

The Reunion for Joseph

Genesis 42:1-38

- I. THE REASON FOR THE REUNION (Genesis 42:1-5)
 - A. The News of Corn in Egypt (Genesis 42:1)
 1. The famine had affected Jacob and his family in Canaan (Genesis 41:1, 2, 5)
 2. The inaction of the sons of Jacob
 - a. It seems the sons of Jacob were sitting around doing nothing about it (Genesis 41:1)
 - b. *“Why do ye look one upon another?”* (Genesis 41:1)
 - (1) This inaction seems to be recurrent by Joseph’s brothers (Genesis 43:2)
 - (2) Notice inaction at the wrong time is called out by God (Joshua 7:6-10)
 - B. The Need for Corn from Egypt (Genesis 42:2)
 1. The crisis of food (Genesis 42:2, 5)
 - a. *“The famine was in the land of Canaan”* (v. 5)
 - b. The fundamental reason for the reunion was the famine.
 - c. The main reason for this famine was to fulfill God’s plan for His people.
 - d. Mankind often only sees secondary causes and does not perceive the primary cause for events and calamities. The primary cause is always to fulfill God’s plan (Jonah 1:1-3, 4, 5-16; Psalm 89:9).
 2. The corn in Egypt (Genesis 42:2)
 - a. *“Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt... I have heard that there is corn in Egypt.”*
 - b. Egypt had food because they had been warned through the dreams which Joseph had interpreted.
 - c. The news of Egypt having corn likely reached Jacob by caravans traveling through on their way to and from Egypt.
 - C. The Brothers Journey to Egypt (Genesis 42:3-5)
 1. The command of Jacob – Jacob ordered his boys (the brothers of Joseph) to go to Egypt and buy corn *“that we may live, and not die”* (Genesis 42:2).

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2. The company in the journey (Genesis 42:3-4)
 - a. Only ten of the brothers made the journey (v. 3)
 - b. Benjamin was left behind with Jacob in case of trouble (v. 4)
 - (1) Joseph and Benjamin were the two sons of Rachel.
 - (2) Jacob had already lost (so he thought) Joseph, he did not want something also happening to Benjamin.
3. The compliance for the journey (Genesis 42:5)
 - a. *“Joseph’s ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt... the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came”* (Genesis 42:3, 5).
 - b. Jacob’s command got the ten older brothers of Joseph moving to get food from Egypt where they also met up with Joseph. The trip turned out to be much different than they expected.

II. THE RECEPTION AT THE REUNION (Genesis 42:6-24)

A. Joseph Recognizes His Brothers (Genesis 42:6-8)

1. The reverence given to Joseph (Genesis 42:6)
 - a. Joseph was the governour of Egypt.
 - b. Joseph was the man who sold to all the people of the land.
 - c. Joseph’s brothers came to him and bowed before him with their faces to the ground.
 - d. This then fulfilled the dream of Joseph concerning the sheaves (Genesis 37:5-8).
 - e. Note: One day in the future every knee will bow before the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:10).
2. The recognition by Joseph (Genesis 42:7-8)
 - a. Joseph recognizes his brothers, yet he does not let them know who he is. Certainly, he is curious as to where Benjamin is.
 - b. They do not know who he is – Joseph would have changed a great deal in those many years away from home. He was dressed in much different apparel, and they did expect to see him again, especially in this position.

B. Joseph Troubles His Brothers (Genesis 42:7-24)

1. Joseph speaks roughly to them (Genesis 42:7-8)
 - a. He asks them where they are from.
 - b. They answered, *“from the land of Canaan to buy food.”*
2. Joseph accuses them of being spies (Genesis 42:9-12)
 - a. Joseph remembered his dreams concerning them (v. 9).
 - b. Joseph accuses them coming to spy out the nakedness of the land (v. 10).