

Genesis 43 The Brothers Return to Egypt with Benjamin

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Introduction

Tzur Yisrael Triennial Parasha [45](#) (#10.4): *Vayavei Ha-ish* / Then the Man Brought, Brit: Luk 19:37-48, note ^a

Gen 43 The Brothers Return to Egypt with Benjamin ^{Verses 43:24 - 44:17}

[24](#) And the man brought the men into Joseph's house, and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their asses provender. [25](#) And they made ready the present against Joseph came at noon: for they heard that they should eat bread there.

Joseph makes them a feast.

[26](#) And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves to him to the earth. ^b[27](#) And he asked them of their welfare, and said, Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive?

[28](#) And they answered, Thy servant our father is in good health, he is yet alive. And they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance. [29](#) And he lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, Is this your younger brother, of whom ye spake unto me? And he said, God be gracious unto thee, my son. [30](#) And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there. [31](#) And he washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Set on bread. [32](#) And they set on for him by himself, and for them by themselves, and for the Egyptians, which did eat with him, by themselves: because the Egyptians might not eat bread with the Hebrews;^c for that is

^a Ahavta <http://www.ahavta.org/Commentary%20Y-1/Y1-41.htm>

^b The prophecy of Joseph's dream is fulfilled, Gen 37:7-10

^c The reverse is true, i.e. Israel should be concerned about who the break bread with.

an abomination unto the Egyptians.^{d 33} And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men marveled one at another.^{e 34} And he took and sent messes unto them from before him: but Benjamin's mess was five^f times so much as any of theirs. And they drank, and were merry with him.

Gen 44 - Benjamin and the Silver Cup

Joseph's policy to stay his brothers.

44:1 And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put every man's money in his sack's mouth.² And put my cup,^g the silver cup, in the sack's mouth of the youngest, and his corn money. And he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken.³ As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their asses.⁴ And when they were gone out of the city, and not yet far off, Joseph said unto his steward, Up, follow after the men; and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good?⁵ Is not this it in which my lord drinketh, and whereby indeed he divineth?^h ye have done evil in so doing.

The silver cup is found in Benjamin's sack.

⁶ And he overtook them, and he spake unto them these same words.⁷ And they said unto him, Wherefore saith my lord these words? God forbid that thy servants should do according to this thing:⁸ Behold, the money, which we found in our sacks' mouths, we brought again unto thee out of the land of Canaan: how then should we steal out of thy lord's house silver or gold?⁹ With whomsoever of thy servants it be found, both let him die, and we also will be my lord's bondmen.¹⁰ And he said, Now also let it be according unto your words: he with whom it is found shall be my servant; and ye shall be blameless.¹¹ Then they speedily took down every man his sack to the ground, and opened every man his sack.¹² And he searched, and began at the eldest, and left at the youngest: and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.¹³ Then they rent their clothes, and laded every man his ass, and returned to the city.

^d NG The Egyptians worship sheep and Hebrew's eat sheep. Ancient writings talk about the Shepherd kings from the land of Canaan who came in and ruled Egypt.

If you were a first born Egyptian and one of the mixed multitude you would have to sacrifice and eat the lamb.

^e Their seems to be redundancy here. So the question is are they sorted by age, but within the birth-rights of their mother, this would be more impressive. If it was just by age then Yoseph could have just figured it out by who looks older.

^f The number for grace is 5

^g This cup is the cup of the New Covenant. The 3rd cup of the Passover. all of Judah has this cup in there bag, but denies it. Israel will confront Judah and say "you have my cup".

^h See Word-Study-H7080-H7081-QaSaM-Divination-compare-to-H5172-NaChaSh, article #[325](#) and "Word-Study-NaChaSh-H5175-and-H5172-to-H5180", article #[311](#).

NG points out that this is similar to Laban when he chases down Jacob, see Gen 30:27, the word experience H5172 nachash. The "divination / Experience" was not really true, in the case of Laban he finds that his idols are missing and here in this story it's just a setup. They are both using superstition to provide a plausible explanation.

JKM: upon further review, I don't think NG's points are entirely accurate as Gen_30:27 occurs early in the story between Lavan and Jacob. Lavan chases Jacob down at Gen_31:22-55.

They are brought before Joseph.

¹⁴ And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house; for he was yet there: and they fell before him on the ground.ⁱ ¹⁵ And Joseph said unto them, What deed is this that ye have done? wot ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine?^j ¹⁶ And Judah said, What shall we say unto my lord? what shall we speak? or how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants: behold, we are my lord's servants, both we, and he also with whom the cup is found. ¹⁷ And he said, God forbid that I should do so: but the man in whose hand the cup is found, he shall be my servant; and as for you, get you up in peace unto your father.

e-Sword Notes

Gen 44:2

The Father

- What was in Judah's speech that causes Joseph to weep so loudly. It was the references to Jacob
- Gen 44:19, 20², 22³, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32², 34.. 15 times, he is pleading the case for Jacob.
 - ToDo: this is next weeks Parasha.
- When Yoseph reveals himself, he first asks how is my father.
- Q. How does father YHVH respond when Judah rejected the Messiah?
 - A. Great punishment 70 AD destruction of Jerusalem, 133 AD Barkokhba revolt and the Exile of Judah into the world where they were at best treated like second class citizens.
- Q. How does father YHVH respond when antinomian Christianity rejects his word i.e. Torah
 - A. For the New Covenant believers. If you reject the word and will of the father, you have also rejected the Son. See the verse "Lord Lord" but you will not enter the Heaven
- when Yoseph reveals himself, he first asks how is my father.

The wonderfulness of the story is that there was redemption.

"You don't look Jewish to me."

Judah's speech can be a pattern to be re-used i.e. when defending your actions, you articulate that it's not about me, it's about the father. If I'm doing the will of our Heavenly father, then what is your complaint?

e.g. to solve conflicts between brethren, it's not about the principals, it's really about other things that are more important.

ⁱ A second witness to Joseph's prophecy being fulfilled (see Gen 43:26).

^j NG says in Hebrew it says "don't you know that a man like me can divine"

Surety

in Judah and Tamar, when his surety was taken, Judah came to terms and said She is more Righteous than I.
(Todo: where does this fit)

Gen 43:9 I will be surety for him; of my hand shalt thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever:

Gen 44:32 For thy servant became surety for the lad unto my father, saying, If I bring him not unto thee, then I shall bear the blame to my father for ever.

SURETY,

contracts.

1. A person who binds himself for the payment of a sum of money or for the performance of something else, for another, who is already bound for the same. A surety differs from a guarantor, and the latter cannot be sued until after a suit against the principal. ¹⁰ Watts, 258.

2. The surety differs from bail in this, that the latter actually has, or is by law presumed to have, the custody of his principal, while the former has no control over him. The bail may surrender his principal in discharge of his obligation; the surety cannot be discharged by such surrender.

3. In Pennsylvania it has been decided that the creditor is bound to sue the principal when requested by the surety, and the debt is due; and that when proper notice is given by the surety that unless the principal be sued, he will consider himself discharged, he will be so considered, unless the principal be sued. ⁸ Serg. & Rawle, 116; ¹⁵ Serg. & Rawle, 29, 30; S. P. in Alabama, ⁹ Porter, R. 409. But in general a creditor may resort to the surety for the payment of his debt in the first place, without applying to the principal. ¹ Watts, 280; ⁷ Ham. part 1, 223. Vide Bouv. Inst. Index, h. t.; Contribution; Contracts; Suretyship.

See also Suretyship and Surety of the Peace

Jer 42:12-17 – Jeremiah Assures of Safety in Judea and Destruction in Egypt

¹² And I will shew mercies unto you, that he may have mercy upon you, and cause you to return to your own land.

and destruction in Egypt.

¹³ But if ye say, We will not dwell in this land, neither obey the voice of the LORD your God, ¹⁴ Saying, No; but we will go into the land of Egypt, where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor have hunger of bread; and there will we dwell: ¹⁵ And now therefore hear the word of the LORD, ye remnant of Judah; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; If ye wholly set your faces to enter into Egypt, and go to sojourn there; ¹⁶ Then it shall come to pass, that the sword, which ye feared, shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine, whereof ye were afraid, shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there ye shall die. ¹⁷ So shall it be with all the men that set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there; they shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: and none of them shall remain or escape from the evil that I will bring upon them.

Jer 43:12-13 - Johanan Disregards Prophecy, Takes People to Egypt; Jeremiah Warns

¹² And I will kindle a fire in the houses of the gods of Egypt; and he shall burn them, and carry them away captives: and he shall array himself with the land of Egypt, as a shepherd putteth on his garment; and he shall go forth from thence in peace. ¹³ He shall break also the images of Bethshemesh, that is in the land of Egypt; and the houses of the gods of the Egyptians shall he burn with fire.

Matthew 6:19-24 - Store up Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ²² The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. ²³ But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.