

# On the Beginning

## 39. Joseph's Brothers Come to Egypt

NOTE ESPECIALLY Genesis 42-44

Sin finds us out (See Numbers 32:23). Part of God's plan for Joseph's life involved confronting his brothers with the evil of their actions against him.

### 1. Their **First** Trip.

Genesis 42 tells about the first visit the sons of Jacob made to Egypt to get food. Remember seven things about this trip.

- a. Benjamin did not go with them (vs. 1-4).
- b. They did not recognize Joseph, but he recognized them (vs. 5-8).
- c. Joseph sought to have them get his brother Benjamin without revealing that he was Joseph (vs. 9-17).
- d. He finally decided to let them go, except for Simeon, but they must bring Benjamin back (vs. 18-20).
- e. The brothers felt guilty for their great sin of the past (vs. 21-24).
- f. When they went home, Joseph secretly returned his brothers' money to them in their baggage (vs. 21-28).
- g. Jacob refuses to let Benjamin go back with them (vs. 29-38).

So Simeon stays in Egypt, the other brothers go home, and Jacob's depression continues to dominate his life.

### 2. Their **Second** Trip.

Finally the famine forced Jacob to let them go back down to Egypt. Judah persuaded him to let them take Benjamin with them. The story is in Chapter 43. When they arrived, and stood before Joseph, he brought them to his home for a banquet. At the banquet, Joseph's dreams saw partial fulfillment (v. 28). Their curiosity was aroused because Joseph had them seated by birth-order! The story of their second trip to Egypt continues in Chapter 44. As the brothers left to return to Canaan, Joseph had his silver cup placed in the baggage of Benjamin. Then he sent his steward to stop and accuse them of stealing (vs. 1-13). The cup was found with Benjamin and he was arrested, and his brothers followed him back to Egypt. There Judah pled with Joseph for Benjamin.

### 3. Judah's **Plea**.

In his plea for Benjamin (vs. 18-34), Judah says much about their father Jacob, and his emotional death since he lost Joseph. Now *"his life is bound up in the lad's life"* (Benjamin's life). If his youngest son didn't come back with them, *"thy servants shall bring down the gray hairs of thy servant our father with sorrow to the grave"* (vs. 30-31). Judah begged Joseph to let them take Benjamin.

*“For how shall I go up to my father, and the lad be not with me? lest peradventure I see the evil that shall come on my father.” (verse 34).*

Judah’s plea moved Joseph, as we see in Chapter 45. It can also move us as we see the emotional damage that was done by the cruelty, the deception, and the selfishness of the brothers. Sin always has awful consequences.