

# Joseph's Brothers Visit Egypt: 1<sup>st</sup> of 2 Parts

Dr. Goodluck Ofoegbu  
Banking Blessings Ministry  
San Antonio, Texas  
USA


# What We Will Learn

- Joseph began testing his brothers
- To determine if they had repented
- From brother's killers to brother's keepers
- To forgive them from what they did to him
  - Attempted to kill him
  - Sold him into slavery
- Genesis 41:41–57 and 42:1–38

# Joseph in Charge of All Egypt

- Joseph was 2<sup>nd</sup> in command
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> only to Pharaoh
  - On matters of the throne
- Seven years of abundance passed
- Severe famine set in
- All countries came to buy grain from Egypt
- Genesis 41:41–49 and 53–57





## Genesis 41 (NIV)


41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt."

42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.

43 He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and men shouted before him, "Make way !" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt.

44 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt."

45 Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt.



## Genesis 41 (NIV)


46 Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt.

47 During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully.

48 Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it.

49 Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure.





## Genesis 41 (NIV)

53 The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end,

54 and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food.

55 When all Egypt began to feel the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you."

56 When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt.

57 And all the countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the world.

# Jacob Sends Sons to Egypt

- Famine was severe in Canaan
- Egypt had enough and was selling grains
- Jacob sent his sons to Egypt
- Benjamin stayed home with Jacob
- Genesis 42:1–5



## Genesis 42 (NIV)

1 When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you just keep looking at each other?"

2 He continued, "I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die."

3 Then ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt.


4 But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him.

5 So Israel's sons were among those who went to buy grain, for the famine was in the land of Canaan also.



# The Brothers Arrive in Egypt

- Joseph was governor of the land
- In charge of grains distribution and sell
- The brothers did not recognize him
- They bowed to him in respect
- Joseph recognized his brothers
- He did not reveal himself to them
- Genesis 42:6–9



## Genesis 42 (NIV)

6 Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the one who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground.

7 As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. "Where do you come from?" he asked. "From the land of Canaan," they replied, "to buy food."

8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.


9 Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected."



# Joseph Accuses Brothers

- Joseph accused his brothers of spying
- Brothers denied the accusation
- Provided information about their father Jacob and brothers Joseph and Benjamin
- Genesis 42:9–13





## Genesis 42 (NIV)

9 Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

10 "No, my lord," they answered. "Your servants have come to buy food."

11 We are all the sons of one man. Your servants are honest men, not spies."

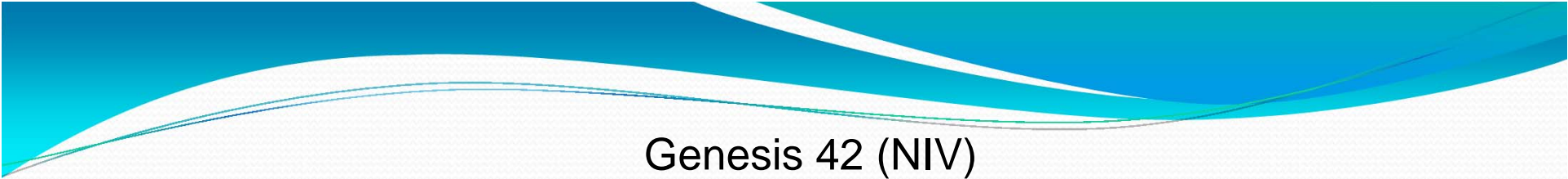
12 "No!" he said to them. "You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

13 But they replied, "Your servants were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more."

# Joseph and Brothers Make a Deal

- Brothers have to verify they are not spies
- Will leave one person behind
- Must go home and bring brother Benjamin
- Joseph detained Simeon in Egypt
- Genesis 42:14–20





## Genesis 42 (NIV)

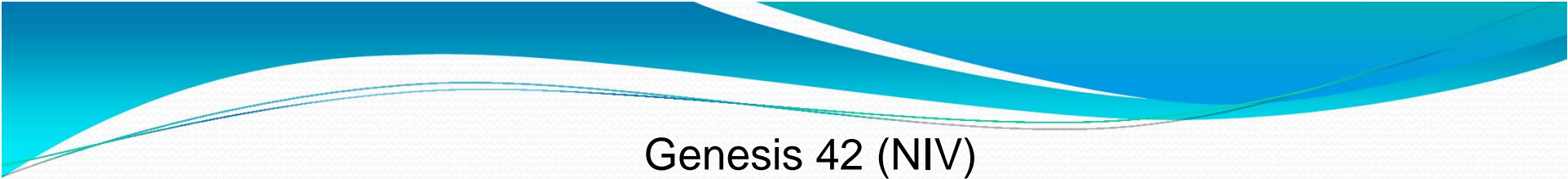
14 Joseph said to them, "It is just as I told you: You are spies!

15 And this is how you will be tested: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here.

16 Send one of your number to get your brother; the rest of you will be kept in prison, so that your words may be tested to see if you are telling the truth. If you are not, then as surely as Pharaoh lives, you are spies!"

17 And he put them all in custody for three days.





## Genesis 42 (NIV)

18 On the third day, Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God:


19 If you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here in prison, while the rest of you go and take grain back for your starving households.

20 But you must bring your youngest brother to me, so that your words may be verified and that you may not die." This they proceeded to do.

# Brothers Remember the Past

- Brothers wondered if their sin against Joseph was reason for current problems
- They recalled Joseph's distress
- Showed signs of remorse
- Joseph overheard the discussion and wept but hid his reaction from them
- Genesis 42:21–24





## Genesis 42 (NIV)

21 They said to one another, "Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come upon us."

22 Reuben replied, "Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn't listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood."

23 They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter.

24 He turned away from them and began to weep, but then turned back and spoke to them again. He had Simeon taken from them and bound before their eyes.



# Payments Returned

- Joseph ordered their bags filled but payments returned in the bags
- They also were given travel supplies
- Brothers were concerned when they found their payments returned
- Genesis 42:25–28 & 35

## Genesis 42 (NIV)

25 Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, to put each man's silver back in his sack, and to give them provisions for their journey. After this was done for them,

26 they loaded their grain on their donkeys and left.

27 At the place where they stopped for the night one of them opened his sack to get feed for his donkey, and he saw his silver in the mouth of his sack.

28 "My silver has been returned," he said to his brothers. "Here it is in my sack." Their hearts sank and they turned to each other trembling and said, "What is this that God has done to us?"

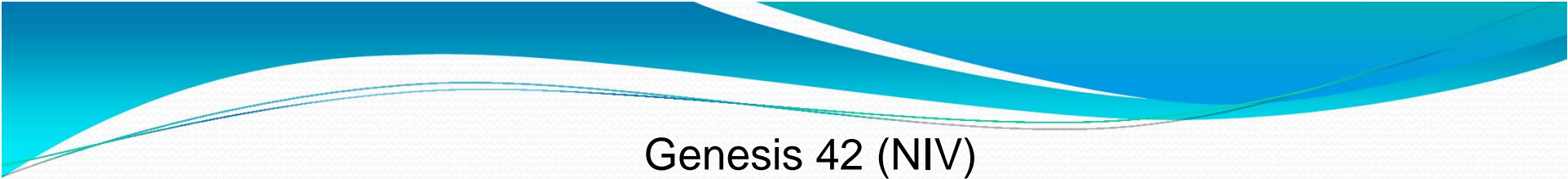
35 As they were emptying their sacks, there in each man's sack was his pouch of silver! When they and their father saw the money pouches, they were frightened.



# Jacob Rejects the Deal

- Brothers recounted experience to father
  - Simeon's detention in Egypt
  - Request for Benjamin
- Jacob refused to let Benjamin go with them
- Genesis 42:29–34 and 36–38





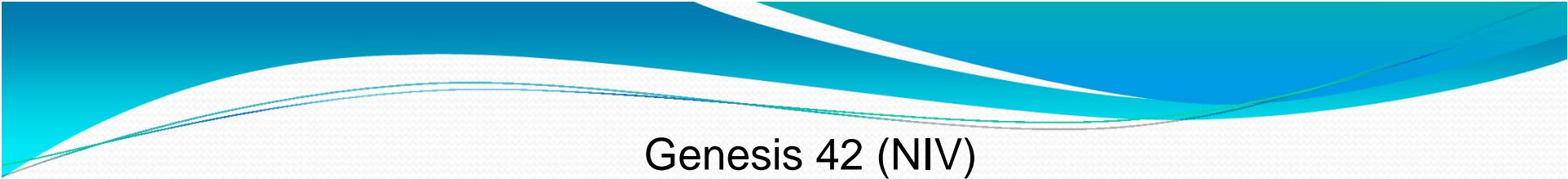
## Genesis 42 (NIV)

29 When they came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them. They said,

30 "The man who is lord over the land spoke harshly to us and treated us as though we were spying on the land.

31 But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies.

32 We were twelve brothers, sons of one father. One is no more, and the youngest is now with our father in Canaan.'




## Genesis 42 (NIV)

33 "Then the man who is lord over the land said to us, 'This is how I will know whether you are honest men: Leave one of your brothers here with me, and take food for your starving households and go.

34 But bring your youngest brother to me so I will know that you are not spies but honest men. Then I will give your brother back to you, and you can trade in the land.' "





## Genesis 42 (NIV)

36 Their father Jacob said to them, "You have deprived me of my children. Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is against me!"

37 Then Reuben said to his father, "You may put both of my sons to death if I do not bring him back to you. Entrust him to my care, and I will bring him back."

38 But Jacob said, "My son will not go down there with you; his brother is dead and he is the only one left. If harm comes to him on the journey you are taking, you will bring my gray head down to the grave in sorrow."



# Joseph Concealed His Identity

- Maybe concerned they could harm father and junior brother to conceal their crime
- Maybe contemplated vengeance
- Maybe wanted to ascertain junior brother's safety (did the other brothers harm him?)
- Maybe wanted to determine if brothers had repented
- Were they worthy of forgiveness?

# Concluding Remarks

- First of a series of tests
- To verify his brothers' repentance
- From brother's killers to brother's keepers
- Joseph had a choice
  - Vengeance (had all the power)
  - Free forgiveness
  - Forgiveness after verified repentance