

Genesis 42

King James Version (KJV)

42 Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? (What are you waiting around here for? Go buy food in Egypt)

²And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die.

³And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt. (All but Benjamin)

⁴But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, lest peradventure mischief befall him. (Jacob didn't want to take any chances with Benjamin, after having lost Joseph)

⁵And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan. (Israel = Jacob; God re-named him)

⁶And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth. (The dreams of Chapter-37:7 are being fulfilled. This was prophecy from God. His brothers would bow themselves down before Joseph)

⁷And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food. (He recognizes them; but they don't recognize him because they all think that Joseph is probably a slave or he is dead by now)

⁸And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.

⁹And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come. (Joseph is getting a little payback for what they did to him)

¹⁰And they said unto him, Nay, my lord, but to buy food are thy servants come.

¹¹ We are all one man's sons; we are true men, thy servants are no spies. (True men – some of them wanted to kill Joseph, before they thought of selling him to the caravan. They weren't true men at that time)

¹² And he said unto them, Nay, but to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.

¹³ And they said, Thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and, behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is not. (He is standing right before them)

¹⁴ And Joseph said unto them, That is it that I spake unto you, saying, Ye are spies:

¹⁵ Hereby ye shall be proved: By the life of Pharaoh ye shall not go forth hence, except your youngest brother come hither. (Joseph will test them)

¹⁶ Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be kept in prison, that your words may be proved, whether there be any truth in you: or else by the life of Pharaoh surely ye are spies. (Spies were executed. This could become a death sentence for these guys)

¹⁷ And he put them all together into ward three days. (Let them worry in prison for a few days)

¹⁸ And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God:

¹⁹ If ye be true men, let one of your brethren be bound in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses: (One of them will remain in Egypt as a hostage. The others can buy food, but they need to return with Benjamin)

²⁰ But bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so. (Joseph wants to see if they'll sell the one to save themselves)

²¹ And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us. (They are remorseful for what they did to Joseph. They see this as rightful punishment from God for what they did)

²² And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required. (It was Reuben who convinced the rest not to kill Joseph)

²³ And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for he spake unto them by an interpreter. (Joseph was speaking in Egyptian. He was using an interpreter only to make them think that he couldn't understand what they were saying amongst themselves, in Hebrew)

²⁴ And he turned himself about from them, and wept; and returned to them again, and communed with them, and took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes. (He will be the hostage)

²⁵ Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way: and thus did he unto them. (Putting their money into their sacks will make them look like thieves)

²⁶ And they laded their asses with the corn, and departed thence.

²⁷ And as one of them opened his sack to give his ass provender in the inn, he espied his money; for, behold, it was in his sack's mouth.

²⁸ And he said unto his brethren, My money is restored; and, lo, it is even in my sack: and their heart failed them, and they were afraid, saying one to another, What is this that God hath done unto us? (They would be accused of being thieves. That could also get them executed in Egypt)

²⁹ And they came unto Jacob their father unto the land of Canaan, and told him all that befell unto them; saying,

³⁰ The man, who is the lord of the land, spake roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country. (Joseph wanted to shake them up. He sure did it)

³¹ And we said unto him, We are true men; we are no spies:

³² We be twelve brethren, sons of our father; one is not, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.

³³ And the man, the lord of the country, said unto us, Hereby shall I know that ye are true men; leave one of your brethren here with me, and take food for the famine of your households, and be gone:

³⁴ And bring your youngest brother unto me: then shall I know that ye are no spies, but that ye are true men: so will I deliver you your brother, and ye shall traffick in the land. (You will be free to travel through Egypt and trade with the people and buy food from the granaries)

³⁵ And it came to pass as they emptied their sacks, that, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack: and when both they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid.

³⁶ And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me. (He's worried that he will lose three sons)

³⁷ And Reuben spake unto his father, saying, Slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee: deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him to thee again. (Reuben has more backbone than the rest of them)

³⁸ And he said, My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he is left alone: if mischief befall him by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. (Losing Benjamin will kill Jacob. He will mourn until the day he dies)