

Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

Genesis 42

by Don Falkos

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Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy food, but he wouldn't let Benjamin go with them because he was afraid something might happen to him. When the brothers arrived in Egypt, they met with the governor and bowed down to him, not realizing that he was their brother, Joseph.

Joseph recognized his brothers, but pretended not to know them. "Where are you from?"

"The land of Canaan," they said, "We've come to buy food."

"You are spies."

"No. We are honest men. We are all brothers, although our youngest brother is at home with our father. And there was another brother but he is... gone."

"Prove it to me. One of you will stay here, in jail. The rest of you will go home with grain for your starving families. But you must bring your youngest brother back to me. Then I will know you are telling the truth."

The brothers said to each other, "We are being punished for what we did to Joseph all those years ago."

They didn't know Joseph could understand them; he had been speaking to them through an interpreter. Joseph turned away and wept. When he had regained his composure, he chose Simeon to stay behind and sent the rest on their way. But he instructed his servants to secretly return the brothers' money to their sacks and also to give them extra food for their journey.

When the brothers arrived home, they told their father, "We have to take Benjamin back to Egypt so we can get Simeon out of jail."

Jacob refused, "Joseph is gone. Simeon is gone. You may not take Benjamin from me. I would die of grief."