

Joseph's Brothers Visit Egypt: 2nd of 2 Parts

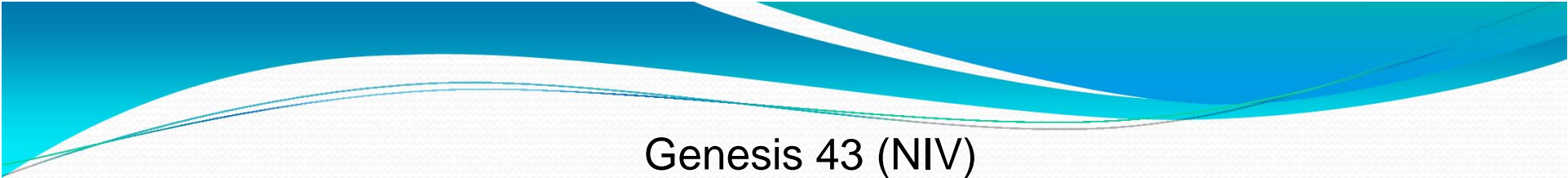
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What We Will Learn

- Joseph sought and found true forgiveness for his senior brothers
- He verified their repentance
- Determined they are brother's keepers
- Re-united and reconciled with them
- Genesis 43, 44, and 45


Decision for 2nd Visit to Egypt

- Israel requested 2nd trip to Egypt
- Judah negotiated for Benjamin to go
- Promised to guarantee the boy's safety
- Israel agreed
- Asked they take gifts for the man and payment for both grain purchases
- Genesis 43:1–14



Genesis 43 (NIV)

- 1 Now the famine was still severe in the land.
- 2 So when they had eaten all the grain they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, "Go back and buy us a little more food."
- 3 But Judah said to him, "The man warned us solemnly, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.'
- 4 If you will send our brother along with us, we will go down and buy food for you.
- 5 But if you will not send him, we will not go down, because the man said to us, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.' "
- 6 Israel asked, "Why did you bring this trouble on me by telling the man you had another brother?"




Genesis 43 (NIV)

7 They replied, "The man questioned us closely about ourselves and our family. 'Is your father still living?' he asked us. 'Do you have another brother?' We simply answered his questions. How were we to know he would say, 'Bring your brother down here'?"

8 Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the boy along with me and we will go at once, so that we and you and our children may live and not die.

9 I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you, I will bear the blame before you all my life.

10 As it is, if we had not delayed, we could have gone and returned twice."



Genesis 43 (NIV)

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

12 Take double the amount of silver with you, for you must return the silver that was put back into the mouths of your sacks. Perhaps it was a mistake.

13 Take your brother also and go back to the man at once.

14 And may God Almighty grant you mercy before the man so that he will let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you. As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved."

All Brothers Arrive in Egypt

- Joseph's care became manifest
- Invited group to his house for a meal

Genesis 43:15–16 (NIV)

15 So the men took the gifts and double the amount of silver, and Benjamin also. They hurried down to Egypt and presented themselves to Joseph.

16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Take these men to my house, slaughter an animal and prepare dinner; they are to eat with me at noon."

All Brothers Arrive in Egypt

- Manifestation of Joseph's care (cont'd)
- Inquired about father with tender care

Genesis 43:26–28 (NIV)

26 When Joseph came home, they presented to him the gifts they had brought into the house, and they bowed down before him to the ground.

27 He asked them how they were, and then he said, "How is your aged father you told me about? Is he still living?"

28 They replied, "Your servant our father is still alive and well." And they bowed low to pay him honor.

All Brothers Arrive in Egypt

- Manifestation of Joseph's care (cont'd)
- Showed special recognition for Benjamin

Genesis 43:29–31 & 34 (NIV)

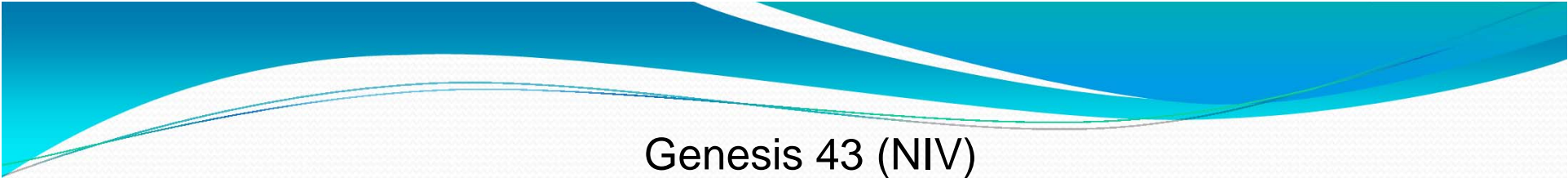
29 As he looked about and saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son, he asked, "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son."

30 Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to weep. He went into his private room and wept there.

31 After he had washed his face, he came out and, controlling himself, said, "Serve the food."

All Brothers Arrive in Egypt

- Manifestation of Joseph's care (cont'd)
- Household assistants showed intimate knowledge of the family
 - “Your God, the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks”
 - Seated in the order of their ages
- Brothers noticed but did not understand why Joseph cared
- Genesis 43:19–23 and 32–33



Genesis 43 (NIV)


19 So they went up to Joseph's steward and spoke to him at the entrance to the house.

20 "Please, sir," they said, "we came down here the first time to buy food.

21 But at the place where we stopped for the night we opened our sacks and each of us found his silver--the exact weight--in the mouth of his sack. So we have brought it back with us.

22 We have also brought additional silver with us to buy food. We don't know who put our silver in our sacks."

23 "It's all right," he said. "Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks; I received your silver." Then he brought Simeon out to them.



Genesis 43 (NIV)

32 They served him by himself, the brothers by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because Egyptians could not eat with Hebrews, for that is detestable to Egyptians.

33 The men had been seated before him in the order of their ages, from the firstborn to the youngest; and they looked at each other in astonishment.

One Final Test

- Joseph ordered his brothers' sacks filled
- Their money returned
- His special cup placed in Benjamin's sack

Genesis 44:1–2 (NIV)

1 Now Joseph gave these instructions to the steward of his house: "Fill the men's sacks with as much food as they can carry, and put each man's silver in the mouth of his sack.

2 Then put my cup, the silver one, in the mouth of the youngest one's sack, along with the silver for his grain." And he did as Joseph said.

One Final Test cont'd

- After his brothers left
- He ordered that they be stopped and accused of stealing his special cup

Genesis 44:3–5 (NIV)


3 As morning dawned, the men were sent on their way with their donkeys.

4 They had not gone far from the city when Joseph said to his steward, "Go after those men at once, and when you catch up with them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid good with evil?

5 Isn't this the cup my master drinks from and also uses for divination? This is a wicked thing you have done.' "

Worst Turn of Events for Brothers

- Brothers denied the accusation
- Submitted for a search
- Proposed stiff punishment for the cup
- Joseph's steward modified the punishment
- He searched their bags
- Found the cup in Benjamin's bag
- Genesis 44:6–12




Genesis 44 (NIV)

6 When he caught up with them, he repeated these words to them.

7 But they said to him, "Why does my lord say such things? Far be it from your servants to do anything like that!

8 We even brought back to you from the land of Canaan the silver we found inside the mouths of our sacks. So why would we steal silver or gold from your master's house?

9 If any of your servants is found to have it, he will die; and the rest of us will become my lord's slaves."



Genesis 44 (NIV)


10 "Very well, then," he said, "let it be as you say. Whoever is found to have it will become my slave; the rest of you will be free from blame."

11 Each of them quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it.

12 Then the steward proceeded to search, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

Brothers Offer Themselves for Slavery

- Brothers returned to Egypt
- Accepted guilt for taking the cup
- Offered themselves to be enslaved
- Joseph rejected the offer
- Declared only Benjamin will be enslaved
- Genesis 44:13–17



Genesis 44 (NIV)

13 At this, they tore their clothes. Then they all loaded their donkeys and returned to the city.

14 Joseph was still in the house when Judah and his brothers came in, and they threw themselves to the ground before him.

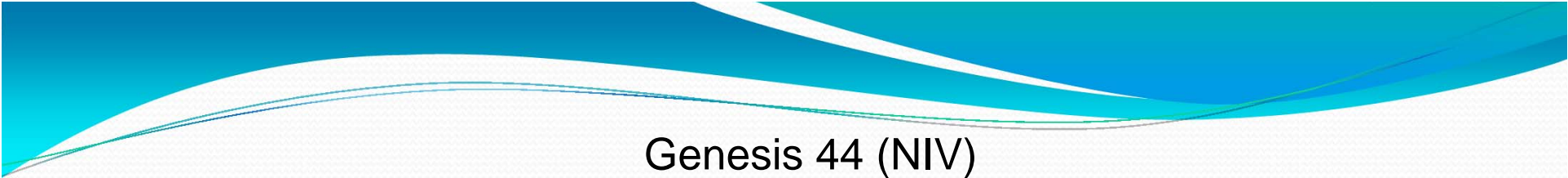
15 Joseph said to them, "What is this you have done? Don't you know that a man like me can find things out by divination?"

16 "What can we say to my lord?" Judah replied. "What can we say? How can we prove our innocence? God has uncovered your servants' guilt. We are now my lord's slaves--we ourselves and the one who was found to have the cup."

17 But Joseph said, "Far be it from me to do such a thing! Only the man who was found to have the cup will become my slave. The rest of you, go back to your father in peace."

Judah Offers Himself for Benjamin

- During our first visit, we mentioned our little brother because you asked us
- You insisted we bring him to meet you
- Our father was persuaded but will die if we go home without the boy
- Please keep me as your slave but let Benjamin go home
- Genesis 44:18–34



Genesis 44 (NIV)

18 Then Judah went up to him and said: "Please, my lord, let your servant speak a word to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, though you are equal to Pharaoh himself.


19 My lord asked his servants, 'Do you have a father or a brother?'

20 And we answered, 'We have an aged father, and there is a young son born to him in his old age. His brother is dead, and he is the only one of his mother's sons left, and his father loves him.'

21 "Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me so I can see him for myself.'

22 And we said to my lord, 'The boy cannot leave his father; if he leaves him, his father will die.'

23 But you told your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you will not see my face again.'



Genesis 44 (NIV)

24 When we went back to your servant my father, we told him what my lord had said.


25 "Then our father said, 'Go back and buy a little more food.'

26 But we said, 'We cannot go down. Only if our youngest brother is with us will we go. We cannot see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.'

27 "Your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons.

28 One of them went away from me, and I said, "He has surely been torn to pieces." And I have not seen him since.

29 If you take this one from me too and harm comes to him, you will bring my gray head down to the grave in misery.'



Genesis 44 (NIV)

30 "So now, if the boy is not with us when I go back to your servant my father and if my father, whose life is closely bound up with the boy's life,

31 sees that the boy isn't there, he will die. Your servants will bring the gray head of our father down to the grave in sorrow.


32 Your servant guaranteed the boy's safety to my father. I said, 'If I do not bring him back to you, I will bear the blame before you, my father, all my life!'

33 "Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord's slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers.

34 How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come upon my father."

Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

- Joseph lost control and wept loud
- I am your brother Joseph
- Do not distress or be angry with yourselves
- God sent me here ahead of you to save your lives by a great deliverance
- Hurry back and bring my father, your households and all you have
- I will make a home for you in Goshen
- Genesis 45:1–15



Genesis 45 (NIV)

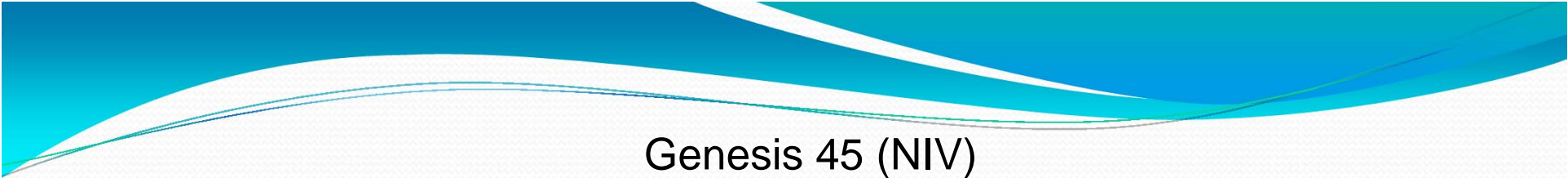
1 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers.

2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!

5 And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.



Genesis 45 (NIV)


6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping.

7 But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.

9 Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay.

10 You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me--you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have.



Genesis 45 (NIV)

11 I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

12 "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you.

13 Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

14 Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping.

15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Joseph Sought and Found True Forgiveness

- Cared for his brothers all along
- Needed to verify their repentance
- From brother's killers to brother's keepers
- Brothers offered themselves for slavery
- Judah offered himself in place of Benjamin
- True forgiveness of his brothers is one of Joseph's grand blessings

Concluding Remarks

- Judah offered to sacrifice himself for his little brother and for the sake of his father
- Being brother's keeper entails much less
- Sensitivity to brother's needs is usually all
- Forgiveness needs repentance
- God sees your repentance
- Human beings need to see and feel your repentance to truly forgive