

Genesis 43 - The Brother's Second Visit (with Benjamin); The Brothers in Joseph's Palace

II. Epilogue: Patriarchal history (Gen 11:10—50:26)

(4) Life of Joseph (Gen 37:1—50:26)

(C) Jacob and Joseph's brothers go to Egypt (Gen 42:1—47:26)

(b) Brothers' second trip to Egypt (Gen 43:1—45:28)

(i) Return to Egypt (43:1-34)

(a) Decision to return (43:1-14)

(b) Contact with Joseph's steward (43:15-25)

(c) Contact with Joseph (43:26-34)

Genesis 43

(b) Brothers' second trip to Egypt (Gen 43:1—45:28)

(i) Return to Egypt (43:1-34)

(a) Decision to return (43:1-14)

1 Now the famine was severe in the land.

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1 Meanwhile, the famine remained severe throughout the region.

1 And the famine was sore in the land.

2 So it came about, when they had finished eating the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food."

2 So it came about when they had finished eating the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food."

2 As a result, when Jacob's family was beginning to eat the last of the grain that they had brought back from Egypt, their father Jacob told his sons, "Go back to Egypt and buy us some food."

2 And 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.

- Running low on food, Jacob relented and agreed to send his sons back to Egypt to buy more grain

3 Judah spoke to him, however, saying, "The man sternly warned us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'

3 Judah spoke to him, however, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'

3 But Judah reminded him, "The man distinctly warned us: 'You'll never see my face unless your brother comes with you.'

3 And 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.

4 If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food.

4 If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food.

4 So if you send our brother with us, we'll go down and buy some food.

4 If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go down and buy thee food:

5 But if you do not send *him*, we will not go down; for the man said to us, 'You will not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"

5 But if you do not send *him*, we will not go down; for the man said to us, 'You will not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"

5 But if you don't send him, we're not going, because the man told us, 'You'll never see my face unless your brother is with you.'"

5 But 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.

- Judah reminds everyone of the condition to return; according to Joseph's instructions, it would be pointless for them to go back to Egypt without Benjamin

— So the brothers were willing to go, but Judah, now acting as spokesman, said he would only go down if Benjamin went with them

— If the brothers went down without Benjamin, and Joseph was really who he pretended to be (a foreign official), he would execute them

6 Then Israel said, "Why did you treat me so badly, by telling the man whether you still had *another* brother?"

6 Then Israel said, "Why did you treat me so badly by telling the man whether you still had *another* brother?"

6 Israel replied, "Why did you make all this trouble by telling the man that you have another brother?"

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

- Jacob protested in frustration, a sign he felt everything was against him, including his sons
- Jacob was, of course, reluctant; his scolding ("why did you tell the man you had another brother?") was an effort to escape the decision he dreaded to make
- Yet he must release Benjamin so they could return to Egypt. Otherwise they would all die from starvation.

7 But they said, "The man specifically asked about us and our relatives, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you *another* brother?' So we answered his questions. Could we possibly know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down'?"

7 But they said, "The man questioned particularly about us and our relatives, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you *another* brother?' So we answered his questions. Could we possibly know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down'?"

7 "The man specifically asked about us and our relatives," they responded. "He asked us, 'Is your father still alive?' and 'Do you have another brother?' So we answered his questions. How could we have known that he would tell us to bring our brother back with us?"

7 And 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?

- When the brothers answered Joseph's questions, they had no idea the conversation would lead to such problems

8 So Judah said to his father Israel, "Send the boy with me and we will arise and go, so that we may live and not die, we as well as you and our little ones.

8 Judah said to his father Israel, "Send the lad with me and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, we as well as you and our little ones.

8 "Send the young man with me," Judah told his father Israel, "and we'll get up and go so we can survive and not die—and that includes all of us, you and our families.

8 And 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.

9 I myself will take responsibility for him! You may demand him back from me. If I do not bring him *back* to you and present him to you, then you can let me take the blame forever.

9 I myself will be surety for him; you may hold me responsible for him. If I do not bring him *back* to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame before you forever.

9 I'll even offer myself to guarantee that I'll be responsible for him. If I don't bring him back and present him to you, I'll personally bear the consequences forever.

9 I 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:

- Judah offered himself as a security deposit for Benjamin's safe return

- In Hebrew it reads: "I shall have sinned against you forever," which means Judah would be cut off from any and all inheritance

- Judah was not expecting that Jacob would execute him; he was saying that he would be willing to be cut off from an inheritance, which would be sizable at this point

- In addition, Judah's present property would become the property of Jacob

- Interestingly Judah was the one who had come up with the plan to sell Joseph to Egypt (37:26-27), but now he was willing to become a guarantee for Benjamin, Joseph's full brother, realizing the affection Jacob once had for Joseph had been transferred to Benjamin

10 For if we had not delayed, surely by now we could have returned twice."

10 For if we had not delayed, surely by now we could have returned twice."

10 After all, if we hadn't delayed, we could have been there and back twice by now!"

10 For except we had lingered, surely now we had returned this second time.

- Judah raises the cost of the delay in going to Egypt, which must have been significant (they could have gone to Egypt and returned in the time it took to decide to send Benjamin)

11 Then their father Israel said to them, "If *it must be* so, then do this: take some of the best products of the land in your bags, and carry down to the man as a gift, a little balsam and a little honey, labdanum resin and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds.

11 Then their father Israel said to them, "If *it must be* so, then do this: take some of the best products of the land in your bags, and carry down to the man as a present, a little balm and a little honey, aromatic gum and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds.

11 "If that's the way it has to be," their father Israel replied, "then do this: take some of the best produce of the land in your containers and take them to the man as a gift—some resin ointment, some honey, fragrant resins, myrrh, pistachios, and almonds.

11 And 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:

- These gifts shows that there were some foods in Canaan, but they were insufficient for survival, thus grain was needed

12 And take double *the* money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the opening of your sacks; perhaps it was a mistake.

12 Take double *the* money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was a mistake.

12 Also take twice as much money with you so you can return the money that had been replaced in the mouth of your sacks. Maybe it was an accounting mistake on his part.

12 And 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:
- They were to take double-money...the money that was returned in their sacks of grain, in case there was a mistake, as well as additional money to purchase grain

13 Take your brother also, and arise, return to the man;

13 Take your brother also, and arise, return to the man;

13 And be sure to take your brother, too. So get up, return to the man,

13 Take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man:

- Jacob relented on sending Benjamin

14 and may God Almighty grant you compassion in the sight of the man, so that he will release to you your other brother and Benjamin. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my sons, I am bereaved!"

14 and may God Almighty grant you compassion in the sight of the man, so that he will release to you your other brother and Benjamin. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."

14 and may God Almighty cause the man to show compassion toward you. May he send all of you back, including your other brother and Benjamin. Now as for me, if I lose my children, I lose them."

14 And God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother, and Benjamin. If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.

(b) Contact with Joseph's steward (43:15-25)

15 So the men took this gift, and they took double *the* money in their hand, and Benjamin; then they set out and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.

15 So the men took this present, and they took double *the* money in their hand, and Benjamin; then they arose and went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph.

15 So the men took their gift and twice as much money, got up, took Benjamin with them, and set out for Egypt. Eventually they appeared before Joseph.

15 And 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.

- Jacob resigned himself to the high risk involved in possibly losing a third son—first, Joseph; then Simeon; and now perhaps Benjamin too.

- Before sending his sons away, Jacob prayed that God Almighty (*El Shaddai*) might keep them and supply every need.

16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to his house steward, "Bring the men into the house, and slaughter an animal and make preparations; for the men are to dine with me at noon."

16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to his house steward, "Bring the men into the house, and slay an animal and make ready; for the men are to dine with me at noon."

16 As soon as Joseph noticed that Benjamin had come with them, he ordered his palace manager, "Bring the men into the palace. Slaughter an animal and prepare it, because these men will be dining with me for lunch."

16 And when Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the ruler of his house, Bring these men home, and slay, and make ready; for these men shall dine with me at noon.
- Because the brother's followed Joseph's instruction, he instructed his steward to prepare a lunch for them

— "Lunch" was the main meal of the day in the Middle East, both at that time and today

17 So the man did as Joseph said, and brought the men to Joseph's house.

17 So the man did as Joseph said, and brought the men to Joseph's house.

17 So the man did what Joseph had ordered, and brought the men to Joseph's palace.

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

18 Now the men were afraid, because they were brought to Joseph's house; and they said, *"It is because of the money that was returned in our sacks the first time that we are being brought in, so that he may attack us and overpower us, and take us as slaves with our donkeys."*

18 Now the men were afraid, because they were brought to Joseph's house; and they said, *"It is because of the money that was returned in our sacks the first time that we are being brought in, that he may seek occasion against us and fall upon us, and take us for slaves with our donkeys."*

18 The men were terrified as they were being taken to Joseph's palace. "It's because of that money that was returned to our sacks the first time we were brought to him," they reasoned. "He's seeking an excuse to attack us, enslave us, and confiscate our donkeys!"

18 And 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, and our asses.

- The brothers were terrified that what they once had done to Joseph would now be done to them, although they still were not aware of Joseph's identity

19 So they approached Joseph's house steward, and spoke to him at the entrance of the house,

19 So they came near to Joseph's house steward, and spoke to him at the entrance of the house,

19 So they approached Joseph's palace manager and talked with him at the palace entrance.

19 And they came near to the steward of Joseph's house, and they communed with him at the door of the house,

- Before entering the palace, they approached the steward to give an explanation for the money in their grain sacks upon their return to Canaan

20 and said, "Oh, my lord, we indeed came down the first time to buy food,

20 and said, "Oh, my lord, we indeed came down the first time to buy food,

20 "Your Excellency," they said, "The first time we came here to buy food,

20 And said, O sir, we came indeed down at the first time to buy food:

21 and it happened when we came to the campsite, that we opened our sacks, and behold, each man's money was in the opening of his sack, our money in full. So we have brought it back in our hand.

21 and it came about when we came to the lodging place, that we opened our sacks, and behold, each man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full. So we have brought it back in our hand.

21 when we arrived at our overnight lodging place, we opened our sacks and discovered each man's money was still in the mouth of his sack. All of our money was there! We've brought it back with us in full.

21 And 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.

22 We have also brought down other money in our hand to buy food; we do not know who put our money in our sacks."

22 We have also brought down other money in our hand to buy food; we do not know who put our money in our sacks."

22 We've also brought along some more money to buy supplies, but we don't know who put our money back into our sacks."

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

23 But he said, "Peace be to you, do not be afraid. **Your God and the God of your father** has given you treasure in your sacks; your money was in my possession." Then he brought Simeon out to them.

23 He said, "Be at ease, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.

23 "Relax," the manager said. "You can stop being afraid, now. Your God, the God of your father, has placed hidden treasure within those sacks for you. I've been paid in full." Then he brought Simeon out to them,

23 And 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.

- "...Your God and the God of your father" - so concerned were the brothers to profess their ignorance of the means of the money being returned and to express their desire to settle the debt, that they didn't notice the apparent belief in God of Joseph's servant or God's hand in the turn of events.

24 Then the man brought the men into Joseph's house and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys feed.

24 Then the man brought the men into Joseph's house and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys fodder.

24 ushered the men into Joseph's palace, gave them water to wash their feet, and provided fodder for their donkeys.

24 And the man brought the men into Joseph's house, and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their asses provender.

25 So they prepared the gift for Joseph's arrival at noon; for they had heard that they were to eat a meal there.

25 So they prepared the present for Joseph's coming at noon; for they had heard that they were to eat a meal there.

25 Then off he went to prepare the honorary meal that was to be made ready for Joseph's arrival at noon, since they had been informed that they were going to be eating there.

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

(c) Contact with Joseph (43:26-34)

26 When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the gift which was in their hand, and they bowed down to the ground before him.

26 When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present which was in their hand and bowed to the ground before him.

26 When Joseph arrived at his palace, his brothers brought to him their gifts that they had carried with them and bowed to the ground in front of him.

26 And 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.

- "...bowed themselves to him" - when they presented their gifts to Joseph they bowed down before him in fulfillment of Joseph's dream (37:7)

27 Then he asked them about their welfare, and said, "Is your old father well, of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"

27 Then he asked them about their welfare, and said, "Is your old father well, of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"

27 Joseph asked them how they had been doing. "Is your father well, the older gentleman about whom you spoke?" he inquired. "Is he still alive?"

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

28 And they said, "Your servant our father is well; he is still alive." Then they bowed down *again* in homage.

28 They said, "Your servant our father is well; he is still alive." They bowed down in homage.

28 "Your servant, our father, is doing well," they replied. "He is still alive." Then they bowed down in humility.

28 And they answered, Thy servant our father is in good health, he is yet alive. And they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance.

29 And as he raised his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, he said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me?" Then he said, "May God be gracious to you, my son."

29 As he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, he said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me?" And he said, "May God be gracious to you, my son."

29 As Joseph looked up and recognized his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son, he asked, "Is this your youngest brother about whom you spoke to me?" And he addressed him directly, "May God be gracious to you, my son."

29 And 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.

- This was the first direct address to his full brother since Joseph had been sold

30 Joseph then hurried *out*, for he was deeply stirred over his brother, and he looked *for a place* to weep; so he entered his chamber and wept there.

30 Joseph hurried *out* for he was deeply stirred over his brother, and he sought *a place* to weep; and he entered his chamber and wept there.

30 At this, Joseph hurried out, deeply moved because of his brother, and looked for a place to weep by himself. He entered his personal quarters, wept there awhile,

30 And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there.

- Joseph, seeing his brother Benjamin, could not hold back his tears of joy

— As before, when he talked with the 10 (42:24), he went aside and wept; it wasn't yet the right time to reveal his identity

31 Then he washed his face and came out; and he controlled himself and said, "Serve the meal."

31 Then he washed his face and came out; and he controlled himself and said, "Serve the meal."

31 then washed his face and came out. Barely controlling himself, he ordered his staff to serve the meal.

31 And he washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Set on bread.

32 Then they served him by himself, and Joseph's brothers by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves; because the Egyptians could not eat bread with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians.

32 So they served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat bread with the Hebrews, for that is loathsome to the Egyptians.

32 Joseph's staff served him by himself, his brothers separately, and the Egyptian staff members by themselves, because the Egyptians wouldn't take their meal with the Hebrews, since doing so was detestable for the Egyptians.

32 And 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.

- Joseph was sat and was served alone, because as far as his brothers were concerned, he was an Egyptian

— As far as the Egyptians were concerned, he was a Hebrew

- The brothers also ate by themselves because they were Hebrews, and it was custom for Egyptians not to eat with foreigners
- The Egyptians ate by themselves for the same reason, but didn't eat with Joseph because he was a Hebrew
- All of this ensured the deception went on a little longer so the brothers could be further tested

33 Now they were seated before him, from the firstborn according to his birthright to the youngest according to his youth, and the men looked at one another in astonishment.

33 Now they were seated before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth, and the men looked at one another in astonishment.

33 Meanwhile, the brothers were seated in front of Joseph in birth order, from firstborn to youngest. The men stared at one another in astonishment.

33 And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men marvelled one at another.

- At the dinner, Joseph demonstrated something ominous to them: the mysterious accuracy of the seating (from the firstborn to the youngest) would increase their uneasy sense of exposure

34 Then he took portions to them from his own table, but Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs. So they drank freely with him.

34 He took portions to them from his own table, but Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs. So they feasted and drank freely with him.

34 Joseph himself brought portions to them from his own table, except that he provided to Benjamin five times as much as he did for each of the others. So they feasted together and drank freely with Joseph.

34 And he took and sent messes unto them from before him: but Benjamin's mess was five times so much as any of theirs. And they drank, and were merry with him.

- Joseph showed favoritism to Benjamin, his full brother; this tested the attitudes of the other brothers

— Once they were jealous of Joseph due to special treatment, and there was a question in Joseph's mind now whether they would become jealous of Benjamin; no envy, jealousy or animosity surfaced