

Slay
and Make
Ready

Genesis 43:15 – 44:28



~ In our last report from our Spiritual Safari we left Jacob alone at home in Canaan and went with the ten brothers back to Egypt to buy more food. Remember, Jacob and his boys have now eaten up all the food they bought the first time. If the famine had ended they never would have gone back for Simeon. Their first trip to Egypt was a disaster, you will recall. Simeon was kept behind and put in prison to wait for his brothers to come back. Well, he's still down there waiting for them at the time in which we are studying. Remember also, if they are to go back to Egypt to buy more food they have to bring Benjamin to the Egyptian food czar to prove they are not spies. Jacob, you recall, literally came unglued in protest over Benjamin going, and said, "....no way would Benjamin go!" Well, there is a way - and here they go....

XLIII

15 And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand, and Benjamin; and rose up, and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.

16 And when Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the ruler of his house, Bring these men home, and slay, and make ready; for these men shall dine with me at noon.

17 And the man did as Joseph bade; and the man brought the men into Joseph's house.

18 And the men were afraid, because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, Because of the money that was returned in our

sacks at the first time are we brought in; that he may seek occasion against us, and fall upon us, and take us for bondmen, and our asses.

~ Joseph looks down at his eleven brothers now; and eleven of the heads of the tribes of the nation Israel are together in Egypt bowing down to him – just as he had been shown by God in his dream. Today, however, God only speaks to our hearts in His Word. See, Joseph didn't have a leather-bound New Testament Bible. You do. Try studying it more and dreaming less and it will certainly do you a world of good. I'm sure this was very confusing to the brothers - and it was meant to be that way. The only word they heard that they understood was 'slay' – and they thought Joseph meant slay THEM! Joseph still does not want to make himself known to his brothers publicly, so he invited them back to his home for privacy; but they have no idea what's going on.

As a result, the brothers are in sheer panic mode now. They would never understand Joseph bringing them to his house except for some nefarious purpose. He dealt so harshly with them before – something's up! The only ones that don't know what's up are the eleven brothers. Under ordinary circumstances for the average Egyptian this would have been an honorable moment; but there is no joy for these men now. All of this only brings doubt, suspicion, stress and uncertainty. Why? Because they have a guilty complex they cannot shake. Remember, they think this is all happening because God is exacting vengeance for them killing their brother so long ago. They might be having second thoughts about what had happened in Shechem, too. They're desperately trying to understand what's going on in the moment. Most interesting is verse eighteen where the brothers express concern about becoming slaves. They certainly had no compunction about selling Joseph as a slave. This is exactly how the world deals with people, friends – every time....

19 And they came near to the steward of Joseph's house, and they communed with him at the door of the house,

20 And said, O sir, we came indeed down at the first time to buy food:

21 And it came to pass, when we came to the inn, that we opened our sacks, and, behold, every man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight: and we have brought it again in our hand.

22 And other money have we brought down in our hands to buy food: we cannot tell who put our money in our sacks.

~ Of course, the apologies and pleas flow freely, and Joseph hasn't even joined them yet. In fact, they are so frightened into a frenzy that they are actually pleading to the butler; but this steward they are begging knows what's going on because he's working for Joseph. Naturally, Joseph has surrounded himself with like-minded men. This Godly steward, at least, throws them a bone of hope. I think the steward sees them stressed and hurting to the point of vomiting and he wants to bring the tension in the atmosphere down a notch. Realistically, I'm sure the steward acknowledging that he had their money and had done this thing frightened them even more. Remember, we're dealing with murdering thieves with these brothers; they don't trust anyone because they aren't to be trusted and, here, the situation is completely out of their control....

23 And he said, Peace be to you, fear not: your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks: I had your money. And he brought Simeon out unto them.

24 And the man brought the men into Joseph's house, and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their asses provender.

25 And they made ready the present against Joseph came at noon: for they heard that they should eat bread there.

26 And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves to him to the earth.

27 And he asked them of their welfare, and said, Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive?

28 And they answered, Thy servant our father is in good health, he is yet alive. And they bowed down their heads again, and made obeisance.

29 And he lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, Is this your younger brother, of whom ye spake unto me? And he said, God be gracious unto thee, my son.

30 And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there.

~ This is where our Christian lives hinge today, friends. We are told to esteem others better than ourselves and to consider the welfare of others above our own. How's that working out in your life, my beloved? We see Joseph sitting in his place in his home and his brothers are bowed down before him – and Joseph's first question was about his father. Remember, there was a dream Joseph had as a boy. He dreamed his brothers would all bow down to him. When he told them the dream they hated him. They kicked him out of the family and sold him into slavery. When Joseph landed in prison under false charges there were nights when Joseph thought his family would never be in the same room together again. Well, as it turns out, here they are - having a feast in the middle of a sore famine!

We have a picture here of unfulfilled prophecy that I want you to notice as we move on through Joseph's life. Zechariah is going to say in his prophecy that He is going to make Himself known unto His brethren. The brethren will be asking about things like nail prints in His hands and all that. At that time Jesus will say, "I received those in the house of my friends." Then, they'll know Him! That's when Jesus will be recognized. Not until then. People will weep; but Christ has provided salvation and redemption for them. That's what takes place when the Lord Jesus returns to the earth the second time to establish His Kingdom. He will be revealed through His nation – Israel! I should say the remnant will reveal Him because there will be those in Israel that never knew He came and died for our sins the first time. They're going to know Him then!

These brothers of Joseph are the ones that sold him into slavery – they ditched him, literally. So, Joseph is going to make himself known to them now. We are getting way deep into prophecy in this report from our safari through Genesis. As a side note: beware of anti-Semitism today. Some of those Jews are the brethren of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is going to make Himself known unto them and to YOU! No Christian can engage in anti-Semitism. I am not concerned with how blind we think Israel is today or what they are engaged in as far as military conduct or anything else. I am aware they are not as lovely as they would like to think they are; but they are God's chosen people....

31 And he washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Let's eat! ~

32 And they set on for him by himself, and for them by themselves, and for the Egyptians, which did eat with him, by themselves: because the Egyptians might not eat bread with the Hebrews; for that is an abomination unto the Egyptians.

~ Now that we are seated at the table and ready to eat, let's take a look around the room at several things. Notice that Joseph is not eating with the Egyptians. It's funny to me that it is an abomination for an Egyptian to eat with a Hebrew! Today, I think it would be an abomination for most atheists to endure a meal with a Christian – but I digress. These other Egyptians would have eaten with Joseph, but they weren't eating with these Hebrews! I am sure Joseph has a million thoughts and questions for God at this point....

33 And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men marveled one at another.

~ They had to have been amazed that Joseph arranged them according to their birthrights with Benjamin way down at the end of the table. I'm sure this completely freaked them out; but they are still absolutely oblivious as to who this person is....

34 And Joseph served them: but Benjamin's portion was five times so much as any of theirs. And they drank, and were merry with him.

~ When Joseph dished out Benjamin's portion I think they all looked at each other in wonder; wondering why they didn't get as much. I don't think Joseph could help himself as this was probably the first real meal any of the brothers had eaten since the beginning of the famine....

XLIV

~ Wise men have taught that this chapter is where Joseph tests the affection of his brothers – although his only real brother is Benjamin. Remember, they had sold Joseph into slavery. Would any of them really be willing to give their life for the life of their brother? Miraculously, Judah actually comes into a marvellous light here as he is the only one that will be willing to take his place....

1 And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put every man's money in his sack's mouth.

2 And put my cup, the silver cup, in the sack's mouth of the youngest, and his corn money. And he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken.

3 As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their asses.

4 And when they were gone out of the city, and not yet far off, Joseph said unto his steward, Up, follow after the men; and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good?

5 Is not this it in which my lord drinketh, and whereby indeed he divineth? ye have done evil in so doing.

6 And he overtook them, and he spake unto them these same words.

7 And they said unto him, Wherefore saith my lord these words? God forbid that thy servants should do according to this thing:

8 Behold, the money, which we found in our sacks' mouths, we brought again unto thee out of the land of Canaan: how then should we steal out of thy lord's house silver or gold?

9 With whomsoever of thy servants it be found, both let him die, and we also will be my lord's bondmen.

10 And he said, Now also let it be according unto your words: he with whom it is found shall be my servant; and ye shall be blameless.

11 Then they speedily took down every man his sack to the ground, and opened every man his sack.

12 And he searched, and began at the eldest, and left at the youngest: and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

13 Then they rent their clothes, and laded every man his ass, and returned to the city.

14 And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house; for he was yet there: and they fell before him on the ground.

15 And Joseph said unto them, What deed is this that ye have done? know ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine?

~ Joseph was a prophet, and he was able to look into the future under Godly leading. We know this is true because he has interpreted dreams - and God Himself gave Joseph the interpretations of those dreams. There were the dreams of the baker, the butler and Pharaoh himself, you will recall! Joseph was a prophet, and he apparently used this cup in his prophesying. You must understand this was a gift God had given Joseph at this time in this place under these circumstances for this particular purpose. It is CRITICAL to realize this happened before Revelation and before the canons of Scripture were closed. If you go get a cup and start divining or

read a horoscope or follow some twisted line on your palm or dreams or anything other than looking into the Word of God today concerning your life - then all it does is reveal your dead spiritual condition. This was a gift to Joseph from God at that time – and not YOU! Another gift is the promise that out of the line of Judah a Savior will come....

16 And Judah said, What shall we say unto my lord? what shall we speak? or how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants: behold, we are my lord's servants, both we, and he also with whom the cup is found.

17 And he said, God forbid that I should do so: but the man in whose hand the cup is found, he shall be my servant; and as for you, get you up in peace unto your father.

18 Then Judah came near unto him, and said, Oh my lord, let thy servant, I pray thee, speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not thine anger burn against thy servant: for thou art even as Pharaoh.

19 My lord asked his servants, saying, Have ye a father, or a brother?

20 And we said unto my lord, We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, a little one; and his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother, and his father loveth him.

21 And thou saidst unto thy servants, Bring him down unto me, that I may set mine eyes upon him.

22 And we said unto my lord, The lad cannot leave his father: for if he should leave his father, his father would die.

23 And thou saidst unto thy servants, Except your youngest brother come down with you, ye shall see my face no more.

24 And it came to pass when we came up unto thy servant my father; we told him the words of my lord.

25 And our father said, Go again, and buy us a little food.

26 And we said, We cannot go down: if our youngest brother be with us, then will we go down: for we may not see the man's face, except our youngest brother be with us.

27 And thy servant my father said unto us, Ye know that my wife bare me two sons:

28 And the one went out from me, and I said, Surely he is torn in pieces; and I saw him not since:

~ Judah is certainly acting very nobly for a change as we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. His pleading for Benjamin is heart-touching; and he knows there is no way he's leaving without Benjamin. If Judah returned without Benjamin, Jacob would literally die. Well, this is where we have to leave off in this report; but that's where we go from here ~

