



Lesson 33

FAMINE AND FAMILY REUNION – PART 1

Story Elements

- **TEXT:** Gen. 41:46-42:38
- **Setting:** circa 1745 B.C. in Egypt.
- **Main Characters:** God, Joseph, and Joseph's brothers
- **Plot:** Joseph conceals his identity
- from his brothers who have traveled to Egypt in search of food.
- **Key word(s):** "we are verily _____ concerning our brother" (42:21)
- **Climax:** *to be continued...*

Manasseh and Ephraim

- 1) (41:46-49) At the age of 30, Joseph had been providentially promoted to the second-in-command (the governor) of all Egypt. His wise leadership led the Egyptians to set aside _____% of their food during the seven years of plenty.
- 2) (41:50-52) To Joseph were born two sons: Manasseh and Ephraim.
 - a) Manasseh means *forgetting*, "For God, said he, hath made me _____ all my toil, and all my father's house."
 - b) Ephraim means *fruitful*, "For God hath caused me to be _____ in the land of my affliction."

Meanwhile in Canaan

- 3) (41:53-57) After the seven years of plenty ended, the _____ years of famine began. When the food ran out, people were directed to go to Joseph for aid. As the famine worsened in the region, other countries began to come to Joseph for help.
- 4) (42:1-2) The famine affected Canaan, and soon Jacob and his family were feeling the pinch of scarcity. News of Egypt's storehouses reached Jacob's ears, and he told his sons, "get you down thither, and buy us from thence; that we may live and not ____."
- 5) (42:4) Benjamin, Joseph's younger brother and the favorite of Jacob, was prohibited from making the journey, "Lest peradventure _____ befall him."

Meeting the Governor

- 6) (42:5-7) Joseph's brothers arrived in Egypt and came to the _____ to request grain. Fifteen years had passed since they sold Joseph into slavery. The teenage boy they once knew had been changed by the passage of time and the polish Egyptian royalty.
- 7) (42:8-9) But Joseph recognized his brothers, and as he saw them bow before them, he remembered his _____.
- 8) (42:9-12) Instead of greeting his brothers warmly, he accused them of espionage. Why do you think Joseph acted in this manner? _____

Money and Mischief

- 9) (42:13-17) The brothers insisted they were innocent of espionage, but Joseph continued to play the ruthless ruler and put them in prison for _____ days.
- 10) (42:18-20) Afterwards, Joseph gave his brothers an ultimatum: one of them would remain in jail and the others set free on the condition that they would bring _____ back to substantiate their story.
- 11) (42:21-22) The brothers began to talk amongst themselves of how such a sour turn of events was justice being served against them for their crime against _____.
- 12) (42:23-24) Joseph had been using an interpreter to talk with his brothers, so they did not realize he understood their words. When Joseph heard them express their regret for how they treated him, he left the room to _____.
- 13) (42:25-28) The brothers were given grain and sent their way (without Simeon). Later, at a rest stop, one of them noticed that his money was in the sack. They all despaired, saying, "What is this that God hath done unto us?". Why would they be so afraid?
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- 14) (42:29-35) When they returned to Canaan, they related to Jacob everything that had transpired. To make matters worse, they realized as they unpacked that **each** man's money was restored – "they were _____."
- 15) (42:36-38) Jacob was broken, and he blamed his sons for his bereavement; he had lost Joseph, now _____ was as good as dead – there was no way he would allow Benjamin to be taken down to Egypt.

Application

- 16) Joseph's imprisonment was short compared to his brothers' long imprisonments to their defiled consciences. Matthew Henry notes: "**As time will not wear out the guilt of sin, so it will not blot out the records of conscience; when the guilt of this sin of Joseph's brethren was fresh they made light of it, and sat down to eat bread; but now, long afterwards, their consciences reminded them of it.**"ⁱ The best policy is to confess and repent of sin while the wounds of our consciences are fresh. *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to _____ us from all unrighteousness.* (1 John 1:9)

Answer Key

Key word(s): guilty | 1) 20% | 2) a) forget; b) fruitful | 3) seven | 4) die | 5) mischief | 6) governor | 7) dreams | 8) He was wanting to see if they had treated Benjamin the same way they had treated him. | 9) three | 10) Benjamin | 11) Joseph | 12) weep | 13) Because they thought they would be accused of theft in addition to spying | 14) afraid | 15) Simeon | 16) cleanse

ⁱ Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.