

# The Brothers & Joseph

Joseph 6; Genesis 41:53 – 42:24

By Scott Huckaby

2/21/2021



## Genesis 41:53-57, Joseph During the Famine

<sup>53</sup> The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end, <sup>54</sup> and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food. <sup>55</sup> When all Egypt began to feel the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you." <sup>56</sup> When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. <sup>57</sup> And all the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere.

### What happened when the seven years of plenty was over?

The seven years of famine began as foretold by Joseph. Indeed, it affected all other countries besides Egypt as well. People were sent to Joseph for food who sold it those in need. (There is no free lunch.)

### v55 – What comes to mind from Pharaoh telling those in need to do whatever Joseph says?

As Pharaoh said to those in need of food to do whatever Joseph says, so too did Mary, the mother of Jesus, tell the servants who ran out of wine at the wedding in Cana to do whatever Jesus says [80]:

John 2:5 – *His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."*

### What happened at the wedding in Cana and what was notable about it?

- Jesus performed His first public miracle there and it was at the request of His mother... God listens us, prayer changes things.
- This first public miracle revealed Jesus as Creator, able to make something from nothing.

### v57 – What is the significance of Joseph being the only source of bread in the world?

As Joseph was the only source of physical bread in the world, Jesus is the only source of spiritual bread in the world [81]:

John 6:33 – *For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.*

### How is Jesus as the Bread of God descriptive of Him?

As we need bread which represents sustenance to live in this world, we need the provision of Christ to live in the world to come.

- Bread can only fulfill our stomachs and that only temporarily. We need the fellowship of God to fulfill the longings of our souls, and that is good for eternity.

### Genesis 42:1-5, Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you just keep looking at each other?" <sup>2</sup> He continued, "I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die." <sup>3</sup> Then ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. <sup>4</sup> But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him. <sup>5</sup> So Israel's sons were among those who went to buy grain, for there was famine in the land of Canaan also.

### What was going on in Canaan, and what did Jacob, the patriarch of Israel do about it?

As all the world but Egypt was without food, Jacob sent all his remaining sons except Benjamin to Egypt to buy grain.

### Why didn't Jacob send Benjamin to Egypt?

*Lest some calamity befall him* – he was the only son of his favorite wife Rachel that he had left.

### v1-3 – What is the significance of Joseph's brothers staring at one another not knowing what to do?

As Joseph's brothers stared at one another not knowing what to do then going out to get food, so too did Jesus's disciples [82]:

John 21:2–3 – *Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you."*

### **Why did these disciples go fishing?**

They thought they better go back to their vocations since Jesus was gone... but they learned that their life with Christ was only beginning.

### **v2 – What is the significance of those who sought-out the source of grain in Egypt not dying?**

As the seekers of grain in Egypt would find their salvation in Joseph, so too would seekers of the bread of life find salvation in Jesus [83]:

John 6:35 – *Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”*

### **Why does God wait until the Tribulation to save all of Israel?**

Israel has a pattern of getting it right the second time...

- It wasn't until Joseph's brothers returned to Egypt that they recognized him for who he was (Stephen pointed this out in his sermon, Acts 7:13).
- The Law represented by the Ten Commandments were not received by Israel the first time.
- Israel refused to enter the Promised Land at their first opportunity.
- They rejected the Messiah at His first Advent.

This is also what has been prophesied... but God has always had a faithful remnant of Jews, even now during the Church Age.

### **How is it that those who partake of the bread of life Jesus offers will never hunger?**

Jesus satisfies what we hunger for. People without Christ go through life knowing something is missing in their life often trying to fill that void with any manner of worldly things and experiences that never quite satisfy.

### **v2 – What is the significance of the sons of Jacob coming to Joseph in the midst of the famine?**

As the sons of Jacob come to Joseph in the midst of the famine, so too will Israel recognize Jesus as their Messiah at the abomination of desolation in the midst of the Tribulation [84]:

Zechariah 12:9-10 – *It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.*

### **v3 – What is the significance of 10 brothers turning to Joseph for salvation?**

As there were 10 brothers who had to turn to Joseph for salvation, so too does the Law represented by the Ten Commandments cause us to turn to God's provision in Christ Jesus for salvation [85]:

Galatians 3:24 – *the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

### **How was the Law our tutor?**

It reveals the futility of being good enough on our own to merit God's favor for salvation... it is not humanly possible to perfectly obey even the Ten Commandments: Old Testament saints had to conclude that if they were to be saved, it had to be by the grace of God through living by faith in Him.

Ephesians 2:8-9 – *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Biblical Christianity is unique from all the world's religions which soteriology calls for salvation by works; only biblical Christianity is salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone!

### **v4 – What is the significance of Benjamin not joining their brothers in their mission to Egypt?**

As Benjamin was separated from his brothers having had no part in betraying Joseph, so too was the Apostle Paul called by God to minister to the Gentiles who had no part in betraying Jesus (yes, Pilate and Herod yielded to political pressure from the Jewish religious leaders but they weren't the accusers) [86]:

Philippians 3:5 – *circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee*

### **Genesis 42:6-17, The Brothers Before Joseph**

<sup>6</sup> Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. <sup>7</sup> As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. "Where do you come from?" he asked. "From the land of Canaan," they replied, "to buy food." <sup>8</sup> Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. <sup>9</sup> Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected." <sup>10</sup> "No, my lord," they answered. "Your servants have come to buy food." <sup>11</sup> We are all the sons of one man. Your servants are honest men, not spies." <sup>12</sup> "No!" he said to them. "You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

<sup>13</sup> But they replied, “Your servants were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more.”

<sup>14</sup> Joseph said to them, “It is just as I told you: You are spies! <sup>15</sup> And this is how you will be tested: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. <sup>16</sup> Send one of your number to get your brother; the rest of you will be kept in prison, so that your words may be tested to see if you are telling the truth. If you are not, then as surely as Pharaoh lives, you are spies!” <sup>17</sup> And he put them all in custody for three days.

### **How did the encounter between the 10 brothers and Joseph go?**

Not so good for the 10 brothers... Joseph recognized them though they didn't recognize him. So, he decided to mess with them accusing them to be spies, put them in prison, and test them concerning their youngest brother.

### **v6 – What is the significance of the ten brothers bowing down to Joseph?**

It was a fulfillment of the dream Joseph had. And as the sons of Jacob bowed down to Joseph, so too will the time come when all Israel bow to their Messiah Jesus [87]:

Romans 11:26 – *And so all Israel will be saved*

### **v8 – What is the significance of the ten brothers not recognizing Joseph?**

As the sons of Jacob did not recognize their brother Joseph, neither did Israel recognize Jesus as their Messiah (certainly a remnant did, but not the nation or the leaders of the nation) [88]:

John 1:11 – *He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.*

### **v13 – What is the significance of the ten brothers lying about what had happened to Joseph?**

As the sons of Jacob continued the false narrative about the death of Joseph, the Jewish religious leaders started and perpetrated the false narrative explaining away the resurrection of Jesus [89]:

Matthew 28:12-13 – *When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, ‘Tell them, ‘His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.’ And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will appease him and make you secure.’” So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.*

### **How was this proof that the resurrection actually happened?**

All the religious authorities who wanted to refute the resurrection of Jesus would have had to do was produce His body. The fact that they didn't even attempt to find the body of Jesus reveals they knew He rose from the dead. But they were so committed to their desire to retain religious power of the people that they perpetrated a Big Lie.

### **v15 – What is the significance Joseph testing his brothers for worthiness?**

As Joseph tested his brothers for worthiness, the faith of Jesus' followers is tested by God [90]:

1 Peter 1:7 – *so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ*

### **How is our faith tested?**

Good people we love die young... Evolution brands all who do not embrace it as unscientific...