

Genesis: God and the Originals

THE FULFILLMENT OF JOSEPH'S DREAMS

Joseph's Brothers Bow (42:1-28)

Vv. 1-17

1. We knew from chapter 41 that a famine had begun. What does the beginning of chapter 42 tell us about the geographical extent of the famine?
2. How are Jacob's sons possibly perceived according to v. 1?
3. How does verse 6 begin the fulfillment of Joseph's dreams? Recalling Joseph's dreams (v. 37), what is so ironic about the current circumstances?
4. Why do you think Joseph treated his brothers so harshly?
 - a. He was getting his revenge
 - b. His job was to interrogate foreigners
 - c. He was looking for more information
 - d. He needed to know if his brother Benjamin was ok
 - e. He was toying with them just because he could
 - f. Other: _____

Vv. 18-28

5. What is the "test" that Joseph's brothers must prove?
6. What happens to Joseph in v. 24? What do you think is going through his mind?
7. Why are the brothers in such despair in v. 28? What do they think is happening to them? Are their thoughts true?

Jacob's Refusal (42:29-38)

8. What do the brothers discover in v. 35? How does this add to the problematic situation?

BONUS: What's Jacob's problem in these verses? Is he justified in his concerns? How would you react to this situation?

Israel Acquiesces (43:1-14)

9. How long does the food last that the brothers bring back?

10. Who takes the initiative in the story to guarantee success? Why is he important?

“Honey” from verse 11 is the same word used to describe the promised land as a land flowing with “milk and honey.” However, honey is more likely a _____ made from fruits.

Joseph Throws a Party (43:15-34)

11. Why do you suppose Joseph treats his brothers so kindly this time around?

12. What is the brothers’ fear as they are led to Joseph’s house? What do they present to Joseph and how is it ironic considering how Joseph was sold into slavery?

13. Again, Joseph’s dreams are fulfilled in verse 26. Now that “11 sheaves” have bowed to him, about whom is he concerned?

14. What happens to Joseph in v. 30? What do you think is going through his mind?

The word for “mercy” in verse 14 is the same word used to describe Joseph’s tears in verse 30. It is a mother’s “_____” for what her womb contains.

BONUS: Joseph’s story is Jesus’ story. What are the similarities so far?