



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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Jacob (Israel) and his other eleven sons.

Genesis 42:1-43 Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? 2 And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. 3 And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt. 4 But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him.

The famine was causing Jacob, who was a wealthy man, to not be able to find food. There was none to buy at any price but he heard there was food in Egypt. He sends ten of his sons to Egypt to buy corn. Notice he continues to practice favoritism by not sending Benjamin, Joseph's full brother born of Rachel. He was afraid that something bad would happen to him.

IV-Israel's Sons Arrive in Egypt:

Gen 42:5 And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan. 6 And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.

The ten sons, who had been involved in selling their brother because they hated him for his dreams now come and bow before him just as the prophetic dreams had asserted.

Gen 42:7 And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food. 8 And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.

Joseph obviously has changed and his brother would never have expected anything like what had taken place. Joseph knew them but they did not recognize him.

Gen 42:9 And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come....13 And they said, Thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and, behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is not.

Joseph, while knowing they were not, accuses them of being spies. The response of the brothers show what they had come to believe about Joseph. They thought Joseph to be dead.

V- Joseph Test His Brothers:

The first thing Joseph does is tell them to go bring this so called younger brother to him to prove they were not spies. Then he put them in jail for three days. (**Gen 42:14-17**)



Coordinates:
Gen 41:50-50:26

Sights to See:

- 1- God is aware of the affairs of men and the needs they have in feast and famine.
- 2- There are times we need to release the past and embrace the future in God's power.
- 3- God's foreknowledge of events is again seen vividly as Joseph's brothers bow.
- 4- God used all these circumstance to bring about His purpose and preservation.
- 5- Sometimes the blessings of God come from the most unlikely places.
- 6- Joseph truly understood the purpose of God and rejoiced even in his past suffering to be used by God for such a great purpose.



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After three days he brings them to him and tells them that one brother would remain behind as ransom while the other went and brought Benjamin.

Gen 42:18 *And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God: 19 If ye be true men, let one of your brethren be bound in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses: 20 But bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so.*

Joseph understood what they said among themselves because he knew Hebrew. He hears them deal with the guilt of selling him into slavery. **Gen 42:21** *And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us. 22 And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required. 23 And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for he spake unto them by an interpreter. 24 And he turned himself about from them, and wept; and returned to them again, and communed with them, and took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes.*

Joseph binds Simeon the second born of Leah and not Reuben. Many think Joseph knew Reuben had tried to free him from the pit before he was sold and now he hears that Reuben had counseled against what they had done. Joseph is overcome by emotion.

In **Gen 42:25-28** the nine brothers journey toward home and when one of them opens their sacks the money was in it. This caused a great fear upon their hearts.

They return to Canaan and their father with the grain. They tell the story and then open their sacks in **Gen 42: 35** *And it came to pass as they emptied their sacks, that, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack: and when both they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid. 36 And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me.*

Jacob was an old man who we can see was still grieving Joseph and now Simeon was gone as well and they wanted to take Benjamin.

Gen 42:37-38 records Reuben offering a solution by pledging his sons' lives if he does not bring Benjamin back. This was not acceptable at the time because they had grain. There seems to be some delay between chapter 42 and the events of chapter 43.

VI- Return to Egypt with Benjamin:

Genesis 43:1-2 *And the famine was sore in the land. 2 And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the corn which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said unto them, Go again, buy us a little food.* Jacob is really up against the wall now. The corn has run out and the only way to buy more from Egypt is to let Benjamin go with the others.

Jacob tries to find another solution but none is to be found. He tells them to take the money they had found in their sacks and any of the meager things remaining as gifts and go.

Upon arriving in Egypt and go to Joseph with Benjamin. **Genesis 43:15-17** *And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand, and Benjamin; and rose up, and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph. 16 And when Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the ruler of his house, Bring these men home, and slay, and make ready; for these men shall dine with me at noon. 17 And the man did as Joseph bade; and the man brought the men into*



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Joseph's house. Joseph apparent did not show himself to them at this time but had them brought to his house.

This really caused them alarm and they know in their hearts that they are in big trouble. **Genesis 43:20-23** records a plea to the steward of Joseph house. Notice his response to them. **And said, O sir, we came indeed down at the first time to buy food...23 And he said, Peace be to you, fear not: your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks: I had your money. And he brought Simeon out unto them.** Simeon is reunited for a family reunion with his brothers.

Joseph comes at noon to his home and again they bow before him. Joseph asks about his father and then looks at Benjamin. **Genesis 43:29-34 And he lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, Is this your younger brother, of whom ye spake unto me? And he said, God be gracious unto thee, my son. 30 And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there. 31 And he washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Set on bread. ...34 And he took and sent messes unto them from before him: but Benjamin's mess was five times so much as any of theirs. And they drank, and were merry with him.**

Joseph had food put before them but put 5 times the amount before Benjamin.

VII- Cup of Sorrow:

Joseph is not through toying with his brothers. **Genesis 44:1-2 And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put every man's money in his sack's mouth. 2 And put my cup, the silver cup, in the sack's mouth of the youngest, and his corn money. And he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken.**

Joseph allows them to get away a short distance and then has them arrested. They promise that they are not guilty. The Egyptians said in the man's sack it was found in would die. The search found the cup, right where Joseph had instructed them to put it, in Benjamin. Now they are really afraid even more. **Genesis 44:13-14 Then they rent their clothes, and laded every man his ass, and returned to the city. 14 And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house; for he was yet there: and they fell before him on the ground.** This was a cup of sorrow for these men.

Joseph tells them that Benjamin will remain behind to become his servant for the stealing of the cup. We hear the word of Judah explaining why they cannot return without Benjamin because Jacob would die. Notice his offer in **Genesis 44:33 Now therefore, I pray thee, let thy servant abide instead of the lad a bondman to my lord; and let the lad go up with his brethren.**

VIII- Seeing a Ghost at the Family Reunion:

On two or more occasions, Joseph's brothers refer to him as dead. They never expect him to be the ruler of Egypt. Notice the heart touching revelation of Joseph as he reveals himself to his brethren who had sold him into slavery.

Genesis 45:1 Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren. 2 And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard. 3 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence. 4 And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. 5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with



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yourself, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. 6 For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. 7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

Joseph sends all of the servants out and then as he is alone with them he reveals his identity. Please take special notice of the understanding that Joseph had concerning the events that had transpired over the last 20 plus years. Joseph understood it was all in the hands of the sovereign God of the universe who was working out the preservation of the nation of Israel.

Joseph requests that they bring word to Jacob that Joseph lives and bring him to Egypt. ***Gen 45:9 Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not: 10 And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen...14 And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck. 15 Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him.***

The revelation of Joseph to his brethren is complete. The news is taken to Jacob. ***Genesis 45:26 And told him, saying, Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not. 27 And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived: 28 And Israel said, It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die.***

IX- Promise to Jacob and Purpose of God:

Jacob is given a special promise by God that the promise He made to Abraham would be fulfilled. ***Genesis 46:1-3 And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac. 2 And God spake unto Israel... 3 And he [God] said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation:***

The plan of God still moves along as we end our second section of Way Points. There were some 70 people that went into Egypt in the family of Jacob. Jacob would bless the two sons of Joseph and they will become two of the tribes of Israel. Jacob would live in the land of Egypt for 70 years before he died at the age of 147. He make them promise to bury him in Canaan because he knew that God would bring his descendants into the Promised Land again. ***Genesis 48:21 And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers.***

Still the most remarkable verse in this whole story is ***Genesis 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.***

Joseph exacted a promise from his brethren that they would take his bones back to Canaan and bury him there when God visited them in the future and brought them out. Joseph was a man of great faith and believed the promises of God.