

Last week: Joseph is the second in command of (121) all of Egypt because God gave him the insight that

Egypt would have 7 prosperous years followed by 7 famine filled ones. Joseph's brothers travel to Egypt to buy some food. They buy the food from Joseph, whom they do not recognize. Joseph sends them packing with the purchased supplies and fills their sacks with the money they payed. He tells them not to return without their youngest brother Benjamin. Now the time has come to return to buy more food but Jacob does not want to send Benjamin, but reluctantly will submit.

Genesis 43:11-17 The brothers gave the ruler, Joseph, double the money of the 1st time, the original money, and they did as Joseph had demanded and presented Benjamin before him. Joseph orders a feast to be had at his house at noon.

Genesis 43:18 The brothers are running scared because they fear they are going to be done in at the house of the ruler.

Genesis 43:19-25 The brothers head to Joseph's house with the gifts as commanded by Jacob. When they get to the front door Joseph's servant is there to greet them. Quickly, as though they needed a defense, they explained that somehow their purchase monies were restored to them and that they had not done anything dishonest. Furthermore, they said this time we not only brought back the original monies but also a double portion for this time's purchase. But the servant calms their fears and says "peace be with you". He then goes on to tell them that he himself restored the monies to their individual saddle bags and returns their brother Simeon to them.

Genesis 43:26-31 Joseph greets the brothers, now complete in number, and asks about their father (his father) and his well-being. They answer, "he is in good health, he is alive". Then Joseph sees his baby brother Benjamin and can't contain himself so he exits quickly, sobs tears of joy, washes his face and returns.

Genesis 43: 32: This is an interesting scenario. (122)
Joseph is seated by himself, his brothers at another
table, and the Egyptians present at yet another table.

They did this because it was an "abomination" to be
for an Egyptian to be seated at the table of a Hebrew. Even
if that Hebrew was their Supervisor! Rabbit trail: Egypt
in the Bible, is a picture of sin. Remember how Abram was
told not to go down to Egypt because God had set him apart
to be the father of a Godly nation. A "nation of priests"
as He calls them later on in Exodus 19:6. And Abraham
sends Eliezer (means "God's helper") back to his hometown
area to get a wife for Isaac so that he does not also marry
in to the ungodly peoples in that area. And as we saw in both
Abraham and Isaac's lives when they did head south to the
area of Egypt their wives were snagged and put in to a harem.

In God's plan, Egypt was a vessel used by God to grow
and multiply His people in what will soon be slavery. Totally
encapsulated yet completely isolated, and insulated,
from inter-marrying. This would cause them (the
Hebrew nation) to grow and to keep to themselves and thus
maintain their Hebrew national identity even though
idol worship and false Gods surrounded them for 400+
years! And when the time comes, when we get to Exodus
(hopefully before the rapture) we will see that the Exodus
was a picture of Baptism in to Jesus Christ:

Egypt was sin, the people passed through the waters
(baptized/submerged/encapsulated) and emerged on
the other side, whereas sin was permanently "washed
away". It is also a picture of how the law could not
lead to the same "washed away". That is why (one
of the reasons) why Moses could not lead the Israelites
in to the promised land. Who did? Joshua. And
Joshua is translated, in the Hebrew, "Yaweh is
salvation" or "God is deliverance". By the way,
the Greek translation of the Hebrew name Joshua
is "Jesus". This is no coincidence. Only Jesus can

deliver His people from death. That is why He is the (only) Way, the (only) Truth, and the (only) Life! (123)

And back to this symbolism of the seating in

Joseph's house: Sin has no place at the table of the righteous! Hence Pastor Daniel's sermon series, "You can take the man out of Egypt, but it's hard to take Egypt out of the man" (or something close to that verbiage).

Genesis 43: 33-34 Joseph seats them, in birth order, at the table and gives them all healthy portions but Benjamin gets five fold the portion of that of the others. This of course astonished them. Probably because they were blown away at how this Egyptian could have such keen wisdom to seat them according to their age (birthrite). Joseph possibly did this to test them and see if they still had some hatred in them because of the youngest getting 5x as much as each of the others.

Genesis 44: 1-5 The next morning Joseph, once again, has the brothers sacks filled with the goods they purchased. He also has once again restored their money. But this time he also has his servant put his silver cup in Benjamin's saddle bags. He sends the brothers on their way and then after a while sends his servant after them telling him to confront the men; discover the silver cup, and accuse them of stealing their master's "divination cup".

Genesis 44: 6-9 So the servant catches up to them and says one of you has stolen my master's divination cup. The brothers knowing that they had not done so exclaim that they would never do such a thing. They go on to proclaim their innocence and say we even returned the money that was put in our sacks the first time. So sure that they did nothing wrong they said, "Search our bags and if you find the cup that person should be put to death and the rest of us will be your slaves."

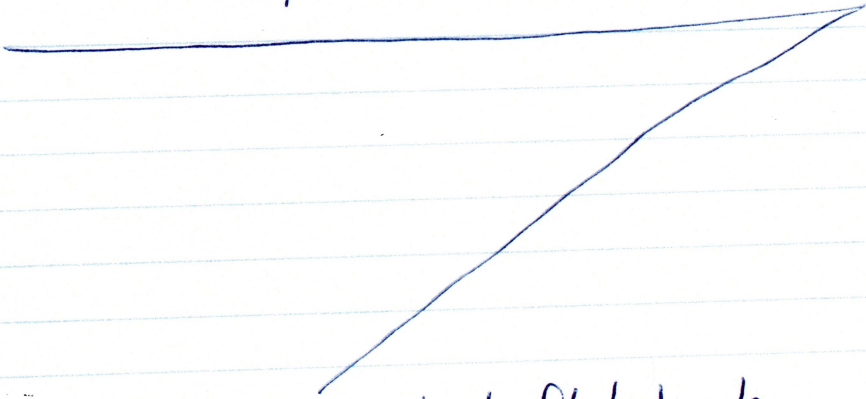
Genesis 44: 10-13 But the servant said each of them should empty their bags and who ever has the cup shall become Joseph's servant and the rest could go.

So the brothers empty their bags, oldest to youngest and when Benjamin empties his bag there it is. So the brothers are terrified, scared, and in great mourning ("tore their clothes"). (124)

Genesis 44:14-17 The guilt of the last 20 years has ripened to fullness! Judah's guilty conscience identifies that surely God must be calling them to account for killing their younger brother Joseph. Joseph's blood must have been crying out from the ground ("God has found out the iniquity of your servants").

Genesis 44:18-34 Judah pleads with all that he has! He basically confesses that Benjamin is the father's favorite since the original father's favorite has perished and that he is all that is left of his beloved Rachel. He goes on to exclaim that he can not return without him because it would kill his father. He does the honorable thing and says please take me to be your slave not Benjamin.

- Next week chapter 45 -



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