

Genesis 43

King James Version (KJV)

43 And the famine was sore in the land.

²And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the corn which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said unto them, Go again, buy us a little food. (They have to return to Egypt for more food, or they will starve)

³And Judah spake unto him, saying, The man did solemnly protest unto us, saying, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you. (Bring Benjamin or leave Simeon behind)

⁴If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go down and buy thee food:

⁵But if thou wilt not send him, we will not go down: for the man said unto us, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you. (An expression – meaning that there's going to be big trouble if you don't comply. And Joseph was in a position to give them more trouble than they can handle. He could have them all executed if he chose to)

⁶And Israel said, Wherefore dealt ye so ill with me, as to tell the man whether ye had yet a brother? (Why did you tell him? Jacob doesn't realize that Joseph already knew Benjamin. He would have known if they were lying)

⁷And they said, The man asked us straitly of our state, and of our kindred, saying, Is your father yet alive? have ye another brother? and we told him according to the tenor of these words: could we certainly know that he would say, Bring your brother down? (They told Joseph the truth. It would have been far worse for them had they lied. Joseph would have known that they hadn't changed their ways)

⁸And Judah said unto Israel his father, Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go; that we may live, and not die, both we, and thou, and also our little ones. (They have to go or they will all starve to death. There was no alternative)

⁹I will be surety for him; of my hand shalt thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever: (Judah is also making himself responsible for the safe return of Benjamin, like Reuben did)

¹⁰ For except we had lingered, surely now we had returned this second time. (We should have gone back there a long time ago. Simeon is in prison)

¹¹ And their father Israel said unto them, If it must be so now, do this; take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds: (Bring what they had left as a present to Joseph to show their good will. This was a lot to offer. There was a drought)

¹² And take double money in your hand; and the money that was brought again in the mouth of your sacks, carry it again in your hand; peradventure it was an oversight: (Return the money that they owed)

¹³ Take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man: (Take Benjamin with you)

¹⁴ And God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother, and Benjamin. If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved. (Whichever way it turns out, it was beyond Jacob's control)

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. (They will eat with Joseph, in his house. This would be seen as very unusual for a man like Joseph, of high stature in Egypt, dining with commoners from another country)

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.

¹⁹ And they came near to the steward of Joseph's house, and they communed with him at the door of the house, (This would have been unheard of. They think that they were brought there because they are

in deep trouble. They know that Joseph has the power to arrest or even execute the whole bunch, if he wants to)

²⁰ And said, O sir, we came indeed down at the first time to buy food: (They're doing some fast talking to try to save themselves. They think they will be accused of theft)

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. (We came back to Egypt to return the money from the last purchase)

²² And other money have we brought down in our hands to buy food: we cannot tell who put our money in our sacks. (We came to buy more food. We didn't steal any money)

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. (your God – this Egyptian man is not a believer. He is a servant in Joseph's house)

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. (It was quite a present that they brought, especially in a time of famine)

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. (This was the dream that Joseph had, decades ago. They all bowed to him and paid obeisance to him)

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? (Joseph loved and missed his dad)

²⁸ And they answered, Thy servant our father is in good health, he is yet alive. And they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance. (They had done this twice in the dream also)

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. (He thought he would never see Benjamin again)

³¹ And he washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Set on bread.

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. (They were eating alone at their own table. They must have been weary about what was going to happen next)

³³ And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men marvelled one at another. (They wondered how Joseph would know who was older than whom)

³⁴ And he took and sent messes unto them from before him: but Benjamin's mess was five times so much as any of their's. And they drank, and were merry with him. (Joseph wants to know if they will now be jealous of Benjamin because he is getting 5 times more food than the rest. Again, he is testing them to see if they changed for the better)