

---

**Day 19 - January 19**

---

**Period of the Patriarchs (2100 -1525 BCE)**  
***Joseph the Egyptian Ruler (continued)***

**Readings: *Genesis 42:6-38; 43:1-34; 44:1-34; 45:1-15***

***Reflections:***

- This part of the story of Joseph is told with dramatic flair. Joseph is depicted as incredibly wise and cunning in ensuring the brother's experience a heart-searching process. These events created by Joseph caused the brothers to realize how terribly they had treated him. Reuben states this clearly to his brothers in Genesis 42:22.
- Judah plays an important role in convincing Jacob, now called Israel, to send Benjamin back. We see both Judah and Reuben are cast in a positive light.
- We see the brothers experience a kind of blessing from God through their brother. The steward explains, "Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks." Sometimes God blesses us through other people and we are not even aware of how we were blessed. It is still God at work but he is using other people to bless us.
- The brothers bow before Joseph and his childhood dream is fulfilled. We must remember that some promises take a very long time for God to fulfill.
- Joseph must escape to privately weep after meeting Benjamin and we see here how deeply sensitive Joseph is. Like King David, Joseph is a man with a deeply compassionate and tender heart.
- Joseph blesses Benjamin with a five-fold portion for his meal. This is described as the greatest party imaginable. As we will see, parties are a very important part of life from God's perspective.
- Joseph again sets the stage for the brothers to look like they have stolen. This is apparently to create a scenario where the brothers will need to bring their father back to Egypt. Finally Judah humbles himself and displays such a broken heart before Joseph that Joseph breaks down and reveals his true identity. The story of reconciliation is beautiful as they all hug and weep. So much for being tough guys! We see the power of complete broken-hearted humility to open the way for reconciliation.

- Joseph's statement about God's purposes is profound. He no longer sees the brother's decision to sell him into slavery as simply an act of hate. He can see how God has even used their sin to complete His purposes for salvation, deliverance and grace. The entire family is saved by what began as a sinful act of hate. God has the power to take even the most terrible sins and acts of rebellion and still weave them into his overall purposes of salvation and deliverance. God prefers to use obedience but he will use all things to complete his will. In this we need not hate our enemies or the enemies of God because in the end, they cannot stop or hinder God's purposes from being fulfilled (see Philippians 1:12-14 to read Paul's own experience of how God used his imprisonment to advance the message of Jesus). Praise God that we can rest in the knowledge that no one or nothing can stop the purposes of God from being fulfilled!