

Genesis Study--Dreams Can Come True

Genesis 42-43

1. **Why are you standing around looking at one another? I have heard there is grain in Egypt**
Why would the mention of Egypt bother these boys?
2. **They bowed low before him, with their faces to the ground**.....The dream is starting to come true. (Gen. 37:5-8) The great and glorious truth of God's providence is He can and does use the _____ of man towards us to further His good plan. This never excuses man's evil, but it means God's wisdom and goodness are greater than man's evil. Surely the _____ shall praise You (Psalm 76:10).
3. **Joseph recognized them instantly, but he pretended to be a stranger. "Where are you from?" he demanded roughly.** Doesn't it seem as if Joseph is playing games?

When Joseph's brothers plotted murder against him and sold him into slavery they did it specifically attempting to defeat his dreams (Genesis 37:19-20). Instead, by sending Joseph to Egypt, they provided the way the dreams would be _____. The great and glorious truth of God's providence is He can and does use the evil actions of man towards us to further His good plan. This never excuses man's evil, but it means God's wisdom and goodness are greater than man's evil. *Surely the wrath of man shall praise You* (Psalm 76:10).

Joseph interrogates his brothers and puts them into prison.

4. **One is no longer with us:** This was a _____, and the brothers knew it. They had every reason to believe Joseph was not dead, but living a horrible life of slavery. Perhaps they had repeated the lie to themselves so often they came to believe it.
5. **So he put them all in prison for three days.** After three days in Egyptian prison they are ready to do _____ Joseph asks.
Spies..coming practice of nations to send spies to see when nation is weak for attack
Proof they were not lying was to bring Benjamin
6. **A guilty conscience is a good thing.** There was not a completely logical connection between their current situation and their previous treatment of Joseph. But a guilty conscience sees every trouble as sin's penalty. *We are truly guilty concerning our brother.... this distress has come*
7. **He turned himself away from them and wept...** Yet even before the restoration, Joseph will not allow himself to be bound by _____ He still loves his brothers and wants to be with them

8. **He took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes:** Joseph retained Simeon as a prisoner to guarantee the return of the brothers. Simeon was not mentioned as having a prominent role in the selling of Joseph, as both Reuben and Judah were (Genesis 37:21-28), so we don't know exactly why Simeon was chosen. Perhaps he _____.

9. **Their hearts failed them and they were afraid:** They opened their sacks and found the money they used to buy the grain. They were terrified because they were already suspected as spies. Now they can be accused as _____ also.

What is this that God has done to us? The guilty consciences of the brothers are hard at work, bringing every adversity back to God.

10. **We are honest men:** The same brothers lied to their father some twenty years before, saying that Joseph was killed by a wild animal when they sold him to slave-traders. Truth never was told.

11. **Jacob's reaction:** All these things are against me. And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me: Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me."

Contrast the attitudes of Jacob and Joseph One is trusting God, the other is not. Joseph had bad circumstances could've been negative but wasn't Romans 8:28 Jacob refuses to send Benjamin—he must not think much of Simeon

12. **When they had eaten up the grain which they had brought from Egypt:** Perhaps Jacob originally thought they had _____, so that they would never need to go back with Benjamin, and never need to go back and get Simeon. But they ran out of food.

13. **JUDAH. I myself will be surety for him:** Judah put his own life on the line as a surety for Benjamin. This is the first _____ we see Judah doing. Previously, he was the one who had proposed the sale of Joseph. He was the one who wronged his daughter-in-law Tamar and had sex with her as a harlot. Previously, Satan may have directed his attack against Joseph because he believed *he* was the one who would ultimately bring _____. To this point, God had not revealed which of the 12 it would be.

14. **Take some of the best fruits of the land in your vessels and carry down a present for the man:** Perhaps Jacob remembers how well it seemed to work when he showered _____ with gifts (Genesis 33:10-11).

Take double money in your hand: They took double money with them to Egypt to buy grain and the Egyptian leader's favor. Since ten brothers went to Egypt and they took double money, there were 20 units of money. This answers exactly to the _____ they sold Joseph for (Genesis 37:28). The words for *silver* and money are the same.

15. ***Gave them water, and they washed their feet:*** The brothers expected to be taken as slaves or even _____ and have everything stolen (Genesis 43:18). Yet Joseph treated them with kindness. This love and goodness from Joseph will win them over.
The brothers received the blessings of love and kindness from Joseph without knowing who he was. In the same way, God showers love and blessing upon man even when man doesn't know whom the blessing comes from.
16. ***The set him a place by himself: Joseph did not eat with his brothers because at the time,... And the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves:*** The Egyptians would not even eat with Joseph, much less these strangers from Canaan. Even with all his status and power, Joseph could still not eat with "real" Egyptians. _____ is nothing new. But God used that as only He could. He will bring the tiny nation of Israel to Egypt to incubate and grow it into numbers and in wealth. Unlike the Canaanites, the Egyptians' _____ would not permit them intermarry. Problems had just been with Dinah and Tamar.
17. ***The firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth:*** No wonder the brothers were filled with astonishment. The arrangement of the brothers was so amazing because they sensed it couldn't happen by chance. Statistically, the odds of placing 11 brothers in their precise order of birth are something like 1 in _____.
18. ***Benjamin's serving was five times as much as any of theirs:*** Joseph wanted to see how the brothers reacted when the younger brother (in this case, Benjamin) was favored, because they resented it so much when Joseph was favored by his father.
Joseph wanted to see if there was a _____ of his brothers, or if they were the same men who threw him into a pit and were deaf to his cries for help.
We should expect if we fail in a test somewhere, God will make arrangements for us to "take the test" again another time. This is a sobering reason to take the test "well" the first time.