

## Genesis 37 (NIRV)

### Joseph Has Two Dreams

[1](#) Jacob lived in the land of Canaan. It's the land where his father had stayed. [2](#) Here is the story of Jacob. Joseph was a young man. He was 17 years old. He was taking care of the flocks with some of his brothers. They were the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. Joseph brought their father a bad report about them. [3](#) Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons. Joseph had been born to him when he was old. Israel made him a beautiful robe. [4](#) Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them. So they hated Joseph. They couldn't even speak one kind word to him. [5](#) Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. [6](#) He said to them, "Listen to the dream I had. [7](#) We were tying up bundles of grain out in the field. Suddenly my bundle rose and stood up straight. Your bundles gathered around my bundle and bowed down to it." [8](#) His brothers said to him, "Do you plan to be king over us? Will you really rule over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dream. They didn't like what he had said. [9](#) Then Joseph had another dream. He told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said. "I had another dream. This time the sun and moon and 11 stars were bowing down to me." [10](#) He told his father as well as his brothers. Then his father objected. He said, "What about this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers really do that? Will we really come and bow down to the ground in front of you?" [11](#) His brothers were jealous of him. But his father kept the matter in mind.

### Joseph Is Sold by His Brothers

[12](#) Joseph's brothers had gone to take care of their father's flocks near Shechem. [13](#) Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are taking care of the flocks near Shechem. Come. I'm going to send you to them." "All right," Joseph replied. [14](#) So Israel said to him, "Go to your brothers. See how they are doing. Also see how the flocks are doing. Then come back and tell me." So he sent him away from the Hebron Valley. Joseph arrived at Shechem. [15](#) A man found him wandering around in the fields. He asked Joseph, "What are you looking for?" [16](#) He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are taking care of their flocks?" [17](#) "They've moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went to look for his brothers. He found them near Dothan. [18](#) But they saw him a long way off. Before he reached them, they made plans to kill him. [19](#) "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to one another. [20](#) "Come. Let's kill him. Let's throw him into one of these empty wells. Let's say that a wild animal ate him up. Then we'll see whether his dreams will come true." [21](#) Reuben heard them. He tried to save Joseph from them. "Let's not take his life," he said. [22](#) "Let's not spill any blood. Throw him into this empty well here in the desert. But don't harm him yourselves." Reuben said that to save Joseph from them. He was hoping he could take him back to his father. [23](#) When Joseph came to his brothers, he was wearing his beautiful robe. They took it away from him. [24](#) And they threw him into the well. The well was empty. There wasn't any water in it. [25](#) Then they sat down to eat their meal. As they did, they saw some Ishmaelite traders coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, lotion and myrrh. They were on their way to take them down to Egypt. [26](#) Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and try to cover up what we've done? [27](#) Come. Let's sell him to these traders. Let's not harm him ourselves. After all, he's our brother. He's our own flesh and blood." Judah's brothers agreed with him. [28](#) The traders from Midian came by. Joseph's brothers pulled him up out of the well. They sold him to the Ishmaelite traders for eight ounces of silver. Then the traders took him to Egypt. [29](#) Later, Reuben came back to the empty well. He saw that Joseph wasn't there. He was so upset that he tore his clothes. [30](#) He went back to his brothers and said, "The boy isn't there! Now what should I do?" [31](#) Then they got Joseph's beautiful robe. They killed a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. [32](#) They took it back to their father. They said, "We found this. Take a look at it. See if it's your son's robe." [33](#) Jacob recognized it. He said, "It's my son's robe! A wild animal has eaten him up. Joseph must have been torn to pieces." [34](#) Jacob tore his clothes. He put on black clothes. Then he sobbed over his son for many days. [35](#) All of Jacob's other sons and daughters came to comfort him. But they weren't able to. He said, "I'll be full of sorrow when I go down into the grave to be with my son." So Joseph's father sobbed over him. [36](#) But the traders from Midian sold Joseph to Potiphar in Egypt. Potiphar was one of Pharaoh's officials. He was the captain of the palace guard.

## Genesis 39

### Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

**1** Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. An Egyptian named Potiphar had bought him from the Ishmaelite traders who had taken him there. Potiphar was one of Pharaoh's officials. He was the captain of the palace guard. **2** The Lord was with Joseph. He gave him great success. Joseph lived in Potiphar's house. **3** Joseph's master saw that the Lord was with him. He saw that the Lord gave Joseph success in everything he did. **4** So Potiphar was pleased with Joseph. He made him his attendant. He put Joseph in charge of his house. He told Joseph to take good care of everything he owned. **5** From that time on, the Lord blessed Potiphar's family and servants because of Joseph. He blessed everything Potiphar had in his house and field. **6** So Potiphar told Joseph to take good care of everything he owned. With Joseph in charge, he didn't have to worry about anything except the food he ate. Joseph was strong and handsome. **7** After a while, his master's wife noticed Joseph. She said to him, "Make love to me!" **8** But he said no. "My master has put me in charge," he told her. "Now he doesn't have to worry about anything in the house. He trusts me to take care of everything he owns. **9** "No one in this house is in a higher position than I am. My master hasn't held anything back from me, except you. You are his wife. So how could I do an evil thing like that? How could I sin against God?" **10** She spoke to Joseph day after day. But he told her he wouldn't make love to her. He didn't even want to be with her. **11** One day Joseph went into the house to take care of his duties. None of the family servants was inside. **12** Potiphar's wife grabbed hold of him by his coat. "Make love to me!" she said. But he left his coat in her hand. And he ran out of the house. **13** She saw that he had left his coat in her hand and had run out of the house. **14** So she called her servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew slave has been brought here to make fun of us! He came in here to force me to have sex with him. But I screamed for help. **15** He heard my scream. So he left his coat beside me and ran out of the house." **16** She kept Joseph's coat with her until Potiphar came home. **17** Then she told him her story. She said, "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to rape me. **18** But I screamed for help. So he left his coat beside me and ran out of the house." **19** Potiphar's wife told him, "That's how your slave treated me." When Joseph's master heard her story, he became very angry. **20** So he put Joseph in prison. It was the place where the king's prisoners were kept. While Joseph was there in the prison, **21** the Lord was with him. He was kind to him. So the man who was running the prison was pleased with Joseph. **22** He put Joseph in charge of all of the prisoners. He made him accountable for everything that was done there. **23** The man who ran the prison didn't pay attention to anything that was in Joseph's care. The Lord was with Joseph. He gave Joseph success in everything he did.

## Genesis 40

### The Wine Taster and the Baker

**1** Some time later, the Egyptian king's baker and wine taster did something their master didn't like. **2** So Pharaoh became angry with his two officials, the chief wine taster and the chief baker. **3** He put them in prison in the house of the captain of the palace guard. It was the same prison where Joseph was kept. **4** The captain put Joseph in charge of those men. So Joseph took care of them. Some time passed while they were in prison. **5** Then each of the two men had a dream. The men were the Egyptian king's baker and wine taster. They were being held in prison. Both of them had dreams the same night. Each of their dreams had its own meaning. **6** Joseph came to them the next morning. He saw that they were sad. **7** They were Pharaoh's officials, and they were in prison with Joseph in his master's house. So he asked them, "Why do you look so sad today?" **8** "We both had dreams," they answered. "But no one can tell us what they mean." Then Joseph said to them, "Only God knows what dreams mean. Tell me your dreams." **9** So the chief wine taster told Joseph his dream. He said to him, "In my dream I saw a vine in front of me. **10** There were three branches on the vine. As soon as it budded, it flowered. And bunches of ripe grapes grew on it. **11** "Pharaoh's cup was in my hand. I took the grapes. I squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup. Then I put the cup in his hand." **12** "Here's what your dream means," Joseph said to him. "The three branches are three days. **13** In three days Pharaoh will let you out of prison. He'll give your position back to you. And you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand. That's what you used to do when you were his wine taster. **14** "But when everything is going well with

you, remember me. Do me a favor. Speak to Pharaoh about me. Get me out of this prison. [15](#) I was taken away from the land of the Hebrews by force. Even here I haven't done anything to be put in prison for." [16](#) The chief baker saw that Joseph had given a positive meaning to the wine taster's dream. So he said to Joseph, "I had a dream too. There were three baskets of bread on my head. [17](#) All kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh were in the top basket. But the birds were eating them out of the basket that was on my head." [18](#) "Here's what your dream means," Joseph said. "The three baskets are three days. [19](#) In three days Pharaoh will cut your head off. Then he will stick a pole through your body and set the pole up. The birds will eat up your body." [20](#) The third day was Pharaoh's birthday. He had a big dinner prepared for all of his officials. He brought the chief wine taster and the chief baker out of prison. He did it in front of his officials. [21](#) He gave the chief wine taster's position back to him. Once again the wine taster put the cup into Pharaoh's hand. [22](#) But Pharaoh had a pole stuck through the chief baker's body. Then he had the pole set up. Everything happened exactly as Joseph had told them when he explained their dreams. [23](#) But the chief wine taster didn't remember Joseph. In fact, he forgot all about him.

Genesis 41

### **Pharaoh Has Two Dreams**

[1](#) When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream. In his dream, he was standing by the Nile River. [2](#) Seven cows came up out of the river. They looked healthy and fat. They were eating some of the tall grass that was growing along the river. [3](#) After them, seven other cows came up out of the Nile. They looked ugly and skinny. They were standing beside the other cows on the riverbank. [4](#) The ugly, skinny cows ate up the seven cows that looked healthy and fat. Then Pharaoh woke up. [5](#) He fell asleep again and had a second dream. In that dream, seven heads of grain were growing on one stem. They were healthy and good. [6](#) After them, seven other heads of grain came up. They were thin and dried up by the east wind. [7](#) The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up. It had been a dream. [8](#) In the morning he was worried. So he sent for all of the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams. But no one could tell him what they meant. [9](#) Then the chief wine taster spoke up. He said to Pharaoh, "Now I remember that I've done something wrong. [10](#) Pharaoh was once angry with his servants. He put me and the chief baker in prison. We were in the house of the captain of the palace guard. [11](#) Each of us had a dream the same night. Each dream had its own meaning. [12](#) "A young Hebrew servant was there with us. He was a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams. And he explained them to us. He told each of us the meaning of our dreams. [13](#) Things turned out exactly as he said they would. I was given back my position. The other man had a pole stuck through his body." [14](#) So Pharaoh sent for Joseph. He was quickly brought out of the prison. Joseph shaved himself and changed his clothes. Then he came to Pharaoh. [15](#) Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream. No one can tell me what it means. But I've heard that when you hear a dream you can explain it." [16](#) "I can't do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh. "But God will give Pharaoh the answer he wants." [17](#) Then Pharaoh told Joseph what he had dreamed. He said, "I was standing on the bank of the Nile River. [18](#) Seven cows came up out of the river. They were fat and good-looking. They were eating the tall grass that was growing along the river. [19](#) "After them, seven other cows came up. They were bony and very ugly and thin. I had never seen such ugly cows in the whole land of Egypt. [20](#) "The thin, ugly cows ate up the seven fat cows that came up first. [21](#) But even after the thin cows ate up the fat ones, no one could tell that they had eaten them. They looked just as ugly as before. Then I woke up. [22](#) "In my dreams I also saw seven heads of grain. They were full and good. They were all growing on one stem. [23](#) "After them, seven other heads of grain came up. They were weak and thin and dried up by the east wind. [24](#) "The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven good heads. I told my dreams to the magicians. But none of them could explain them to me." [25](#) Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Both of Pharaoh's dreams have the same meaning. God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. [26](#) The seven good cows are seven years. And the seven good heads of grain are seven years. Both dreams mean the same thing. [27](#) "The seven thin, ugly cows that came up later are seven years. So are the seven worthless heads of grain that were dried up by the east wind. They are seven years when there won't be enough food. [28](#) "It's exactly as I said to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what he's about to do. [29](#) Seven years with plenty of food are coming to the whole land of Egypt. [30](#) "But seven years when there won't be enough food will follow them. Then everyone will forget about all of the food Egypt had. Terrible hunger will

destroy the land. [31](#) There won't be anything left to remind people of the years when there was plenty of food in the land. That's how bad the hunger that follows will be. [32](#) "God gave the dream to Pharaoh in two forms. That's because the matter has been firmly decided by God. And it's because God will do it soon. [33](#) "So Pharaoh should look for a wise and understanding man. He should put him in charge of the land of Egypt. [34](#) "Pharaoh should appoint officials to be in charge of the land. They should take a fifth of the harvest in Egypt during the seven years when there's plenty of food. [35](#) They should collect all of the extra food of the good years that are coming. Pharaoh should give them authority to store up the grain. They should keep it in the cities for food. [36](#) "The grain should be stored up for the country to use later. It will be needed during the seven years when there isn't enough food in Egypt. Then the country won't be destroyed just because it doesn't have enough food." [37](#) The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and all of his officials. [38](#) So Pharaoh said to them, "The spirit of God is in this man. We can't find anyone else like him, can we?" [39](#) Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "God has made all of this known to you. No one is as wise and understanding as you are. [40](#) You will be in charge of my palace. All of my people must obey your orders. I will be greater than you only because I'm the one who sits on the throne."

### **Joseph Is Put in Charge of Egypt**

[41](#) So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I'm putting you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." [42](#) Then Pharaoh took his ring off his finger. It was the ring he used to stamp all of the official papers. He put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes that were made out of fine linen. He put a gold chain around his neck. [43](#) He also had him ride in a chariot. Joseph was now next in command after Pharaoh. People went in front of him and shouted, "Get down on your knees!" By doing all of those things, Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of the whole land of Egypt. [44](#) Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh. But without your word, no one will do anything in the whole land of Egypt." [45](#) Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah. He gave him a wife. She was Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara. Potiphara was the priest of On. Joseph traveled all over the land of Egypt. [46](#) Joseph was 30 years old when he began serving Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. He left Pharaoh's palace and traveled all over Egypt. [47](#) During the seven years when there was plenty of food, the land produced more than the people needed. [48](#) Joseph collected all of the extra food produced in those seven years in Egypt. He stored it in the cities. In each city he stored up the food that was grown in the fields around it. [49](#) Joseph stored up huge amounts of grain. It was like the sand of the sea. There was so much grain it couldn't be measured. So Joseph stopped keeping records of it. [50](#) Before the years when there wasn't enough food, two sons were born to Joseph. He had them by Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara. Potiphara was the priest of On. [51](#) Joseph named his first son Manasseh. That's because he said, "God has made me forget all of my trouble and my father's whole family." [52](#) He named the second son Ephraim. That's because he said, "God has given me children in the land where I've suffered so much." [53](#) The seven years when there was plenty of food in Egypt came to an end. [54](#) Then the seven years when there wasn't enough food began. It happened exactly as Joseph had said it would. There wasn't enough food in any of the other lands. But in the whole land of Egypt there was food. [55](#) When all of the people of Egypt began to get hungry, they cried out to Pharaoh for food. He told all of the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph. Do what he tells you." [56](#) There wasn't enough food anywhere in the country. So Joseph opened the storerooms. He sold grain to the Egyptians because people were very hungry all over Egypt. [57](#) People from all of the other countries came to Egypt. They came to buy grain from Joseph. That's because people were very hungry all over the world.

## **Genesis 42**

### **Joseph's Brothers Go Down to Egypt**

[1](#) Jacob found out that there was grain in Egypt. So he said to his sons, "Why do you just keep looking at each other?" [2](#) He continued, "I've heard there's grain in Egypt. Go down there. Buy some for us. Then we'll live and not die." [3](#) So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain there. [4](#) But Jacob didn't send Joseph's brother Benjamin with them. He was afraid Benjamin might be harmed. [5](#) Israel's sons were among the people who went to buy grain. There wasn't enough food in the land of Canaan. [6](#) Joseph was the governor of the land. He was the one who sold grain to all of its people. When Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. [7](#) As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them. But he pretended to be a stranger. He spoke to

them in a mean way. "Where do you come from?" he asked. "From the land of Canaan," they replied. "We've come to buy food." [8](#) Joseph recognized his brothers, but they didn't recognize him. [9](#) Then Joseph remembered his dreams about them. So he said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the places where our land isn't guarded very well." [10](#) "No, sir," they answered. "We've come to buy food." [11](#) All of us are the sons of one man. We're honest men. We aren't spies." [12](#) "No!" he said to them. "You have come to see the places where our land isn't guarded very well." [13](#) But they replied, "We were 12 brothers. All of us were the sons of one man. He lives in the land of Canaan. Our youngest brother is now with our father. And one brother is gone." [14](#) Joseph said to them, "I still say you are spies! [15](#) So I'm going to put you to the test. You can be sure that Pharaoh lives. And you can be just as sure that you won't leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. I promise with an oath that you won't leave here. [16](#) Send one of you back to get your brother. The rest of you will be kept in prison. I'll put your words to the test. Then we'll find out whether you are telling the truth. You can be sure that Pharaoh lives. And you can be just as sure that if you aren't telling the truth, we'll know that you are spies!" [17](#) So Joseph kept all of them under guard for three days. [18](#) On the third day, Joseph spoke to them again. He said, "Do what I say. Then you will live, because I have respect for God. [19](#) If you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here in prison. The rest of you may go and take grain back to your hungry families. [20](#) "But you must bring your youngest brother to me. That will prove that your words are true. Then you won't die." So they did what he said. [21](#) They said to one another, "God is certainly punishing us because of our brother. We saw how troubled he was when he begged us to let him live. But we wouldn't listen. That's why all of this trouble has come to us." [22](#) Reuben replied, "Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn't listen! Now we're being held accountable for killing him." [23](#) They didn't realize that Joseph could understand what they were saying. He was using someone else to explain their words to him in the Egyptian language. [24](#) Joseph turned away from them and began to sob. Then he turned around and spoke to them again. He had Simeon taken and tied up right there in front of them. [25](#) Joseph gave orders to have their bags filled with grain. He had each man's money put back into his sack. He also made sure they were given food for their journey. [26](#) Then the brothers loaded their grain on their donkeys and left. [27](#) When night came, they stopped. One of them opened his sack to get feed for his donkey. He saw his money in the top of his sack. [28](#) "My money has been given back," he said to his brothers. "Here it is in my sack." They had a sinking feeling in their hearts. They began to tremble. They turned to each other and said, "What has God done to us?" [29](#) They came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. They told him everything that had happened to them. They said, [30](#) "The man who is the governor of the land spoke to us in a mean way. He treated us as if we were spying on the land. [31](#) But we said to him, 'We're honest men. We aren't spies. [32](#) We were 12 brothers. All of us were the sons of one father. But now one brother is gone. And our youngest brother is with our father in Canaan.' [33](#) "Then the man who is the governor of the land spoke to us. He said, 'Here's how I will know whether you are honest men. Leave one of your brothers here with me. Take food for your hungry families and go. [34](#) 'But bring your youngest brother to me. Then I'll know that you are honest men and not spies. I'll give your brother back to you. And you will be free to trade in the land.' " [35](#) They began emptying their sacks. There in each man's sack was his bag of money! When they and their father saw the money bags, they were afraid. [36](#) Their father Jacob said to them, "You have taken my children away from me. Joseph is gone. Simeon is gone. Now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is going against me!" [37](#) Then Reuben spoke to his father. He said, "You can put both of my sons to death if I don't bring Benjamin back to you. Place him in my care. I'll bring him back." [38](#) But Jacob said, "My son will not go down there with you. His brother is dead. He's the only one left here with me. Suppose he's harmed on the journey you are taking. Then I would die as a sad old man. I would go down into the grave full of sorrow."

## Genesis 43

### Joseph's Brothers Go Down to Egypt Again

[1](#) There still wasn't enough food anywhere in the land. [2](#) After a while Jacob's family had eaten all of the grain the brothers had brought from Egypt. So their father said to them, "Go back. Buy us a little more food." [3](#) But Judah said to him, "The man gave us a strong warning. He said, 'You won't see my face again unless your brother comes with you.' [4](#) So send our brother along with us. Then we'll go down and buy food for you. [5](#) "If you won't send him, we won't go down. The man said to us, 'You

won't see my face again unless your brother comes with you.' ” [6](#) Israel asked, “Why did you bring this trouble to me? Why did you tell the man you had another brother?” [7](#) They replied, “The man questioned us closely about ourselves and our family. ‘Is your father still living?’ he asked us. ‘Do you have another brother?’ “We just answered his questions. How could we possibly know he would say, ‘Bring your brother down here?’” [8](#) Judah spoke to Israel his father. “Send the boy along with me,” he said. “We'll go at once. Then we and you and our children will live and not die. [9](#) “I myself promise to keep him safe. You can hold me accountable for him. I'll bring him back to you. I'll set him right here in front of you. If I don't, you can put the blame on me for the rest of my life. [10](#) “As it is, we've already waited too long. We could have gone to Egypt and back twice by now.” [11](#) Then their father Israel spoke to them. He said, “If that's the way it has to be, then do what I tell you. Put some of the best things from our land in your bags. Take them down to the man as a gift. Take some lotion and a little honey. Take some spices and myrrh. Take some pistachio nuts and almonds. [12](#) Take twice the amount of money with you. You have to give back the money that was put in your sacks. Maybe it was a mistake. [13](#) “Also take your brother. Go back to the man at once. [14](#) May the Mighty God cause him to show you mercy. May the man let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you. And if I lose my sons, I lose them.” [15](#) So the men took the gifts. They took twice the amount of money. They also took Benjamin. They hurried down to Egypt and went to Joseph. [16](#) When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he spoke to the manager of his house. “Take these men to my house,” he said. “Kill an animal and prepare dinner. I want them to eat with me at noon.” [17](#) The manager did what Joseph told him to do. He took the men to Joseph's house. [18](#) They were afraid when they were taken to Joseph's house. They thought, “We were brought here because of the money that was put back in our sacks the first time. He wants to attack us and overpower us. Then he can hold us as slaves and take our donkeys.” [19](#) So they went up to Joseph's manager. They spoke to him at the entrance to the house. [20](#) “Please, sir,” they said. “We came down here the first time to buy food. [21](#) We opened our sacks at the place where we stopped for the night. Each of us found in our sacks the money we had paid. So we've brought it back with us. [22](#) We've also brought more money with us to buy food. We don't know who put our money in our sacks.” [23](#) “It's all right,” the manager said. “Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, has given you riches in your sacks. I received your money.” Then he brought Simeon out to them. [24](#) The manager took the men into Joseph's house. He gave them water to wash their feet. He provided feed for their donkeys. [25](#) They prepared their gifts for Joseph. He was planning to arrive at noon. They had heard that they were going to eat there. [26](#) When Joseph came home, they gave him the gifts they had brought into the house. They bowed down to the ground in front of him. [27](#) He asked them how they were. Then he said, “How is your old father you told me about? Is he still living?” [28](#) They replied, “Your servant our father is still alive and well.” And they bowed low to show him honor. [29](#) Joseph looked around. Then he saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son. He asked, “Is this your youngest brother? Is he the one you told me about?” He continued, “May God be gracious to you, my son.” [30](#) It moved him deeply to see his brother. So Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to cry. He went into his own room and cried there. [31](#) Then he washed his face and came out. He calmed down and said, “Serve the food.” [32](#) They served Joseph by himself. They served the brothers by themselves. They also served the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves. Because of their beliefs, Egyptians couldn't eat with Hebrews. [33](#) The brothers had been given places in front of Joseph. They had been seated in the order of their ages, from the oldest to the youngest. That made them look at each other in great surprise. [34](#) While they were eating, some food was brought to them from Joseph's table. Benjamin was given five times as much as anyone else. So all of Joseph's brothers ate and drank a lot with him.

## Genesis 44

### A Silver Cup in a Sack

[1](#) Joseph told the manager of his house what to do. “Fill the men's sacks with as much food as they can carry,” he said. “Put each man's money in his sack. [2](#) “Then put my silver cup in the youngest one's sack. Put it there along with the money he paid for his grain.” So the manager did what Joseph told him to do. [3](#) When morning came, the men were sent on their way with their donkeys. [4](#) They hadn't gone very far from the city when Joseph spoke to his manager. “Go after those men at once,” he said. “Catch up with them. Say to them, ‘My master was good to you. Why have you paid him back by doing evil? [5](#) Isn't this the cup my master drinks from? Doesn't he also use it to figure things out? You

have done an evil thing.’ ” [6](#) When the manager caught up with them, he told them what Joseph had said. [7](#) But they said to him, “Why do you say these things? We would never do anything like that! [8](#) We even brought back to you from Canaan the money we found in our sacks. So why would we steal silver or gold from your master's house? [9](#) “If you find out that any of us has the cup, he will die. And the rest of us will become your slaves.” [10](#) “All right, then,” he said. “As you wish. The one who is found to have the cup will become my slave. But the rest of you will be free from blame.” [11](#) Each of them quickly put his sack down on the ground and opened it. [12](#) Then the manager started to search. He began with the oldest and ended with the youngest. The cup was found in Benjamin's sack. [13](#) When that happened, they were so upset they tore their clothes. Then all of them loaded their donkeys and went back to the city. [14](#) Joseph was still in the house when Judah and his brothers came in. They threw themselves down on the ground in front of him. [15](#) Joseph said to them, “What have you done? Don't you know that a man like me has ways to figure things out?” [16](#) “What can we say to you?” Judah replied. “What can we say? How can we prove we haven't done anything wrong? God has shown you that we are guilty. We are now your slaves. All of us are, including the one who was found to have the cup.” [17](#) But Joseph said, “I would never do anything like that! Only the man who was found to have the cup will become my slave. The rest of you may go back to your father in peace.” [18](#) Then Judah went up to him. He said, “Please, sir. Let me speak a word to you. Don't be angry with me, even though you are equal to Pharaoh himself. [19](#) You asked us, ‘Do you have a father or a brother?’ [20](#) We answered, ‘We have an old father. A young son was born to him when he was old. His brother is dead. He's the only one of his mother's sons left. And his father loves him.’ [21](#) “Then you said to us, ‘Bring him down to me. I want to see him for myself.’ [22](#) “We said to you, ‘The boy can't leave his father. If he does, his father will die.’ [23](#) “But you told us, ‘Your youngest brother must come down here with you. If he doesn't, you won't see my face again.’ [24](#) So we went back to my father. We told him what you had said. [25](#) “Then our father said, ‘Go back. Buy a little more food.’ [26](#) “But we said, ‘We can't go down. We'll only go if our youngest brother goes there with us. We can't even see the man's face unless our youngest brother goes with us.’ [27](#) “Your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife had two sons by me. [28](#) One of them went away from me. And I said, “He must have been torn to pieces.” I haven't seen him since. [29](#) What if you take this one from me too and he is harmed? Then you would cause me to die as a sad old man. I would go down into the grave full of pain and suffering.’ [30](#) “So now, what will happen if the boy isn't with us when I go back to my father? His life is closely tied up with the boy's life. [31](#) When he sees that the boy isn't with us, he'll die as a sad old man. Because of us, he'll go down into the grave full of sorrow. [32](#) “I promised my father I would keep the boy safe. I said, ‘Father, I'll bring him back to you. If I don't, you can put the blame on me for the rest of my life.’ [33](#) “Now then, please let me stay here. Let me be your slave in place of the boy. Let the boy return with his brothers. [34](#) How can I go back to my father if the boy isn't with me? Don't let me see the pain and suffering that would come to my father.”

## Genesis 45

### Joseph Tells His Brothers Who He Is

[1](#) Joseph couldn't control himself anymore in front of all of his attendants. He cried out, “Have everyone leave me!” So there wasn't anyone with Joseph when he told his brothers who he was. [2](#) He sobbed so loudly that the Egyptians heard him. Everyone in Pharaoh's house heard about it. [3](#) Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers weren't able to answer him. They were too afraid of him. [4](#) Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” So they did. Then he said, “I am your brother Joseph. I'm the one you sold into Egypt. [5](#) But don't be upset. And don't be angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me ahead of you to save many lives. [6](#) “For two years now, there hasn't been enough food in the land. And for the next five years, people won't be plowing or gathering crops. [7](#) But God sent me ahead of you to keep some of you alive on earth. He sent me here to save your lives by an act of mighty power. [8](#) “So then, it wasn't you who sent me here. It was God. He made me like a father to Pharaoh. He made me master of Pharaoh's whole house. He made me ruler of the whole land of Egypt. [9](#) “Now hurry back to my father. Say to him, ‘Your son Joseph says, “God has made me master of the whole land of Egypt. Come down to me. Don't waste any time. [10](#) You will live in the area of Goshen. You, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you have will be near me. [11](#) There I will provide everything you need. “ “Five years without enough food are still coming. If you don't come down here, you and

your family and everyone who belongs to you will lose everything.”’ [12](#) “Brothers, you can see for yourselves that it's really I, Joseph, speaking to you. My brother Benjamin can see it too. [13](#) “Tell my father about all of the honor that has been given to me in Egypt. Tell him about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.” [14](#) Then Joseph threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and sobbed. Benjamin also hugged him and sobbed. [15](#) Joseph kissed all of his brothers and sobbed over them. After that, his brothers talked with him. [16](#) The news reached Pharaoh's palace that Joseph's brothers had come. Pharaoh and all of his officials were pleased. [17](#) Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Here's what I want you to tell your brothers. Say to them, ‘Load your animals. Return to the land of Canaan. [18](#) Bring your father and your families back to me. I'll give you the best land in Egypt. You can enjoy all of the good things in the land.’” [19](#) “And here's something else I want you to tell them. Say to them, ‘Take some carts from Egypt. Your children and your wives can use them. Get your father and come back. [20](#) Don't worry about the things you have back there. The best of everything in Egypt will belong to you.’” [21](#) So the sons of Israel did it. Joseph gave them carts, as Pharaoh had commanded. He also gave them supplies for their journey. [22](#) He gave new clothes to each of them. But he gave more than seven pounds of silver to Benjamin. He also gave him five sets of clothes. [23](#) He sent his father ten donkeys loaded with the best things from Egypt. He also sent ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other supplies for his journey. [24](#) Then Joseph sent his brothers away. As they were leaving he said to them, “Don't argue on the way!” [25](#) So they went up out of Egypt. They came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. [26](#) They told him, “Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is ruler of the whole land of Egypt.” Jacob was shocked. He didn't believe them. [27](#) So they told him everything Joseph had said to them. Jacob saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back. That gave new life to their father Jacob. [28](#) Israel said, “I believe it now! My son Joseph is still alive. I'll go and see him before I die.”

## Genesis 46

### Jacob Goes Down to Egypt

[1](#) So Israel started out with everything that belonged to him. When he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. [2](#) God spoke to Israel in a vision at night. “Jacob! Jacob!” he said. “Here I am,” Jacob replied. [3](#) “I am God. I am the God of your father,” he said. “Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt. There I will make you into a great nation. [4](#) I will go down to Egypt with you. You can be sure that I will bring you back again. And when you die, Joseph will close your eyes with his own hand.” [5](#) Then Jacob left Beersheba. Israel's sons put their father Jacob and their families in the carts that Pharaoh had sent to carry them. [6](#) So Jacob and his whole family went to Egypt. They took their livestock with them. And they took everything they had gotten in Canaan. [7](#) Jacob took his sons and grandsons with him to Egypt. He also took his daughters and granddaughters. He took all of his children and grandchildren with him. [8](#) Here are the names of Israel's children and grandchildren who went to Egypt. Jacob and all of his children and grandchildren are included. Reuben was Jacob's oldest son. [9](#) The sons of Reuben were ‘QF’Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron and Carmi. [10](#) The sons of Simeon were ‘QF’Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar and Shaul. Shaul was the son of a woman from Canaan. [11](#) The sons of Levi were ‘QF’Gershon, Kohath and Merari. [12](#) The sons of Judah were ‘QF’Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez and Zerah. But Er and Onan had died in the land of Canaan. The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. [13](#) The sons of Issachar were ‘QF’Tola, Puah, Jashub and Shimron. [14](#) The sons of Zebulun were ‘QF’Sered, Elon and Jahleel. [15](#) Those were the sons and grandsons who were born to Jacob and Leah in Paddan Aram. Leah also had a daughter by Jacob. Her name was Dinah. The total number of people in the family line of Jacob and Leah was 33. [16](#) The sons of Gad were ‘QF’Zephon, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi and Areli. [17](#) The sons of Asher were ‘QF’Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi and Beriah. Their sister was Serah. The sons of Beriah were Heber and Malkiel. [18](#) Those were the children and grandchildren who were born to Jacob and Zilpah. Laban had given Zilpah to his daughter Leah. The total number of people in the family line of Jacob and Zilpah was 16. [19](#) The sons of Jacob's wife Rachel were ‘QF’Joseph and Benjamin. [20](#) In Egypt, Asenath had Manasseh and Ephraim by Joseph. Asenath was the daughter of Potiphera. Potiphera was the priest of On. [21](#) The sons of Benjamin were ‘QF’Bela, Beker, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim and Ard. [22](#) Those were the sons and grandsons who were born to Jacob and Rachel. The total number of people in the family line of Jacob and Rachel was 14. [23](#) The son of Dan was ‘QF’Hushim. [24](#) The sons of Naphtali were ‘QF’Jahziel, Guni, Jezer and Shillem. [25](#) Those were the



sons and grandsons who were born to Jacob and Bilhah. Laban had given Bilhah to his daughter Rachel. The total number of people in the family line of Jacob and Bilhah was seven. [26](#) The total number of those who went to Egypt with Jacob was 66. That number includes only his own children and grandchildren. It doesn't include his sons' wives or his grandsons' wives. [27](#) The total number of the members of Jacob's family who went to Egypt was 70. That includes the two sons who had been born to Joseph in Egypt. [28](#) Jacob sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph. He sent him to get directions to Goshen. And so they arrived in the area of Goshen. [29](#) Then Joseph had his servants get his chariot ready. He went to Goshen to meet his father Israel. As soon as he came to his father, Joseph threw his arms around him. Then Joseph sobbed for a long time. [30](#) Israel said to Joseph, "I have seen for myself that you are still alive. Now I'm ready to die." [31](#) Then Joseph spoke to his brothers and to the rest of his father's family. He said, "I will go up and speak to Pharaoh. I'll say to him, 'My brothers and the rest of my father's family have come to me. They were living in the land of Canaan. [32](#) The men are shepherds. They take care of livestock. They've brought along their flocks and herds and everything they own.' [33](#) 'Pharaoh will send for you. He'll ask, 'What do you do for a living?' [34](#) You should answer, 'We've taken care of livestock from the time we were boys. We've done just as our fathers did.' It's the practice of the people of Egypt not to mix with shepherds. "So Pharaoh will let you settle in the area of Goshen."