

# Genesis 42-45 - Lesson 45

## Jacob's Trouble and the Trial of Twelve

### 1. Introduction

- a. There is a lot more going on in Genesis than Adam/Eve, Creation, flood
- b. Joseph and the trial of the twelve brothers is one of the greatest stories of the Bible
- c. The scene in Egypt is Joseph reigning over all, but Jacob is experiencing trouble

### 2. Gen 42 - Brothers Bow to Joseph

- a. Famines were used as discipline/testing toward Israel - Ps 105:16, Le 26:26
- b. The brothers go to Egypt and bow before Joseph as he dreamed - Gen 37:6-10
- c. *"Joseph knew his brethren"* - In more ways than one: filled with hate and envy, they secretly conspired to strip him of his coat, throw him in a pit, kill him, sell him for profit, and lie about it. God does not acquit the wicked.
- d. Joseph deals harshly and tries them to bring them to repentance and deliverance
- e. 21-24 - They see this death sentence as divine retribution for Joseph's blood
- f. Parallel - The Messiah will not manifest himself again until Zech 12:10, Ro 11:26-27
- g. Israel would be guilt of Jesus' blood (Mt 27:24), Benjamin was the "son of sorrow"
- h. 28-*"what is this that God hath done"*- it appears as if they sold Simeon, or stole money
- i. 37 -Reuben: be careful of advice from those that do not reap the consequences
- j. 36-38 - the time of Jacob's trouble, the brothers picture the remnant - Jer 30:7-11

### 3. Gen 43 - The Brothers Return

- a. They cannot return without Benjamin, neither can we stand without Christ
- b. 8-10 - Judah becomes surety for Benjamin, and Jacob submits to God in his grief
- c. 16 - Joseph prepares a place for them when they bring Benjamin - Lk 15:10-23
- d. 18-23 - *"men were afraid"* - sin causes you to live in fear, salvation brings peace
- e. Every time Joseph weeps his brothers are closer to redemption - *"mourning to joy"*
  - i. There is a time for mourning and a time for heaviness - Jam 4:9, Rom 12:15

### 4. Gen 44 - Judah's Plea for Israel

- a. Joseph provides an opportunity for them to rid themselves of Benjamin
- b. 9 - *"let him die"* - Benjamin found guilty, but they went back for him
- c. 16 - *"God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants"* - redemption comes
- d. 31-32 - Judah tells all, and upon the confession, proposes giving his own life
  - i. Judah desires to atone for his brothers sins for the sake of his father

### 5. Gen 45 - The Twelve Brothers Reunite

- a. Joseph hides their sin from Pharaoh, reveals how he was sent to save them
- b. 5 - *"God did send me"* - the life of Israel and Egypt - remember Ps 105:17
- c. It was Judah's idea, but it was God's purpose, He raises up Pharaohs - Rom 9:21-22
- d. God's promise to preserve Israel is here fulfilled, and the brothers have been tried, forgiven, and have been transformed through the fire