

## Genesis 43:1-34 **Second year of the famine, back to Egypt with Benjamin**

<sup>1</sup> Now the famine was severe in the land. <sup>2</sup> And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food." <sup>3</sup> But Judah spoke to him, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.' <sup>4</sup> "If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food. <sup>5</sup> 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.' " <sup>6</sup> And Israel said, "Why did you deal so wrongfully with me as to tell the man whether you had still another brother?" <sup>7</sup> But they said, "The man asked us pointedly about ourselves and our family, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?' And we told him according to these words. Could we possibly have known that he would say, 'Bring your brother down'?"

<sup>8</sup> Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones. <sup>9</sup> I myself will be surety for him; 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. <sup>10</sup> For if we had not lingered, surely by now we would have returned this second time." <sup>11</sup> And their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: Take some of the best fruits of the land in your vessels and carry down a present for the man--a little balm and a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds. <sup>12</sup> Take double money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was an oversight. <sup>13</sup> Take your brother also, and arise, go back to the man. <sup>14</sup> And may God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may release your other brother and Benjamin. If I am bereaved, I am bereaved!"

<sup>15</sup> So the men took that present and Benjamin, and they took double money in their hand, and arose and went down to Egypt; and they stood before Joseph. <sup>16</sup> When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Take these men to my home, and slaughter an animal and make ready; for these men will dine with me at noon." <sup>17</sup> Then the man did as Joseph ordered, and the man brought the men into Joseph's house. <sup>18</sup> Now the men were afraid because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, "It is because of the money, which was returned in our sacks the first time, that we are brought in, so that he may seek an occasion against us and fall upon us, to take us as slaves with our donkeys." <sup>19</sup> When they drew near to the steward of Joseph's house, they talked with him at the door of the house, <sup>20</sup> and said, "O sir, we indeed came down the first time to buy food; <sup>21</sup> but it happened, when we came to the encampment, that we opened our sacks, and there, each man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight; so we have brought it back in our hand. <sup>22</sup> And we have brought down other money in our hands to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks." <sup>23</sup> But he said, "Peace be with you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them. <sup>24</sup> So the man brought the men into Joseph's house and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys feed. <sup>25</sup> Then they made the present ready for Joseph's coming at noon, for they heard that they would eat bread there.

<sup>26</sup> And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed down before him to the earth. <sup>27</sup> Then he asked them about their well-being, and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?" <sup>28</sup> And they answered, "Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive." And they bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves. <sup>29</sup> Then he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son,

and said, "Is this your younger brother of whom you spoke to me?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son." <sup>30</sup> Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep. And he went into his chamber and wept there. <sup>31</sup> Then he washed his face and came out; and he restrained himself, and said, "Serve the bread." <sup>32</sup> So they set him a place by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves; because the Egyptians could not eat food with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians. <sup>33</sup> And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth; and the men looked in astonishment at one another. <sup>34</sup> Then he took servings to them from before him, but Benjamin's serving was five times as much as any of theirs. So they drank and were merry with him. NKJV

#### Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Food is gone, because the famine is severe in the land of Canaan, and Jacob instructs the sons to go back to Egypt to buy food.
- ✧ Judah (Israel's 4<sup>th</sup> born son through Leah) reminded Jacob that the ruler of the land of Egypt had solemnly warned us saying, "You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you." So if Jacob refuses to send Benjamin with them, they will not go.
- ✧ Israel is afraid of losing Benjamin if he should allow him go with his brothers to Egypt, so he asked why they had let the man know they had another brother.
- ✧ Here we learn that Joseph had pointedly asked about his father and his well-being as well as his Brother Benjamin on their first trip to Egypt.
- ✧ Judah volunteered himself to be surety for Benjamin's safe return to his father for the sake of providing food for their wives and children as well as for Jacob himself.
- ✧ Jacob relented and said:
  - “If it must be so, then take some of the best fruit of the land in your vessels and carry down a present for the man of a little balm, honey, spices, myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds, along with double money and the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks, Perhaps it was an oversight.”
  
  - “Take your brother and go back to the man, and may El Shaday give you mercy before the man that he may release your other brother and Benjamin. If I am bereaved, I am bereaved.”
- ✧ They took Benjamin, the present, and double the money and returned to Joseph in Egypt.
- ✧ Joseph in Egypt saw Benjamin with them and commanded a banquet be prepared for them at his own house.
- ✧ In great fear they approached the steward of Joseph's house and told him about finding the money in the mouth of their sacks and that they had brought it back with other money as well to pay for both trips supply of grain.
- ✧ The steward told them not to be afraid because he had the money for the first trip and that it must have been a gift of Elah (Their God) Who had given them treasure in their sacks.
- ✧ Then he brought Simeon out to them and brought them into Joseph's house, gave them water to wash their feet, and provided feed for their donkeys and they were told that they would eat bread there.
- ✧ They prepared the present they had brought from Jacob in the land of Canaan.
- ✧ When Joseph came in they presented him with the present and bowed down before him to the earth. Again fulfilling Joseph's first dream. [\[Genesis 37:5-8\]](#)
- ✧ Joseph enquired about their father and his well-being.

- ✧ They reported that Jacob was in good health and still alive, and bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves before Joseph again.
- ✧ Joseph looked at Benjamin and said, “Is this your younger brother of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious to you my son.”
- ✧ Moved with emotion at seeing his brother Joseph went to his chamber and wept, then washed his face, restrained himself and came out and commanded that they serve the food.
- ✧ The Egyptians consider eating with the Hebrews to be an abomination so they were seated by themselves, the Hebrews were seated by themselves, and Joseph by himself.
- ✧ The brothers were seated in the order of their births which astonished them.
- ✧ Benjamin was served five times the amount of each of the rest of them.
- ✧ So they ate and drank and were merry with Joseph.