

Genesis Chapter 43 Commentary

1 ¶ And the famine was sore in the land. 2 And 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. 3 And 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. 4 If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go down and buy thee food: 5 But 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.

Judah reminds Israel; if they go without the youngest son, Benjamin, they will be taken as spies and cast into prison or killed. With them dead, and no food in the land, thus, the whole family of Israel could be extinguished.

6 And Israel said, Wherefore dealt ye so ill with me, as to tell the man whether ye had yet a brother? 7 And 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? 8 And 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. 9 I 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: 10 For except we had lingered, surely now we had returned this second time.

We see Israel struggling and attempting to blame them for circumstances of which they had no control. Even the sons of Israel do not know that Joseph is the ruler and that is why he questioned them so specifically. Can you see the picture of how Jesus, when we are born-again, questioning us at every turn? Afflicting our conscience to bring to pass the salvation of our lives.

We see here a picture of our salvation. How? Judah, through whom we are brought the lineage of Christ the Saviour, becomes surety for the youngest son of Israel. Christ Jesus brought salvation to earth, established the church, and made provision to bring us to the storehouse of bread. He became surety for his brethren, and we exist today because of his pledge to his Father.

Judah talking to his father is like Christ speaking to his Father, as He is praying for His own people as seen in: ***Joh 17:12 "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled."***

Jesus speaking for his disciples when He was betrayed in the Garden, seen in: ***Joh 18:8-9; 8 "Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way: 9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none."***

Therefore, we see the works of the sacrificial law being fulfilled. Jesus was the promised Messiah, who must intercede to bring bread to Israel during his lifetime, and bring them, and all the saved, to the house of bread.

We see that there is the prediction of a second coming. "***surely now we had returned this second time.***" We have the promise of the second coming of Christ to gather up his own family and bring us to the land of eternal promise.

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:

We see a parallel here to the picture of Christ's birth, as seen in: ***Mt 2:11 "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."*** Israel, the father of Joseph, has sent his other sons to get corn to sustain life. They knew there was corn in Egypt. He sent them bearing gifts, just as the wise men seen in ***Mt 2:11*** brought gifts. Do you see the picture now in the reference above?

This is an admonition to the church that we are to be a bright light to the world of despair around us. People should know that there is corn in Egypt, which is a figure, of each born-again child of God, making known that there is bread of life to be had in Jesus Christ.

The wise men were sent to see Christ, the King, as he was revealed in a body of flesh. Joseph's brethren were sent to get corn to sustain life but, in the process, found their king, Joseph their brother, who would reign over them in Egypt.

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: 13 Take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man: 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.

Israel realizes, if he doesn't send Benjamin with them, that he and all his family will die. God is putting in place the necessary things in Israel's life, to bring him submissively to see the salvation of his family. God must do the same thing to us, why? If we were not brought, to the point of seeing that we must surely die in our sins, and our stubbornness be the destruction of our family also, we would not seek the bread of life at all.

We see the prayer from Israel is "***And God Almighty give you mercy before the man.***" That is our plea today, God gives us mercy before the Man, Christ Jesus, our Saviour and King.

We see that we are as Israel was, how? Israel said if I am bereaved then I am bereaved. We are in the same condition, how? If we are not given favor in the eyes of Christ, then we are doomed. However, there is hope if we realize; our condition is, we have a desire to seek for the bread of life, just as it is for Israel here. We are helpless to do any other thing than seek the bread.

It seems, Jacob has forgotten the promise of God unto him at this point in his life, as well as the prophetic dreams of Joseph. It seems that his focus is not on God, and God's glory, but rather, on his own wants. We can certainly witness with this as we are often consumed with living in this life, toiling and laboring in frustration if doing so in our own strength.

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. 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, 20 And said, O sir, we came indeed down at the first time to buy food: 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. 22 And other money have we brought down in our hands to buy food: we cannot tell who put our money in our sacks.

Do you see the picture; of a person coming to the church confessing that they are a sinner? They are so afraid, and their conscience is surely causing them to have great concern for their lives now. We see man, still trying to work out his own salvation by monetary means and works.

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.

God is telling us, look now, I gave you all that you have, for all the world is mine. I know how much you have before you try to give it back to me. However, it is not your earthly possessions that I want, it is your heart filled with devotion to me that I seek. I want to know that you see me as King, and Lord, in your life, as we shall see Joseph's brethren come to this place soon. I want to see that you have love, one for the other among yourselves, and that you are willing to give your life for one another.

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. 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. 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? 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.

We see the first dream of Joseph fulfilled as all his brethren bow before him.

- ***Ge 37:7 "For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf."*** Remember, this is the only hope that Joseph has had in all the years of his affliction.

Notice, Joseph was concerned for the welfare of his family. Likewise, Jesus is concerned with our wellbeing here in time.

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.

Joseph wept over his brethren when they came to him. Christ wept for his brethren because of the great love he has for God's children. Consider the scripture in: ***Lu 19:41-42; 41 ¶ "And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, 42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.***" Jesus wept over Jerusalem as he was entering the city, why? His own people did not recognize him in his deity and the office of the Messiah and King eternal, just as, Joseph's brethren do not recognize him.

Joh 11:35 "Jesus wept." Here Jesus was weeping at the grave of Lazarus, whom he loved very much, just as Joseph wept over Benjamin, whom he loved very much.

"and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there." We find in scripture; Jesus often went to a place apart, where he wept and prayed for God's people. Here is one: ***Mt 14:23 "And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone."***

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. 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.

Isn't it marvelous to our eyes, when we see that God has ordered the things in our lives to bring us to his table to eat bread? Jesus knows each born-again sinner and knows the position, which they are to fulfill in this life in his church.

We know Joseph's brethren cannot yet see; their understanding being blinded. However, there is the hint of a hope in this eating arrangement for them, how? We notice that Joseph ate by himself and not with the Egyptians. This should have alerted Joseph's brethren that Joseph was not an Egyptian, but a Hebrew.

34 And he took and sent messes unto them from before him: but Benjamin's mess was five times so much as any of theirs. And they drank, and were merry with him.

We see in these verses the prophetic picture of Christ changing the Passover supper to the Lord's Supper, the communion commemoration the church practices today. Joseph took of the food before him and gave to his brethren. Christ broke the bread and gave to his disciples, seen in: ***Lu 24:30 "And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them."***

The Egyptians were given food but not of the supply of Joseph. The world is not invited to partake of the passover supper, and the unbeliever is not invited to the Lord's supper either.

- **Ex 12:3 "Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:"** God is here giving the commandment of the passover supper to Israel, not to Egypt.
- **Lu 22:14-15; 14 "And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.**
- **15 And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:**" In this text we see that it was Jesus and his disciples, only.

We also see in "**And they drank, and were merry with him.**" the joy of the repentant sinner, who has come forward confessing Christ finished work, and has been given a seat at the table of communion with Jesus and his brethren. Now they see Jesus, not as the one to condemn them, but the one who is dining with them.

Just as Joseph is set apart from his brethren, so Christ our Lord is set apart from us, in that, he is now in the eternal heaven, but he is still giving us the cup of salvation to drink from in this world. As well as the bread of life, that we may eat and live. Oh, the joy of the repentant sinner when they are accepted into the church body and given the privilege of eating of the Lord's Supper.

"but Benjamin's mess was five times so much as any of theirs." I don't think it could ever mean more to a child of grace than that first time being served after being received into the fold. Several commentators believe, the extra portions to Benjamin was a tradition, of designating one as the guest of honor, and of honoring someone in particular. Praise God that we have been invited to the table of Christ and are the honored guest in the presence of our King. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!