



## Lesson 22 – Joseph and His Brothers Part I

Based on Genesis 41:54-56 to 43

1) Where does our lesson begin today?

**Genesis 41:46-48** And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before \_\_\_\_\_ king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt. And in the seven \_\_\_\_\_ years the earth brought forth by handfuls. And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the \_\_\_\_\_ of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same.

At the very opening of the fruitful years began the preparation for the approaching famine. Under the direction of Joseph, immense storehouses were erected in all the principal places throughout the land of Egypt, and ample arrangements were made for preserving the surplus of the expected harvest. The same policy was continued during the seven years of plenty, until the amount of grain laid in store was beyond computation.

2) What came next?

**Genesis 41:54-56** And the seven years of \_\_\_\_\_ began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was \_\_\_\_\_. And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do. And the \_\_\_\_\_ was over all the face of the earth: and Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt.

3) How far did the famine reach?

**Genesis 42:1-3** Now when Jacob saw that there was \_\_\_\_\_ in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down \_\_\_\_\_, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. And Joseph's ten \_\_\_\_\_ went down to buy corn in Egypt.

The famine extended to the land of Canaan and was severely felt in that part of the country where Jacob dwelt. Hearing of the abundant provision made by the king of Egypt, ten of Jacob's sons journeyed thither to purchase grain. On their arrival they were directed to the king's deputy, and with other applicants they came to present themselves before the ruler of the land.

4) Did the brothers recognize Joseph?

**Genesis 42:8** And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew \_\_\_\_\_ him.

5) When the brothers bowed before him, what did Joseph remember?

**Genesis 42:9** And Joseph remembered the \_\_\_\_\_ which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.

His Hebrew name had been exchanged for the one bestowed upon him by the king, and there was little resemblance between the prime minister of Egypt and the stripling whom they had sold to the Ishmaelites. As Joseph saw his brothers stooping and making obeisance, his dreams came to his mind, and the scenes of the past rose vividly before him. His keen eye, surveying the group, discovered that Benjamin was not among them.



6) What did they tell him?

**Genesis 42:10-11** And they said unto him, Nay, my lord, but to buy food are thy \_\_\_\_\_ come. We are all one man's sons; we are \_\_\_\_\_ men, thy servants are no spies.

He wished to learn if they possessed the same haughty spirit as when he was with them, and also to draw from them some information in regard to their home; yet he well knew how deceptive their statements might be.

7) What test did he lay on them?

**Genesis 42:19-20** If ye be true men, let one of your brethren be \_\_\_\_\_ in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses: But bring your youngest \_\_\_\_\_ unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so.

The three days in the Egyptian prison were days of bitter sorrow as the brothers reflected upon their past sins. Unless Benjamin could be produced their conviction as spies appeared certain, and they had little hope of gaining their father's consent to Benjamin's absence.

8) What was their discussion like?

**Genesis 42:21-22** And they said one to another, We are verily \_\_\_\_\_ concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this \_\_\_\_\_ come upon us. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ is required.

9) Joseph sent them away, minus Simeon, how?

**Genesis 42:25-26** Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with \_\_\_\_\_, and to restore every man's \_\_\_\_\_ into his sack, and to give them provision for the way: and thus did he unto them. And they laded their asses with the corn, and departed thence.

He commanded that Simeon be bound before them and again committed to prison. In the cruel treatment of their brother, Simeon had been the instigator and chief actor, and it was for this reason that the choice fell upon him.

10) How'd things go when they got home?

**Genesis 42:35-36** And it came to pass as they emptied their sacks, that, behold, every man's bundle of \_\_\_\_\_ was in his sack: and when both they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were \_\_\_\_\_. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ away: all these things are against me.

11) Was he willing to let Benjamin go?

**Genesis 42:38** And he said, My son \_\_\_\_\_ go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he is left alone: if mischief befall him by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.

12) The famine was long and harsh, what finally convinced Jacob to let Benjamin go?

**Genesis 43:8-9** And \_\_\_\_\_ said unto Israel his father, Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go; that we may live, and not die, both we, and thou, and also our little ones. I will be \_\_\_\_\_ for him; of my hand shalt thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever:



13) What did Joseph do when he saw Benjamin with the brethren?

**Genesis 43:16-17** And when Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the ruler of his house, Bring these men \_\_\_\_\_, and slay, and make ready; for these men shall dine with me at noon. And the man did as Joseph bade; and the man brought the men into Joseph's \_\_\_\_\_.

Upon being conducted to the governor's palace, the brothers were greatly alarmed, fearing that they were to be called to account for the money found in their sacks. They thought that it might have been intentionally placed there, to furnish occasion for making them slaves. In their distress they consulted with the steward of the house, relating to him the circumstances of their visit to Egypt; and in proof of their innocence informed him that they had brought back the money found in their sacks, also other money to buy food.

14) What assurance did they get from Joseph's Steward?

**Genesis 43:23** And he said, Peace be to you, \_\_\_\_\_ not: your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks: I had your money. And he brought \_\_\_\_\_ out unto them.

15) What did they do when Joseph met with them?

**Genesis 43:26** And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and \_\_\_\_\_ themselves to him to the earth.

His dreams came to his mind after saluting his guests.

16) What did Joseph do that amazed them?

**Genesis 43:33-34** And they sat before him, the \_\_\_\_\_ according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men marvelled one at another. And he took and sent messes unto them from before him: but Benjamin's mess was \_\_\_\_\_ so much as any of theirs. And they drank, and were merry with him.

By this token of favor to Benjamin, he hoped to ascertain if the youngest brother was regarded with the envy and hatred that had been manifested toward himself. Still supposing that Joseph did not understand their language, the brothers freely conversed with one another; thus, he had a good opportunity to learn their real feelings. Still, he desired to test them further, and before their departure he ordered that his own drinking cup of silver should be concealed in the sack of the youngest.

17) After sending them off, what did Joseph have done?

**Genesis 44:4-5** And when they were gone out of the city, and not yet far off, Joseph said unto his steward, Up, \_\_\_\_\_ after the men; and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good? Is not this it in which my lord drinketh, and whereby indeed he \_\_\_\_\_? ye have done evil in so doing.

This cup was supposed to possess the power of detecting any poisonous substance placed therein. At that day cups of this kind were highly valued as a safeguard against murder by poisoning.



18) When the cup was found in Benjamin's sack, what did Judah say to Joseph?

**Genesis 44:16** And Judah said, What shall we say unto my lord? what shall we speak? or how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out the iniquity of thy \_\_\_\_\_: behold, we are my lord's servants, both we, and he also with whom the cup is found.

**Genesis 44:32-33** For thy servant (Judah) became \_\_\_\_\_ for the lad unto my father, saying, If I bring him not unto thee, then I shall bear the blame to my father for ever. Now therefore, I pray thee, let thy servant abide \_\_\_\_\_ of the lad a bondman to my lord; and let the lad go up with his brethren.

**Genesis 44:34** For how shall I go up to my father, and the lad be \_\_\_\_\_ with me? lest peradventure I see the evil that shall come on my father.

Joseph was satisfied. He had seen in his brothers the fruits of true repentance. Upon hearing Judah's noble offer, he gave orders that all but these men should withdraw.

19) What did Joseph finally reveal to the group?

**Genesis 45:3-4** And \_\_\_\_\_ said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were \_\_\_\_\_ at his presence. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ into Egypt.

His brothers stood motionless, dumb with fear and amazement. The ruler of Egypt their brother Joseph, whom they had envied and would have murdered, and finally sold as a slave! All their ill treatment of him passed before them. They remembered how they had despised his dreams and had labored to prevent their fulfillment. Yet they had acted their part in fulfilling these dreams; and now that they were completely in his power he would, no doubt, avenge the wrong that he had suffered.

20) Was Joseph going to seek revenge?

**Genesis 45:5-7** Now therefore be not \_\_\_\_\_, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to \_\_\_\_\_ life. 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. And God sent me \_\_\_\_\_ to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

21) What did he tell them next?

**Genesis 45:8-9** So now it was not \_\_\_\_\_ that sent me hither, but \_\_\_\_\_: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a \_\_\_\_\_ throughout all the land of Egypt. 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:

22) How does this chapter of Joseph's life read?

**Genesis 45:14-15** And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck. Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and \_\_\_\_\_ upon them: and after that his brethren \_\_\_\_\_ with him.

They humbly confessed their sin and entreated his forgiveness. They had long suffered anxiety and remorse, and now they rejoiced that he was still alive.

Can you see God has bigger plans than we can imagine?

Would you like to see God move in your life?

When is the time to follow God only?