

Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

23. Joseph and his brothers – Part 2

An outline of the Book of Genesis *

* Approximate chapter divisions only

Genesis 1 to 11

Creation
Genesis 1 to 2

The Fall
Genesis 3

Before the Flood
Genesis 4 to 5

The Flood
Genesis 6 to 8

After the Flood
Genesis 9 to 11

Genesis 12 to 50

Abraham
Genesis 12 to 23

Isaac
Genesis 24 to 27

Jacob
Genesis 28 to 36

Joseph
Genesis 37 to 50

Ch 43-45



Genesis 42 – The 7 years of famine have begun

- **Jacob** sends his sons to **Egypt** to buy food
 - **Joseph** recognises them and remembers his dreams
 - **Joseph** calls them spies and imprisons them
 - **Joseph** frees nine of his brothers but holds **Simeon**
 - **Joseph** hears his brothers admit their guilt
 - **Joseph** returns their money and **they leave Egypt**
 - The brothers return to **Jacob** but without **Simeon**
 - **Jacob** despairs and refuses to let **Benjamin** go
- The 1st trip to Egypt
- Back in Canaan

Genesis 43:1- 15 – The second trip to Egypt begins

Simeon is still in an Egyptian prison
because Jacob refuses to let Benjamin go to Egypt.

Judah said to Israel his father,

“I will be a pledge of his [Benjamin’s] safety....”

Israel said to them,

“May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man....”

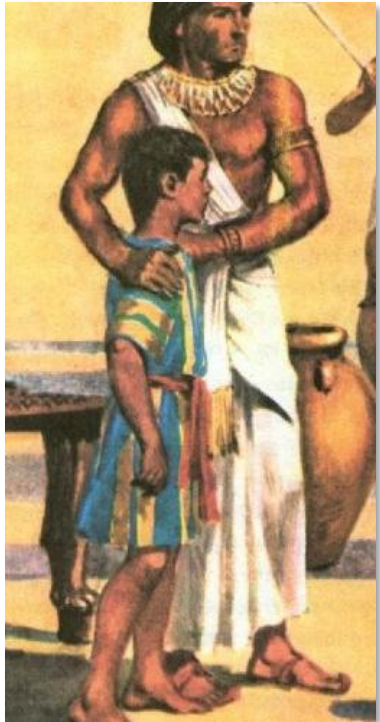
El Shaddai

So the men took a present, and they took
double the money with them, and Benjamin.

They arose and went down to Egypt
and stood before Joseph.

What do we know about Benjamin ?

- ✓ Joseph is about **39** at this time.
- ✓ Reuben, Jacob's eldest son, is about **46**.
- **How old is Benjamin?**



- ✓ Benjamin was born after the family returned to Canaan.
- ✓ His mother, Rachel, died in childbirth. (Genesis 35:19)
- ✓ Joseph had been in Egypt for about **22 years**.
- ✓ **Benjamin already had 10 sons!** (Genesis 46:21)
- Benjamin was probably **25 to 30** years old at this time.
 - ↪ If so, Joseph last saw him when Joseph was **17** and Benjamin was **between 3 and 8** years old.
(Rachel died when Joseph was **between 9 and 14**.)



Genesis 43:16 to 45:28 – the second trip to Egypt

They arose and went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph.

Scene 1: (Ch 43:16-34)

The banquet in Joseph's house

Scene 2: (Ch 44:1-34)

The last trial – the silver cup and Judah's plea

Scene 3: (Ch 45:1-25)

The great revelation – “God sent me before you...”

Scene 4: (Ch 45:25-28)

The stunning news – Joseph is alive and ruling Egypt

The 2nd trip
to Egypt

Back in
Canaan

Scene 1: (Ch 43:16-34)

The banquet in Joseph's house

They fear it is a trap
to enslave them

Oh, my lord, we came down the first time
to buy food. And when we came to
the lodging place we opened our sacks,
and there was each man's money
in the mouth of his sack....

So **we have brought it again** with us....

Does he know about
the covenant?

Were the brothers
aware of God's promise
to bless them?

Peace to you, do not be afraid.
Your God and the God of your father
has put treasure in your sacks for you.
I received your money.

He brought **Simeon** out to them.

Scene 1: (Ch 43:16-34)

The banquet in Joseph's house

Is your father well, the old man
of whom you spoke?
Is he still alive?

Your servant our father
is well; he is still alive.

And he lifted up his eyes and saw
his brother **Benjamin**, his mother's son.

Is this your youngest brother,
of whom you spoke to me?
God be gracious to you, my son!

And they bowed their heads
and prostrated themselves.



Scene 1: (Ch 43:16-34)

The banquet in Joseph's house

Serve the food.

They served **him** by himself,
and **them** by themselves,
and **the Egyptians** by themselves...

And they sat before him, **the firstborn** according to his birthright
and **the youngest** according to his youth.

And the men looked at one another in amazement.

Portions were taken to them from Joseph's table,
but **Benjamin's** portion **was five times as much** as any of theirs.

And they drank and were merry with him.

Will they
become jealous?

They were at ease

Scene 2: (Ch 44:1-34)

The last trial – the silver cup and Judah's plea

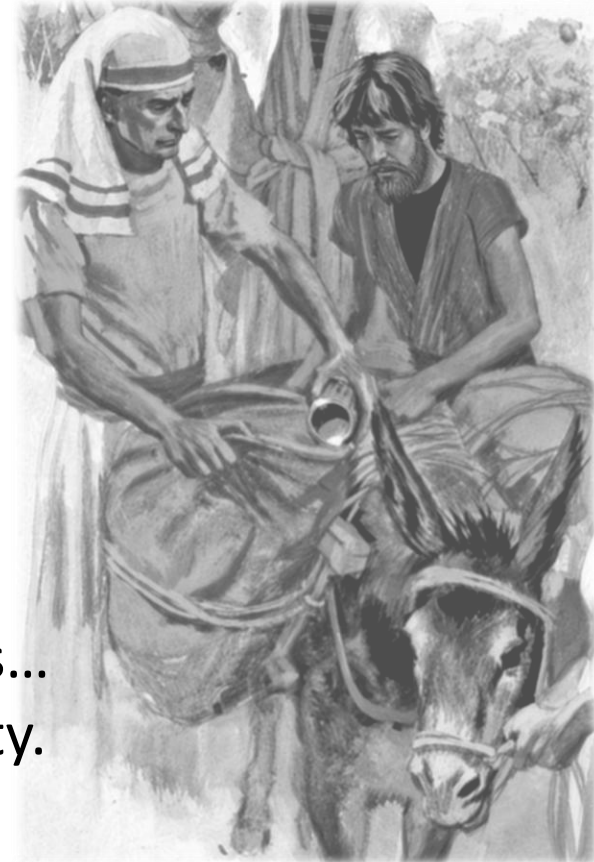
...and put my cup,
the silver cup,
in the mouth of the sack
of the youngest...



**Whichever of your servants
is found with it shall die...!**

Let it be as you say:
he who is found with it
shall be my servant,
**and the rest of you
shall be innocent.**

And the cup was found
in **Benjamin's** sack.
Then they tore their clothes...
and they returned to the city.



Scene 2: (Ch 44:1-34)

The last trial – the silver cup and Judah's plea

Far be it from me that I should do so!
Only the man in whose hand
the cup was found shall be my servant.
But as for you, **go up in peace to your father.**

We are truly guilty
concerning our brother....
his blood is now required of us.
(Genesis 42:21-22)

God has found out **the guilt** of your servants;
behold, **we are my lord's servants,**
both we and he also in whose hand
the cup has been found.



Scene 2: (Ch 44:1-34)

The last trial – the silver cup and Judah's plea

Then **Judah** went up to him and said:
“Oh, my lord, please let your servant
speak a word in my lord's ears...”



Judah offers himself
as a substitute
for Benjamin

Now therefore,
**please let your servant remain
instead of the boy
as a servant to my lord,**
and let the boy go back
with his brothers.

For how can I go back to my father
if the boy is not with me?

Scene 3: (Ch 45:1-25)

The great revelation – “God sent me before you...”

**I am your brother, Joseph,
whom you sold into Egypt.**

The Sovereign Lord,
working to fulfill
the covenant made
with Abraham

**So it was not you
who sent me here,
but God.**

And now do not be distressed
or angry with yourselves
because you sold me here,
**for God sent me before you
to preserve life.**

“This Jesus, delivered up
**according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God,
you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”**

(Peter preaching in Jerusalem – Acts 2:23)

Scene 3: (Ch 45:1-25)

The great revelation – “God sent me before you...”

When the report was heard in Pharaoh’s house,

“Joseph’s brothers have come,”
it pleased Pharaoh and his servants.

Joseph is held
in high esteem

Then Joseph sent his brothers away,
and as they departed,

he said to them,

“Do not quarrel on the way.”

Will they own their guilt,
or blame each other?



Scene 4: (Ch 45:25-28)

The stunning news - Jacob hears that Joseph is alive

So they went up out of Egypt
and came to the land of Canaan
to their father Jacob. And they told him,

***“Joseph is still alive,
and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt.”***

...and when he saw the wagons
that **Joseph** had sent to carry him,
the spirit of their father **Jacob** revived.

It is enough;
Joseph my son is still alive.
I will go and see him before I die.

Genesis 43:16 to 45:28 – the second trip to Egypt

Scene 1: (Ch 43:16-34)

The banquet in Joseph's house

Scene 2: (Ch 44:1-34)

The last trial – the silver cup and Judah's plea

Scene 3: (Ch 45:1-25)

The great revelation – “God sent me before you...”

Scene 4: (Ch 45:25-28)

The stunning news - Joseph is alive and ruling Egypt



**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.**

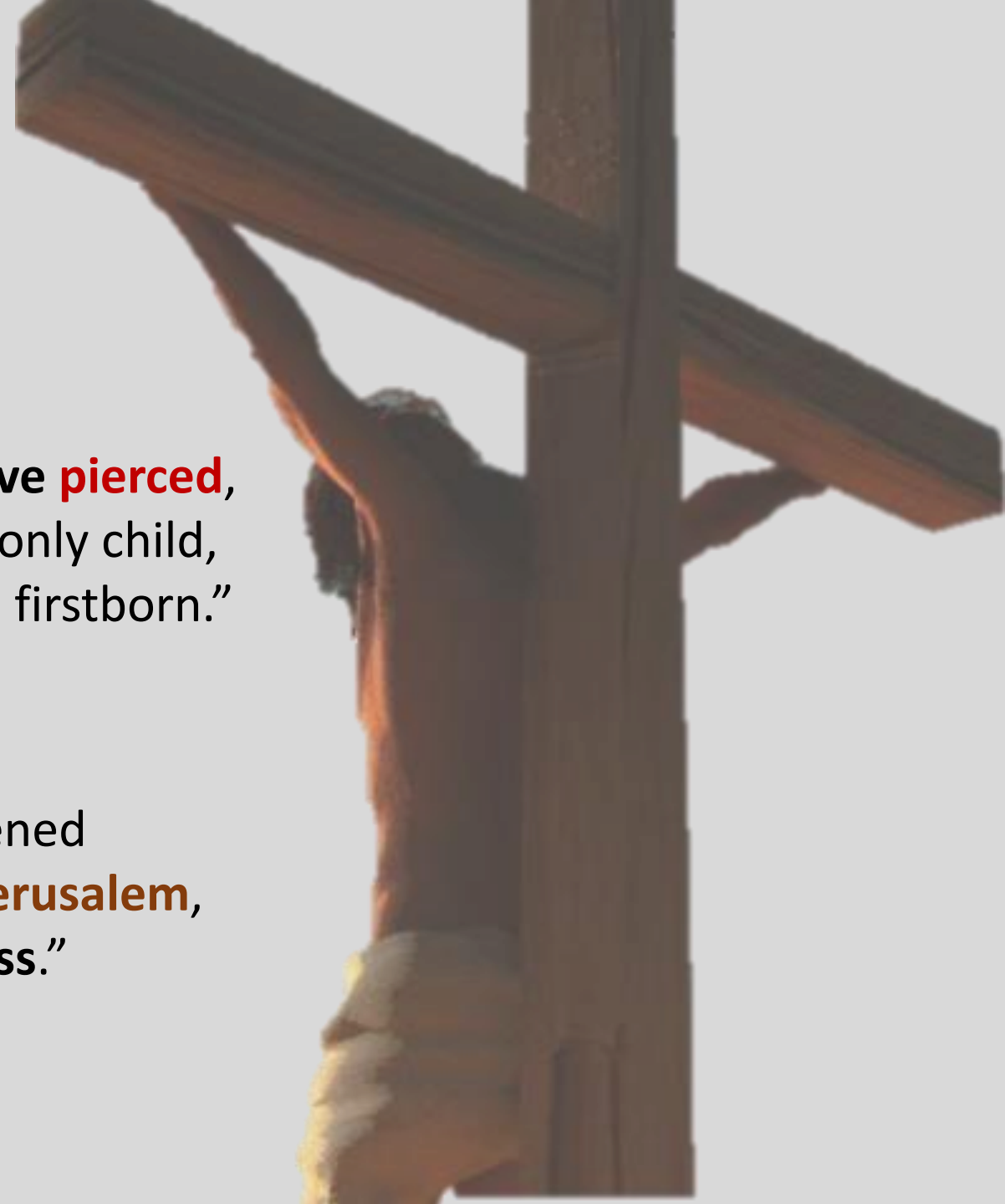
(Psalm 118:22)

“...when they look on **Me**, on **Him** whom they have **pierced**,
they shall **mourn** for **Him**, as one **mourns** for an only child,
and **weep bitterly** over **Him**, as one weeps over a firstborn.”

(Zechariah 12:10)

“On that day there shall be **a fountain** opened
for **the house of David** and the inhabitants of **Jerusalem**,
to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.”

(Zechariah 13:1)



Joseph: A believer living in the world
A man with **spiritual wisdom**

In Joseph we do not see

- Bitterness or unforgiveness
- A lust for revenge
- Pride or selfishness

In Joseph we do see

- ✓ Commitment to God's purposes
- ✓ Mercy towards the undeserving
- ✓ Self control, wisdom and patience

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...

(Hebrews 12:1)

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...

(Hebrews 12:1)

Joseph and his brothers were the beginning of the nation of Israel.

Through Joseph **they experienced grace** and learned of their place in **the plan of God**.



Our lives are to be built on **faith** because we are saved by **grace**.

Grace softens hard hearts and lifts disheartened souls.



We are the Lord's **servants** and His **witnesses** to our generation.

We are all part of His **eternal purpose** being worked out in and through **our Lord Jesus Christ**.