

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, **he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.** ...

32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and **while he opened to us the scriptures?**

Luke 24:45 **Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,**

Gen. 43

## Review

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

II. THE PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

B. The Pilgrim: Isaac, 25:19—27:46

C. The Propagator: Jacob, 28:1—36:43

D. The Provider: Joseph, 37:1—47:26

1. Joseph's Background, 30:24-25
2. Joseph's Boyhood, 37:1-11
3. Joseph's Betrayal, 37:12-36
4. Joseph's Brother, 38:1-30
5. Joseph's Bondage, 39:1—40:23
6. Joseph's Blessing, 41:1-44
7. Joseph's Bride, 41:45-52
8. Joseph's Brethren, 41:53—47:10
  - a. The Mystery Phase, 41:53—44:34
    - (1) How Joseph's Brethren were Burdened, 41:53—42:34
    - (2) How Joseph's Brethren were Bewildered, 42:35—43:34
      - (a) Jacob's Plight, 42:35-38
      - (b) Judah's Pledge, 43:1-15
        - i. Its Sanity, 43:1-8
        - ii. Its Sincerity, 43:9-10
        - iii. Its Success, 43:11-15

Tonight, we continue to observe how the famine affects Jacob and his family. He sent ten of his sons to Egypt, keeping Benjamin at home. After twenty years, Joseph and his ten brothers met again, the brothers were accused of being spies, Simeon was kept in prison while the other nine returned home with supplies, but also a mandate to return with Benjamin. In tonight's passage, Jacob wants more grain and acquiesces to send Benjamin on the return trip.

We continue with "***The Mystery Phase***" of Joseph dealing with his brethren who are not cognizant of all that is going on with them during the initial contact with Pharaoh's right-hand man. During this time, the brothers' consciences are awakened to the wrongs they had done to Joseph 20 years ago. Now a return trip is required, but so is Benjamin's presence.

Later, Gen. 45:1-24, “***The Majesty Phase***” will be a time that Joseph reveals to his family all the glory that is now his in Egypt. Then “***The Ministry Phase***” will be a time that Joseph brings his father and families to the best land in Egypt for shepherds. All these phases are symbolic teachings to the Lord’s future dealings with the nation of Israel, as well as practical lessons for us today.

# Joseph's Brothers go to Egypt to buy Grain



## (c) Joseph's Plans, 43:16-34

### i. The Undeserved Feast, 43:16-17

Gen. 43:16 And when **Joseph saw Benjamin with them**, he said to the ruler of his house, Bring *these* men home, and slay, and make ready; for *these* men shall dine with me at noon.

17 And the man did as Joseph bade; and the man brought the men into Joseph's house.

❖ “Joseph saw Benjamin with them” (v. 16) is a type of the omniscience of Jesus – He sees and know all things.

❖ The initiative was by Joseph, by grace, just as the Gospel is God's initiative to sinners.

Rom. 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

❖ Joseph provided all that was needed, by grace, costing the brethren nothing, just as the Lord has provided everything for us, by grace, needed for salvation and for living.

## ii. The Unconcealed Fear, 43:18

Gen. 43:18 **And the men were afraid**, because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, Because of the money that was returned in our sacks at the first time are we brought in; that he may seek occasion against us, and fall upon us, and take us for bondmen, and our asses.

- ❖ The reaction by the brothers of the good news of the invitation to Joseph's house was one of fear (v. 18) as a guilty conscience was exhibited – Peter expressed unworthiness in Luke 5:5-8 by falling on his knees:

Luke 5:5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

7 And they beckoned unto *their* partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

8 **When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.**

- ❖ The brothers were afraid, a picture of sinners being afraid of the ramifications of sin when facing the holiness of God.
- ❖ When a repentant and redeemed sinner considers the grace of God, fears vanish.

### iii. The Unexplained Find, 43:19-24

Gen. 43:19 And they came near to the steward of Joseph's house, and they communed with him at the door of the house,  
20 And said, O sir, we came indeed down at the first time to buy food:

21 And it came to pass, when we came to the inn, that we opened our sacks, and, behold, *every* man's money *was* in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight: and we have brought it again in our hand.

22 And other money have we brought down in our hands to buy food: we cannot tell who put our money in our sacks.

23 And he said, Peace *be* to you, fear not: **your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks**: I had your money. And he brought Simeon out unto them.

24 And the man brought the men into Joseph's house, and gave *them* water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their asses provender.

- ❖ Before entering Joseph's house, the brothers confess about the money (vs. 20-23.)
- ❖ The steward tried to alleviate their fears in three ways:
  1. Disarm their fears; "...Peace *be* to you, fear not..."
  2. Develop their faith; "...**your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks...**"
  3. Denote their future. "...I had your money..."

- ❖ The steward was preparing them to meet with Joseph. As stewards, believers need to prepare others to meet Jesus.

1 Cor. 4:2 Moreover **it is required in stewards**, that a man **be found faithful**.

- ❖ Before meeting Joseph, the brothers “...then washed their feet...” (v. 24.)

1 Jn. 1:9 **If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and **to cleanse us** from all unrighteousness.

❖ Sinners must sense the need for spiritual cleansing when meeting with the Lord Jesus.

#### iv. The Understandable Formality, 43:25-28

Gen. 43:25 And they made ready the present against Joseph came at noon: for they heard that they should eat bread there.

26 And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which *was* in their hand into the house, and **bowed themselves to him to the earth.**

27 And he asked them of *their* welfare, and said, *Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive?*

28 And they answered, Thy servant our father *is* in good health, he *is* yet alive. **And they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance.**

- ❖ After Joseph arrives, the brothers humble themselves and present their gift (vs. 25-26.)
- ❖ Joseph inquired about Jacob and once again the brothers “...**bowe down their heads, and made obeisance.**” (v. 28.)
- ❖ Joseph was patient in dealing with his brothers as is the Lord Jesus in dealing with sinners.

## v. The Unrevealed Feeling, 43:29-31

Gen. 43:29 And he lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, *Is this your younger brother, of whom ye spake unto me?* And he said, God be gracious unto thee, my son.

30 And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought *where* to weep; **and he entered into *his* chamber, and wept there.**

31 And he washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Set on bread.

- ❖ Joseph then asked about Benjamin: Of course, like Jesus, Joseph already knew the answer.
- ❖ In seeing his brother, Benjamin, Joseph was overcome with emotion, and turned aside to conceal his yearning for his brother.
- ❖ Joseph wept; Jesus wept (Jn. 11:35.)



## vi. The Uncanny Familiarity, 43:32-33

Gen. 43:32 And they set on for him by himself, and for them by themselves, and for the Egyptians, which did eat with him, by themselves: because the Egyptians might not eat bread with the Hebrews; for that *is* an abomination unto the Egyptians.

33 And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men marvelled one at another.

- ❖ The meal revealed the distinctions of the different eating customs between the Egyptians and Israelites, as well as the distinctions between the brothers.
- ❖ What were the odds that a stranger would seat the brothers “...according to his birthright...”?
- ❖ Joseph was slowly revealing himself just as the Holy Spirit patiently reveals spiritual truth to sinners today.

vii. The Unusual Favor, 43:34a “And he took *and sent* messes unto them from before him: **but Benjamin's mess was five times so much as any of theirs...**”

❖ By giving Benjamin “...five times so much as any of theirs...” Joseph was sending a not-so-subtle message of favoritism that would also challenge the brothers’ propensity for envy.

viii. The Unrestrained Fellowship, 43:34b “...And they drank, and were merry with him.”



## Summary

- ❖ Joseph's brothers were graciously invited to have fellowship with Pharaoh's right-hand-man. They were blessed beyond their imagination.
- ❖ The men have had dinner at Joseph's house. Do they know who he is?
- ❖ This incident is a good picture of religion versus reality. Knowing about Jesus is NOT the same as knowing Him.

## Conclusion

2 Tim. 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: **for I know whom I have believed**, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Jn. 10:27 **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:**