

E. Jacob is still the head of the house and must be the one who looks out to see where he might obtain food to feed his family for they too were touch by theseverity of the famine (Gen. 42:1-2).

1. One might be a chosen of God does not exempt that person from having famine in his/her life.
2. The famine will cause them to see the error of their ways towards Joseph and make amends for it.
3. If God brings a famine into the lives of His people, His people should make every effort to see what lessons can be learned from it. Joseph was the first to realize the good that the famine (a famine of hardship) wrought in his life beginning at age seventeen.
4. Ten of Jacob's sons left home for Egypt, but they did not know what Egypt had in store for them.
  - a. Jacob still had not learned not to play favoritism among his family, Benjamin is now the new Joseph. Jacob cannot afford to let him out of his sight. He is more concerned about the life of Benjamin against the lives of his ten sons. **Are the ten sons of Jacob considered expendable to him?**

A. The brothers met and spoke with their lost brother, but they did not recognized him - God was hiding Joseph in plain sight.

1. The brothers would not recognize him for the following reasons:
  - a. Joseph is called by a new name - **Zaphenath-paneah**.
  - b. Joseph is not sporting a beard like a normal Hebrew male; he might **be clean-shaven**.
  - c. Joseph is speaking **a different language**
  - d. Joseph is no doubt **wearing Egyptian trappings** that set him apart as some high official in Egypt.
  - a. The brothers might have concluded that **Joseph is now dead** and buried in an unmarked grave (v. 13 - "no longer alive").
  - b. Our brother **could not** be the most powerful man in Egypt.
2. And so, the very person whom you (though) you kill has become your Savior and lord. Just as how they had failed to recognize him there (when he was a lad with weird dream), they fail at recognizing him here where he becomes the fulfillment of his dreams.
3. And now it was Joseph's time to test his brothers. Joseph used a dirty word to describe his brothers, spies.
  - a. First, he speaks harsh things to his brothers.
  - b. Second, he accuses them as being spies who have come to spy out the land (Because of the famine, Egypt would be at its most vulnerable state). In short bursts, Joseph will accuse his brothers at least four times that they are spies.
  - c. They acknowledge some truth about themselves.
    - (1). They are from the land of Canaan - v.7b

- (2). They have come down to Egypt to buy food - v.10
- (3). They are the sons of one man - v.11
- d. They also gave some inaccurate information.
  - (1). They are not honest men - v. 11b.
- e. His next move is to throw his brothers in a guard house to further convince his brothers that what he thinks of them might be true.
  - (1). Joseph was here, in this place, for at least two to three years.
  - (2). For his brothers, however, it was only three days which might seem as eternity since their coming to Egypt was to purchase food and then return to Canaan. This also might be a foreshadowing of what was coming - 420 years of confinement for Israel in Egypt.
- f. "Do this and you shall live." Right action will be rewarded with good result (Gen. 42:18).
  - (1). One of you must remain a prisoner in Egypt, while the rest of you go home with food for your family, but you must return with the so-called youngest brother before I believe any of your words.
  - (2). The brothers past has finally caught up with them:
    - (a). Their confession is made public. "We are being punished on account of our brother." "We saw the anguish of his soul when he begged us and we did not listen." "Now is the anguish of our souls, and there is nothing we can do about it.
    - (b). Ruben's answer is even scarier; "**this is a Reckoning for blood.**" We cast Joseph in a literal pit, we listened to his distress and refused to help him; now, we find ourselves in another kind of pit and it appears that there is no one to help us out of this pit in which we find ourselves.
  - (3). The brothers are now preparing to return to Canaan with plenty of goods from Egypt (42:25). Joseph gave a command to his servants to do three things for his brothers.
    - (a). Fill each of his brother's sack with grain.
    - (b). Restore every man's money to his sack
    - (c). Give them provision for their journey (thus Joseph begins to provide and to care for his family as the Lord has intended.
  - (4). One their way back one (the brothers) of brothers found the money that should have been used to buy the grain is still in his sack. Not only did their hearts sink (deep fear), but such evil happening is attributed to God, "What... that God has done to us?" Is this a further payment from God for the sale of Joseph? If the first selling of Joseph did not bring guilt, surely this one will heap upon them guilt and fear. When they return to Egypt to buy more food, this will be incriminating evidence against them.
  - (5). Jacob is told about the Egypt experience...
    - (a) "The man" who is lord of Egypt spoke roughly to us.
    - (b) And to test us further, he says, "leave one of your brothers here, and go to your country and return with the so called younger brother."
  - (6). Jacob will experience some of the fears that his sons have been experiencing but a different kind of fear. Benjamin must return to Egypt if Jacob's family can buy food in Egypt; he must return to Egypt to convince the lord that the other brothers are not spies, and they must return to Egypt to free Simeon. This indeed is "**Jacob's trouble.**" Note the accusation given by Jacob:

(a). You have bereaved (**sakal** - to murder my child) me of my child. Jacob is now letting his son know how he feels about a past situation. He has not forgotten the passing of Joseph.

i. Joseph has disappeared

ii. Simeon is now disappeared

iii. And now you are planning to have Benjamin disappear from me also?

(b). Ruben offers two of his sons in death if he cannot bring back Benjamin from Egypt, Genesis 42:37. Is Ruben atoning for his sins (Gen. 35:22; 37:22).

(c). The offer pales in comparison to the love that Jacob has for Joseph, and Benjamin who is now at his side. The return of the money did not in the least affect Jacob, and Benjamin is too close... to be a surety for the other brother who is held captive. If calamity should befall Benjamin, not the one who is held prisoner, Jacob would go down to the next life a sorrowing man.

G. It is time to go back to Egypt and Jacob knows it.

1. Ignoring what he was told about Benjamin going back to Egypt.... Jacob feels the devastation of the famine and casually suggest that the boys go back to Egypt and buy corn/grain.

1. The sons of Jacob refused to go down to Egypt without Benjamin.

a. If Jacob has deliberately ignored what he was told when the boys returned from their first trip, then Judah is about to remind him in a very emphatic way, "The man adamantly warned, 'you shall not appear before me unless your brother is with you.'"

(1). Jacob no doubt has authority amongst his family in Canaan, but there is a lord in Egypt whose words carry more weight both in Canaan and Egypt. The lord of Egypt must be