



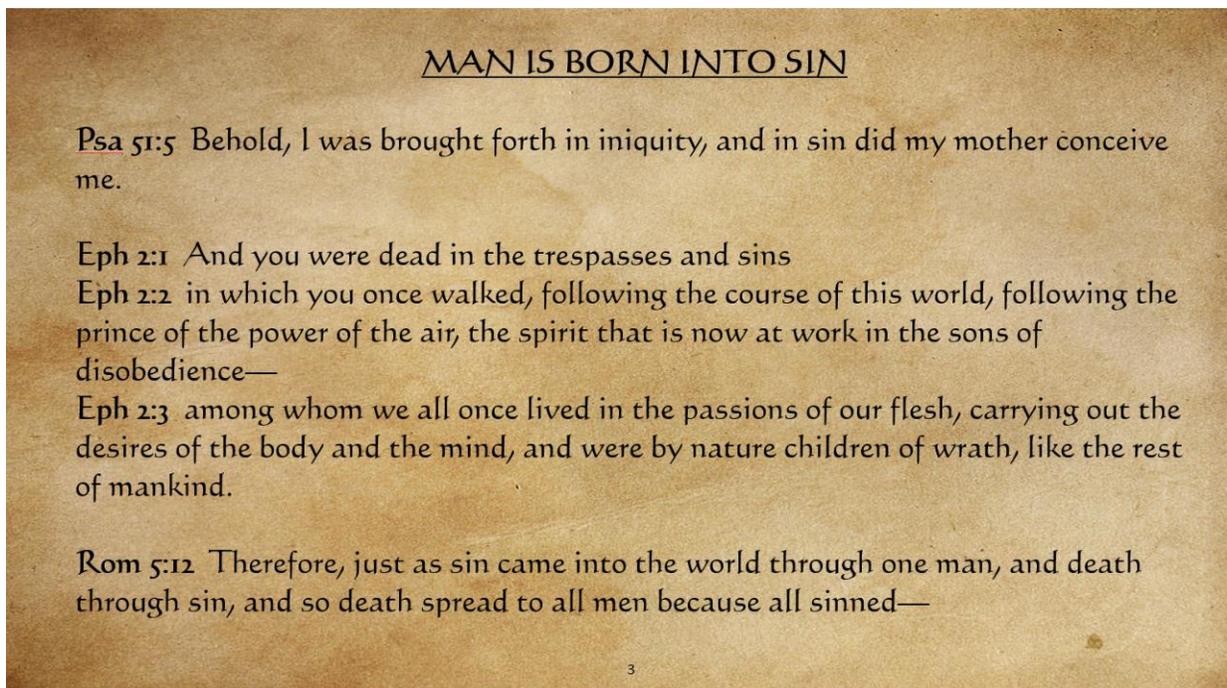
Pastor Scott Velain

## Genesis chapter 42

As we move into Genesis chapters 42 through 45 we'll be getting into the account of Joseph's meeting, testing, and eventual reunion with his brothers. Those of you who have been with us throughout our studies already know that it was Joseph's brothers who threw him into a pit, and then sold him to the Amalekites who then in turn sold him into Egyptian slavery.

This reunion that we we'll soon read about between Joseph and his brothers has much to do with a fallen mankind who fell in the garden of Eden, but was then saved through the only begotten Son of Yahovah whom he sent to be our Savior.

Much like Joseph's brothers, mankind is born into sin, and is by definition evil from birth. And just to clarify that biblically I'd like to take a look at a few Scriptures just to make sure that we understand this concept.



We could go on here with a long laundry list of Scripture that clearly shows us the sin that we were born into, but rather than wasting our time going over that same biblical fact, I want us to know that by knowing this biblical fact and understanding that man is indeed born into sin... we should very easily be able to see the shadow picture here (also known as the reality of duality) in what is taking place between Joseph and his brothers, versus what takes place between man

and his Messiah.

As we read through chapters 42 through 45, I think it's safe to say that the similarities between the story of our Messiah and the story of Joseph is extremely striking.

If we remember correctly, Rachel (Joseph's mother) was barren for 90 years until she had her firstborn son, "Joseph". A miraculous birth by any standards, somewhat like our Messiah who was born of a virgin (also a miraculous birth).

Both Yeshua and Joseph were shepherds. Both Yeshua and Joseph were hated by their brothers without cause. Both men were hated for telling the truth and for prophesying the truth. Both men sat at the right hand of the King. Both men were persecuted out of jealousy. Both men willingly went at their father's request and by his authority. Both men were plotted against by their own brethren. Both men suffered bitterly at the hand of their brethren. Both men were taken to Egypt in their youth after escaping death. Joseph was taken into Egypt after being thrown into the pit, and our Messiah was taken into Egypt after escaping the death penalty of Herod to kill all the firstborn in the land.

And we could go on, and on, and on with the similarities. Both men were wrongfully thrown into prison. Both men were put over a house, Joseph was put over the house of Pharaoh in Egypt, and our Messiah was put over the house of Israel. Both men wore Royal robes and dressed as a King, Jacob wore Pharaoh's royal robe with a necklace, and Yeshua wore a purple robe while being mocked with a crown of thorns. Both men tested their brethren for worthiness and became judges.

And once again, I could keep going on going even still. Both men wept for the wicked. Both men forgave those who had wronged them. Both men brought fearful hearts to peace.

And so, as we read about Joseph in these next few verses, I want you to keep all of these things in mind. As we have said before, so now we say again... The Bible is full of shadow pictures and the reality of duality. And the reason that the Bible is full of shadow pictures and the reality of duality is because this is the way that our Father in heaven teaches his children.

Why is it that he wants us to attend, and keep his Moedim and his appointments, and to keep his sabbaths throughout our generations forever? It's because this is how he teaches his children. There are continual principles, precepts, and teachings that are repeated over, and over, and over again within the Scripture that we will not see unless we pray for the discernment to see them.

And let me be extremely clear about this my friends... If you do not pray for discernment from the Father and his only begotten Son, through his Ruach Hackodesh, that he gave to dwell deeply within us... you will not understand. And this is exactly why so many men don't understand.

In order for us to understand the Scriptures, in order for us to grasp these teachings, in order for us to see the unfolding plan of our Father from the beginning to the end... we must have the God-given discernment that can only come from our Father in heaven.

And I would submit to you my friends that there are people who read the Scriptures over, and over, and over again, who never see these things. They never understand. The spiritual implications of Scripture evades them exactly the same way that the parables of our Messiah evaded those who thought that they were wise in their own minds in his time.

And so, as we move forward in chapters 42 through 45 over the next couple of weeks, I want us to stand guard, looking for these shadow pictures, and for these realities of dualities that can be found being taught over, and over, and over again throughout our God breathed Scriptures.

If we remember nothing else, we need to remember that these Scriptures are indeed God breathed. The word of God is a living breathing word that continuously teaches those who have his laws written on their hearts and in their minds, and who have truly decided to pick up their crosses and to follow their Messiah. For those who think that the Bible is nothing more than an ancient book written like any other book by any other author... they will never be able to see, nor will they ever be able to hear. And so, I want us to keep that in mind as we work our way through these next few chapters.

And with that understanding under our belts, let's turn to the 42<sup>nd</sup> chapter of the book of Genesis so that we can know exactly what it does say, and just as importantly, what it does not say. Genesis chapter 42:

**Gen 42:1** *When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?"*

**Gen 42:2** *And he said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die."*

**Gen 42:3** *So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.*

**Gen 42:4** *But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers, for he feared that harm might happen to him.*

**Gen 42:5** *Thus the sons of Israel came to buy among the others who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.*

**Gen 42:6** *Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground.*

**Gen 42:7** *Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. "Where do you come from?" he said. They said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food."*

**Gen 42:8** *And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.*

*Gen 42:9* And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them. And he said to them, “You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land.”

*Gen 42:10* They said to him, “No, my lord, your servants have come to buy food.

*Gen 42:11* We are all sons of one man. We are honest men. Your servants have never been spies.”

*Gen 42:12* He said to them, “No, it is the nakedness of the land that you have come to see.”

*Gen 42:13* And they said, “We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan, and behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is no more.”

*Gen 42:14* But Joseph said to them, “It is as I said to you. You are spies.

*Gen 42:15* By this you shall be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here.

*Gen 42:16* Send one of you, and let him bring your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. Or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies.”

*Gen 42:17* And he put them all together in custody for three days.

*Gen 42:18* On the third day Joseph said to them, “Do this and you will live, for I fear God:

*Gen 42:19* if you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined where you are in custody, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households,

*Gen 42:20* and bring your youngest brother to me. So your words will be verified, and you shall not die.” And they did so.

*Gen 42:21* Then they said to one another, “In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.”

*Gen 42:22* And Reuben answered them, “Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood.”

*Gen 42:23* They did not know that Joseph understood them, for there was an interpreter between them.

*Gen 42:24* Then he turned away from them and wept. And he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

*Gen 42:25* And Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, and to replace every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. This was done for them.

*Gen 42:26* Then they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed.

*Gen 42:27* And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money in the mouth of his sack.

*Gen 42:28* He said to his brothers, “My money has been put back; here it is in the

mouth of my sack!” At this their hearts failed them, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, “What is this that God has done to us?”

*Gen 42:29* When they came to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying,

*Gen 42:30* “The man, the lord of the land, spoke roughly to us and took us to be spies of the land.

*Gen 42:31* But we said to him, ‘We are honest men; we have never been spies.

*Gen 42:32* We are twelve brothers, sons of our father. One is no more, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.’

*Gen 42:33* Then the man, the lord of the land, said to us, ‘By this I shall know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me, and take grain for the famine of your households, and go your way.

*Gen 42:34* Bring your youngest brother to me. Then I shall know that you are not spies but honest men, and I will deliver your brother to you, and you shall trade in the land.’”

*Gen 42:35* As they emptied their sacks, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack. And when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were afraid.

*Gen 42:36* And Jacob their father said to them, “You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin. All this has come against me.”

*Gen 42:37* Then Reuben said to his father, “Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you. Put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you.”

*Gen 42:38* But he said, “My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left. If harm should happen to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol.”

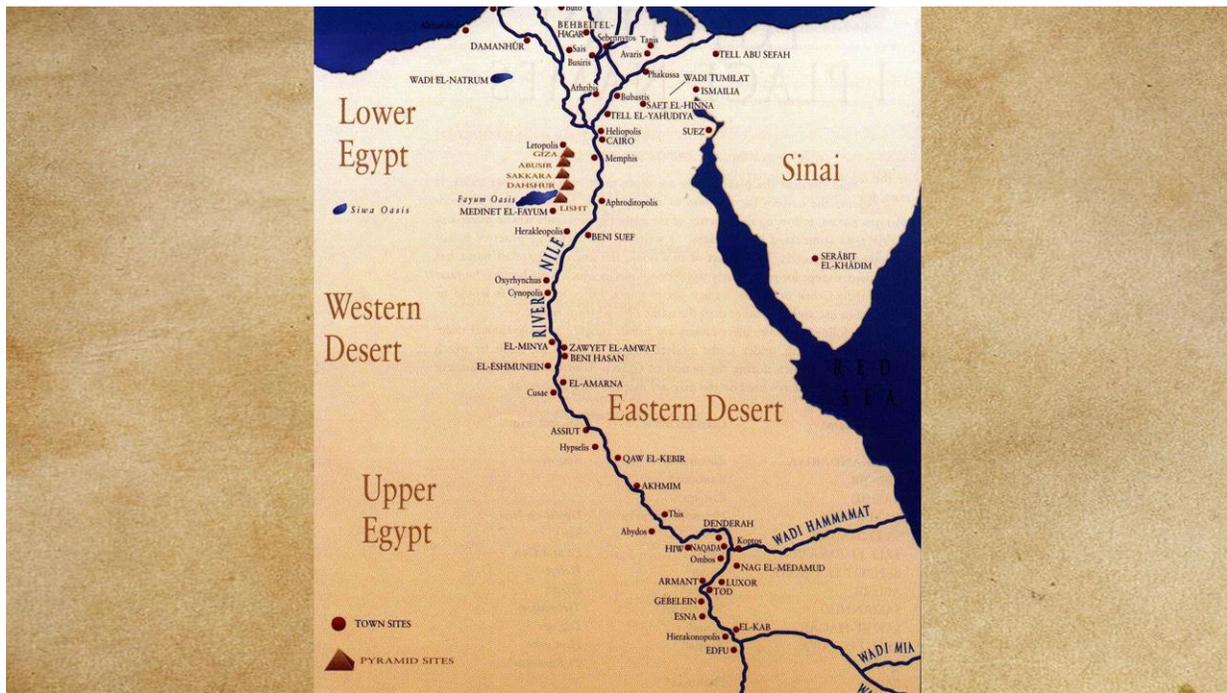
Now, before we go any farther I want us to understand the concept of upper and lower Egypt, and why it is that this famine came to Egypt, which in turn will help us to better understand why all of these things worked out the way they did.



Here's an image of where Egypt and Israel both are on the global map. As you can see Egypt is located in northern Africa, and little Israel, and the land of Canaan are located just north of Egypt in what most of us consider to be the Middle East.

The first thing that I want us to understand is that the regional designations of Egypt are virtually backwards from what we would think that they would be in our Western mindset.

When we hear them speaking about "upper Egypt" and "lower Egypt" they are talking about two different regions of Egypt. Upper Egypt was located south of lower Egypt. And I have a map for you that I want you to see just to put this in the proper perspective.



As we can see lower Egypt is actually north of upper Egypt, and the reason for this is because the Nile River ran from the South to the North. Upper Egypt to the South, was at a higher elevation than lower Egypt to the North, and because water always runs downhill because of gravity... the Nile River always runs from the South to the North, and this is why upper Egypt is in the South, and lower Egypt is in the North.

In a nutshell, what I want us to understand is that the only thing that makes Egypt inhabitable is the Nile River. It was the annual raising and falling of water levels of the Nile that determined feast or famine in the land of Egypt. This river that runs through the desert is extremely important for the livelihood of those living in Egypt even to this day, and it only takes a few inches of rainfall to destroy the delicate balance of the level of the Nile River in order to dictate whether there will be feast or a famine each year.

And so, I want us to understand that it's not that the Nile dried-up in Joseph's time, or that the people didn't have enough water to drink, it was simply that the Nile River was not at the proper level that it needed to be in order to overflow and to water their crops.

And once again, I want us to remember that when this famine hit Egypt, the people of Egypt were not given the grain that Joseph stored up as part of a welfare system. The people of Egypt were sold... the grain at a fairly high price, and as we've already seen it cost several bags of silver just for Jacobs clan to obtain enough grain to take back to Canaan to survive.

And so, if you were a lower-class Egyptian who ran out of money to buy food, you had no other choice but to sell yourself and your family into bond service to Pharaoh in exchange for food.

And I want to once again stop for just a moment and think about how the Egyptian people must

have felt about this Semite foreigner... “Joseph”... who was to blame for this travesty, and this humiliation, because Joseph once again was the front man. Joseph was the visible symbol for the entire food program, getting both the credit, and the blame for what was going on.

Later on, after Joseph’s death we’ll see a long period of social upheaval, and the Egyptians would eventually blame Joseph’s kin and the tribes of Israel for their condition. This would eventually lead to the Egyptians turning the tables on the Hebrew people, and the house of Israel would soon become the slaves of the Egyptian people. And this very act of slavery would begin a cycle of persecution that would come upon the Hebrew people and would last throughout history even into our time. Up until 1948 the Jews and the Hebrew people had no place to rest their heads. They were a lost and roaming people that were virtually kicked out of every nation on the earth until they finally were brought back into the land of Israel.

And before we move forward I want us to understand that our Father in heaven did not choose the Hebrew people because they were perfect, or because they were the biggest people group on the earth. Our Father in heaven did not choose them because they were great men, he chose them because he is a great God, and because he uses ordinary people to carry out his will.

We don’t stand with Israel because they’re a perfect people without sin. We don’t stand with Israel because they’re an extraordinarily good people, or because they’re a sympathetic race. We stand with Israel because that’s what Yahovah commanded all people on earth to do, with dire consequences for those who do not keep his commandment.

There are no other people on the planet that Yahovah has called “his people”, other than the house of Israel. The house of Israel is the “Olive Tree” that we see in Romans chapter 11, and the house of Israel is what a Christian is grafted into in Galatians chapter 3. Our Messiah was a Jew, who came from the house of David and the tribe of Judah, and it is the House of Israel that will indeed rule and reign in his soon coming kingdom. Consider what we read in Revelation 21:10-14:

*Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,*

*Rev 21:11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.*

*Rev 21:12 It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—*

*Rev 21:13 on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.*

*Rev 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

And so, we've now moved from Egypt and Joseph, back to Canaan and Jacob. Jacob, as you can tell in verse one, is a little upset with his bewildered sons who don't seem to know what to do during this famine that they're in. And so, Jacob says to his sons, "why are you standing around looking at each other? You know we're in a famine, and the only one who has grain is Egypt, so get down there and buy grain for us so that we can stay alive."

Now, I want us to realize that Jacob no longer trusted his older sons with his younger son. We have to remember that as far as Jacob was concerned, and as far as Jacob knew, Joseph had been killed by wild animals while under the care of his older sons. And so, there was no way that Jacob was going to allow Benjamin, the next youngest son to go with the older sons who seemed to be rather reckless in the care of their last younger brother Joseph.

And so, 10 of Joseph's brothers go down South to buy grain from Egypt. But there was no way that Jacob was allowing them to take Benjamin with them for fear that they would be as reckless with the safety of Benjamin as they were with the safety of their brother Joseph in the past.

In verse seven we see that Joseph saw his brothers and he recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and he spoke roughly to them. Joseph automatically recognizes his brothers but his brothers don't recognize Joseph because Joseph is no longer a 13-year-old boy. Joseph is now a full-grown man who is now 30 years old, and who's probably clean-shaven because that's the way that the Egyptians lived, and of course he was dressed like an Egyptian with all of the face paint of an Egyptian, and he held this huge office as the visor of Egypt.

And so, Joseph's brothers had no idea who he was, and just to keep them wondering who he was, Joseph used an interpreter between them because his brothers obviously spoke Hebrew, and Joseph by now was obviously speaking Egyptian. And so, even though Jacob could indeed understand what they were saying, he had an interpreter there between them just so that his brothers wouldn't recognize who he was.

When the brothers started talking amongst themselves in Hebrew, they obviously had no idea that their brother Joseph who was standing right there in the room with them could hear them and understand everything that they were saying in Hebrew. And this is when Reuben speaks up and tells the other brothers, "*Didn't I tell you not to sin against Joseph, but you did not listen, so now there comes a reckoning for his blood.*" If we'll remember correctly, it was Reuben who stood up for Joseph and tried to talk his brothers out of throwing him into the pit in the first place, and just so that we can refresh our memories, let's turn back to Genesis chapter 37 versus 21 and 22:

**Gen 37:21** *But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life."*

**Gen 37:22** *And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their*

*hand to restore him to his father.*

At this point in time, Joseph now knows that his brother Ruben at least did try to stand up for him, and that he at least try to save his life. And so, Joseph begins to call his brothers spies who came to spy out the land, and his brothers are obviously starting to get pretty nervous at this point in time because they know that this “Visor of Egypt” who was Joseph, could sentence them to death in a moment if he chose to do so.

Joseph then commands his brothers to go back to Canaan and bring him their youngest brother Benjamin in order to prove that they’re not spies, and that all they came for was grain. But just to make sure that they come back, Joseph takes his brother Simeon, and he holds him as ransom to make sure that his brothers would come back with his little brother Benjamin.

Now, I also want us to notice something else here. Ruben would have been the firstborn son. But Joseph did not take Reuben the firstborn son, he decided to take Simeon the second son, and this was probably due to the fact that Joseph had heard that Reuben at least tried to save his life when his brothers were conspiring to throw him into the pit.

And so, the brothers begin their journey back to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob, when they discover that the money that they had paid for the grain with, had been put back in their grain sacks. Now at this point in time, you can imagine what was going through their minds. In their minds, not only did this Visor of Pharaoh think that they were spies... now he was going to think that they were thieves as well!

And so, Joseph really puts the fear of God in their hearts, and you can just imagine how his brothers must have been shaking in their boots when they found that money in their grain sacks. Nevertheless, they do finally return home and they tell their father Jacob about all that had happened to them on their journey.

Jacob at this point in time is in no way, shape, or form going to allow his older sons to take Benjamin anywhere. At this point in time Jacob’s older sons have pretty much squandered any and all responsibility that they once had in their father’s eyes. First, they lose Joseph to wild animals, then, when they’re sent to Egypt to get grain they lose their brother Simeon, and now not only are they suspected of being spies, but thieves as well!

And so I think it’s pretty safe to say that it is more than understandable for Jacob not to want to allow them to take Benjamin with them back to Egypt.

In verse 37 we find Reuben trying to take the role of leadership in offering up his own two sons if he doesn’t bring Benjamin back to his father Jacob. But you see the role of leadership had been taken from Reuben because of his affair with Bilah, Rachel his mother’s servant, who was his father’s concubine. The role of leadership had now passed from Reuben who was originally the first born, to Judah because Reuben had defiled his fathers’ bed, and we’ll soon see Judah

begin to morph into that leadership role. But it's important for us to see that it was not Reuben's offer to protect Benjamin that his father Jacob accepted... rather it was indeed Judah's offer to protect Benjamin that Jacob finally did accept. And we can find that in the next chapter in Genesis chapter 43 versus three through 13:

**Gen 43:3** But Judah said to him, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'

**Gen 43:4** If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food.

**Gen 43:5** But if you will not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us, 'You shall not see my face, unless your brother is with you.'"

**Gen 43:6** Israel said, "Why did you treat me so badly as to tell the man that you had another brother?"

**Gen 43:7** They replied, "The man questioned us carefully about ourselves and our kindred, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?' What we told him was in answer to these questions. Could we in any way know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'"

**Gen 43:8** And Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the boy with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones.

**Gen 43:9** I will be a pledge of his safety. From my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever.

**Gen 43:10** If we had not delayed, we would now have returned twice."

**Gen 43:11** Then their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: take some of the choice fruits of the land in your bags, and carry a present down to the man, a little balm and a little honey, gum, myrrh, pistachio nuts, and almonds.

**Gen 43:12** Take double the money with you. Carry back with you the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks. Perhaps it was an oversight.

**Gen 43:13** Take also your brother, and arise, go again to the man.

And so, once again we see Judah now stepping up and evolving into the leadership role that he was called to take. And now that we've had that little sneak peek into Genesis chapter 43, let's go ahead and move into Genesis chapter 43 so that we can better understand exactly what it does say and just as importantly, what it does not say. Genesis chapter 43:

**Gen 43:1** Now the famine was severe in the land.

**Gen 43:2** And when they had eaten the grain that they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, "Go again, buy us a little food."

**Gen 43:3** But Judah said to him, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'

**Gen 43:4** If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food.

**Gen 43:5** But if you will not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us,

*'You shall not see my face, unless your brother is with you.'*"

*Gen 43:6 Israel said, "Why did you treat me so badly as to tell the man that you had another brother?"*

*Gen 43:7 They replied, "The man questioned us carefully about ourselves and our kindred, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?' What we told him was in answer to these questions. Could we in any way know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'"*

*Gen 43:8 And Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the boy with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones.*

*Gen 43:9 I will be a pledge of his safety. From my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever.*

*Gen 43:10 If we had not delayed, we would now have returned twice."*

*Gen 43:11 Then their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: take some of the choice fruits of the land in your bags, and carry a present down to the man, a little balm and a little honey, gum, myrrh, pistachio nuts, and almonds.*

*Gen 43:12 Take double the money with you. Carry back with you the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks. Perhaps it was an oversight.*

*Gen 43:13 Take also your brother, and arise, go again to the man.*

*Gen 43:14 May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man, and may he send back your other brother and Benjamin. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."*

*Gen 43:15 So the men took this present, and they took double the money with them, and Benjamin. They arose and went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph.*

*Gen 43:16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Bring the men into the house, and slaughter an animal and make ready, for the men are to dine with me at noon."*

*Gen 43:17 The man did as Joseph told him and brought the men to Joseph's house.*

*Gen 43:18 And the men were afraid because they were brought to Joseph's house, and they said, "It is because of the money, which was replaced in our sacks the first time, that we are brought in, so that he may assault us and fall upon us to make us servants and seize our donkeys."*

*Gen 43:19 So they went up to the steward of Joseph's house and spoke with him at the door of the house,*

*Gen 43:20 and said, "Oh, my lord, we came down the first time to buy food.*

*Gen 43:21 And when we came to the lodging place we opened our sacks, and there was each man's money in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight. So we have brought it again with us,*

*Gen 43:22 and we have brought other money down with us to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks."*

*Gen 43:23 He replied, "Peace to you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has put treasure in your sacks for you. I received your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.*

*Gen 43:24 And when the man had brought the men into Joseph's house and given them water, and they had washed their feet, and when he had given their donkeys fodder,*

*Gen 43:25 they prepared the present for Joseph's coming at noon, for they heard that they should eat bread there.*

*Gen 43:26 When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present that they had with them and bowed down to him to the ground.*

*Gen 43:27 And he inquired about their welfare and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"*

*Gen 43:28 They said, "Your servant our father is well; he is still alive." And they bowed their heads and prostrated themselves.*

*Gen 43:29 And he lifted up his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious to you, my son!"*

*Gen 43:30 Then Joseph hurried out, for his compassion grew warm for his brother, and he sought a place to weep. And he entered his chamber and wept there.*

*Gen 43:31 Then he washed his face and came out. And controlling himself he said, "Serve the food."*

*Gen 43:32 They served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians.*

*Gen 43:33 And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth. And the men looked at one another in amazement.*

*Gen 43:34 Portions were taken to them from Joseph's table, but Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs. And they drank and were merry with him.*

In verse 43 we find Jacob between a proverbial rock and a hard place. The grain that his sons had brought back from Egypt was gone, and the famine was still persisting, and so, Jacobs clan once again had no food for their table.

Jacob knew that the only way that they were going to stay alive was to send his sons back to Egypt with Benjamin, and yet Jacob was still struggling with the decision of whether or not to give them Benjamin to take with them.

As we've already seen in chapter 42, Rubin had offered to be the one who would secure the safety of his little brother Benjamin, but Jacob would have no part of it, knowing that Rubin had been untrustworthy in the past in the defiling of his bed with his concubine, and allowing Joseph to be attacked and torn to shreds by wild animals under his care.

But now Judah steps up to bat. And we have to remember that Judah is now taking the role of leadership that he should have taken a long time ago. Judah... after being humbled by his daughter-in-law Tamar's rather bold act, when Judah failed to respond to her plight appropriately back in Genesis chapter 38... begins to realize why it's so important to stand for what is right and just in the eyes of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. And Judah as we can now see, begins to become the man that Yahovah created him to be... but not without being humbled through the trials and tribulations that our Fathers divine Providence had led him through.

At hearing this offer from his son Judah, Jacob finally breaks down and agrees to send Benjamin with the older sons to Egypt to buy more grain.

Now, before we move forward, you might be wondering why it was that Jacob all of a sudden decided to believe Judah, and to trust Judah with his youngest son Benjamin. First of all, it should be noted that Judah offered his own life in exchange for his brother Benjamin if he did not return him safely, which would have been a much more generous offering than Ruben who offered the lives of his two sons. But what else did Judah have to lose if he was unable to bring Benjamin back to Jacob?

We have to remember that in both Jacob, and Judah's mind... Judah was next in line for the firstborn blessing, even though Judah was not the firstborn. Ruben was no longer going to receive the firstborn blessing because he defiled his father's bed. And of course, Jacobs second and third sons were the ones who led the raid of revenge upon Shechem, killing every male and then plundering of the remaining inhabitants. And with what seemed to be Joseph's passing... Judah was fourth in line for the blessing. And so, Judah, by agreeing to accept all blame if anything happened to his younger brother Benjamin, had a lot to lose.

And so, from this point on, Judah would indeed take the lead as far as leadership, and as we know the scepter would indeed not pass from Judah, and it is out of the house of Judah that our Messiah would indeed come.

At this point in time, the brothers are extremely worried about why Joseph has invited them into his house. In the back of their minds, they were thinking that Joseph Surely wanted them to come into his house so that he could overpower them because they had stolen the money back from the grain that they took from Egypt the first time. And so, the brothers approach the servant of Joseph, and they explain the situation to the servant of Joseph and try to give him the money for the grain they took from Egypt the first time. But you can certainly tell that the servant of Joseph had learned well from his master Joseph.

In verse 23 the servant of Joseph tells his brothers to have peace within their hearts and not to be afraid because the God of their father has put treasure in their sacks for them. And the servant readily admits that he received their money, and was well aware of the situation.

And so, it should be evident that Joseph had taught this servant well about the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob that Joseph served, and we can see evidence of this through the servant of Joseph.

Something else that we may not have noticed here in Genesis chapter 43 is the way that they ate this meal together that Joseph had prepared for them. Joseph eats alone, the brothers eat together as a group, and the Egyptian house servants eat separately from both the brothers and from Joseph.

We know that it's well-documented within Egyptian customs that the head of the household never eats with the servants. And we're told in verse 32, that Egyptians could not eat with Hebrews because it was an abomination to the Egyptians.

Once again, we see this rift between these Hebrew Semites and the Egyptian people. This kind of reminds us of the Pharisees who taught the Jews that they couldn't eat, or enter the house of the Gentile. And of course, as we know, the Torah never commands any such thing. Nowhere in the Torah is it commanded for a Jew, or any of the tribes of Israel not to eat with the Gentile. That was nothing but a made-up, concocted commandment that came from the scribes and the Pharisees when they came up out of bondage from Babylon. And this is exactly why our Messiah called the Pharisees and the scribes' sons of the devil himself, because once again they had added to, and taken away from God's word.

But... it was much the same here in Egypt. Because the Hebrews and the Semite people had taken over Egypt, there was great animosity in the land between the Egyptians and these Hebrew Semites, and we can see even more evidence of that here in Genesis chapter 43 verse 32 when we're told that it was an abomination for an Egyptian to eat with a Hebrew.

As we can clearly see, Joseph had been well acclimated to Egyptian culture and tradition. Joseph made sure that his younger brother Benjamin was given five times as much as everyone else as a sign of royalty. In Egypt a Prince, or a ruler was given five times as much as everyone else as a sign of royalty.

It should be pretty clear to us that Benjamin was indeed seen as royalty in the eyes of Joseph. After all Benjamin and Joseph shared a common mother unlike the other brothers. And we have to remember that Benjamin was the only one of the 11 brothers that was completely innocent of any wrongdoing in connection with Joseph being sold into slavery. Not to mention that Benjamin was indeed Joseph's younger brother.

Another way that you can tell that Joseph was indeed a true man of God is that he wept often. When Joseph saw his brother Benjamin in verses 29 and 30, we're told that Joseph had to excuse himself long enough to go to his chamber and weep for the sorrow that he felt his heart.

When Joseph finally does break down and make himself known to his brothers in the very next chapter in Genesis chapter 45 verse two, we once again see Joseph full of emotion and weeping. And when we move down to Genesis chapter 45 versus 14 and 15 we see Joseph again weeping as he falls upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and he kisses his brothers and forgives them of the wickedness that they did to him.

And once again, in Genesis chapter 46 verse 29 we see Joseph weeping again at the site of his father when he saw him in Goshen. And so, Joseph once again being a man of God, fully knew and understood what it was to not only to forgive, but to love.

One of the greatest lessons that we learn as Christians when we make the conscious decision to pick up our crosses, is that our Father in heaven does indeed remove our hearts of stone, and he does indeed replace those hearts of stone with hearts of flesh.

You know I often times have Christians telling me that since they have begun to study the word of God, and since they have realized the wrong that they had been doing, and since they have picked up their crosses and have decided to repent from those wrong things, and turned to the righteous things of Yahovah... they too, often times have more tears than they have ever had in their entire lives. This is when I know that I'm speaking to a true Ruach Hackodesh filled, cross bearing, God-fearing Christian.

I would submit to you my friends that tears are indeed the first sign that you will receive upon becoming a true Christian. You will see things that you have never seen before, and you will understand things that you have never understood before. Things that have been around you your whole life, and that you have never noticed... you will begin to see and notice.

The homeless and the hungry, will stand out from a crowd like a sore thumb. The needs of others will become more apparent than they have ever been before. The simple rising of the sun in the morning will become a nod from God our father as you begin a new day, and the life-giving rain that falls upon the earth you'll begin to notice as a blessing from God, knowing that it rains on the just and the unjust. And these are just a few things that a true born-again Christian will begin to see, and clearly notice.

I often equate the beginning of life to being in black and white, and then, once coming to the truth, and being born again... we begin to live life in full color. Ezekiel chapter 36 versus 26 and 27:

## A HEART OF FLESH!

Eze 36:26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.  
Eze 36:27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Eze 11:19 And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,  
Eze 11:20 that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Heb 10:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"  
Heb 10:17 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

4

If we gain nothing else from picking up our crosses and following after our Messiah we should gain the undisputable knowledge and wisdom that comes from having a heart of flesh. Knowing that the stone-cold heart that we were born with has now been removed and smashed like a clay pot.

In our modern-day world we often times think that a man is to be seen as rough-and-tumble as John Wayne, or Clint Eastwood, or Sylvester Stallone. But I would submit to you my friends that our Messiah had more gravel than any Hollywood star could ever muster. Our Messiah was more man than any man has ever been since.

Our Messiah endured more than any Hollywood macho man star could ever have dreamt of. The silly depiction of our Messiah as being some Lily-white long-haired throwback from the 1960s is nothing more than another man-made, man concocted, man fabricated deception.

Our Messiah would have had his hair cropped short because we know that it's a shame for a man to have long hair according to the apostle Paul. Our Messiah was a carpenter which means that he worked with his hands, and his hands surely would have been calloused and would have been accustomed to a good hard day's work as he worked along-side of his father Joseph.

Our Messiah took no guff from the Pharisees or the scribes that were seeking to kill him. He stood boldly in front of them and righteously rebuked them for the wickedness that they were doing. Our Messiah was a far cry from a pacifist, and far from the Lily-white long-haired hippie throwback that the world sees him as today.

And yet... at the same time, our Messiah often times wept. Our Messiah was indeed the lion of Judah when he saw the Jews turning his Father's house into a marketplace. He entered his

Father's house like a lion cracking a whip that he formed out of cords, turning over the tables and cracking that whip, and chasing those evil men out of his Father's house. And yet, the fleshly heart of our Messiah with his calloused hands... knelt down and took the feet of his apostles as he humbled himself before them to wash their feet during one of his last meals with them.

Joseph was well aware of what it meant to be a true man. Joseph knew what it was like to endure the hardships of prison, and rejection by those who were supposed to love him. Joseph knew what it was like to endure years of hardship. And Joseph also knew what the greatest power on earth truly was.

The one weapon that would annihilate all sin on earth, and all hatred among men is the one weapon that was given to Joseph early on in his life. And that was indeed the fleshly heart that his Father in heaven had given him from the very beginning. Above and beyond all power ever seen on earth including nuclear, and atomic power... a true Christian knows how to wield the power of love.

Preach the word, be ready in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, and exhort with complete patience and teaching. One of the most important aspects of our Messiah is the fact that he knew when to be a lion... and when to be a Lamb. My hope and prayer is that we too will all follow in his footsteps and do as he did, so that we will also will know when to be a lion... and when to be a lamb.

What should become clear and evident in our minds, is that our brother Joseph had already been well educated in how to pick up his cross and follow his Messiah even clear back... in the Old Testament.

My hope and my prayer, is that we have given you something to take to your prayer closet and to test through the fire of prayer this week. And as I always ask, I will ask again...

Please, please, take what you've heard here today to your prayer closet. Bow your head and bend your knee, and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem, and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you've heard here today be true... Or not.

Ask, seek, and knock, and the door will be opened to you.

And if you will do that, you and I will walk hand in hand through the Gates of his soon coming kingdom.

I'm pastor Scott Velain with holy impact ministries, and I'd like to thank you for sharing your time with us here this evening. And I'd also like to invite you to join us this next seventh day Sabbath for our teaching on "judging".

My friends I cannot tell you how many modern-day Christians are afraid to judge anyone because they have been wrongly taught that they are not allowed to judge anyone. Join us this next seventh day Sabbath, Saturday at 9 AM Eastern standard time so that you can know and understand the truth of what God's word does... and does not say... about "judging". This is an extremely important teaching that every Christian needs to hear.

We'll see you there, next Saturday at 9 AM Eastern standard time at [holy impact ministries.com](http://holyimpactministries.com).