

Jacob's Sons Are Tested
Lesson #24
Genesis 43:1-44:34

Egypt experienced seven years of abundance followed by the most severe famine. This famine covered all the land, including Canaan. Jacob had sent ten of his sons to Egypt because it was known that grain was available there. When they arrived, Joseph (now 38) was the "Egyptian" in command of the food supply. His brothers did not recognize him, but Joseph immediately knew his brothers. He had them imprisoned for three days, then told them one brother would stay, the rest could leave. However, to prove they were "honest" men as they had claimed, when they returned, they must bring the remaining brother.

The Famine Continued - Genesis 43:1 - 34

1. Joseph knew the famine would continue for many years when he sent his brothers home. Although Simeon was in prison in Egypt, what did the rest of the family do? (Genesis 43:1, 2a)

2. What did Jacob tell his sons? (Genesis 43:2b)

3. What did Judah remind his father about? (Genesis 43:3-5)

4. Notice the change in verse six from Jacob to Israel. He was now speaking according to the LORD. What did Israel ask? (Genesis 43:6)

5. How did they reply? (Genesis 43:7)

6. How did Judah answer his father? (Genesis 43:8, 9)

7. God was testing the sons of Jacob to mold them into what would become the twelve tribes of Israel. Which brother stepped forward to take the lead? (Genesis 43:8a)

8. What was his assessment of the situation? (Genesis 43:10)

9. How did Israel respond? (Genesis 43:11, 12a)

10. What was Israel hoping? (Genesis 43:12b)

11. What were his final words to his sons before they headed back to Egypt? (Genesis 43:13, 14)

12. The sons did as Israel requested, including taking Benjamin with them. What was mentioned about their speed? (Genesis 43:15)

13. I wonder if Joseph had been watching for their return. What did Joseph do as soon as he saw his brother Benjamin coming? (Genesis 43:16)

14. What did the brothers think? (Genesis 43:18)

Think about it!

15. What were they afraid would happen to them? (Genesis 43:18c)

16. When they were brought to Joseph's house, they spoke to Joseph's steward. (*How far Joseph had come to now have his own servants.*) What did they say to the steward? (Genesis 43:19-22)

17. How did the steward answer their concerns? (Genesis 43:23)

18. Notice what the steward told them about God. What did he call God? (Genesis 43:23b)
19. How were the brothers treated? (Genesis 43:24)
20. Joseph arrived at noon and what did the brothers do? (Genesis 43:26)
21. After inquiring about how the brothers were, what two questions did Joseph ask? (Genesis 43:27)
22. What was their answer, and what else did they do? (Genesis 43:28)
23. How many times have they bowed before Joseph? (Genesis 42:6; 43:26, 28)
24. When Joseph saw his brother Benjamin, what was his reaction? (Genesis 43:29, 30)
25. Still not wanting to reveal his identity, Joseph washed his face then came back. Where did he eat compared to his brothers? (Genesis 43:32)
26. How were the brothers seated for the meal? (Genesis 43:33)
27. What else did they notice? (Genesis 43:34)

Tested Again - Genesis 44:1-34

28. Joseph still wasn't convinced his brothers had a change of heart, so he gave his steward instructions to give them their grain and what else was he to do? (Genesis 44:1, 2)

29. How far did they get before the steward caught up with them? (Genesis 44:3-6)

30. What did he accuse them of?

31. How did they answer? (Genesis 44:7, 8)

32. So convinced of their innocence, what did they offer? (Genesis 44:9, 43:18c)

33. What was the result after searching each of their bags? (Genesis 44:10-12)

34. At this they tore their clothes, a sign of extreme grief and humility. When they returned to Joseph, how did they approach him this time? (Genesis 44:14)

35. What clue did Joseph give his brothers in replying to them? (Genesis 44:15)

36. Using Genesis 44:18:
 - Who took the lead at this point?

 - What did he call him twice?

 - Who did he say Joseph was equal to?

37. In defense of their action, what information did he give Joseph? (Genesis 44:19, 20-24)

38. As the story continued, what else did he tell Joseph? (Genesis 44:27-31)

39. Finally, this brother's heart was revealed. What did he tell Joseph? (Genesis 44:32)

40. What did he offer? (Genesis 44:33, 34)