

## Genesis - Lesson 42

Genesis Chapter 42

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Memory verses for this week: **2Th 2:1** *Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,* **2Th 2:2** *That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*

**Introduction:** We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as the famine drives Joseph's brothers down to Egypt to acquire food. Of course they have no knowledge that the one in charge is indeed their brother.

### I. Jacob's Sons go Down to Joseph in Egypt

**Gen 42:1** *Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another?*

**Gen 42:2** *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.*

**Gen 42:3** *And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt.*

**Gen 42:4** *But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him.*

**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.*

The cupboards were bare and the famine had come into Jacob's home there in Canaan just as it had in Egypt. Jacob tells his sons that they need to go down to Egypt where there was corn to be purchased. The famine drives them to Joseph. This was effectively the judgment from God). Judgment will finally drive Israel to the Lord Jesus Christ. Jacob's sons had delivered Joseph into the hands of Gentiles. The Jews delivered Christ into the hands of Gentiles. (Pilate)

Our study has repeatedly shown Joseph as a type of Christ in the last few lessons. This week, we see his brothers typify the nation of Israel. This type is true, whether we look to the past, present, or future of Israel.

Getting to Joseph was a matter of life or death. They had no food and no options to obtain any. All the food was in Egypt. Similar to them needing to get to Joseph, both Jew and Gentile need Christ, and it is a matter of life or death. No one outside of Christ will ever enter the kingdom of heaven.

Joseph's brethren dwelt in a land where there was no corn. The Jew and Gentile have

not the bread of life unless they know Jesus as Lord and Savior. After Joseph was rejected, his brethren were driven from the land. After rejecting Christ, the Jews were driven from the land in 70 A.D. Jacob's lack of faith kept him from sending Benjamin. The Jews' lack of faith causes them to not send their sons to Christ.

*Gen 42:6 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.*

*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.*

*Gen 42:8 And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not 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.*

*Gen 42:10 And they said unto him, Nay, my lord, but to buy food are thy servants come.*

*Gen 42:11 We are all one man's sons; we are true men, thy servants are no spies.*

*Gen 42:12 And he said unto them, Nay, but to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.*

*Gen 42:13 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.*

After the long journey, Joseph's brethren come before his face. Joseph was unknown and unrecognized by his brethren. Likewise, Christ is unknown and unrecognized by the majority of Jews today.

*Joh 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*

*Joh 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

*Joh 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

Immediately, Joseph knew and recognized his brethren. Christ knows and looks after those who know him as Savior and his called nation, the Jews.

*Jer 5:3 O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.*

*Jer 16:17 For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes.*

*Hos 5:3 I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled.*

Joseph pretended to not know his brothers and accuse them of coming to spy out the land. He punished his brethren. For years since Christ's coming, the Jews have been punished by our Lord.

*Hos 9:16 Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay even the beloved fruit of their womb.*

***Hos 9:17** My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations.*

*Mat 23:35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.*

*Mat 23:36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.*

*Mat 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!*

*Mat 23:38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.*

*Mat 23:39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.*

Joseph's brethren wanted to pay for what they received. Jews and Gentiles want to pay for salvation and God's blessings. Desire is good, but works will never impress the Lord. Only the shed blood of Christ meets God's demand for salvation. Joseph's brethren assume a self-righteous attitude. Most sinners today, Jews and Gentiles, do not want to admit depravity. Unless a person recognizes their lost condition, they will never be saved. Joseph's brethren did not confess their sin to Joseph. In the majority of cases, sinners do not want to be honest about what they have done to Christ.

*Gen 42:14 And Joseph said unto them, That is it that I spake unto you, saying, Ye are spies:*

*Gen 42:15 Hereby ye shall be proved: By the life of Pharaoh ye shall not go forth hence, except your youngest brother come hither.*

*Gen 42:16 Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be kept in prison, that your words may be proved, whether there be any truth in you: or else by the life of Pharaoh surely ye are spies.*

*Gen 42:17 And he put them all together into ward three days.*

Joseph's brethren were cast into prison for three days. While this may have seemed a bit hard, think of the years Joseph stayed in prison. This was nothing in comparison to what Joseph had suffered. The sinner must be put into the proper place and abased before he can by God's grace be exalted.

Albert Barnes said this in his commentary about the ten brothers.

The ten brothers meet with a rough reception from the lord of the land. "The governor" - the sultan. This, we see, is a title of great antiquity in Egypt or Arabia. Joseph presided over the corn market of the kingdom. "Bowed down to him with their faces to the earth." Well might Joseph think of those never-to-be-forgotten dreams in which the sheaves and stars bowed down to him.

“And knew them.” How could he fail to remember the ten full-grown men of his early days, when they came before him with all their peculiarities of feature, attitude, and mother tongue. “And he made himself strange unto them.” All that we know of Joseph’s character heretofore, and throughout this whole affair, goes to prove that his object in all his seemingly harsh treatment was to get at their hearts, to test their affection toward Benjamin, and to bring them to repent of their unkindness to himself.

## II. Jacob's Sons Depart from Joseph

*Gen 42:18 And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God:*

*Gen 42:19 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:*

*Gen 42:20 But bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so.*

*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.*

*Gen 42:22 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.*

*Gen 42:23 And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for he spake unto them by an interpreter.*

*Gen 42:24 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 continues dealing with his brethren. Joseph reveals that deliverance is through substitution. The only way sinners can be saved is through our substitute, the Lord Jesus Christ. Simeon was bound on the 3rd day in his brethren's place. This side of the 3rd day (resurrection side) sinners are delivered because of Christ the substitute. Thank God for the resurrection.

On Easter, we remember the greatest event of all time. Of course Christ had to come according to the scriptures, lead a perfect sinless life, and die on the cross of calvary for our sins. But unless Christ arose, we would be of all men most miserable as Paul once said.

*1Co 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?*

*1Co 15:13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:*

*1Co 15:14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*

*1Co 15:15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.*

*1Co 15:16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:*

*1Co 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.*

*1Co 15:18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.*

*1Co 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*

*1Co 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*

*1Co 15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.  
1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Verse 21 says Joseph's brethren were smitten in their conscience. This was not repentance but it was a step in the right direction. Joseph was the unrecognized listener, because he talked through and interpreter. They did not know he could understand their every word. Christ always hears our conversation. God's ears are not hidden from our cry. Joseph weeps over his brethren in verse 24. Christ wept over Jerusalem.

Adam Clarke spoke this about verse 21 when they recognized their guilt against Joseph.

**We are verily guilty** - How finely are the office and influence of conscience exemplified in these words! It was about twenty-two years since they had sold their brother, and probably their conscience had been lulled asleep to the present hour. God combines and brings about those favorable circumstances which produce attention and reflection, and give weight to the expostulations of conscience. How necessary to hear its voice in time, for here it may be the instrument of salvation; but if not heard in this world, it must be heard in the next; and there, in association with the unquenchable fire, it will be the never-dying worm. Reader, has not thy sin as yet found thee out? Pray to God to take away the veil from thy heart, and give thee that deep sense of guilt which shall oblige thee to flee for refuge to the hope which is set before thee in the Gospel of Christ.

*Gen 42:25 Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way: and thus did he unto them.*

*Gen 42:26 And they laded their asses with the corn, and departed thence.*

*Gen 42:27 And as one of them opened his sack to give his ass provender in the inn, he espied his money; for, behold, it was in his sack's mouth.*

*Gen 42:28 And he said unto his brethren, My money is restored; and, lo, it is even in my sack: and their heart failed them, and they were afraid, saying one to another, What is this that God hath done unto us?*

Joseph really loved his family and he gives to them. He instructs that all their money was to be put back in their sack. Joseph provided for them while they were in a strange land. Christ has provided for the Jews scattered among the nations.

*Jer 30:11 For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.*

*Eze 11:16 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come.*

Joseph showed them that deliverance was by grace. Neither Jew nor Gentile can buy the "bread of life", it is the gift of God as we read over in Ephesians. Joseph's brethren enjoy a brief respite of superficial peace, that is soon disturbed. Sinners cannot have permanent peace until a right relationship is established with the Lord.

*Gen 42:29 And they came unto Jacob their father unto the land of Canaan, and told him all that befell unto them; saying,*

*Gen 42:30 The man, who is the lord of the land, spake roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country.*

*Gen 42:31 And we said unto him, We are true men; we are no spies:*

*Gen 42:32 We be twelve brethren, sons of our father; one is not, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.*

*Gen 42:33 And the man, the lord of the country, said unto us, Hereby shall I know that ye are true men; leave one of your brethren here with me, and take food for the famine of your households, and be gone:*

*Gen 42:34 And bring your youngest brother unto me: then shall I know that ye are no spies, but that ye are true men: so will I deliver you your brother, and ye shall traffick in the land.*

Joseph's brethren return to their father and tell him all that befell them. They tell him how the head of Egypt thought they were spies and how that he wanted them to bring Benjamin down to him to prove their word.

Joseph's brethren were blind to the true meaning of his dealing with them. Israel's spiritual blindness makes them unable to see God's purpose in their lives today.

Joseph's purpose was to humble them and reveal himself. Christ's purpose in dealing with the Jews is the same.

*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.*

*Gen 42:36 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.*

*Gen 42:37 And Reuben spake unto his father, saying, Slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee: deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him to thee again.*

*Gen 42:38 And he said, My son shall not 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.*

They open their sacks and find all their money and Jacob and his sons were in great distress. All of their money was returned. You cannot pay God, nor can you out give

Him. Many think that they can't afford to pay the 10% tithe. If they just knew they can't afford not to pay it if you want a full and joyous life without financial problems.

*Mal 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

Jacob now has great sorrow. He has lost Joseph, Simeon was not with them, and now they ask to take Benjamin away into a foreign land. Reuben's offer was that he could slay his two sons if he did not bring Benjamin back safely on the journey.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What brought Jacob's sons down into Egypt?

The famine in the land.

2. Which of Jacob's sons did he not permit to make this trip?

Benjamin

3. How did Joseph's brethren act when they first came before Joseph?

They bowed themselves down to the ground.

4. How did Joseph react to this?

He acted roughly with them and pretended to not know them.

5. What came to Joseph's remembrance when they bowed before him?

The dream he had about how his family would one day bow before him.

6. Which of the brethren was to be bound?

Simeon

7. How did Joseph provide for his brethren as they prepared to return to their father?

He not only filled all their bags with corn, but put their money back in each sack.

8. Who did Joseph demand that his brethren bring with them on the next trip?

His younger brother Benjamin, his true brother from their mother Rachel.

9. What bargain did Reuben make with Jacob if he would consent for Benjamin to make the next trip with them?

He could slay Reuben's two sons if he did not return the boy safely.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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