

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 44

Genesis forty-four continues the riveting story of Joseph and his brothers and the plan Joseph had to bring his brothers to the point of confession, understanding the plan of God and reconciliation. It seems at the time that Joseph was toying with his brothers, but he was not. Remember Joseph's desire was to see if they were the same treacherous band of brothers that had sold him into slavery or if they had true regret and repentance in their hearts for what they had done.

In the previous chapter, Jacob was persuaded by Judah to bring Jacob's beloved Benjamin back to Egypt with them. Judah had obviously risen to be the leader in every way to his brothers. He alone is talking to his father Jacob about Benjamin, and even goes so far to say, we cannot go back and get more food without Benjamin. Let the young man Benjamin go with me and I will personally guarantee to bring him back and if not, let me be held accountable throughout the generations to come. This was an incredible thing that Judah did, because he was not only putting his name on the line, but that of his lineage after him. Jacob, seeing the urgency of the situation, relents and sends Benjamin with Judah and his brothers. After dining with them and favoring his only full brother Benjamin, Joseph loads their food sacks and sends them back to Canaan to see their father. Joseph ordered his "divination cup" along with grain money be put into Benjamin's sack. After the brothers started back to Canaan, the royal guard arrested them and brought them back to Joseph. Upon their return Joseph immediately says the one in whose sack

that Joseph's cup is found, must die. They found it in Benjamin's sack and the brothers knew all hope was lost.

Immediately Judah begins to intercede for Benjamin to Joseph, and said he could never face his father, and if Benjamin could not return then none would, and their father would go to his grave in grief and broken hearted. Judah could not imagine going to tell his father and watching him die in grief. Sin had taken its toll. Sin makes us pay a higher price than we ever wanted to pay or that we thought we would pay. Repentance is the only hope. The brothers realized the day of reckoning had come. The **next** chapter, chapter forty-five, is a watershed chapter in the story of Joseph and is a source of inspiration and hope to millions since that day in Egypt.

Prayer and Action Steps

Thank God today for His grace, His mercy, and His providence. The words grace, mercy and providence are used lightly by everyone at times, but we should never do that once we understand the magnitude of God's love for us that enacts these Divine virtues on our behalf. Grace is all that God does for us that we do not deserve. Mercy is all that God withholds from us that we do deserve. Providence is the work of God in taking care of us, when we have no idea what He is doing. He sovereignly works His good plan out for us, despite what we or others do to harm us. Praise God that he sees our hearts, just as He did Judah's, and has pity on us as His children and intervenes in the hearts of others.

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? _____
