



Genesis 43

TESTING ACCORDING TO GOD

Joseph's brothers had experienced a measure of repentance during their traumatic experience in Egypt, but there was still much to be accomplished in their hearts by God's Spirit before they would be truly prepared and unified spiritually to serve as the fathers and founders of the twelve tribes of Israel. They must yet have to confront Joseph himself, learn to undergo the utter confusion and helplessness into which sin leads, and finally experience the joy of forgiveness in grace, together with restoration to fellowship and unity. They must learn true faith in God and His purposes, as well as obedience to God's commands. To accomplish these things, another trip to Egypt was necessary.

—Henry M. Morris

Genesis 42-45 form the climax of the Joseph story. Two trips to Egypt during the famine bring the brothers to a place of humility and repentance, bring reconciliation with Joseph, and bring the family to Egypt.

A The brother's envy and hatred toward Joseph (37:1-28)

B Jacob mourns the "death" of Joseph (37:29-36)

C Interlude: The birth of Judah's sons (38:1-30)

D Unexpected reversal: the righteous Joseph in prison (39:1-23)

E Joseph: the savior of Egypt (40:1-41:57)

F Journey of the brothers to Egypt (42:1-43:34)

G Joseph tests his brothers (44:1-34)

H Joseph reveals his identity (45:1-15)

G Joseph provides for his brothers (45:16-28)

F Journey of the family to Egypt (46:1-27)

E Joseph: the savior of Israel (46:28-47:21)

D Unexpected reversal: the younger blessed over older (48:1-22)

C Interlude: The blessing of Jacob's sons (49:1-28)

B Joseph mourns the death of Jacob (49:29-50:14)

A Joseph's forgiveness and grace toward his brothers (50:15-26)

THE FAMINE IN CANAAN (43:1-14)

The severe famine in Canaan leads to the necessity of another trip to Egypt and continues to refine the hearts of those in Jacob's family.

- **Jacob is stuck as a self-focused** _____.

Me you have bereaved! Joseph is no more. Simeon is no more. And Benjamin you would take! Everything is against me! (42:36)

Why did you bring this trouble on me? (43:6a)

As for me, if I lose my children, I lose them. (43:14b)

God, through the famine, initiates the saving process by forcing the family to confront their past and each other. Through these severe mercies the fractured family is being healed. —Bruce K. Waltke

[They] constantly confront the ominous world of "not knowing." Events seem to happen at random and the dark side of their imagination senses a threat to their lives.

—Eugene F. Roop

Consistent with his character from chapter 37 onward, Jacob flaunts his sense of personal injury.

—Robert Alter

43:6. *The verb may have a moral connotation here, "Why did you do evil to me?" (NET Bible Notes)*

Jacob blames his sons for creating the impossible circumstances he faced. This frustration...recalls his lashing out against Simeon and Levi ("brought trouble," 34:30).

—Kenneth A. Mathews

Jacob...suspects his sons of selling Simeon to raise cash and is determined not to let his beloved Benjamin out of his sight.

—Gordon J. Wenham

- Judah is growing into a self-sacrificing _____.

Send the boy with me... (43:8)

I myself will be surety for him... (43:9)

- The family is drawing together as a true _____.
- God remains faithful as their All-Sufficient, merciful Father.

THE FEAST IN EGYPT (43:15-34)

The ten brothers arrive in Egypt to purchase more food, to repay the money they received, to bring a present to “the man,” and to free their brother, Simeon. To their surprise, they are invited to a feast.

- Guilt leads to _____.
- Confession leads to _____.
- Humility leads to _____.
- Compassion leads to _____.
- Contentment leads to _____.

Judah, the oldest son in good standing with his father, emerges as the new leader. Judah risks his own family fortune and life to save the rest of the family... Reuben put his sons' lives on the line; Judah puts his own life on the line.

—Bruce Waltke

Surety. Hebrew, *arab*, “to pledge, guarantee.” Used 2x in Gen. 43:9, 44:32. The noun, *arabon*, is used only 3x in Gen. 38:17, 18, 20.

Something good comes out of every crisis. —Dave Pelzer

Mercy. Hebrew, *racham*, “womb, compassion, tender mercy.”

Joseph hosts a meal for his brothers who years before had callously sat down to eat while he languished in the pit. —Nahum Sarna

Unresolved guilt is like having a snooze alarm in your head that won't shut off. —Dr. Guy Winch

Those that are guilty and timorous are apt to make the worst of everything. —Matthew Henry

A good conscience is a soft pillow. —Anonymous

There is sacredness in tears. They are not a mark of weakness, but of power. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, deep contrition, and unspeakable love.

—Washington Irving

The tender mercy for which Jacob prayed came naturally from one who was moved by compassion for his brother. —Allen Ross

The brothers drank and were fully content. —Walter E. Brown