

Genesis 43

1,2 They were willing to leave poor Simeon there in jail just like they were willing to sell Joseph. These brothers are sorry but not repentant.

3-6 Suddenly we are calling him Israel again. Is this the turning point as he begins to see he has no choice but to trust God? WHY? Why? why? He has been asking that since the day they returned, I imagine. It probably was like a gnawing conviction reminding them of their sin.

7 Probably the same answer he had heard a dozen times. How could they guess what was really happening. Now all the deceivers are deceived (in a sense not knowing the truth of what was happening) by God not for evil, but for good.

8 Look, we will all die - including Benjamin - if we don't go! Do you think Israel was suspicious of the sons in the supposed death of Joseph?

9 Judah is the lineage that carries the Seed. Here is a hint of substitutionary atonement.

10-14 Finally we hear some resignation to the hand of Providence. Que sera sera. This is a patriarch and one who has wrestled with God and man and prevailed. Where is his faith and confidence in God? Doesn't God bring us all to this place where we must just trust and let go of those things dearest to us. God sent his only Son into the world knowing He would be slain. The gifts did not come before to bribe us but after to bless us.

15-17 Quite different from his previous residence, I imagine.

18 After all, that is what they would do. Are they fearing reaping what they have sown. In the metaphor we come to Christ and fear we will be made slaves and give up our treasures. Yes, we will, and in a sense they will too when they find out how good a master Joseph is. We too willingly submit to servitude when we find out what a loving Master we have.

19-22 Trying to get be sure they aren't ready to be beaten up.

23 Well, in a way that is true. I wonder how Simeon felt about their delayed return. Anything we give up for God, He gives us back in abundance.

24 -26 There goes the dream again.

27,28 Joseph covertly finds out about his father. He should act soon as his father is quite old.

29,30 What a moment! Do you know how glad the LORD will be to have you face to face with Him in the resurrection?

31,32 A clean people, they considered those who herd animals as filthy.

33 Why from accusation to dining with this prince? How did he know the order of their ages?

34 Spoiling the little brother. One day we will feast and drink freely with our LORD.