

**B. The Probing of  
Joseph's Brothers  
-Part 2 (44:1-34)**

**2. The Transformation  
Examined**

*The details of the  
test (continued from  
last week)*

*Why did Joseph have  
his cup put in  
Benjamin's sack?*

*\*If the brothers were  
still evil men, they  
would offer no  
genuine protest over  
Benjamin's arrest and  
sentence.*

*\*Their envious hearts  
would be secretly  
glad at his  
misfortune, because  
he was the favorite  
son.*

*\*They would let  
Benjamin be taken  
into slavery in  
Egypt; just as they  
let Joseph go to  
Egypt to slavery.*

**The reaction to the  
test**

*"they tore their  
clothes" (13)*

*\*The reaction of the  
brothers to the test  
was a mirror of their  
father's response to  
hearing the news of  
Joseph (37:34).*

*\*This was evidence  
that they had really  
changed!*

*\*Judah pleaded with  
Joseph for Benjamin's  
deliverance  
(44:18-34; 42:21).*

*\*Judah offered  
himself as a slave in  
Benjamin's place  
(44:33).*

*\*Judah years earlier  
had led the way in  
selling Joseph  
(37:26, 27).*

<sup>1</sup> Then he commanded the **steward of his house**, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack, <sup>2</sup> and **put my cup, the silver cup**, in the mouth of the **sack of the youngest**, with his money for the grain." And he did as **Joseph** told him.

<sup>3</sup> As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away with their donkeys. <sup>4</sup> They had gone only a short distance from the city. Now **Joseph** said to his **steward**, "Up, follow after the men, and when you overtake them, say to them, '**Why have you repaid evil for good?**' <sup>5</sup> Is it not from this that my lord drinks, and by this that **he practices divination**? You have done evil in doing this.'"

<sup>6</sup> When he overtook them, he spoke to them these words. <sup>7</sup> They said to him, "Why does my lord speak such words as these? **Far be it from your servants to do such a thing!**" <sup>8</sup> Behold, the money that we found in the mouths of our sacks we brought back to you from the land of **Canaan**. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house? <sup>9</sup> **Whichever of your servants is found with it shall die, and we also will be my lord's servants.**" <sup>10</sup> He said, "Let it be as you say: he who is found with it shall be my servant, and the rest of you shall be innocent." <sup>11</sup> Then each man quickly lowered his sack to the ground, and each man opened his sack. <sup>12</sup> And he searched, beginning with the eldest and **ending with the youngest**. And the **cup was found in Benjamin's sack**. <sup>13</sup> Then **they tore their clothes**, and every man loaded his donkey, and they returned to the city.

<sup>14</sup> When **Judah** and his brothers came to **Joseph's** house, he was still there. They **fell before him to the ground**. <sup>15</sup> **Joseph** said to them, "What deed is this that you have done? Do you not know that a man like me **can indeed practice divination?**"

<sup>16</sup> And **Judah** said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how can we clear ourselves? **God has found out the guilt of your servants**; behold, we are my lord's servants, both we and he also in whose hand the cup has been found." <sup>17</sup> But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so! **Only the man in whose hand the cup was found shall be my servant**. But as for you, go up in peace to your father."

<sup>18</sup> Then **Judah** went up to him and said ... <sup>21</sup> Then you said to your servants, '**Bring him down to me**, that I may set my eyes on him.' <sup>22</sup> We said to my lord, 'The boy cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, **his father would die.**'

**2. The Transformation  
Examined (cont).**

**The Gospel in the  
test**

Judah's plea before Joseph foreshadowed Christ:

(a) Judah was an intercessor and was provided before the need arose (43:9; 44:32; Eph 1:3-14; Rev 13:5-8)

(b) He offered himself as a substitute for the condemned (44:33; 1Pe 3:18)

(c) He provided life for one doomed to die (44:31; Jn 3:36)

(d) Provided liberty for one sentenced to slavery (44:17, 33; Heb 2:14, 15).

No wonder it was later said of Judah, as it will be said of Christ, "your brothers shall praise you" (49:8; Phi 2:11).

**The cup in the test**

*"practices  
divination" (44:5)*

*"practice divination"  
(44:15)*

*\*Pagan people would use a cup / goblet superstitiously, much as fortune-tellers look in their crystal balls.*

*\*Joseph would not use it in this way, but he still divined from it.*

*\*Joseph used the cup to determine if his brothers were really changed men!*

## 2. The Transformation Examined (cont).

### The application of the test

What was the purpose of these two tests of the brothers?

Why do we endure trials?

#### \*Prove testimony

"We are honest men. Your servants have never been spies" (42:11)

-Joseph executed these tests to see if their lives had truly changed.

-Trials will help to show if our testimony is true. Will we maintain our faith through trial or abandon it?

#### \*Promote fellowship

-These tests brought the brothers back into fellowship with Joseph, because it showed them that their lives depended on him.

-Trials can remind us of how much we need God, and help restore our fellowship with Him (James 1:9-11)

#### \*Produce eternal prosperity

\*Joseph's tests eventually brought prosperity to his brothers. From the land of poverty to the land of plenty.

\*Our trials help build perseverance to endure and ultimately receive the crown of life (James 1:12; Rom 8:16-18; 2Co 4:17)

<sup>23</sup> Then you said to your servants, '**Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall not see my face again.**' <- 42:10-20

<sup>24</sup> "When we went back to your servant **my father**, we told him the words of my lord ... <sup>27</sup> Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that **my wife bore me two sons.** <sup>28</sup> One left me, and I said, "**Surely he has been torn to pieces,**" and I have never seen him since. <sup>29</sup> If you take this one also from me, and harm happens to him, **you will bring down my gray hairs in evil to Sheol.**' <- 43:1-5

<sup>30</sup> "Now therefore, as soon as I come to your servant my father, and the boy is not with us, then, **as his life is bound up in the boy's life,** <sup>31</sup> as soon as he sees that the boy is not with us, **he will die,** and your servants will **bring down the gray hairs of your servant our father with sorrow to Sheol.** <sup>32</sup> For your servant **became a pledge of safety for the boy to my father,** saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall **bear the blame before my father all my life.**' <sup>33</sup> Now therefore, please **let your servant remain instead of the boy** as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers. <sup>34</sup> For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? **I fear to see the evil that would find my father."**

<sup>1</sup> Then **Joseph could not control himself** before all those who stood by him. **He cried,** "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when **Joseph** made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And **he wept aloud,** so that the **Egyptians** heard it, and the household of **Pharaoh** heard it. <sup>3</sup> And **Joseph** said to his brothers, "**I am Joseph!** Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for **they were dismayed at his presence.**

<sup>4</sup> So **Joseph** said to his brothers, "**Come near to me, please.**" And they came near. And he said, "**I am your brother, Joseph,** whom you sold into **Egypt.** <sup>5</sup> And now **do not be distressed or angry** with yourselves because you sold me here, for **God sent me before you to preserve life.** <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land **these two years,** and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> And **God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.** <sup>8</sup> So **it was not you who sent me here, but God.** He has made me a father to **Pharaoh,** and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of **Egypt.**

## C. The Pronouncement of Joseph's Identity (44:1-34)

### 1. The Trauma of the Revelation

"I am Joseph" (45:3)

"The simple statement, 'I am Joseph,' must have come like a thunderclap out of a clear sky on these unsuspecting men."

- H.C. Leupold

"his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence." (45:3)

### 2. The Triumphs of the Revelation

#### The triumph of righteousness

\*Righteousness will always prevail...if not in this life, then definitely in eternity to come.

\*Many times, it seems as though the side of truth will never experience victory. (Habakkuk 1:4)

#### The triumph of grace

"Come near to me, please." (45:4)

"do not be distressed or angry" (45:5)

\*In spite of all his brothers had done to him, he still showed them grace.

#### The triumph of perspective

"God sent me before you to preserve life" (45:5)

This is the theme of the story of Joseph ... the Providence of God!

## Probing

“they tore their clothes” (13)

### Genesis 37:34 (ESV)

<sup>34</sup> Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days.

## Judah’s Speech

### Genesis 37:26-27 (ESV)

<sup>26</sup> Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?

<sup>27</sup> Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers listened to him.

### Genesis 42:10–21 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> They said to him, “No, my lord, your servants have come to buy food. <sup>11</sup> We are all sons of one man. We are honest men. Your servants have never been spies.”

<sup>12</sup> He said to them, “No, it is the nakedness of the land that you have come to see.” <sup>13</sup> And they said, “We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan, and behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is no more.” <sup>14</sup> But Joseph said to them, “It is as I said to you. You are spies. <sup>15</sup> By this you shall be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here. <sup>16</sup> Send one of you, and let him bring your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. Or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies.” <sup>17</sup> And he put them all together in custody for three days.

<sup>18</sup> On the third day Joseph said to them, “Do this and you will live, for I fear God: <sup>19</sup> if you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined where you are in custody, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households, <sup>20</sup> and bring your youngest brother to me. So your words will be verified, and you shall not die.” And they did so. <sup>21</sup> Then they said to one another, “In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.”

### Genesis 43:1–5 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Now the famine was severe in the land. <sup>2</sup> And when they had eaten the grain that they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, “Go again, buy us a little food.” <sup>3</sup> But Judah said to him, “The man solemnly warned us, saying, ‘You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.’ <sup>4</sup> If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food. <sup>5</sup> But if you will not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us, ‘You shall not see my face, unless your brother is with you.’”

## The Gospel in the test

### Genesis 43:9 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> I will be a pledge of his safety. From my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever.

### Ephesians 1:3–14 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

### Revelation 13:5–8 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup> Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, <sup>8</sup> and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

### 1 Peter 3:18 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

### John 3:36 (ESV)

<sup>36</sup> Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

### Hebrews 2:14 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

### Hebrews 2:15 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

### Genesis 49:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> “Judah, your brothers shall praise you;  
your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;  
your father’s sons shall bow down before you.

### Philippians 2:11 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### Prove testimony

### Genesis 42:11 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> We are all sons of one man. We are honest men. Your servants have never been spies.”

### Promote fellowship

### James 1:9–11 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. <sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

### Produce eternal prosperity

### James 1:12 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

**Romans 8:16–18 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

**2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

## Pronouncement

### The triumph of righteousness

**Habakkuk 1:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> So the law is paralyzed,  
and justice never goes forth.  
For the wicked surround the righteous;  
so justice goes forth perverted.