

Joseph God's Man in Egypt

Lesson #23

Genesis 42:1-38

After seven years of abundance, the people of Egypt lived lavish lives without worry about the future. Had Joseph not prepared for the famine, the whole area would have been wiped out in starvation. Now, *"all the countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the world"*. (Genesis 41:57) Joseph was where God wanted him at the right time and with the skills needed to carry out God's plan of salvation for Israel and all the world.

Jacob's family comes to Egypt - Genesis 42:1-38

1. What did Jacob tell his sons? (Genesis 42:1, 2)

2. How many of Jacob's sons went? (Genesis 42:3)

3. Why didn't Jacob let Benjamin go with his brothers? (Genesis 42:4)

Please notice the name change in verse 5 from Jacob to Israel. When Israel is mentioned, it refers to what God is doing. When Jacob is mentioned, it is what the man is doing in his own strength.

4. What is said about Israel's sons? (Genesis 42:5)

5. Joseph, *vizier* or governor, was the only one who sold grain to the people. What happened when his brothers arrived? (Genesis 42:6)

6. Joseph (*Zaphenath-Paneah*) looked the part of the Egyptian official. He was clean shaven with short hair, dressed as royalty and spoke the Egyptian language. His brothers did not recognize Joseph, (vs.8) but Joseph recognized them. What did he do? (Genesis 42:7)

7. As his brothers bowed down before him, what did Joseph remember? (Genesis 42:9a)

8. What did he call his brothers? (Genesis 42:9b)

9. Joseph's brothers denied the accusation. How did they address Joseph? (Genesis 42:10)

10. The brothers offered Joseph the information he was hoping for. What did they tell him? (Genesis 42:11)

11. Joseph needed more information, so he accused them again. What did they answer this time? (Genesis 42:13) Notice the word "*were*".

12. Knowing that his brother was still alive, what did he require the others to do in order to "*prove*" their innocence? (Genesis 42:14-16)

13. Whom did Joseph "*swear by*"?

Think about it!

14. Joseph said they would be tested. Where did he have them kept and for how long? (Genesis 42:17)

15. What are your thoughts on why Joseph may have done this?

16. When Joseph saw them again, what did he say to them and why? (Genesis 42:18)

17. What were his conditions to “*prove*” they were honest men? (Genesis 42:19, 20)

18. What did they say to one another when they heard the conditions set by Joseph? (Genesis 42:21)

19. What did Reuben, the oldest son, remind the others about? (Genesis 42:22)

20. What was mentioned about Joseph? (Genesis 42:23, 24a)

21. Whom did Joseph require to stay and what did he do to him? (Genesis 42:24b)

22. What secret orders did Joseph give his officials? (Genesis 42:25, 26)

23. Nine brothers started home. What happened when they stopped for the night? (Genesis 42:27)

24. What was their reaction? (Genesis 42:28b)

25. When they finally arrived home, what did they tell Jacob? (Genesis 42:29-34)

26. When recounting their story what did they call "*the man*" twice? (Genesis 42:30-34)

27. What else did they discover when they arrived home? (Genesis 42:35)

28. What did Jacob say to them? (Genesis 42:36a)

29. How was Jacob feeling at this time? (Genesis 42:36b)

30. As the eldest son, and the one most responsible for their safety, what did Reuben tell Jacob? (Genesis 42:37)

31. What was Jacob's response? (Genesis 42:38)