

Genesis Chapter 42

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Verses	Comments	Cross References
1-6	<p>Genesis 42:1-6 — <i>Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt. But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him. And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan. And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.</i></p> <p>The predicted famine has now impacted Israel back in Canaan and times are getting rough. Israel looks at his boys and says – What are you boys sitting around and doing nothing to get food – there's food in Egypt – Get your stuff together and go down there to buy us some food before we all starve to death. But Benjamin is staying with me just in case something bad happens and I lose him like I did Joseph. Some say this is a fulfillment of Joseph's dream in Chapter 37.</p> <p>Genesis 37:7-8 — <i>For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.</i></p> <p>However, Benjamin is not with them so this is not a complete fulfillment of the dream. The fulfillment comes in Chapter 43.</p> <p>Genesis 43:26 — <i>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.</i></p> <p>Now we are about to see the tables turned on his brothers for what they did to Joseph.</p>	Ge, 37:7-8; 43:14

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7-17	<p>Genesis 42:7-17 — <i>And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food. And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him. And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come. And they said unto him, Nay, my lord, but to buy food are thy servants come. We are all one man's sons; we are true men, thy servants are no spies. And he said unto them, Nay, but to see the nakedness of the land ye are come. And they said, Thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and, behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is not. And Joseph said unto them, That is it that I spake unto you, saying, Ye are spies: Hereby ye shall be proved: By the life of Pharaoh ye shall not go forth hence, except your youngest brother come hither. Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be kept in prison, that your words may be proved, whether there be any truth in you: or else by the life of Pharaoh surely ye are spies. And he put them all together into ward three days.</i></p> <p>Joseph sees his brethren and recognizes them but they do not recognize him. He remembers his dream from Chapter 37 and decides to see whether they are sorry for what they did.</p> <p>Joseph has learned the Egyptian language and talks through an interpreter (verse 23) so they will not recognize him and he speaks roughly to them. He decides to give them a taste of their own medicine and accuses them of being spies to see how they react. He tries to see if there is any sorrow for what they did to him. Let's step through the brother's path to redemption in Joseph's view.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having come to buy, the sinner is rebuked. 2. Although the sinner is willing to go through religious forms of worship (vs. 6), he "worships what he knows not," "for salvation is of the Jews" <p>John 4:22 — <i>Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.</i></p>	John 4:22

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7-17 (cont)	<p>3. God knows the sinner, but asks him questions to see what he will answer.</p> <p>Luke 24:13-19 — <i>And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:</i></p> <p>4. Joseph's brethren "knew not him" (vs. 8).</p> <p>John 1:10-11 — <i>He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.</i></p> <p>5. God charges the sinner who comes to Him with sin (vs. 9).</p> <p>6. The sinner immediately justifies himself and goes into lengthy explanations about what a fine person he is and how fine his "family tree is" (vss. 10-11).</p> <p>7. God insists that you are a sinner even if you didn't come from Adam (vs. 12)! This is the mistake the Pharisees made. They traced their genealogy to Abraham (John 8:33) and stopped. But from where did Abraham come? He came from a fallen, self-willed, self-righteous rebel—Adam: the same place from which YOU came.</p> <p>John 8:33 — <i>They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?</i></p>	<p>Luke 24:13-19 John 1:10-11; 8:33</p>

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7-17 (cont)	<p>8. The sinner now assumes the defensive in earnest (vs. 13) and insists that he is “handicapped,” “has had bad luck,” “bad heredity and environment,” “not as good as he ought to be, etc.,” but he certainly is not guilty.</p> <p>Romans 2:15 — <i>Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)</i></p> <p>9. The Lord keeps right on applying the word (vs. 14). He now takes the hapless sinner and gives him a taste of judgment. Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, et al., finally get their share of fun; they are slapped into the jail where Joseph had been, and it was only the good will and good nature of Joseph that got them out in three days (vs. 17). If they had had to tough it out for ten to thirteen years like Joseph had to do, they would have come out “stir crazy.”</p> <p>The boys finally partially admit that one of their brothers was not since they have no clue the one is actually who is talking to them. They are having to spill their whole family beans (which they did not anticipate when they went). They get placed into prison and then they have to try and decide which one will go back for Benjamin and then face their father’s wrath for letting all this happen. The squeeze is on!! They still have not figured out this is all connected to selling Joseph at this point.</p>	Rom. 2:15

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18-28	<p>Genesis 42:18-28 — <i>And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God: If ye be true men, let one of your brethren be bound in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses: But bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so. And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us. And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required. And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for he spake unto them by an interpreter. And he turned himself about from them, and wept; and returned to them again, and communed with them, and took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes. Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way: and thus did he unto them. And they laded their asses with the corn, and departed thence. And as one of them opened his sack to give his ass provender in the inn, he espied his money; for, behold, it was in his sack's mouth. And he said unto his brethren, My money is restored; and, lo, it is even in my sack: and their heart failed them, and they were afraid, saying one to another, What is this that God hath done unto us?</i></p> <p>Joseph lets them stew and blame each other for their predicament for 3 days and then changes the terms of them proving they weren't spies (event though Joseph knew it). Instead of keeping 9 and sending one he reverses it and says 9 can go and one has to stay. He knows Israel will not want to let Benjamin come based on what has happened so he puts the fear of God in them. Joseph says he fears God – and that had to be a shocker to his brothers since they have never confessed for what they did to him. The brothers finally come to grips with their sin about Joseph and then Reuben comes in – I told you so – you wouldn't listen when I told you not to mess with him and sold him anyway. How many have ever watched a TV show/movie where someone committed a crime and thought they had it completely covered up and then one day it rises up to haunt them? Just like a sinner – their sin finally stares them in the face, but they are not yet ready to completely repent. Now Joseph is listening to them and understands them being sorry for their deeds, but has to keep his composure to the whole thing dealt with. That would be hard so he has to turn away while the tears flow.</p>	

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18-28 (cont)	<p>Imagine how Christ feels when we sin against him and how he grieves for us when we treat him the way we do.</p> <p>Joseph provides grace at this point by filling the boy's sacks with food and to make sure their money is also returned (unbeknownst to them). God's gift is free and can't be purchased – Thank God for his grace and salvation – the free gift!!! They notice the money and then begin to shake in their boots and ask – What has God done to us? They realize that the situation is not circumstantial happenings – but God is now working in their lives to bring them to repentance – and the fear what is happening. Now they realize they be accused of stealing the corn and keeping the money.</p>	
29-38	<p>Genesis 42:29-38 — <i>And they came unto Jacob their father unto the land of Canaan, and told him all that befell unto them; saying, The man, who is the lord of the land, spake roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country. And we said unto him, We are true men; we are no spies: We be twelve brethren, sons of our father; one is not, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan. And the man, the lord of the country, said unto us, Hereby shall I know that ye are true men; leave one of your brethren here with me, and take food for the famine of your households, and be gone: And bring your youngest brother unto me: then shall I know that ye are no spies, but that ye are true men: so will I deliver you your brother, and ye shall traffick in the land. And it came to pass as they emptied their sacks, that, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack: and when both they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid. And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me. And Reuben spake unto his father, saying, Slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee: deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him to thee again. And he said, My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he is left alone: if mischief befall him by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.</i></p> <p>Now they have a lot of time to ponder the happenings and get back to Israel and now they have to let him know all that has happened to try and convince him to let them return with Benjamin to free Simeon. Verse 35 shows that the remainder of the boys did not open their sacks to find the money returned and now all 9 and their father are scared to death.</p>	

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29-38 (cont)	<p>Punishment in that day for stealing from Pharaoh was death. Israel – loses hope and recognizes – Joseph is gone, Simeon is gone, and now you have to take Benjamin back and be caught for stealing all this corn and probably none of you will make it back and I will be talked about from now on. If not for God's grace that's where we all would be.</p> <p>Reuben tries to help his father handle Benjamin going down and he offers his two sons to be taken if he can't bring him back – even though he was not the one that agreed to sell Joseph. They still have no admitted to Israel what they did to Joseph.</p> <p>Israel – says – no way is Benjamin going – he's the only connection I have left with my dear Rachel. Joseph is dead and if something happens to Benjamin – I will die of a broken heart.</p> <p>They decide not to go back based on Israel's position so Simeon is left in prison for a while until the next chapter.</p>	

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1-14	<p>Genesis 43:1-14 — <i>And the famine was sore in the land. 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. 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. If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go down and buy thee food: 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. And Israel said, Wherefore dealt ye so ill with me, as to tell the man whether ye had yet a brother? 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? 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. 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: For except we had lingered, surely now we had returned this second time. 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: 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: Take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man: 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.</i></p> <p>They end up staying back in Canaan until they again run out of food and desperation changes the circumstances. Israel tells them to go back and buy some more food and Judah reminds him – we have to take Benjamin if we go back or he will consider us a spies and we will not return and be executed. Judah draws the line with Israel and says – if we can't take Benjamin – we don't go.</p> <p>Israel then tries to blame the boys for mentioning Benjamin to begin with – but Judah tells him why they told him. Judah appeals to his father that he will vouch for Benjamin and be blamed forever if he does not bring him back. Israel finally gives in and allows Benjamin to go, He's starving.</p>	

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1-14 (cont)	<p>Israel gives them double the amount of what they took the first time so they could repay the previous debt they thought they owed. Israel prays for God's mercy to be shown and allow them to return – all together.</p> <p>Spiritually speaking – a sinner must bear his own iniquity forever like Judah without God's mercy and grace. They are once again planning on buying their way in (works!).</p>	
15-25	<p>Genesis 43:15-25 — <i>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. 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. And the man did as Joseph bade; and the man brought the men into Joseph's house. 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. And they came near to the steward of Joseph's house, and they communed with him at the door of the house, And said, O sir, we came indeed down at the first time to buy food: 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. And other money have we brought down in our hands to buy food: we cannot tell who put our money in our sacks. 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. 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. And they made ready the present against Joseph came at noon: for they heard that they should eat bread there.</i></p> <p>Now we will see the parallel with a sinner's conversion and the restoration of Israel at the end of the tribulation over the next 3 chapters.</p> <p>The boys pack their camels and bags and head back down to Egypt. He sees Benjamin coming with his brothers and you know how happy he is that he will finally get to reveal himself to them as he really is – just like when we finally get our eyes opened spiritually to which Christ really is.</p>	

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15-25 (cont)	<p>Joseph wants to spend some time with them – just like Christ want to spend time with us – family and sets up a feast at his house – but this scares the brothers even more because they know he recognizes them and they know they took the money back with them thinking Joseph is going to personally attack them without them having a chance to offer their reasoning.</p> <p>They contact the doorman on the way in and then confess up front about having the money they previously brought and that much more to buy more food. But then the steward – who was definitely influenced by Joseph and his faith in God replies to them in verse 23.</p> <p><i>“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.”</i></p> <p>Your God and the God of your father – Joseph’s steward knew who they were and his past history and how God has preserved Joseph for this moment!!! Do we have the same testimony among our friends and loved ones?</p> <p>He brings out Simeon – who probably exclaims – What took you guys so long to get back here?</p> <p>Notice how Joseph spots the brothers afar off like the prodigal son’s father and tells them to prepare a feast – we are about to see one that was lost be born again! The brothers are scared and in fear of what may happen and begs for mercy recognizing their sins. They clean themselves up and are about to eat with royalty – still not knowing it is their brother.</p>	

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26-34	<p>Genesis 43:26-34 — <i>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. And he asked them of their welfare, and said, Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive? And they answered, Thy servant our father is in good health, he is yet alive. And they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance. 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. 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. And he washed his face, and went out, and restrained himself, and said, Set on bread. 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. 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. 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.</i></p> <p>Joseph comes in from his duties to commune with them and they immediately give him their presents – and still being scared to death and then Joseph's dream about his brothers come true since all 11 are present and bow to him. They never stop to think of how this ruler in Egypt would still know all the details of their family life – being removed from them for quite a while.</p> <p>Joseph sees his little brother again after all these years and has a hard time holding back his tears of joy and notices that he still speaks of God – which should have given the older boys a sign. Joseph has to excuse himself to let the tears flow for a short time. Food is served and the Egyptians leave because it is against their custom to eat with others. But they know Joseph was a Hebrew – since he told them himself where he came from.</p> <p>Joseph then had the boys sit based on their order of birth which amazed the brothers even more – How could he know this? He also instructed his servants to feed Benjamin 5 times more than his brothers. They all dined and were merry with Joseph – yet they still did not know.</p>	