

## The Life of Joseph: Week 9 - Chapter Nine: Famine in the Land

### Part 1: The Meet Up (Gen 42:1-9)

Little did the brothers know what lay ahead of them in Egypt...But God knew this day perfectly. 22 years have \_\_\_\_\_ from pit to \_\_\_\_\_ and from fields to famine...And the time has come for Joseph's childhood dreams to be fulfilled!

In a major turn of events, the \_\_\_\_\_ have become \_\_\_\_\_ and the 10 brothers now bow before Joseph, who is veiled as Prime Minister of Egypt.

(v9) It would likely be a mistake to take this verse to mean that Joseph had 'forgotten' his childhood dreams or not thought of his brothers until this point. Rather, in this moment Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ that the time had come and that his childhood dreams were being fulfilled in his presence at this very moment.

(Gen 8:1, 9:15-16, 19:29) God **remembered** Noah...I will **remember** my covenant between me and you...Each use of the word **'remember'** is in regards to **God making good on his promises to people.**

**If we take that same meaning and apply it here to Joseph 'remembering his dreams'...**

We could make the argument that Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ what God had promised to him through his dreams...and Joseph is \_\_\_\_\_ that God is making good on those promises now, as his brothers bow.

At the very moment Joseph remembers his dreams about his brothers he instantly, innately or divinely begins to press them and put them to the test.

This sequence of events should be interpreted in the \_\_\_\_\_ manner as the instant \_\_\_\_\_ that Joseph gave Pharaoh regarding his dreams. The solution was part of a divine, Spirit guided, interpretation.

In the same manner, the \_\_\_\_\_ of tests which Joseph is about to unleash on his brothers is not his own doing. Rather, the Lord is guiding Joseph by His \_\_\_\_\_ as to what he should do.

### Part 2: The Test (Gen 42:9-26)

The Spirit of God guided Joseph as to how he should interact with his brothers. This interaction developed in the form of a series of tests. These tests would \_\_\_\_\_ certain things...

- (1) They would \_\_\_\_\_ the brother's \_\_\_\_\_ over their betrayal of Joseph.
- (2) They would prove that the \_\_\_\_\_ of the brothers has \_\_\_\_\_.
- (3) They would \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph to either \_\_\_\_\_ or forgive his brothers. And by forgiving them, Joseph would prove that the Lord's refining work in his life had accomplished its goal!

The three days which the brothers spend awaiting their fate, at the hands of Joseph, in prison, \_\_\_\_\_ the three days which the cupbearer and baker spent awaiting their fate, at the hands of Joseph.

The three day wait for the cupbearer and baker leaves us in suspense; wondering if Joseph is walking with the Lord in such a way that he is able to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. The three day wait for the brothers in prison leaves us in suspense; wondering if Joseph is walking with the Lord in such a way that he is able to \_\_\_\_\_ the past.

The brother's interpret this series of events as a \_\_\_\_\_ from God regarding their sin against Joseph. For the past 22 years, they likely have been interpreting everything that goes wrong in their life as divine-justice against them for their heinous treatment of their brother.

**Their comments reveal several things:**

- (1) They feel \_\_\_\_\_ /remorse over Joseph. (Pain)
- (2) They \_\_\_\_\_ their guilt/sin over Joseph. (Punishment)
- (3) They assume \_\_\_\_\_ /the need to make amends. (Payment)

Under the guidance of the Spirit, Joseph is \_\_\_\_\_ the brothers in a nearly identical situation that they were in 22 years ago. One of their brothers is a captive of Egypt. Their pockets are full of silver. They must tell their father what has happened.

*Will the brothers betray Simeon? Will they leave him for dead in Egypt? Will they take another profit over a brother? Will the brothers tell Jacob the truth? Will they deceive Jacob once again?*

### **Part 3: The Return (Gen 42:27-38)**

(v28a) Here we get a glimpse of the answer to our previous questions... Whichever brother found the silver \_\_\_\_\_ in his sack, discovered it alone; yet does not keep it for himself...he \_\_\_\_\_ it to the rest.

(v28b) This again shows that the brothers have been interpreting everything that goes wrong in their life as divine-justice against them for their treatment of their brother. Ironically, God is doing something very kind, merciful & gracious on their behalf!

**It's a horrible place to be when your life has been so darkened by sin and your view of God is so tainted with guilt...that you are unable to see His blessing in your life.**

So far the brothers are \_\_\_\_\_ the test. They are telling Jacob the truth about their trip, exactly as it occurred. Furthermore, they did not abandon Simeon as they had abandoned Joseph.

**Jacob displays his pronia.** That is; a \_\_\_\_\_ that that the world is set up to somehow \_\_\_\_\_ certain people and harm or cause a disadvantage to others.

God is actually doing something very kind, merciful & gracious on Jacob's behalf! God is going to \_\_\_\_\_ Jacob \_\_\_\_\_ measure and reunite him with his cherished son!

**Will the brothers respond to their father's rejection in the same way as they did 22 years ago?**

(v36) Jacob reminds the 10 brothers of his \_\_\_\_\_ for them. They are the sons of the wife he did not love and they are the source of his pain. These comments are part of the broader test which is unfolding. The brothers are being placed in a very similar situation, concerning their father's \_\_\_\_\_ for them.

**Will the brothers respond to their father's favoritism in the same way as they did 22 years ago?**

(v38) Jacob reminds the 10 brothers that he does not view them as sons. He only ever had two sons and now he only has one son remaining. These comments are part of the broader test which is unfolding. The brothers are being placed in a very similar situation, concerning their father's \_\_\_\_\_ towards Rachel's sons

*In a way, the Lord is not just administering these tests for the brothers to prove to Joseph that they have changed...But he is also giving them a second chance to get it right and 'buy back' or 'redeem' as it were the 22 lost years.*