

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 43

Chapters forty-three thru forty-five are all one unit, but we read them one chapter at a time. These are some of the most emotional chapters in the entire Genesis account; the story of guilt, shame, forgiveness, reconciliation, restoration, hope and a new beginning for a family that has been torn apart by hidden sin for years and years. Chapter forty-two tells of the beginning years of the great famine God allowed Joseph to predict and prepare for in Egypt. Jacob, now an old man with a broken heart, realizes the famine is worsening and sends his sons with gifts and money to buy food in the only place where there was food, Egypt. The brothers journeyed to Egypt, never dreaming what was about to happen. When they arrived, they stood before Joseph just as in Joseph's early dream. Unrecognizable to them, he spoke roughly to them and accused them of spying in the land. He inquired of their father's welfare and if there were any more brothers? He did this to see how Jacob his father was faring and if Benjamin was alive and healthy. Simeon was taken as a hostage and the other brothers were dismissed to go and come again with Benjamin to prove they were telling the truth. Joseph had their money returned to them and they realized their deeds had caught up with them concerning Joseph, and what they had done to him. Chapter forty-three continues this intriguing story. The famine worsened and Jacob finally relented and allowed Benjamin to go with them back to Egypt, realizing the entire family would die unless they were able to buy more food and provisions. Upon return, Simeon is brought out of prison and freed, Joseph treats them as honored guests in his own private residence and seats them around the table according to

their birth order. The men were perplexed and frightened. Benjamin was honored above his brethren, Joseph's only true, full brother. When Joseph saw his younger brother, he was so overcome with emotion that he had to immediately leave the room to weep loudly. So much did he love Benjamin that he gave Benjamin five times the portions of his brothers.

Prayer and Action Steps

Separation from those we love is almost unbearable, especially when it is due to circumstances we cannot control. Joseph was overwhelmed when he saw his younger brother, realizing the years of joy he had missed with him. Joseph was sent ahead into Egypt to save the life of his family, but that did not take away the emotional pain of separation. Joseph allowed a time of joy with his brothers and reveals his true selfless heart. He wanted to see his brothers happy and blessed despite what they had done to him. Many times, you may wonder, have I truly forgiven someone who has truly hurt and wounded me? There are many evidences in the life of someone who has granted forgiveness to others. One of the surest is to ask yourself, "Do I still want these people to pay? Do I want to see them suffer, hurt and be damned? Do I want them to suffer as they made me suffer?" Those are not the attitudes and thoughts of someone who has truly forgiven someone else. Check your thoughts and attitudes toward those who have hurt you the worst. Vengeance is mine says the LORD. You and I are not wise enough to meet out punishment. Let God have your hurt and pain. Let the person who hurt you be released today. Make the choice again and again to let go. You will be the one freed.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
