Eventually, the brothers brought **Jacob** to **Egypt** along with the entire clan
- Adding wives and children, this totaled 70 people *
- (According to **Exodus 12:37–38**, the Israelites numbered "about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children" plus many non-Israelites and livestock. **Numbers 1:46** gives a more precise total of **603,550** men aged 20 and up)

Genesis 46 (Cont)

- **Genesis 46:28-34**
 - **Pharaoh** set them up in the prime real estate in the Nile Delta called **Goshen**
 - This was great land for shepherding filled with green grass and plenty of water for the flocks

Genesis 47

The Famine in Egypt and Canaan

Genesis 47

- **Genesis 47:1-12**

- Joseph introduces his father to Pharaoh who gives him the prime real estate in Goshen
- He also tells him that his family are shepherds
- Pharaoh put them in charge of his cattle
- We also are told that **Jacob** was 147 years old (again refuting the misunderstanding that the lifespan was not to exceed 120 years (**Genesis 6:3**))
- The “fathers of the Church” believed that the 120 years number was the time before the flood ₂

Genesis 47 (Cont)

- **Genesis 47:13-31**

- Joseph next deals with the famine in Egypt and his family was formally established in Goshen
- Then, we see the statement “they were fruitful and multiplied exceedingly,” which should remind us of **Genesis 1**
- This phrase will come up again at the beginning of **Exodus** when we see the number of the *Hebrew* people who fled **Egypt** in the Exodus
- We must read **Genesis 48 & 49** very carefully as they contain the blessings by *Jacob* to his sons and grandsons