

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS
GENESIS 42 - JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS MEET IN EGYPT,
GENESIS 43 - MEAL WITH THE BROTHERS, GENESIS 44 - BENJAMIN

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our study of Joseph in Egypt. We will read how Joseph's brothers meet for the first time in Egypt since he was sold as a slave at the age of 17. We will read all the brothers have a meal together and buy corn from the ruler of Egypt yet the brothers do not know it is Joseph. However Joseph knows they are his brothers. It is important to remember God is working out all the details of which, we will learn, you play a part in this great story.

Genesis 42 - Joseph and his brothers meet in Egypt

Say - The following verses are of Joseph's brothers. Verses 1-3 are of Joseph's ten brothers buying corn from Joseph. Benjamin stayed home with Israel.

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

²And 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 (The scarcity of food from the great famine was causing great suffering.).

³And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt from the Egyptians.

Say - Benjamin was left at home in case there was trouble of some kind.

⁴But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him (Jacob/Israel was referring to Joseph thinking he was dead and he did not want to lose Benjamin from his beloved wife, Rachel.).

Say - Verses 5-26 is the arrival of the brothers in Egypt and the meeting with Joseph and their return home.

⁵And the sons of Israel (Jacob) came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

⁶And Joseph was the governor (ruler) 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 (This is the dream Joseph had at 17 years old; it was now happening but now the brothers were being humbled by God even though they did not know it at this time.).

⁷And 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 (Joseph spoke "roughly" to his brothers to begin to bring his brothers to the reality of what they had done to him. He also wanted to find out about his family, if his dad was still alive and find out about Benjamin. And remember God was directing all of these events.).

⁸And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him (Joseph is 39 years old now so there have been a lot of changes since the age of 17. Also the brothers of Joseph did not think he would become ruler of Egypt, second to the King.).

⁹And 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. ¹⁰And they said unto him, Nay, my lord, but to buy food are thy servants come. ¹¹We are all one man's sons; we are true men, thy servants are no spies. ¹²And he said unto them, Nay, but to see the nakedness of the land ye are come. ¹³And 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. ¹⁴And Joseph said unto them, That is it that I spake unto you, saying, Ye are spies (Joseph is saying I am not going to change my mind.):

¹⁵Hereby ye shall be proved (Joseph is saying I suffered because of you and I learned my lessons and you are going to learn some also so there will be a good outcome for our family.): By the life of Pharaoh ye shall not go forth hence, except your youngest brother come hither.

¹⁶Send 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 (Joseph is saying they all have to learn a lesson and a taste of this will lead to repentance.).

¹⁷And he put them all together into ward three days (The brothers were now in bondage; it was a time for soul searching for they had not repented of their sins.).

¹⁸And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God: ¹⁹If 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: ²⁰But bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so.

²¹And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother (referring to Joseph), 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 (God is working in their heart and mind for they are coming to repentance so they can be a peaceful family once again. God is circumcising the heart with repentance. "Circumcise" means to remove impure thoughts from our

mind. Remember Joseph had pleaded with them as a young boy of 17 but they hardened their hearts. Now they "saw" and were "feeling" the evil they had done to Joseph and this is what brings about a circumcised heart/mind. We must ask ourselves, do we listen to the voice of anguish and guilt or ignore it. We must get rid of the evil nature in us and the more we harden our heart, the harder it will be on us if we want to be a follower of God.

It is totally up to us to take correction from God because God will soften the heart because He loves us. There has to be a deeper feeling than just saying I am sorry; we must feel the pain we have done to others and feel deeply bad then we won't go back to the old way of life. God wants us to stand before Him innocently and where there is no resistance to what He teaches us. In the future God will smite the evil nations of this world with the "sword" or the "Word of God" and tenderize them for we all must experience an emotional heart/mind repentance to be one of His people. God wants the evil nature in us cut off and rooted out; there is no other way to become His people. This is what God is doing to the 12 brothers which make up the Nation of Israel.

²²And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear (this is when the brothers wanted to kill Joseph)? therefore, behold, also his blood is required. ²³And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for he spake unto them by an interpreter.

²⁴And he turned himself about from them, and wept (Do we see how God had made Joseph tender and caring.); and returned to them again, and communed with them, and took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes (Simeon was filled with anger at Joseph; Simeon was the most rough and the most cruel brother. God is inspiring and directing everything.).

²⁵Then 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. ²⁶And they laded their asses with the corn, and departed thence.

Say - Verses 27- 38 is of the brother's return.

²⁷And 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.

²⁸And 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? (Do we understand God is pounding them to tenderize the brothers; He is "chastising or correcting" them because He loves them. The brothers are now feeling guilty of their evilness and we must also then we can repent and ask forgiveness from God and be free of the guilt.)

²⁹And they came unto Jacob their father unto the land of Canaan, and told him all that befell unto them; saying, ³⁰The man, who is the lord (ruler) of the land, spake roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country.

³¹And we said unto him, We are true men; we are no spies: ³²We be twelve brethren, sons of our father; one is not, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.

³³And the man (which is Joseph but the brothers do not know it), 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 (corn) for the famine of your households, and be gone:

³⁴And 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 (Simeon), and ye shall traffick in the land (meaning they would be able to go about and trade and buy).

³⁵And 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 (They had taken money to buy the corn and here they had the corn and the money.).

³⁶And 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 (Israel/Jacob thinks Joseph is dead and now Simeon and what about Benjamin.).

³⁷And 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 (Do we see how Reuben reacts without thinking - kill his grandkids - what a foolish statement. God tells us in the Bible, "7If ye endure chastening (correction), God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth (corrects) not? 8But if ye be without chastisement (correction), whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons" Hebrews 12:7-8. God is saying when we don't want to take correction from God our Father, we are an illegitimate son to Him).

³⁸And 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 (Jacob/Israel is saying it will finish me off this time if I lose Benjamin. But remember God is directing everything so we will see what happens.).

Genesis 43

Say - Now Israel and his sons are running out of food and now we read of the 2nd trip back to Egypt.

¹And the famine was sore in the land. ²And 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. ³And Judah spake unto him, saying, The man did solemnly protest unto us, saying, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you.

⁴If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go down and buy thee food: ⁵But if thou wilt not send him, we will not go down: for the man said unto us, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you (Benjamin must come with you.).

⁶And Israel said, Wherefore dealt ye so ill with me, as to tell the man whether ye had yet a brother?

⁷And they said, The man asked us straitly of our state, and of our kindred, saying, Is your father yet alive? have ye another brother? and we told him according to the tenor of these words: could we certainly know that he would say, Bring your brother down?

⁸And Judah 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.

⁹I will be surety 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: ¹⁰For except we had lingered, surely now we had returned this second time.

¹¹And their father Israel said unto them, If it must be so now, do this; take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds (Israel/Jacob knew it was proper to have a gift for the ruler of Egypt; he just did not know it was his son Joseph.):

¹²And take double money in your hand; and the money that was brought again in the mouth of your sacks, carry it again in your hand; peradventure it was an oversight (Israel/Jacob said take double the money, thinking the brothers would return the money Joseph had put in their sacks and the second portion for the new supply of corn. Honesty was the best plan.):

¹³Take also your brother (Benjamin), and arise, go again unto the man: ¹⁴And God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother (Simeon), and Benjamin. If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved (Israel is putting his son's in the hand of God.).

¹⁵And 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.

¹⁶And when Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the ruler of his house (Joseph's servant), Bring these men home, and slay (the meat), and make ready; for these men shall dine with me at noon.

¹⁷And the man did as Joseph bade; and the man brought the men into Joseph's house.

¹⁸And the men were afraid, because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, Because of the money that was returned in our sacks at the first time are we brought in; that he may seek occasion against us, and fall upon us, and take us for bondmen (slaves), and our asses.

¹⁹And they came near to the steward of Joseph's house, and they communed with him at the door of the house, ²⁰And said, O sir, we came indeed down at the first time to buy food:

²¹And it came to pass, when we came to the inn, that we opened our sacks, and, behold, every man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight: and we have brought it again in our hand.

²²And other money have we brought down in our hands to buy food: we cannot tell who put our money in our sacks.

²³And 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.

²⁴And the man brought the men into Joseph's house, and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their asses provender (Now we are seeing the mercy of God for they were treated like royalty. When we are repentant and humbled, God gives His people the best.).

²⁵And they made ready the present against Joseph came at noon: for they heard that they should eat bread there.

²⁶And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves to him to the earth (Just like in the dream.).

²⁷And he asked them of their welfare, and said, Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive?

²⁸And they answered, Thy servant our father is in good health, he is yet alive. And they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance (Just like in the dream Joseph told them about at the age of 17.).

²⁹And 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.

³⁰And Joseph made haste; for his bowels (heart was full of great feelings for him) did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there.

³¹And he washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Set on bread (let's have dinner).

³²And they set on for him by himself, and for them by themselves, and for the Egyptians, which did eat with him, by themselves: because the Egyptians might not eat bread with the Hebrews; for that is an abomination unto the Egyptians (because the Hebrews were shepherds, Genesis 46:34).

³³And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men marvelled one at another (The brothers were wondering how they knew what order to place the brothers at the table but Joseph had told the servant.).

³⁴And he took and sent messes (servings of food) unto them from before him: but Benjamin's mess was five times so much as any of their's. And they drank, and were merry with him (The brothers were now comfortable.).

Genesis 44

¹And 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.

²And 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.

³As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their asses.

⁴And when they were gone out of the city, and not yet far off, Joseph said unto his steward, Up, follow after the men; and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good?

⁵Is not this it in which my lord drinketh, and whereby indeed he divineth (Joseph had drunk from the silver goblet.)? ye have done evil in so doing (another trial for the brothers).

⁶And he overtook them, and he spake unto them these same words. ⁷And they said unto him, Wherefore saith my lord these words? God forbid that thy servants should do according to this thing:

⁸Behold, the money, which we found in our sacks' mouths, we brought again unto thee out of the land of Canaan: how then should we steal out of thy lord's house silver or gold? (The brothers felt confident in saying this because they knew they were not guilty so they felt free to search the bags.)

⁹With whomsoever of thy servants it be found, both let him die, and we also will be my lord's bondmen.

¹⁰And he said, Now also let it be according unto your words: he with whom it is found shall be my servant; and ye shall be blameless (I will take only the one who is guilty.).

¹¹Then they speedily took down every man his sack to the ground, and opened every man his sack.

¹²And he searched, and began at the eldest, and left at the youngest: and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack (Would be like stealing a fancy goblet from a fancy dinner.).

¹³Then they rent their clothes, and laded every man his ass, and returned to the city (Can imagine how humiliated they were but God is still softening them.).

¹⁴And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house; for he was yet there: and they fell before him on the ground (as in the dream).

¹⁵And Joseph said unto them, What deed is this that ye have done? wot ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine?

¹⁶And 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 servants: behold, we are my lord's servants, both we, and he also with whom the cup is found.

¹⁷And he said, God forbid that I should do so: but the man in whose hand the cup is found, he shall be my servant; and as for you, get you up in peace unto your father.

¹⁸Then Judah came near unto him, and said, Oh my lord, let thy servant, I pray thee, speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not thine anger burn against thy servant: for thou art even as Pharaoh.

¹⁹My lord asked his servants, saying, Have ye a father, or a brother?

²⁰And we said unto my lord, We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, a little one; and his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother, and his father loveth him (The brothers still do not realize they are talking to Joseph.).

²¹And thou saidst unto thy servants, Bring him down unto me, that I may set mine eyes upon him.

²²And we said unto my lord, The lad cannot leave his father: for if he should leave his father, his father would die.

²³And thou saidst unto thy servants, Except your youngest brother come down with you, ye shall see my face no more.

²⁴And it came to pass when we came up unto thy servant my father, we told him the words of my lord.

²⁵And our father said, Go again, and buy us a little food.

²⁶And we said, We cannot go down: if our youngest brother be with us, then will we go down: for we may not see the man's face, except our youngest brother be with us.

²⁷And thy servant my father said unto us, Ye know that my wife bare me two sons: (Jacob/Israel remembers his beloved, Rachel which bare him Joseph and Benjamin.)

²⁸And the one went out from me (meaning Joseph), and I said, Surely he is torn in pieces; and I saw him not since: ²⁹And if ye take this also from me (meaning Benjamin), and mischief befall him, ye shall bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.

³⁰Now therefore when I come to thy servant my father, and the lad be not with us; seeing that his life is bound up in the lad's life; (Benjamin is the only one left of Jacob's/Israel's beloved wife Rachel because he thinks Joseph is dead.)

³¹It shall come to pass, when he seeth that the lad is not with us, that he will die: and thy servants shall bring down the gray hairs of thy servant our father with sorrow to the grave. ³²For thy servant became surety 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.

³³Now 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 (Judah is presenting all of this to Joseph but does not know that he is talking to Joseph for he thinks he is dead. Imagine how Joseph feels. Now Judah is offering to be a servant and says take me instead of him; this is ultimate love, exactly what God wants from His people.).

³⁴For 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 (Speaking of the grief which would befall upon my father. Spiritually speaking, this is the story of repentance which means to abhor or hate the evil or misdeeds or hate the sin in our life and we begin to correct our mistakes and take a new direction under the leadership of Christ for He is our Savior. This is also the story of reconciliation which means to be forgiven by God when we have repented of our sins and put our trust in Christ and accept His sacrifice of death for each of us. It is also the story of love and emotion that everyone must go through to be a child of God.).

Say - Remember I said as we began to study the story of Joseph that it is not completed yet. We will talk more of this in the next few lessons.

MEMORY VERSE

And Joseph made haste; for his bowels (heart was full of great feelings for him) did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there. GENESIS 43:30

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS AND YOUTH

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS MEET IN EGYPT, HAVE A MEAL
TOGETHER AND JOSEPH MEETS BENJAMIN

AS OUR STORY BEGINS TODAY, JOSEPH IS STILL THE RULER OF EGYPT AND THERE IS A GREAT FAMINE OR A SCARCITY OF FOOD IN THE LAND AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

FOR JOSEPH'S FAMILY IN CANAAN, THE FAMINE WAS TAKING ITS TOLL AS WELL AND ISRAEL SAID TO HIS SONS, "GO DOWN TO EGYPT TO BUY CORN THAT WE MAY LIVE AND NOT DIE." ISRAEL SENT ONLY TEN OF HIS SONS AND KEPT BENJAMIN AT HOME FOR FEAR OF SOMETHING HAPPENING TO HIM.

OFF THE BROTHERS WENT DOWN TO EGYPT AND BOWED BEFORE JOSEPH JUST AS THE DREAM FORETOLD. HOWEVER THE BROTHERS DID NOT KNOW IT WAS JOSEPH THEY WERE BOWING TO BUT GOD WAS BEGINNING TO HUMBLE THE BROTHERS BY "CHASTISING THEM" OR CORRECTING THEM.

JOSEPH SAW HIS BROTHERS AND HE KNEW THEM BUT HE SPOKE "ROUGHLY" TO HIS BROTHERS TO BEGIN TO BRING TO REALITY WHAT THEY HAD DONE TO HIM. REMEMBER GOD WAS DIRECTING ALL THINGS IN THIS GREAT STORY. JOSEPH ALSO WANTED TO FIND OUT IF HIS DAD, ISRAEL, WAS STILL ALIVE AND WANTED TO FIND OUT ABOUT HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, BENJAMIN.

THERE HAD BEEN A LOT OF CHANGES IN JOSEPH FROM THE TENDER AGE OF 17 FOR NOW HE WAS ABOUT 39 YEARS OLD. HIS BROTHERS DID NOT THINK JOSEPH WOULD BECOME THE RULER OF EGYPT.

JOSEPH REMEMBERED THE DREAM HE HAD AND TOLD THE BROTHERS THEY WERE SPIES. THE BROTHERS SAID, "NO, WE ARE ALL ONE MAN'S SONS, WE ARE NOT SPIES." "THE YOUNGEST BROTHER IS WITH OUR FATHER AT HOME AND ONE, MEANING JOSEPH, IS NOT." THE BROTHERS DID NOT KNOW THEY WERE TALKING TO JOSEPH.

JOSEPH WAS PROVING HIS BROTHERS FOR HE HAD SUFFERED BECAUSE HIS BROTHERS HAD SOLD HIM AS A SLAVE AND NOW IT WAS TIME FOR HIS BROTHERS TO LEARN SOME LESSONS SO THERE WOULD BE A GOOD OUTCOME FOR THEIR FAMILY. JOSEPH PUT ALL THE BROTHERS IN PRISON OR BONDAGE. IT GAVE THE BROTHERS TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHAT THEY HAD DONE TO JOSEPH.

THE THIRD DAY JOSEPH LET THEM OUT OF PRISON AND SAID, "GO, CARRY THE CORN BACK TO YOUR FAMILY IN CANAAN AND WHEN YOU RETURN BRING YOUR YOUNGEST BROTHER BACK TO ME SO I KNOW YOU ARE TELLING ME THE TRUTH".

GOD IS WORKING IN THEIR MIND FOR THEY REALIZED THEY WERE VERY GUILTY CONCERNING THEIR BROTHER JOSEPH. THEY HAD SEEN THE ANGUISH OF JOSEPH WHEN THEY TOOK HIS COAT OF MANY COLORS. THEY SAW THE ANGUISH WHEN THEY THREW HIM IN A PIT AND WHEN THEY SOLD HIM AS A SLAVE TO THE MIDIANITES.

THE BROTHERS HAD HARDENED THEIR HEARTS TOWARDS JOSEPH AND THEY WERE JEALOUS OF HIM. BUT NOW THEY WERE EXPERIENCING THE SAME PAIN THEY HAD BROUGHT ON JOSEPH. GOD WAS SOFTENING THEIR HEARTS TO REPENTANCE.

REPENTANCE MEANS WE FEEL WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO OTHERS AND WE TELL GOD WE ARE VERY SORRY AND IF WE ARE SERIOUS, GOD FORGIVES US. THE BROTHERS, JUST LIKE GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY, MUST LEARN TO TAKE CORRECTION FROM GOD BECAUSE HE LOVES US. WE MUST FEEL THE PAIN AND HURT WE HAVE CAUSED OTHERS THEN WE WON'T GO BACK TO THE EVIL WAY OF LIFE.

GOD WANTS HIS FOLLOWERS TO STAND BEFORE HIM INNOCENTLY AND FORGIVEN OF OUR SINS AND HAVE DEEP RESPECT AND LOVE FOR WHAT HE TEACHES US AND FOR ALL OF HIS CREATION. GOD WANTS THE EVIL NATURE OF HIS FOLLOWERS CUT OFF AND ROOTED OUT AND BEGIN TO TAKE ON THE KINDNESS OF HIM THEN WE WILL BECOME A PART OF HIS FAMILY. THIS IS WHAT GOD IS DOING TO THE BROTHERS OF JOSEPH, SOFTENING THEM. REMEMBER THE 12

BROTHERS MAKE UP THE NATION OF ISRAEL AND THERE IS MUCH AHEAD OF THEM.

REMEMBER REUBEN, THE OLDEST BROTHER HAD SAID, "WE SHOULD NOT SIN AGAINST THE CHILD" BUT THE BROTHERS HAD NOT LISTENED TO HIM. JOSEPH HEARD ALL THEY HAD SAID AND HE TURNED HIMSELF FROM THEM AND WEPT.

SOON JOSEPH TOOK SIMEON, THE MOST ROUGH AND CRUEL BROTHER AND BOUND HIM BEFORE THEIR EYES. JOSEPH'S SERVANT FILLED THEIR SACKS WITH CORN; PUT THEIR MONEY IN THEIR BAGS AND WITH THEIR DONKEYS THEY LEFT FOR HOME IN CANAAN AND BACK TO THEIR FATHER, ISRAEL AND BROTHER BENJAMIN.

SOON THE BROTHERS STOPPED AT A PLACE TO FEED THEIR ANIMALS AND FOUND THE MONEY THEY HAD USED TO PAY FOR THE CORN WAS PUT IN THEIR SACKS. NOW THEY WERE FEELING AFRAID AND GUILTY. GOD IS TENDERIZING THE BROTHERS TO BRING THEM TO REPENTANCE BECAUSE HE LOVES THEM.

SOON THEY WERE HOME IN CANAAN AND TOLD ISRAEL ALL THEY HAD BEEN THROUGH. HOW THE RULER OF EGYPT THOUGHT THEY WERE SPIES. HOW THE RULER OF EGYPT KEPT THEIR BROTHER SIMEON AND WHEN THE BROTHERS RETURNED, THEY WERE TO BRING BACK THEIR YOUNGEST BROTHER AND HE WOULD RELEASE SIMEON TO THEM.

THEIR FATHER ISRAEL WAS CONCERNED FOR HE THOUGHT JOSEPH WAS DEAD, SIMEON IS IN BONDAGE IN EGYPT AND NOW IF YOU TAKE BENJAMIN AWAY, I COULD NOT STAND THE PAIN OF LOSING HIM. ISRAEL SAID, "BENJAMIN SHALL NOT GO DOWN WITH YOU TO EGYPT FOR IT WOULD BRING ME SO MUCH SORROW AND SEND ME TO MY GRAVE" IF HE DID NOT RETURN.

THE FAMILY OF ISRAEL AND HIS SONS WERE RUNNING OUT OF FOOD FOR THE FAMINE WAS VERY GREAT IN THE LAND. "GO AGAIN", SAID ISRAEL, "AND BUY US A LITTLE FOOD". JUDAH SAID, "WE

CANNOT GO BACK TO EGYPT WITHOUT BENJAMIN FOR WE WILL NOT SEE THE RULER'S FACE EXCEPT OUR BROTHER COME WITH US".

THE RULER OF EGYPT ASKED ABOUT OUR FATHER, "IS HE STILL ALIVE AND HAVE YOU ANOTHER BROTHER?" YOU SEE JOSEPH RECOGNIZED HIS BROTHERS BUT THE BROTHERS DID NOT RECOGNIZE JOSEPH BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN MANY YEARS THEY HAD BEEN APART.

ISRAEL SAID, "TAKE A GIFT TO THE RULER OF EGYPT; A GIFT OF A LITTLE BALM, HONEY, SPICES, MYRRH, NUTS AND ALMONDS". ALSO "TAKE DOUBLE THE MONEY SO YOU CAN PAY FOR THE FIRST BAGS OF CORN AND THE SECOND PORTION OF MONEY FOR THE NEW SUPPLY OF CORN." ISRAEL NEW HONESTY WAS THE BEST PLAN.

SO ISRAEL PUT HIS TRUST IN GOD'S HANDS AND SENT HIS SONS TO EGYPT INCLUDING BENJAMIN. WHEN JOSEPH SAW BENJAMIN WITH THE BROTHERS HE TOLD HIS SERVANT, "SLAY SOME MEAT" FOR A GREAT FEAST THEY WOULD EAT AT NOON.

THE SERVANT OF JOSEPH BROUGHT THE NERVOUS BROTHERS INTO JOSEPH'S HOUSE. IT WAS A GOOD TIME TO DISCUSS WITH JOSEPH'S SERVANT ABOUT THE MONEY THEY FOUND IN THERE SACKS WHEN THEY FIRST CAME DOWN TO EGYPT TO BUY CORN. THE SERVANT SAID, "FEAR NOT, YOUR GOD AND THE GOD OF YOUR FATHER HAVE GIVEN YOU TREASURE IN YOUR SACKS". SOON JOSEPH'S SERVANT BROUGHT SIMEON OUT TO THE BROTHERS.

JOSEPH'S SERVANT GAVE THE BROTHERS WATER, WASHED THEIR FEET AND PROVIDED FOOD FOR THEIR DONKEYS. THIS WAS ALL DIRECTED BY GOD AND HIS GREAT MERCY FOR THE BROTHERS WERE TREATED LIKE ROYALTY.

SOON JOSEPH CAME HOME AND THE BROTHERS GAVE HIM THE PRESENT THEIR FATHER HAD SENT. THEY BOWED THEMSELVES BEFORE JOSEPH JUST LIKE IN THE DREAM.

JOSEPH ASKED OF THEIR WELFARE AND "IS YOUR FATHER WELL; IS HE ALIVE?" "OUR FATHER IS IN GOOD HEALTH AND HE IS ALIVE" AND THEY BOWED THEIR HEAD TO JOSEPH AS IN THE DREAM.

JOSEPH SAW HIS BROTHER BENJAMIN, HIS MOTHER'S, RACHEL'S SON AND HIS HEART WAS FULL OF GREAT FEELING FOR HIS BROTHER AND HE RAN AWAY TO HIS CHAMBER AND WEPT. SOON HE WASHED HIS FACE AND WENT BACK TO THE BROTHERS AND SAID, "LET'S HAVE DINNER".

THE BROTHERS SAT BEFORE JOSEPH ACCORDING TO THEIR AGES AND THE BROTHERS WONDERED HOW THEY KNEW WHAT ORDER TO PLACE THE BROTHERS AT THE TABLE. THEY STILL DID NOT KNOW IT WAS JOSEPH THEIR BROTHER BUT JOSEPH HAD TOLD HIS SERVANT THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WERE TO SIT.

JOSEPH SET SERVINGS OF FOOD BEFORE THE BROTHERS AND BENJAMIN'S WAS FIVE TIMES GREATER THAN THE OTHER BROTHERS. THEY DRANK AND WERE MERRY TOGETHER AND THE BROTHERS WERE COMFORTABLE IN THE RULER'S HOME IN EGYPT.

JOSEPH TOLD HIS SERVANT "FILL THE MEN'S SACK WITH FOOD, AS MUCH AS THEY CAN CARRY AND PUT EVERY MAN'S MONEY IN HIS SACK; BUT MY CUP, MY SILVER CUP, PUT IT IN THE SACK OF THE YOUNGEST MAN WITH HIS CORN AND MONEY". AS SOON AS IT WAS DAYLIGHT, THE BROTHERS WERE ON THEIR WAY WITH THEIR DONKEYS AND LEFT FOR THEIR HOME IN CANAAN.

SOON AFTER THEY HAD LEFT THE CITY, JOSEPH TOLD HIS SERVANT "FOLLOW THE MEN AND OVERTAKE THEM". WHEN YOU HAVE OVERTAKEN THEM ASK THEM "WHICH ONE OF YOU HAS TAKEN THE RULER'S SILVER GOBLET OR CUP".

THE BROTHERS SEARCHED THE BAGS FROM THE OLDEST TO THE YOUNGEST AND FOUND THE SILVER CUP IN BENJAMIN'S SACK. THEY ALL RETURNED TO THE CITY IN EGYPT AND BOWED BEFORE THE RULER WHICH WAS JOSEPH JUST AS THE DREAM HAD FORETOLD.

"THE MAN IN WHOSE HAND THE CUP IS FOUND SHALL BE MY SERVANT AND YOU GO IN PEACE TO YOUR FATHER."

JUDAH SAID, "IF WE GO BACK TO OUR FATHER WITHOUT BENJAMIN OUR FATHER WILL DIE". JUDAH OFFERED TO BE A SLAVE OR SERVANT IN PLACE OF BENJAMIN BUT WE CANNOT GO HOME WITHOUT BENJAMIN". NOW THE BROTHERS ARE SHOWING GREAT LOVE; EXACTLY WHAT GOD WANTS FROM HIS PEOPLE.

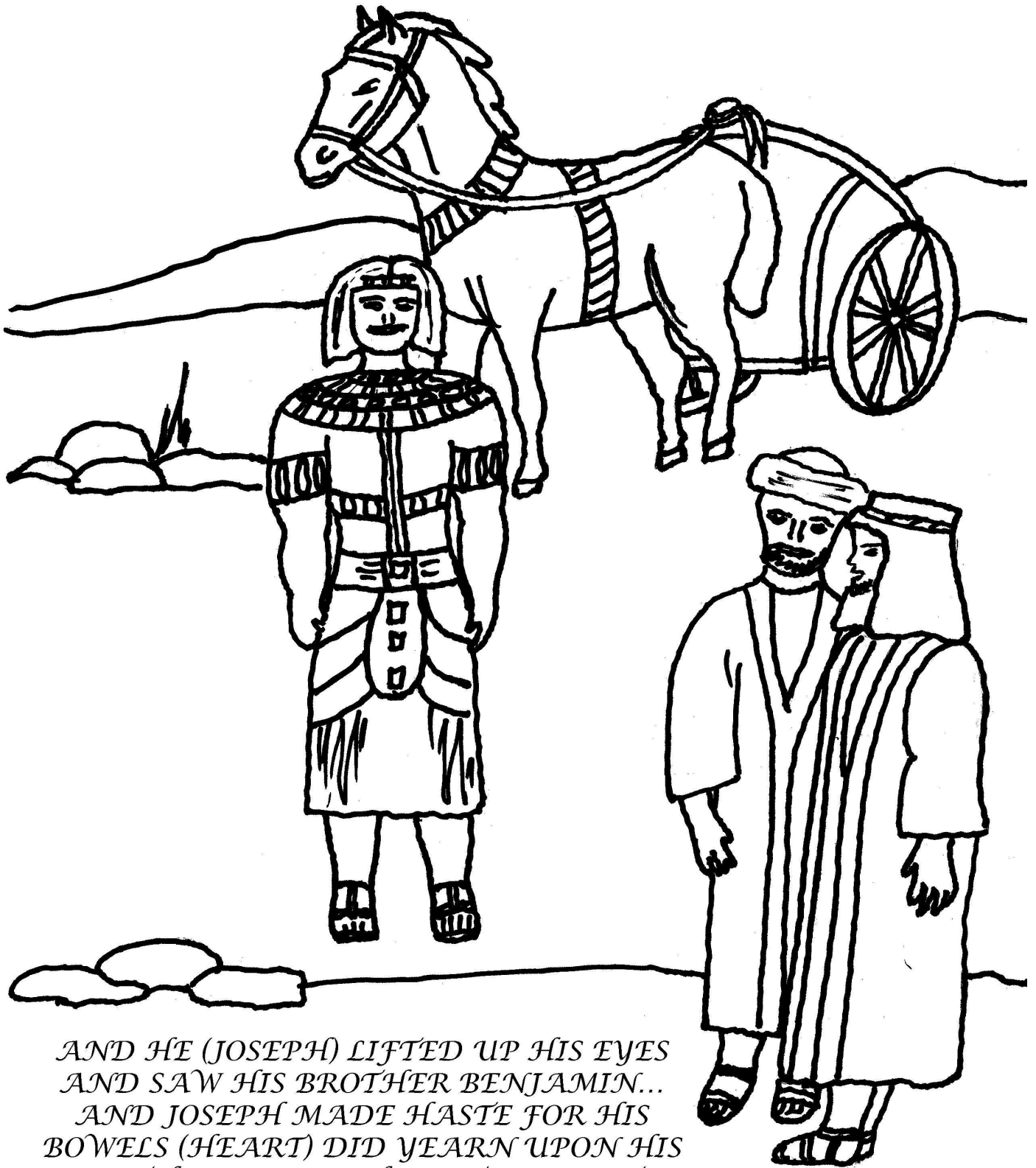
DO WE SEE HOW THIS GREAT STORY OF JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS IS ABOUT REPENTANCE, RECONCILIATION, LOVE AND EMOTION WHICH EVERYONE MUST GO THROUGH TO BE A FOLLOWER OF GOD? THIS IS HOW WE LEARN TO LISTEN TO GOD'S TEACHINGS AND ARE OBEIENT TO HIM. HE CORRECTS US BECAUSE HE LOVES US.

REPENTANCE MEANS WE COME TO THE POINT IN OUR LIFE WHEN WE ABHOR OR HATE THE EVIL OR SIN IN OUR LIFE. REPENTANCE MEANS WE HATE THE EVIL WE HAVE DONE TO ANYONE EVEN AN ENEMY AND WE ASK GOD TO FORGIVE US, THIS LEADS TO BAPTIZM AND RECEIVING GOD'S SPIRIT AND A "NEW CREATION" BEGINS TO DEVELOP AND WE GO IN A NEW DIRECTION UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR GOOD SHEPHERD, JESUS CHIRST FOR HE IS OUR SAVIOR.

RECONCILIATION MEANS TO BECOME A FRIEND OF GOD AND JESUS CHRIST AND TO DO THAT WE MUST BE FORGIVEN BY GOD AND PUT OUR TRUST IN HIM AND ACCEPT HIS SACRIFICE OF DEATH FOR EACH OF US.

THIS STORY IS ALSO A STORY OF **LOVE AND EMOTION** THAT EVERYONE MUST GO THROUGH TO BE A CHILD OF GOD.

REMEMBER I SAID AS WE BEGAN TO STUDY THE STORY OF JOSEPH THAT IT IS NOT COMPLETE; THERE IS MUCH MORE TO COME AND YOU WILL BE A PART OF THE BEAUTIFUL ENDING IN THE FUTURE. THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS TO DWELL ON.



*AND HE (JOSEPH) LIFTED UP HIS EYES
AND SAW HIS BROTHER BENJAMIN...
AND JOSEPH MADE HASTE FOR HIS
BOWELS (HEART) DID YEARN UPON HIS
BROTHERS... AND HE ENTERED INTO
HIS CHAMBER, AND WEPT THERE.*

GENESIS 43:29, 30