

9/11/05

GENESIS 43-44

The first trip by the sons of Jacob has been a time to face their guilt and sin against their brother Joseph.

They have returned home with grain but without Simeon and their money was found in each of their sacks. Jacob saw all things against him.

Now time has passed and they are in need of more grain, having to deal with the problem of taking Benjamin to free Simeon.

* Chapters 41-45 are a unit.

43:1-14 **The taking of Benjamin to Egypt.**

43:1-7 The dialogue between Jacob and Judah.

- 1) Jacob asked his sons to return to Egypt. Vs. 1-2
- 2) Jacob and his sons having eaten all the grain, so their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food". Vs. 2
 - a) The time element could have been from six months to one year.
 - b) This was the second year of the famine according to Joseph, which

means they had to of gone the first time on the first year. Gen. 45:6

- 3) Judah is the one who becomes the spokesman. Vs. 3-5
 - a) Judah reminded Jacob of Joseph's demands. Vs. 3
 - * Ruben had attempted to persuade Jacob at the return of the first trip. Gen. 42:37-38
 - b) Judah reminds Jacob of the seriousness of the demands by repeating it. Vs. 4-5
- 4) Jacob was reluctant to send Benjamin to Egypt. Vs. 6-7
 - a) He begrudged his sons for mentioning Benjamin. Vs. 6
 - 1)) Notice he is called Israel, appearing three times in the chapter. Vs. 6, 8, 11
 - 2)) He is starting to look to God for his help and sufficiency.
 - b) The sons had no idea the man was going to ask them to bring Benjamin. Vs. 7

43:8-10 The intercession of Judah regarding Benjamin.

- 1) Judah tells his father that Benjamin is the
- 2) Judah tells his father Israel he would be responsible for Benjamin. Vs. 9
 - a) By a pledge. Vs. 9a-b

- b) By bearing full blame, Vs. 9c-d
- 3) Judah tells his father Israel they could have been gone and back. Vs. 10
 - * Remember the journey was about 260 miles, about a three week journey.

43:11-14 The preparation of Jacob to send Benjamin with his sons.

- 1) Israel sent them with a present for Joseph. Vs. 11
 - a) He was resigned to send Benjamin. Vs. 11a-c
 - b) He sent the choice produce of the land. Vs. 11d-h
 - 1)) Like the present he sent ahead to his brother Esau, to appease him and be accepted by him. Gen. 32:13-15
 - 2)) Like the Ishmaelite caravan but not to sell but to redeem the brothers.
- 2) He sent twice the money. Vs. 12
 - a) He sent three-fold, Vs. 12a-b
 - b) He was hoping it was a mistake. Vs. 12c
- 3) He sent Benjamin. Vs. 13
- 4) He commended them to God. Vs. 14
 - a) He was trusting God. Vs. 14a
 - 1)) Jacob commended himself to “El Shadday” the all-powerful God!

- 2)) The same One Who had appeared to Abraham and Jacob. Gen. 17:1, 28:3, 35:11
- b) He was trusting the release of both. Vs. 14b
- c) He was believing God to be sufficient in the worst outcome, “If I am bereaved, I am bereaved!” Vs. 14c-d
 - * Similar to the prayer for God’s help, pleading His mercies to deliver him from his brother Esau. Gen. 32:10-12

43:15-23 **The arrival of the brothers in Egypt.**

43:15-17 he initial audience before Joseph was brief.

- 1) The sons of Jacob arrived in Egypt prepared with the present and the double
- 2) They arose and went down to Egypt, arriving they stood before Joseph. Vs. 15c-d
- 3) The governor Joseph instructed his servant to make preparations for them to eat. Vs. 16
 - a) The command came after Joseph saw Benjamin with them. Vs. 16a
 - b) The instructions were to the steward of his house. Vs. 16b-e
 - c) The command was carried out. Vs. 17

43:18-23 The increasing apprehension of being led into a trap gripped them.

- 1) The brothers became very suspicious. Vs. 18
 - a) The brothers were afraid because they were brought into Joseph's house." Vs. 18a
 - b) The brothers thought it was due to the money found in their sacks and were going to make a case against them. Vs. 18b-f
 - 1)) The phrase to "fall upon on" refers to violence.
 - 2)) Their conscience was bothering them.
- 2) The brothers took the initiative to speak to one of the Egyptians. Vs. 19-22
 - a) The timing is given. Vs. 19
 - b) Their words are quoted. Vs. 20-21
 - c) Their integrity was stated. Vs. 22
- 3) The brothers were dismissed lightly over the matter. Vs. 23
 - a) The Egyptian blessed them with peace. Vs. 23a-c
 - * But they had no peace!
 - b) The Egyptian informed them the money was a gift from their God. Vs. 23d
 - * This only puzzled them more, for they were guilty!

- c) The Egyptian informed them he received their payment. Vs. 23e
 - * They were more confused, they had the money!
- d) The Egyptian reunited Simeon with them. Vs. 23f

43:24-34 The welcomed celebration banquet.

43:24-26 The customary preparations prior to dinner.

- 1) They were cared for in their needs. Vs. 24
 - a) To wash their feet. Vs. 24a-b
 - b) To nourish their beasts. Vs. 24c
- 2) They made preparations to meet Joseph. Vs. 25
 - a) To present him the gift at noon. Vs. 25a
 - b) To dine with Joseph. Vs. 25b
- 3) They humbly presented themselves before Joseph. Vs. 26
 - a) They entered with the present. Vs. 26a-b
 - b) They did obeisance to Joseph. Vs. 26c
 - * This in accord with the fulfillment of the dreams of Joseph. Gen. 37:7, 9

43:27-30 The preliminary conversation while waiting for dinner.

- 1) Joseph inquired about their welfare. Vs. 27
 - a) As to their well-being, literally peace “Shalown”. Vs. 27a
 - b) A to their father’s well being. Vs. 27b-e
- 2) The brothers responded. Vs. 28
 - a) Only about their father. Vs. 28a-c
 - b) All of them did obeisance again. Vs. 28d
- 3) Joseph addressed the brothers. Vs. 29
 - a) But he fixed his eyes on Benjamin. Vs. 29a-b
 - * The emphatic bond between him and Joseph!
 - b. He asked them if this was their younger brother of whom they had spoken to him about? Vs. 29c-d
 - * Benjamin is twenty-two years of age, being he second year of the famine!
 - c. He addressed himself directly to Benjamin, ““God be gracious to you, my son.” Vs. 29e-g
4. Joseph was overwhelmed with emotion. Vs. 30
 - a. His love for Benjamin was too much. Vs. 30a
 - b. He had to excuse himself to go weep. Vs. 30b-c

43:31-34The extra ordinary arrangements at dinner.

- 1) Joseph returned. Vs. 31
 - a) He composed himself. Vs. 31a
 - b) He resisted giving in to his emotions. Vs. 31b
 - c) He commanded dinner. Vs. 31c-d
- 2) They were all separated. Vs. 32
 - a) Joseph sat alone. Vs. 32a
 - b) The brothers by themselves. Vs. 32b
 - c) The other Egyptians. Vs. 32c
 - d) The reason is given, “Because the Egyptians could not eat food with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians.” Vs. 32d-e
 - * Herodotus the historian and other ancient writers have related the exclusiveness of the Egyptians and segregation practices.
- 3) They were all seated. Vs. 33
 - a) According to the order of birth. Vs. 33a-b
 - b) Astounded by designated order, they looked at one another. Vs. 33c
 - 1)) The word astonishment “tamahh” describes a strong reaction to something both unexpected and unpleasant, a manifestation of Divine judgment. Job 26:11; Ps. 48:5; Jer. 4:9

- 2)) Dr. Morris tells that there are 39, 917, 000 different orders possible, 40 million to one.
- 4) They were all served by Joseph, Vs. 34
- a) He served the ten first.
 - b) He served Benjamin more. Vs. 34b
* Benjamin was singled out with special favor, like Joseph!
 - c) He noted their hearts had changed. Vs. 34c
* The last time they had eaten together was when Joseph was in the pit. Gen. 37

44:1-13 The return journey to Canaan is halted.

- 44:1-2** The command for the last test.
- 1) The command was to the steward of his house. Vs. 1a
* Perhaps the very one they had spoken to about the money. Gen. 43:19
 - 2) The command consisted of three things. Vs. 1a-2d
 - a) To fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry. Vs. 1b-c
 - b) To put each man's money in the mouth of his sack. Vs. 1d
 - c) To put Joseph's cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his grain money. Vs. 2a-d

- 3) The servant did according to the word that Joseph had spoken. Vs. 2e

44:3-5 The command to recover the cup.

- 1) The preparations for departure was early in the morning. Vs. 3
- 2) The interruption of their journey came soon after their departure. Vs. 4
 - a) The suddenness of the order. Vs. 4a-c
 - b) The accusation against the men. Vs. 4d-f
 - c) The identification of the cup. Vs. 5
 - 1)) The root verb of the word divination is the derivative of a serpent.
 - 2)) The Scriptures are very clear about seeking the occult. Lev. 19:26, Deut. 18:10
 - 3)) Saul the King of Israel was struck down in judgment for seeking the witch of Endor. 1Sam. 28:7

44:6-10 The confrontation of the brothers.

- 1) The servant obeyed Joseph, Vs. 6
- 2) Their objection to the accusations. Vs. 7
 - a) The shock of being accused. Vs. 7a-b
 - b) The absurdity of the accusation. Vs. 7c
- 3) The rationale of their defense. Vs. 8
 - a) Their honesty regarding the money found in their bags. Vs. 8a-b

- b) Their lack of need to steal. Vs. 8c
- 4) Their bold proposition, in view of their innocence. Vs. 9
 - a) The guilty person would die, “With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die.” Vs. 9a-b
 - b) The rest of them would be their slaves, “And we also will be my lord's slaves.” Vs. 9c
- 5) The proposition was amended by the servant. Vs. 10
 - a) The guilty one would serve as a slave. Vs. 10a-b
 - b) The rest of the innocent would be free. Vs. 10c

44:11-13 The inspection of their bags.

- 1) The decisiveness of each man. Vs. 11
 - a) They did it immediately. Vs. 11a
 - b) They displayed their bags. Vs. 11b
- 2) The scrutinizing of the bags. Vs. 12
 - a) The order. Vs. 12a
 - b) The finding. Vs. 12b
 - * Laban sought out Jacob for his gods, searched and did not find them.
- 3) The horrific agony. Vs. 13
 - a) The men grieved as one was dead as they tore their clothes.” Vs. 13a
 - * Jacob alone tore his cloth when Joseph was gone but now it is all

- of them for Benjamin, their heart have truly changed. Gen. 37:34
- b) The men turned back and returned to the city.” Vs. 13b

44:14-34 The return journey to Egypt is demanded.

- 44:14-17** The devastation of the brothers before Joseph.
- 1) They prostrated themselves before Joseph. Vs. 14
 - a) The location was Joseph’s house. Vs. 14a-b
 - b) The decimation was evident, as they fell before him on the ground. Vs. 14c
 - * They fell, totally broken and without any defense.
 - 2) The declaration of Joseph. Vs. 15
 - a) Regarded their evil. Vs. 15a-b
 - b) Regarded their ignorance. Vs. 15c
 - 3) The contrition of Judah. Vs. 16
 - a) He was without words. Vs. 16a-d
 - b) He acknowledged the punishment was from God. Vs. 16e-h
 - * They acknowledge their punishment to be from God, for what they did to Joseph and their father.
 - 4) The proclamation of Joseph. Vs. 17
 - a) He declared the injustice of enslaving all of them. Vs. 17a-b

- b) He declared only the guilty person would be his slave. Vs. 17c-d
- c) He declared the rest were free, to go in peace to their father.' Vs. 17e-f
 - 1)) Joseph needed to press them a bit further by putting them in the same scenario of 22 years ago.
 - 2)) Would they abandon Benjamin or not?

44:18-29 The intercession of Judah for his aged Father.

- 1) The petition to speak. Vs. 18
 - a) Judah humbles himself before Joseph as the spokesman. Vs. 18a-b
 - b) Judah acknowledges his authority over their very lives. Vs. 18c-d
- 2) The recounting of their first visit. Vs. 19-23
 - * The retelling the event focuses on the difficulty Jacob had in sending Benjamin.
- 3) The reporting to their father. Vs. 24-29
 - * The focus on the reluctance of Jacob to send Benjamin, even though they ran out of food.

44:30-34 The intercession of Judah to be the substitute for Benjamin.

- 1) The tragic return to Canaan is role played. Vs. 30-32

- a) The preciousness Benjamin was to Jacob. Vs. 30
- b) The grieving results if Benjamin did not return with them. Vs. 31a-b
- c) The primary person responsible was Judah. Vs. 31c
- d) The enormity of guilt Judah would have to live with was unbearable. Vs. 32
- 2) The personal plead to take Benjamin's place. Vs. 33
 - a) The petition was to take his place. Vs. 33
 - b) The compassion was for his father. Vs. 34
 - 1)) A beautiful parallel to the self-sacrifice of Jesus for all.
 - 2)) Judah means "praise", the tribe Jesus would come from.