

## Timeline of Truth – Joseph’s Brothers Return to Egypt (Gen 43-44)

<p><sup>43:1</sup> Now the famine <i>was</i> severe in the land. <sup>2</sup> And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food."</p>	<p><b>1. Jacob Tells His Sons to Get More <u>Food</u> from Egypt</b></p>
<p><sup>3</sup> But Judah spoke to him, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother <i>is</i> with you.'" <sup>4</sup> "If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food. <sup>5</sup> "But if you will not send <i>him</i>, we will not go down; for the man said to us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother <i>is</i> with you.'"</p>	<p><b>2. Judah Explains that <u>Benjamin</u> Must Go Too</b></p>
<p><sup>6</sup> And Israel said, "Why did you deal <i>so</i> wrongfully with me <i>as</i> to tell the man whether you had still <i>another</i> brother?"</p>	<p><b>3. Jacob <u>Scolds</u> His Sons</b></p>
<p><sup>7</sup> But they said, "The man asked us pointedly about ourselves and our family, saying, '<i>Is</i> your father still alive? Have you <i>another</i> brother?' And we told him according to these words. Could we possibly have known that he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'"</p>	<p><b>4. Jacob’s Sons <u>Defend</u> Themselves</b></p>
<p><sup>8</sup> Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you <i>and</i> also our little ones. <sup>9</sup> "I myself will be surety for him; from my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him <i>back</i> to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever. <sup>10</sup> "For if we had not lingered, surely by now we would have returned this second time."</p>	<p><b>5. Judah Offers to Be <u>Responsible</u> for Benjamin</b></p>
<p><sup>11</sup> And their father Israel said to them, "If <i>it must be</i> so, then do this: Take some of the best fruits of the land in your vessels and carry down a present for the man-- a little balm and a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds. <sup>12</sup> "Take double money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was an oversight. <sup>13</sup> "Take your brother also, and arise, go back to the man. <sup>14</sup> "And may God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may release your other brother and Benjamin. If I am bereaved, I am bereaved!"</p>	<p><b>6. Jacob Allows His Sons to <u>Return</u> with Benjamin</b></p>
<p><sup>15</sup> So the men took that present and Benjamin, and they took double money in their hand, and arose and went down to Egypt; and they stood before Joseph.</p>	<p><b>7. Joseph’s Brothers Return to <u>Egypt</u></b></p>
<p><sup>16</sup> When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Take <i>these</i> men to my home, and slaughter an animal and make ready; for <i>these</i> men will dine with me at noon." <sup>17</sup> Then the man did as Joseph ordered, and the man brought the men into Joseph's house.</p>	<p><b>8. Joseph Has His Brothers Taken to His <u>House</u></b></p>
<p><sup>18</sup> Now the men were afraid because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, "<i>It is</i> because of the money, which was returned in our sacks the first time, that we are brought in, so that he may make a case against us and fall upon us, to take us as slaves with our donkeys." <sup>19</sup> When they drew near to the steward of Joseph's house, they talked with him at the door of the house, <sup>20</sup> and said, "O sir, we indeed came down the first time to buy food; <sup>21</sup> "but it happened, when we came to the encampment, that we opened our sacks, and there, <i>each</i> man's money <i>was</i> in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight; so we have brought it back in our hand. <sup>22</sup> "And we have brought down other money in our hands to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks."</p>	<p><b>9. Joseph’s Brothers <u>Fear</u> the Worst</b></p>
<p><sup>23</sup> But he said, "Peace <i>be</i> with you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them. <sup>24</sup> So the man brought the men into Joseph's house and gave <i>them</i> water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys feed.</p>	<p><b>10. Joseph’s Steward <u>Eases</u> Their Fears</b></p>
<p><sup>25</sup> Then they made the present ready for Joseph's coming at noon, for they heard that they would eat bread there. <sup>26</sup> And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which <i>was</i> in their hand into the house, and bowed down before him to the earth. <sup>27</sup> Then he asked them about <i>their</i> well-being, and said, "<i>Is</i> your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? <i>Is</i> he still alive?" <sup>28</sup> And they answered, "Your servant our father <i>is</i> in good health; he <i>is</i> still alive." And they bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves.</p>	<p><b>11. Joseph <u>Meets</u> with His Brothers</b></p>
<p><sup>29</sup> Then he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "<i>Is</i> this your younger brother of whom you spoke to me?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son." <sup>30</sup> Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought <i>somewhere</i> to weep. And he went into <i>his</i> chamber and wept there.</p>	<p><b>12. Joseph Meets <u>Benjamin</u></b></p>
<p><sup>31</sup> Then he washed his face and came out: and he restrained himself, and said, "Serve the bread."</p>	<p><b>13. Joseph “<u>Pulls</u> Himself Together”</b></p>

<p><sup>32</sup> So they set him a place by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves; because the Egyptians could not eat food with the Hebrews, for that <i>is</i> an abomination to the Egyptians. <sup>33</sup> And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth; and the men looked in astonishment at one another. <sup>34</sup> Then he took servings to them from before him, but Benjamin's serving was five times as much as any of theirs. So they drank and were merry with him.</p>	<p><b>14. Joseph Tests Their <u>Attitude</u> Towards Benjamin (PASS)</b></p>
<p><sup>44:1</sup> And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, "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> "Also put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his grain money." So he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken.</p>	<p><b>15. Joseph Arranges for Another <u>Test</u></b></p>
<p><sup>3</sup> As soon as the morning dawned, the men were sent away, they and their donkeys. <sup>4</sup> When they had gone out of the city, <i>and</i> were not <i>yet</i> far off, Joseph said to his steward, "Get up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good?' <sup>5</sup> 'Is not this <i>the one</i> from which my lord drinks, and with which he indeed practices divination? You have done evil in so doing.'" <sup>6</sup> So he overtook them, and he spoke to them these same words.</p>	<p><b>16. Joseph Sends His Steward to <u>Accuse</u> Them</b></p>
<p><sup>7</sup> And they said to him, "Why does my lord say these words? Far be it from us that your servants should do such a thing. <sup>8</sup> "Look, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house? <sup>9</sup> "With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves." <sup>10</sup> And he said, "Now also <i>let it be</i> according to your words; he with whom it is found shall be my slave, and you shall be blameless." <sup>11</sup> Then each man speedily let down his sack to the ground, and each opened his sack.</p>	<p><b>17. Joseph's Brothers <u>Defend</u> Themselves</b></p>
<p><sup>12</sup> So he searched. He began with the oldest and left off with the youngest; and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.</p>	<p><b>18. The Cup Is Found in <u>Benjamin's</u> Sack</b></p>
<p><sup>13</sup> Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city. <sup>14</sup> So Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, and he <i>was</i> still there; and they fell before him on the ground.</p>	<p><b>19. The Brothers <u>Respond</u> Together (PASS)</b></p>
<p><sup>15</sup> And Joseph said to them, "What deed <i>is</i> this you have done? Did you not know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?"</p>	<p><b>20. Joseph Prepares a Final <u>Test</u></b></p>
<p><sup>16</sup> Then Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; here we are, my lord's slaves, both we and <i>he</i> also with whom the cup was found."</p>	<p><b>21. Judah Acknowledges Guilt as a <u>Group</u> (PASS)</b></p>
<p><sup>17</sup> But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so; the man in whose hand the cup was found, he shall be my slave. And as for you, go up in peace to your father."</p>	<p><b>22. Joseph <u>Tests</u> by Keeping Only Benjamin</b></p>
<p><sup>18</sup> Then Judah came near to him and said: "O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's hearing, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you <i>are</i> even like Pharaoh. <sup>19</sup> "My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father or a brother?' <sup>20</sup> "And we said to my lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a child of <i>his</i> old age, <i>who is</i> young; his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.' <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> "And we said to my lord, 'The lad cannot leave his father, for <i>if</i> he should leave his father, <i>his father</i> would die.' <sup>23</sup> "But you said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.' <sup>24</sup> "So it was, when we went up to your servant my father, that we told him the words of my lord. <sup>25</sup> "And our father said, 'Go back <i>and</i> buy us a little food.' <sup>26</sup> "But we said, 'We cannot go down; if our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down; for we may not see the man's face unless our youngest brother <i>is</i> with us.' <sup>27</sup> "Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons; <sup>28</sup> and the one went out from me, and I said, 'Surely he is torn to pieces'; and I have not seen him since. <sup>29</sup> 'But if you take this one also from me, and calamity befalls him, you shall bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave.' <sup>30</sup> "Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad <i>is</i> not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad's life, <sup>31</sup> "it will happen, when he sees that the lad <i>is</i> not <i>with us</i>, that he will die. So your servants will bring down the gray hair of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave. <sup>32</sup> "For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him <i>back</i> to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father forever.' <sup>33</sup> "Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. <sup>34</sup> "For how shall I go up to my father if the lad <i>is</i> not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?"</p>	<p><b>23. Judah <u>Appeals</u> &amp; Begs to Take the <u>Blame</u> (PASS)</b></p>