

# 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.**

Gen. 44

## 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
      - (c) Joseph's Plans, 43:16-34
        - i. The Undeserved Feast, 43:16-17
        - ii. The Unconcealed Fear, 43:18
        - iii. The Unexplained Find, 43:19-24
        - iv. The Understandable Formality, 43:25-28
        - v. The Unrevealed Feeling, 43:29-31
        - vi. The Uncanny Familiarity, 43:32-33
        - vii. The Unusual Favor, 43:34a
        - viii. The Unrestrained Fellowship, 43:34b

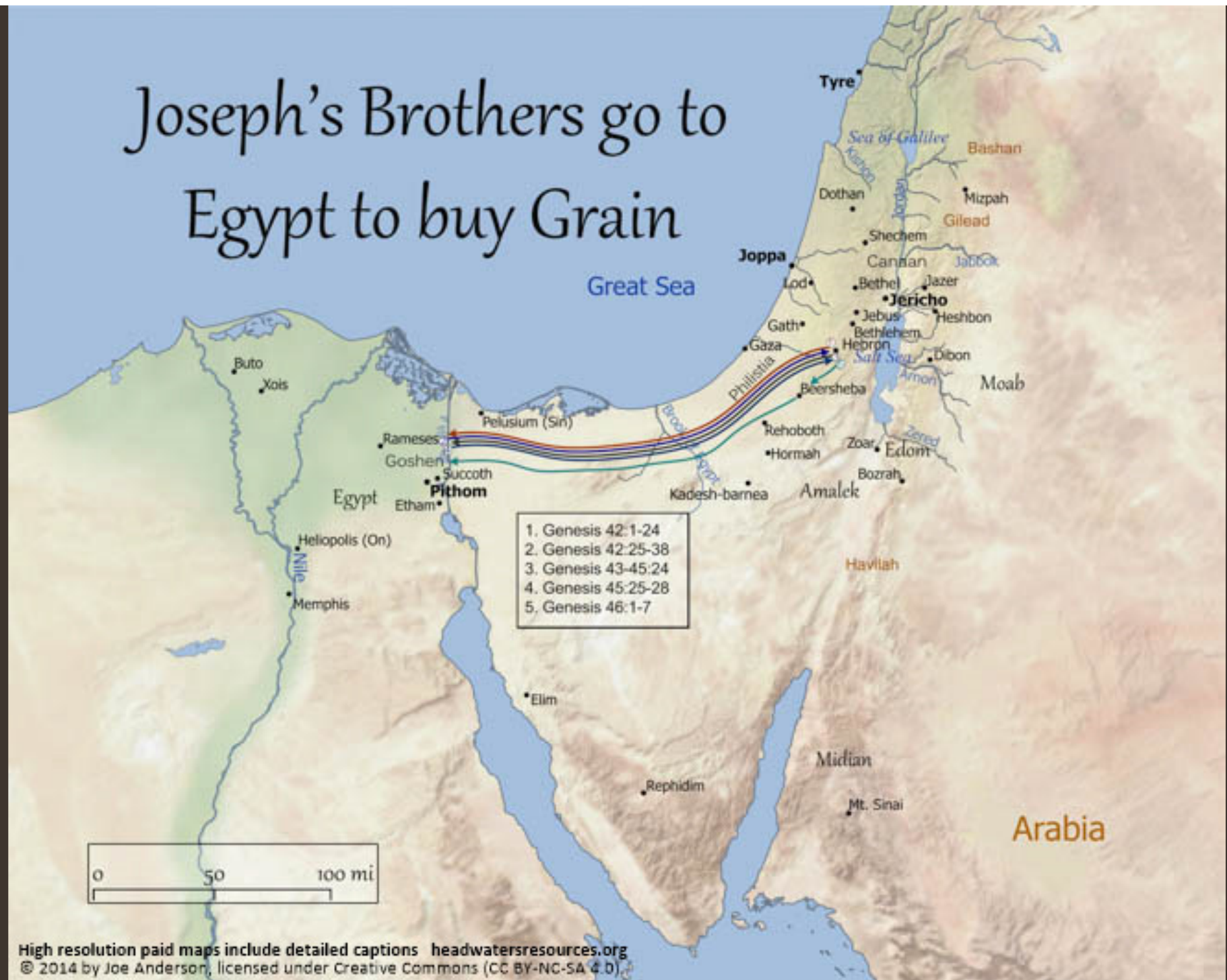
We continue with “***The Mystery Phase***” of Joseph dealing with his brethren who are not cognizant of all that is going on with them during the initial contact with Pharaoh’s right hand man. During this time, the brothers’ consciences are awakened to the wrongs they had done to Joseph 20 years ago. 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.

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# Joseph's Brothers go to Egypt to buy Grain



### (3) How Joseph's Brethren were Broken, 44:1-34

#### (a) The Conspiracy, 44:1-3

Gen. 44:1 And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, Fill the men's sacks *with* food, as much as they can carry, and put every man's money in his sack's mouth.

2 And put my cup, the silver cup, in the sack's mouth of the youngest, and his corn money. And he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken.

3 As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their asses.





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- ❖ Twenty years earlier, Joseph's brothers conspired against him out of hate and envy.
- ❖ Joseph's plan would test his brothers' greed. They wanted money, and he is providing it.
- ❖ Joseph tested his brothers with dangerous riches, and then with dreadful responsibility.
- ❖ Joseph's focus in testing his brothers was regarding their attitude toward Benjamin.

## (b) The Confrontation, 44:4-15

### i. Disaster Descending, 44:4-12

Gen. 44:4 *And* when they were gone out of the city, *and* not yet far off, Joseph said unto his steward, Up, follow after the men; and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good?

5 *Is* not this *it* in which my lord drinketh, and **whereby** **indeed he divineth**? ye have done evil in so doing.

6 And he overtook them, and he spake unto them these same words.

7 And they said unto him, Wherefore saith my lord these words? God forbid that thy servants should do according to this thing:

8 Behold, the money, which we found in our sacks' mouths, we brought again unto thee out of the land of Canaan: how then should we steal out of thy lord's house silver or gold?

9 With whomsoever of thy servants it be found, both let him die, and we also will be my lord's bondmen.

10 And he said, Now also *let it be* according unto your words: he with whom it is found shall be my servant; and ye shall be blameless.

11 Then they speedily took down every man his sack to the ground, and opened every man his sack.

12 And he searched, *and* began at the eldest, and left at the youngest: and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.



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- ❖ Up to this point, Joseph's brothers had enjoyed an uneventful trip, heading home with a sense of satisfaction.
- ❖ Joseph's steward overtook them and accused them of stealing.
- ❖ The shocked brothers defended themselves and protested against the accusation, proposing to kill any such offender and making themselves as slaves.
- ❖ Starting with Reuben and ending with Benjamin, their goods were examined, and the cup was found with Benjamin.

## ii. Discernment Dawning, 44:13-15

Gen. 44:13 Then they rent their clothes, and laded every man his ass, and returned to the city.

14 And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house; for he *was* yet there: and **they fell before him on the ground.**

15 And Joseph said unto them, What deed *is* this that ye have done? **wot ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine?**

- ❖ The brothers did not abandon Benjamin. Judah led them to intervene on his behalf.
- ❖ The response of “...fell before him on the ground” fulfilled Joseph’s dream over twenty years earlier (Gen. 37:5-8).
- ❖ The event is a prophetic picture of all Israel bowing before the Lord Jesus as King of Kings in the near future.
- ❖ Joseph began his confrontation with his brothers by causing them to be responsible and accountable for their actions: “...What deed *is* this that ye have done?”
- ❖ Joseph then informed them of his ability to “divine.”

According to the *Merriam-Webster* dictionary, Divination is “the art or practice that seeks to foresee or foretell future events or discover hidden knowledge usually by the interpretation of omens or by the aid of supernatural powers.”

As defined by *Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, Divination is the communication with a deity for the purpose of determining the deity's knowledge, resulting in a clarification of a decision or discernment of the future.

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/christian-terms/what-is-divination-meaning-and-bible-examples.html>

Acts 16:16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with **a spirit of divination** met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

1 Sam. 28:8 And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, **divine unto me by the familiar spirit**, and bring me *him* up, whom I shall name unto thee.

Deut. 18:10 There shall not be found among you *any one* that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, *or* that useth **divination**, *or* an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,



1 Sam. 15:23 For rebellion *is as* the sin of **witchcraft**, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

2 Chron. 33:6 And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used **enchantments**, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

Jer. 14:14 Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and **divination**, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.

Jas. 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8 A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

## (c) The Confession, 44:16-34

### i. Judah Offering to Share the Blame, 44:16-17

Gen. 44:16 And Judah said, What shall we say unto my lord? what shall we speak? or how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants: behold, we *are* my lord's servants, both we, and *he* also with whom the cup is found.

17 And he said, God forbid that I should do so: *but* the man in whose hand the cup is found, he shall be my servant; and as for you, get you up in peace unto your father.



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- ❖ Judah, the fourth son, emerges as the leader of the brothers, confessing and interceding on behalf of Benjamin and his other brothers.
- ❖ Joseph refuses Judah's plea and condemns only Benjamin, offering to let the others go.

ii. Judah Offering to Shoulder the  
Blame, 44:18-34

Gen. 44:18 Then Judah came near unto him, and said, Oh my lord, let **thy servant**, I pray thee, speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not thine anger burn against **thy servant: for thou art even as Pharaoh.**



19 My lord asked his servants, saying, Have ye a father, or a brother?

20 And we said unto my lord, We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, a little one; and his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother, and his father loveth him.

21 And thou saidst unto **thy servants**, Bring him down unto me, that I may set mine eyes upon him.

22 And we said unto my lord, The lad cannot leave his father: for *if* he should leave his father, *his father* would die.

23 And thou saidst unto **thy servants**, Except your youngest brother come down with you, ye shall see my face no more.

24 And it came to pass when we came up unto **thy servant my father**, we told him the words of my lord.

25 And our father said, Go again, *and* buy us a little food.

26 And we said, We cannot go down: if our youngest brother be with us, then will we go down: for we may not see the man's face, except our youngest brother *be* with us.

27 And **thy servant my father** said unto us, Ye know that my wife bare me two *sons*:

28 And the one went out from me, and I said, Surely he is torn in pieces; and I saw him not since:

29 And if ye take this also from me, and mischief befall him, ye shall bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.

30 Now therefore when I come to **thy servant my father**, and the lad *be* not with us; seeing that his life is bound up in the lad's life;

31 It shall come to pass, when he seeth that the lad *is* not *with us*, that he will die: and **thy servants** shall bring down the gray hairs of thy servant our father with sorrow to the grave.

32 **For thy servant** became surety for the lad unto my father, saying, If I bring him not unto thee, then I shall bear the blame to my father for ever.

33 Now therefore, I pray thee, let **thy servant** abide instead of the lad a bondman to my lord; and let the lad go up with his brethren.

34 For how shall I go up to my father, and the lad *be* not with me? lest peradventure I see the evil that shall come on my father.

❖ Once again, Judah's leadership and intercession are prominent before Joseph. He first offered to share the blame and now he is shouldering the blame.

❖ Judah appealed to Joseph's character in three ways:

1. Judah appealed to Joseph's patience, 44:18;

2. Judah appealed to Joseph's purposes, 44:19-23;

3. Judah appealed to Joseph's pity, 44:24-31;

4. Judah appealed to Joseph's power, 44:32-34.



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## Summary

- ❖ The brothers had done right – like Joseph.
- ❖ The brothers had been falsely accused – like Joseph.
- ❖ The brothers had been unjustly arrested – like Joseph.
- ❖ The brothers' trial was uniquely connected in comparison to Joseph.

## Conclusion

Luke 15:14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

Isa 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for **I *am* God, and *there is none else*.**

Isa 66:2 For all those *things* hath mine hand made, and all those *things* have been, saith the LORD: **but to this *man* will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.**

Psa 51:17 **The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart,** O God, thou wilt not despise.