

# The Testing Of Hearts - II

Genesis 43:1-34

## Introduction

### I The Famine Persisted

- A. Jacob **ordered** his sons to go back to Egypt - Eph 3:20
- B. Judah reminded Jacob of Joseph's conditions - Gen 42:15
- C. Jacob **grumbled** against his sons
- D. Judah guaranteed Benjamin's safe return - Mk 10:45

### II Jacob Surrendered

- A. He sent them with products from Canaan - Prov 21:14
- B. He sent them with **double** the silver - Rom 13:8; Acts 24:16
- C. He sent them with Benjamin
- D. He sent them with God's **blessing**
  1. He **appealed** to God's mercy - Jer 17:5-8
  2. He was pessimistic and fatalistic - Esther 4:16

### III Jacob's Sons Obeyed

- A. They hurried down to Egypt
- B. They **presented** themselves to Joseph
  1. He had them taken to his house
  2. He had an animal slaughtered for them
  3. He invited them to a feast - Luke 15:11-32
- C. They were **frightened**
  1. "He wants to attack and overpower us"
  2. "He wants to seize us as slaves"
  3. "He wants to take our donkeys"
- D. They **confessed** to Joseph's steward - Prov 28:13; 1 Jn 1:9
  1. He comforted them
  2. He brought Simeon out - Gen 42:24
  3. He took them into Joseph's house
- E. They prepared their gifts for Joseph
  1. They presented him with gifts - Eph 2:8-9
  2. They **bowed down** before him - Gen 37:19-20; Phil 2:9-11

### IV Joseph Blessed His Brothers

- A. He **questioned** them about their father

- B. He acknowledged Benjamin
  1. He pronounced a **blessing** on him
  2. He was deeply moved and **wept** over him - Lk 19:41-44
- C. He ordered the meal served
  1. He ate separately from his brothers
  2. He had them seated in **chronological** order
    - a. They were astonished
  3. He gave Benjamin a greater portion of food
    - a. They **feasted** and drank freely with him - 1 Cor 2:9

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Share a time when your "deliverance" from trouble was delayed. Did you question God at the time? What was the outcome?
2. Jacob's family faced a 7 year famine caused by God. Why does God allow adversity in our lives? [Hint: Read Amos 4:6-8; Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-4; Isa 48:10; 1 Pet 1:6-7]
3. What was driving Jacob's fear? 1) Concern for Benjamin? 2) Concern for God's plan? 3) Concern for himself? Were his fears rational? Why or why not? What fears do you struggle with? What can you learn from Jacob's unfounded fears?
4. Compare Judah's words in Gen 43:8-9 with those in Gen 37:26-27. Is he a changed man? Why or why not?
5. How did fear facilitate Joseph's purpose with his brothers? How does fear work for the benefit of Joseph's brothers? What spiritual benefits have you reaped from fear?
6. What parallels are there between the life of Joseph and the life of Christ? How are Joseph's attitudes/actions toward his sinful brothers a foreshadowing picture of how Christ treats sinners? What does this teach you about God's attitude toward you?
7. Take some time to thank God for the gift of His One and Only Son, who willingly suffered and died in your place that you might be forgiven of your sins and be assured of eternal life!

### BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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