

## JOSEPH

### #12, How the family fared in the famine – Gen 42:1-38

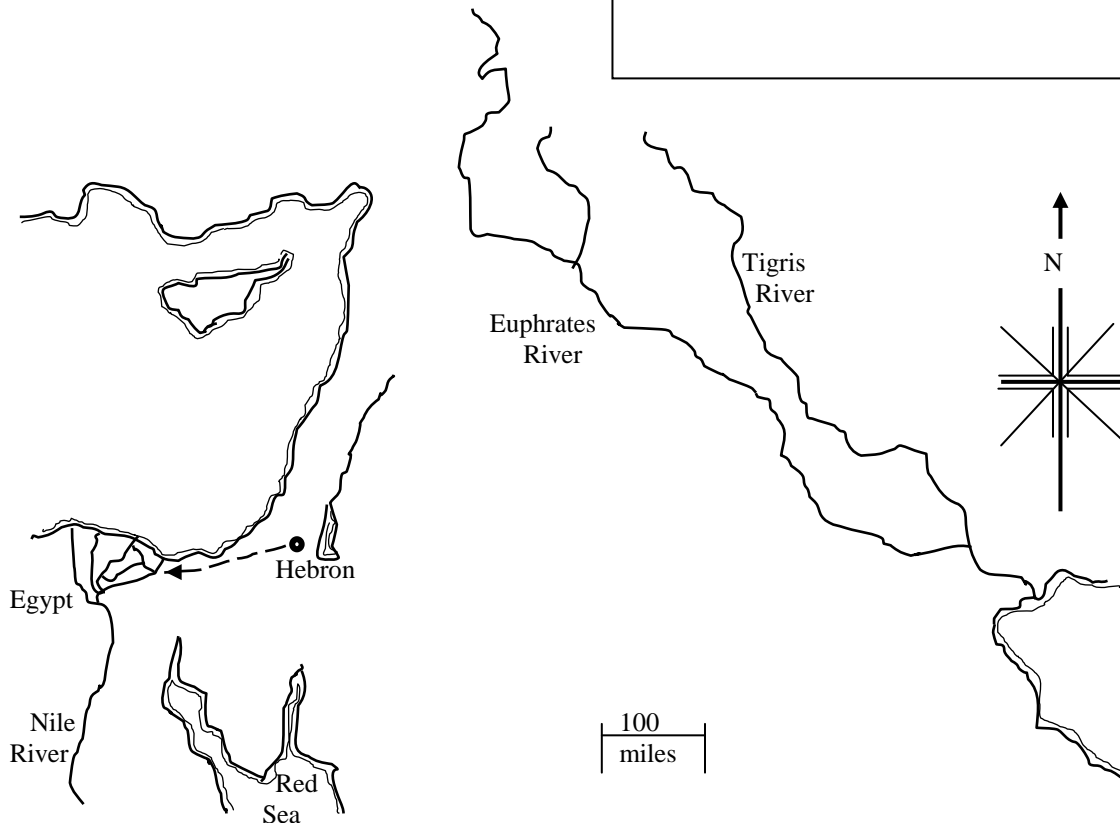
You and I live such a short time compared to the eternal God. As He accomplishes His will, He doesn't really regard our timetable. Abraham's seed is going to go into slavery. No matter how it might look to us, God's plan has always been in motion and it is right on schedule.

#### Genesis chapter 42

1 Now Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, and Jacob said to his sons, "Why are you staring at one another?" 2 He said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down there and buy some for us from that place, so that we may live and not die." 3 Then ten brothers of Joseph went down to buy grain from Egypt.  
4 But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, "I am afraid that harm may befall him."

[1.] v:1-4, did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin, **Why or why doesn't this send a message to the ten brothers that Rachel's sons were still Jacobs favorite?**

[2.] v:2, grain in Egypt, **From the map below, estimate about how far Egypt was from where the brothers lived**



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

6 Now Joseph was the ruler over the land; he was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down to him with their faces to the ground.

7 When Joseph saw his brothers he recognized them, but he disguised himself to them and spoke to them harshly. And he said to them, "Where have you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food."

8 But Joseph had recognized his brothers, although they did not recognize him.

[3.] v:5-6, came and bowed down, Read Gen 37:6-7. Why or why isn't this a fulfillment of the dream?

[4.] v:7-8, he disguised himself, Why do you think Joseph did this instead of telling his brothers who he really was right then and there?

[5.] v:7-8 again, did not recognize him, Why do you think Joseph's brothers didn't recognize him?

I don't see Benjamin among them but the all rest are here. I expect that my father sent them for food. I've often wondered if Ben received the same hatred that they heaped on me! Yes, they'll get the food but I want to be positive about my little brother!

## JOSEPH

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9 Joseph remembered the dreams which he had about them, and said to them, "You are spies; you have come to look at the undefended parts of our land." 10 Then they said to him, "No, my lord, but your servants have come to buy food. 11 "We are all sons of one man; we are honest men, your servants are not spies." 12 Yet he said to them, "No, but you have come to look at the undefended parts of our land!"

13 But they said, "Your servants are twelve brothers in all, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and behold, the youngest is with our father today, and one is no longer alive."

14 Joseph said to them, "It is as I said to you, you are spies; 15 by this you will be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here! 16 "Send one of you that he may get your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. But if not, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies." 17 So he put them all together in prison for three days.

18 Now Joseph said to them on the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God:

19 if you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined in your prison; but as for the rest of you, go, carry grain for the famine of your households, 20 and bring your youngest brother to me, so your words may be verified, and you will not die." And they did so.

[6.] v:9-12, and said to them, **If someone singles you out, in a strange place, in front of others, who has the advantage in the discourse?**

[7.] v:13, But they said, **Why would Joseph have felt relief and joy at their answer?**

[8.] v:14-16, youngest brother comes here, **Joseph had the power to demand what he wanted. Why would he demand this?**

[9.] v:17, in prison, **This is pretty cruel for anyone. What could have been Joseph's motive?**

[10.] v:18, Now Joseph said, **What does Joseph say that gives a hint that he's not an Egyptian?**

[11.] v:19-20, if you are honest, **What was Joseph's edict to the brothers?**

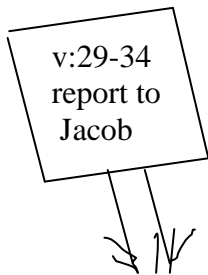
v:21-24, Not realizing that they were overheard, the brothers spoke to each other, about of their past treatment of Joseph. However, Joseph did hear and bound Simeon in front of them.

## JOSEPH

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25 Then Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain and to restore every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. And thus it was done for them.

26 So they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed from there. 27 As one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money; and behold, it was in the mouth of his sack. 28 Then he said to his brothers, "My money has been returned, and behold, it is even in my sack." And their hearts sank, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, "What is this that God has done to us?"



35 Now it came about as they were emptying their sacks, that behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack; and when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were dismayed. 36 Their father Jacob said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and you would take Benjamin; all these things are against me."

[12.] v:25, Joseph gave orders, **Well what a nice thing to do for the boys! Describe Joseph's anticipation of their upcoming joy.**

[13.] v:26-28, And their hearts sank, **What does that mean?**

[14.] v:28, What is this that God has done to us?" **By this response, how did the boys acknowledge God's sovereignty?**

[15.] questions [13.] & [14.], What "emotions" were initiated?

[16.] v:35-36, You have bereaved me, **Why does it seem Jacob, for years, suspected more than he let on?**

## JOSEPH

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37 Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "You may put my two sons to death if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my care, and I will return him to you."

38 But Jacob said, "My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he alone is left. If harm should befall him on the journey you are taking, then you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow."

[17.] v:37, put my two sons to death, **So how do you think this idea sat with the sons who were volunteered?**

[18.] v:37 again, Reviewing Gen 9:5-6, if worse came to worse, explain your reasoning as to why Jacob wouldn't have taken Reuben up on his offer?

[19.] v:38, But Jacob said, **In your own words, explain Jacob's message to the boys.**