

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS CONFRONTING THE PAST – Part 1

Genesis 42:1-28 - Pastor DeWayne F. Davis Sr. 11-25-18

1. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS TRAVEL TO EGYPT – vv. 1-5

a) The Reason For Their Travel – vv. 1-3 The famine had reached the land of Canaan and Jacob's family's food supply was next to nothing.

b) The Restraint In Their Travel – v. 4 Jacob still held them responsible for not protecting Joseph. So, he wasn't going to dare allow Benjamin to go.

c) The Rest of The People In Their Travel – v. 5 Multitudes of Canaanites were going, but God set this up to save his people and deal with the 10.

2. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS ENCOUNTER HIM IN EGYPT – vv 6-13

a) Joseph's Rule Over Them – v. 6 - they prostrated themselves fully on the ground (hands, faces and feet). This moment fulfilled part of Joseph's dream back in *Genesis 37:5-8*

b) Joseph Recognized Them – vv. 7-8 - Older, but still distinctly Hebrew. Joseph may have put on extra clothing and used a harsh Egyptian tone; a trick in order to get information about his father Jacob and brother Benjamin, and to see if his brothers had matured into God-fearing men or were still ruffians.

c) Joseph's 1st Reproach to Them – v. 9 Every memory came crashing back into Joseph's mind. But Joseph was fast on his feet (*Genesis 37:14*). The brothers always thought Joseph was spying on them, running back to tell their daddy of the mischievous things they'd done.

d) The Brothers 1st Reply to Joseph – v. 10-11 To prove that they were not spies they said "we're all brothers from the same father." A gang of spies are normally not related to each other.

e) Joseph's 2nd Reproach to Them – v. 12 Joseph as a ruler contradicted them and again harshly accused them of coming to look at their weak spots.

f) The Brothers 2nd Reply to Joseph – v. 13 They gave Joseph private family information that he can go verify if he needed to. They confessed it was 12 brothers in all. Can you imagine Joseph's inner delight to hear that this father and his younger brother were still alive!? Yet they contradicted themselves **v. 12c** They were *sticking with the lie they told their father, which Joseph hears for the first time.*

3. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS ARE TESTED IN EGYPT – vv. 14

"You will forever remain in Egypt unless one of you go back to Canaan to get your youngest brother. The rest will be in my custody until he returns with proof that you are telling the truth. Otherwise you are spies and shall be dealt with as such!" "Jail? We just came here to purchase some corn and go back home to feed our starving families! We haven't done anything. This doesn't make sense!"

4. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS ARE TRAPPED IN EGYPT – vv. 17-20

Wonder what they talked about 72 hours? Who was going to be the one to go home and tell their father Jacob that the other 9 brothers are in prison accused of being spies, and they needed to take Benjamin back as proof!

To their surprise Joseph changed his mind and told them leave one behind and the rest could go but bring back the youngest brother. **v.18** "I fear God (Elohim)."

5. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS ARE TROUBLED IN EGYPT – vv. 21-22

a) Their Conscience Convicted – v. 21 The skeletons are out of the closet. They are reliving in vivid colors the acts of violence against Joseph back in *Genesis 37:23-25a* For over twenty years they buried that memory.

b) Their Crop Collected – v. 21b They sowed violence over 20 years ago. Now they are reaping a harvest of consequences they'd never thought would happen. 1) Always reap what you sow. 2) Always reap at a later date 3) Always reap more than you sow 4) Cannot un-sow what you have sown 5) Always reap at the most inconvenient time 6) What you reap is always heavier than what you've sown. ***Genesis 37:18-22 ; 42:22b*** 7) You will be able to connect the dots

c) Joseph's Concealed Cry – vv. 23-24 Joseph is crying because he overhears them admitting that they have sinned against God and sinned against him!

6. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS ARE TRICKED LEAVING EGYPT 25-26

a) Joseph's Direct Deposit – vv. 25-26 Joseph instructed the distributors to place their money at the top of their large sacks, which they placed upon the donkey and headed home.

b) Their Discouraging Discovery – vv. 27-28

They surmised that God's hand is against them all the way around! Now they won't just be considered spies, but now thieves as well!