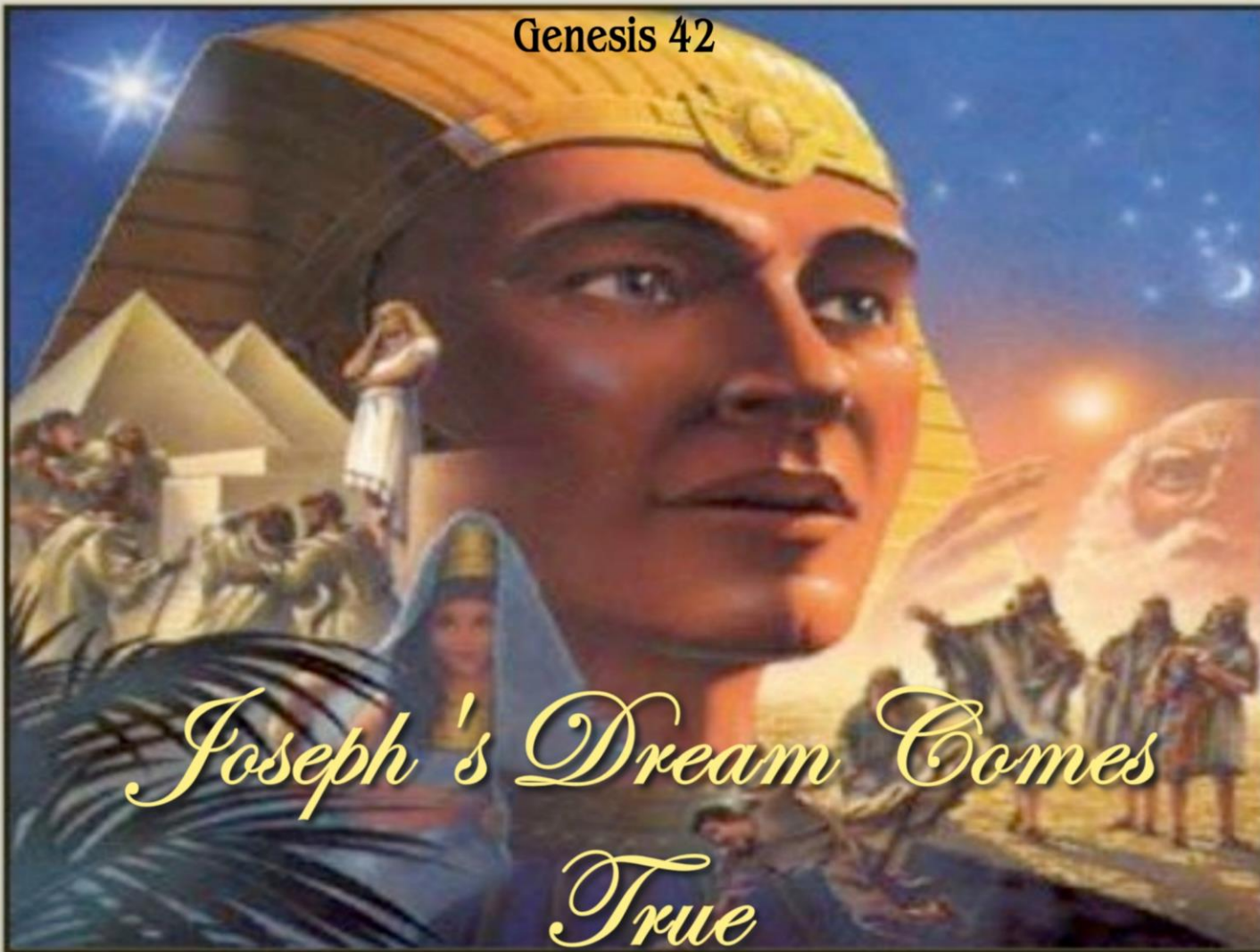


Genesis 42



*Joseph's Dream Comes  
True*

Let's see. Last time we talked, a great famine had started in all the land. People and animals were very hungry, but there was food in Egypt because Joseph stored much of Egypt's food for such a time as this.

The famine reached the land of Canaan. Jacob realized they were running out of food. When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, "it's time for us to do something more than look at one another. I have heard that there is grain in Egypt." So Jacob sent Joseph's ten brothers down to Egypt to buy grain. Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with them. He feared something might happen to him. After losing Joseph, Jacob was very protective of Benjamin.

Now remember that Joseph was governor over the land of Egypt and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth, just as Joseph had dreamed when he was a young boy. Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he acted like a stranger to them and spoke mean to them. In a harsh voice he asked, "Where do you come from?" They said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food."







The brothers did not recognize Joseph. They could not see past the clothes he wore and how important he was. Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed about them. He said to them, "You are spies! You have come to find the weakness of the land!"

The brothers became afraid and said to him, "No my lord. We have come to buy food. We are honest men, not spies." Joseph said to them, "No, you have come to find the weakness of the land." They said, "No, no. We are twelve sons of one man in the land of Canaan and in fact, the youngest is with our father today and one is no more."

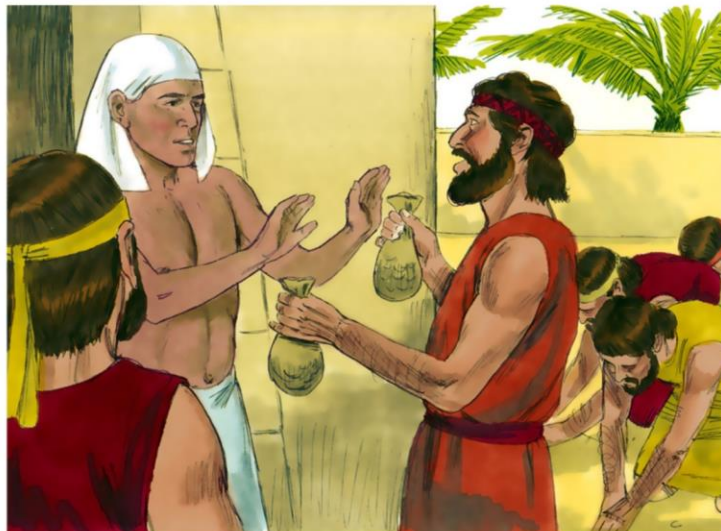
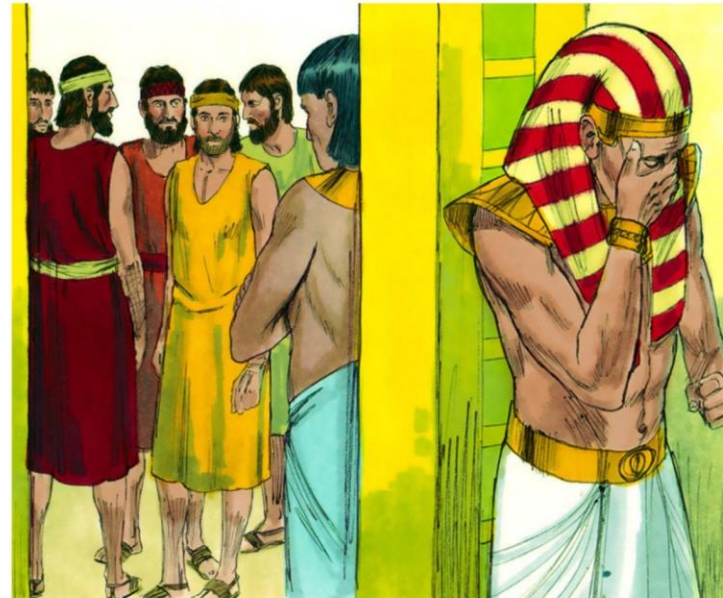
Joseph said to them, "I know you are spies, but I will test you. You shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. One of you will stay here in prison and the others will bring your youngest brother to me. That way your words can be tested to see whether there is any truth in you or it will be known that you are spies!" So he put them all in prison for three days.

Then, on the third day, Joseph said to them, "Because I fear God, I will allow you to buy grain for your people while I test you. If you are honest men, let one of you stay in prison while the rest of you go and carry the grain to the people of your houses. Bring your youngest brother to me so your words can be verified, and you shall all go free."

The brothers said to one another. "This is happening to us because of what we did to Joseph. We saw the hurt in his eyes when he pleaded with us, but we would not hear him. That's why this trouble has come upon us."

Reuben answered them, saying, "I told you not to sin against the boy? But you would not listen. Now is the time to pay for what happened to Joseph." They did not know that Joseph understood them because he had been speaking to them through an interpreter. Joseph turned himself away from them and began to become tearful. When he turned to face them, he talked with them a while longer. Then he took Simeon from them and tied him in front of them.

Joseph commanded his servants to fill the brother's sacks with grain and to secretly give every man his money back and to give them food and water for the journey. So the brothers loaded their donkeys with the grain and started home. On the way, one of the brothers opened his sack to give his donkey feed and he saw his money in the mouth of his sack. He told his brothers what he had found. They became fearful and said to one another, "What has God done to us?"







They quickly returned to Jacob in Canaan and told him everything that had happened to them. They told him, "The governor of the land spoke roughly to us and called us spies. They told Jacob, 'We told him who we were, but he did not believe us. He decided to test us. He made us leave Simeon with him with the understanding that we would bring our youngest brother to him so he can know that we are not spies, but that we are honest men. He promises to give our brother back to us, and give us permission to trade in the land.' "

Then, as they emptied their sacks, they surprisingly found that each man's bundle of money was in his sack and when they saw the money, they became afraid. Jacob said to them, "My heart is hurting. Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, the governor must think we have stolen from him and now you want to take Benjamin from me. All these things are working against me."



Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "Kill my two sons if I fail to bring Benjamin back to you. Please trust me. Give him to me and I will bring him back to you." Jacob said, "No! My son shall not go with you. His big brother is dead and he alone remains from Rachel. If anything should happen to him, I will quickly go to my grave in sorrow!"

I bet you can't guess what happened next. Well, we will have to wait until next time to find out.