

Genesis: God and the Originals

JOSEPH REVEALS HIMSELF

Brothers “Caught” Again (44:1-13)

1. What gets hidden away in Benjamin’s sack? How is silver a key theme throughout the Joseph epic?
2. What do we learn about the purpose of Joseph’s silver chalice in v. 5? Does this shock you? Why or why not?
3. What is the “punishment” the brothers are willing to endure if one someone is found guilty of heisting the magical cup in v. 9?
4. How does the brothers’ change of heart get evidenced in v. 13? Why is this important for the remainder of the narrative?

Judah Takes the Lead (44:14-34)

5. What one last test does Joseph administer in v. 17?

BONUS: How is Judah’s speech in this section a form of repentance?

6. What does Judah offer as payment for his “sins” in v. 33? And how is this ironic, considering he is speaking to Joseph?

Joseph Reveals Himself (45:1-15)

Vv. 1-8

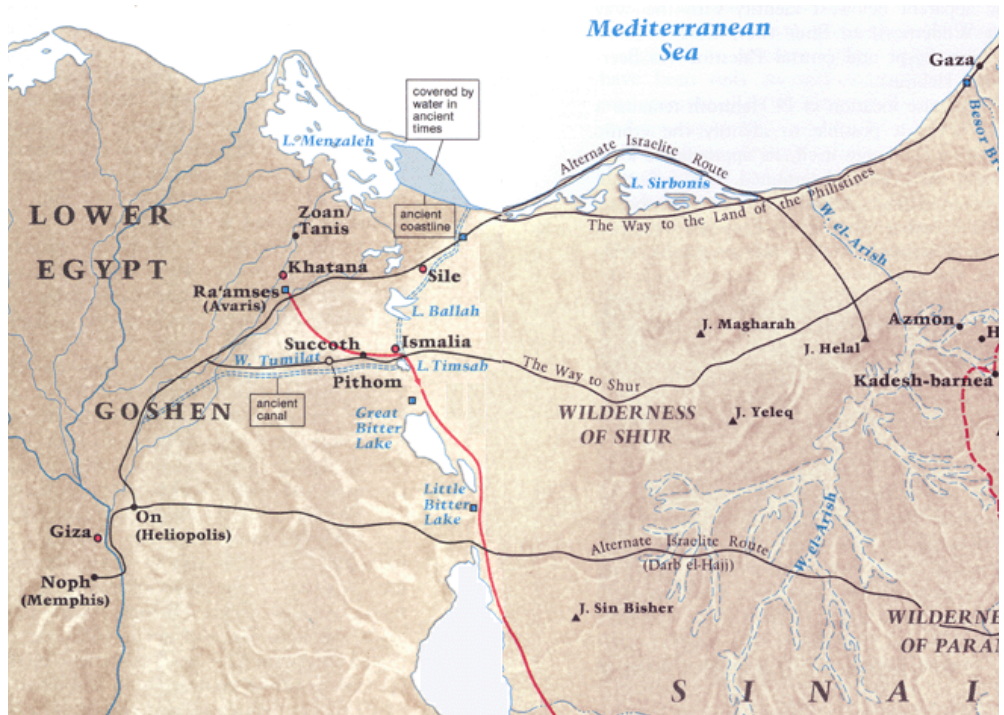
7. What finally causes Joseph to reveal himself in v. 1, and how emphatic does the text make his emotions in v. 2?
8. How do Joseph’s brothers respond in v. 3? What kind of thoughts do you think were going through their heads?

BIG BONUS: In vv. 5-8, Joseph can see God’s purpose in everything that has happened since chapter 37. Is it acceptable to weave God’s purposes together with the purposes of evil men? How do we apply this thinking to our theology and experiences today?

Verse 8 is the first time the Hebrew word “serit” is used, meaning “_____.” It will be used to remind the Israelites of _____ during their exile from the promised land.

Vv. 9-15

9. How does Joseph want his brothers to respond to this news? Where does he want them to settle, and why?
10. Joseph wants to protect his family from the remaining five years of famine (v. 11), but how long will they stay (see Exodus 12:40)?



Pharaoh Pleased, Jacob Revived (45:16-28)

11. What does Pharaoh offer Joseph’s family and why?
12. Who receives special gifts in these verses? How is the gift of new clothing in v. 22 ironic and beautiful simultaneously?

BONUS:What do you think Joseph and his brothers discussed at the end of verse 15? And how does this interplay with the admonition not to quarrel at the end of v. 24?

BONUS: How do you think the brothers explained Joseph’s whereabouts to their father at the end of this chapter? Do you think they told him the *whole* story?