### Genesis

## Chapter 43

1However, the famine continued in the land. 2And so, after they had finished eating the grain that they’d brought from Egypt, their father told them:  
  
 ‘Go there to buy us a little food again.’  
  
3But Judah said to him:  
  
 ‘That man who’s the lord of the land absolutely warned us, saying:  
  
 ‘You may not see my face again unless you have your younger brother with you.’  
  
 4‘So if you’ll send our brother with us, we’ll go and buy you food. 5But if you won’t send our brother with us, we won’t go.’  
  
6Then IsraEl asked:  
  
 ‘Why did you do so much harm to me by telling the man that you had a brother?’  
  
7And they replied:  
  
 ‘The man asked a lot of questions about our family. He asked, Is your father still alive? and, Do you have a brother? All we did was answer his questions!  
  
 ‘How could we know that he would tell us to bring our brother?’  
  
8Then Judah said to his father IsraEl:  
  
 ‘Send the boy with me and we’ll go… So we don’t all [starve] to death!  
  
 9‘I’ll be responsible for him, and you can hold me to blame if anything happens to him... If I don’t return him and stand him before you, I’ll be guilty before you throughout the age.  
  
 10‘If we hadn’t been delaying, we could could have already have gone there a second time!’  
  
11And their father IsraEl said to them:  
  
 ‘If that’s the case, then do this:  
  
 ‘Take along the fruit of the land in your bags. Carry gifts of gum, honey, frankincense, oil of myrrh, turpentine, and walnuts to the man.  
  
 12‘Also, carry twice as much money – in addition to the money that was put back in your bags – just in case that was a mistake.  
  
 13‘Then take your brother along and go down to the man. 14May my God allow you to find favor in the eyes of that man, so he sends you home with your other brother and BenJamin. For I’ve been saddened, and I’m very sad now.’  
  
15So the men loaded up their gifts and took twice as much money, as well as BenJamin, and headed down to Egypt, where they soon stood before JoSeph.  
  
16Well, when JoSeph saw them and his brother BenJamin (who was born to the same mother), he told his house manager:  
  
 ‘Bring the men into [my] house, then butcher some animals and prepare them, because these men are to eat bread with me at noon.’  
  
17So the man did just as JoSeph said, and he brought them into JoSeph’s house.  
  
18Well, when the men realized that they had been taken to the house of JoSeph, they said:  
  
 ‘We’ve been brought here because of the money that was returned to our bags the first time. [This is being done] so witnesses can be called and we can be charged [with a crime]… Then they’ll confiscate our burros and take us as slaves!’  
  
19So they went up to the man who was in charge of JoSeph’s house and spoke to him out on the porch.  
  
20They said:  
  
 ‘We’re begging you, sir… We just came the first time to buy food. 21But, as we were unloading and opening our bags, [we found] this money in each bag.  
  
 ‘We have the full amount of money in our hands [and we wish] to return it.  
  
 22‘We’ve also brought more money along with which to buy the food… We don’t know who put the money [back] in our bags!’  
  
23And [the man] replied:  
  
 ‘May God be merciful with you. Don’t be afraid, for it was your God and the God of your ancestors who put the treasures in your bags.  
  
 ‘I have enough of your good money!’  
  
Then he brought SimeOn out to them… 24Along with some water to wash their feet, and some fodder for their burros.  
  
  
25It was then that they started preparing their gifts for JoSeph’s arrival at noon, because they heard that he was going to dine there. 26So when JoSeph came home, they brought him the gifts that they’d carried into the house… And afterward, they bowed with their faces to the ground.  
  
27Well, he asked them:  
  
 ‘How are you? Is your father, the old man whom you spoke of, well? Is he still living?’  
  
28And they replied:  
  
 ‘Our father, your servant, is well. And yes, he’s still alive.’  
  
Then JoSeph said:  
  
 ‘May that man of God be blest!’  
  
And at that, they all bowed low to show him respect.  
  
29It was then that JoSeph looked up and saw his brother BenJamin (who was born to the same mother). And he asked:  
  
 ‘Is this the younger brother whom you said you’d bring to me?’  
  
Then he added:  
  
 ‘May God have mercy on you, my son.’  
  
30Well, JoSeph’s emotions overcame him, because he missed his brother so much, and he wanted to cry. So he walked to his inner room and cried there.  
  
31Thereafter, he washed his face and regained his composure, and came out and said:  
  
 ‘Now, bring on the bread!’  
  
32So they set out bread for JoSeph, for his servants, and for the Egyptians that were eating with him, but not for [his brothers], because the Egyptians considered it dishonorable to eat bread with Hebrews.  
  
33They just sat there in front of him (in the order of their ages, from the firstborn to the youngest), as the brothers looked at each other in astonishment... 34But then, JoSeph gave them their portions to eat by themselves. However, BenJamin received five times as much as did the rest. They also drank with him until each one was full.