

**First Southern Baptist Church - 4-21-21**  
**The Final Test - Genesis 44-45**

**Introduction:**

1. Second test... the first was to put the money in people's sacks
2. The purpose... to show their attitude toward their younger brother  
 -almost turning back the wheel of time
3. "If I had it all to do over again..."  
 -repeating the same mistakes over and over  
 -the children of Israel will not go into the Promised Land... so they wander... then are given the chance again

**I. Joseph's Silver Cup (44:1-5)**

1. The youngest (Benjamin)
2. You have returned "evil for good"
3. A divining cup
  - A. Divining?
 

Other forms of divining:

    - cutting cards
    - crystal balls
    - reading palms
    - tea leaves (tasseomancy)
    - a cup of oil or bowl of water (hydromancy)
    - alphabet cereal in a bowl of milk (cereal)
  - B. There is no instance where Joseph did this  
 -but, he does claim the ability at 15
  - C. But... the laws about divining have not been given... just like the laws about having only one wife have not been given

**II. God Forbid! (44:6-13)**

1. The silver cup is missing
2. God forbid
3. Swear (9-10)  
 -thieves don't return money to take it again
4. The search (11)  
 Began with the eldest - the steward deserves an Oscar here (12)
5. They rent their clothes (13)

**III. Before Joseph (44:14-34)**

1. They throw themselves before Joseph (14)  
 -once again, the fulfillment of Joseph's teenage dream
2. Judah - how shall we clear ourselves? (16)
3. God has found out our sin  
 -be not deceived... whatever a man sows he will reap
4. Joseph wants the person with whom they have found the cup to stay in servanthood - Benjamin (17)

- \*note... this is the moment of truth... will they abandon Benjamin? After all Joseph suggests that he only take Benjamin
  - 5. Judah explains (18-34)
    - A. We have a father who is old ...he did not want us to bring Benjamin
      - a vulnerable old father, and a vulnerable youngest brother
    - B. The “Joseph” story comes out
      - a confession? (28)
  - 6. Judah offers to stay as “surety” (32-33)
    - a substitute? For his brother
    - he takes full responsibility before God... thinking only of Jacob and Benjamin... and it touched the heart of Joseph
  - 7. How can I tell my dad? (34) -he will die
- Judah’s speech is a set up for Joseph’s revelation of Himself in 45:3-4

#### **IV. Joseph Revealed (45:1-4)**

1. Judah’s speech (44:18-34) does the trick - “then” he could no longer control himself (1)
  - at 43:31 he is able to “control himself”
  - the self-sacrifice of Judah brought him around
2. Such weeping that the house of Pharaoh heard it (2)
3. Their dead brother is “resurrected” from the dead before their eyes
4. Their reaction? - they are “troubled” or “terrified”
5. He continues to reveal himself by telling of an event that only Joseph would have known - “the one you sold into Egypt” (4)
6. Brothers become Brothers again
7. Is my dad still alive? (3)

#### **V. Joseph Explains (45:5-8)**

1. Don’t be angry with yourselves
2. God sent me ahead of you (5,7) - He sees the bigger picture, values bigger
3. Death and bondage of Joseph translates to salvation for the family of Israel
4. God has power to transform human misery into wonder and salvation
  - like Noah on the ark, God is using him to keep them alive
  - he saves the world from starvation
  - he is a “savior”
5. Here is the outcome of the trial!
6. Our challenge is to accept the knowledge, and working of God even though our thoughts are not His thoughts - Is. 55:8-9
7. He denies that they are responsible, it was God’s doing for a purpose beyond their jealousy (8)
  - he does not absolve their guilt, but looks for a higher purpose (James 1:2-3, 12; 1 Pet. 1:6-7)
  - to see God involved in all things... good and evil, makes it easier for us to forgive others
8. God’s involvement in Joseph’s life:
  - the dungeon?
  - the selling into slavery?

9. Satan may not do anything until he gets permission from God
  - testing of Job
  - demons into the herd of swine
  - Satan has “desired” to have you (to Peter)
10. Do not fear Satan,... God is working out His plans through him
11. God works all things together for the good of those who love Him - Rom.8:28

## VI. Joseph Instructs (45:9-13)

1. Go get our dad
  - don't delay
2. You will live in Goshen (10)
  - the idea that they needed “territory” shows how big the family and flocks of Jacob have become (God is “blessing”)
  - Goshen has not been formally assigned by Pharaoh... this shows Joseph's advanced planning
3. I will provide for you here, because five years of famine are still to come
  - consider... God provides for them within the evil nation of Egypt. In the same way that God provides for us, by the evil means of the cross.
  - consider... Paul was imprisoned, so he could write your New Testament. While in prison, he was protected from those who would take his life.
4. He can do this because he is:
  - a father to Pharaoh (8)
  - lord of all Egypt (9)
5. “There I will nourish you” - the place of nourishment is near our savior

## VII. Weeping (45:14-15)

1. Brothers “talked” (15) - still a bit cautious
  - at 50:15-18, when Jacob dies they reveal their fear
2. Benjamin “weep” (14)
3. How could he “kiss” and forgive these brothers who had “despitefully used him?”

## VIII. Pharaoh Instructs Joseph (45:16-24)

1. Take wagons
2. Retrieve your dad
3. Take of the land
4. Gifts
  - All the brothers - a change of raiment
  - Benjamin (brother)
    - 300 pieces of silver
    - five servings of food (there are five remaining years of famine) (43:34)
    - five changes of raiment (22)
  - Jacob (father)
    - ten asses with the good things of Egypt (when they first came to Egypt, they sought grain - ten of them)
    - ten she asses with corn

**IX. Jacob Receives News (45:25-28)**

1. They told dad  
    His heart fainted
2. Joseph's message related  
    His heart revived
3. "It is enough"

**Introduction**

1. Joseph is a symbol/ type of our savior - Jesus
2. Note Joseph's character:
  - his forgiveness
  - his watch care of his family
  - trusted his brothers?
3. The hand of God, behind the hand of man
4. Joseph is an Egyptian-Israelite - the perfect mediator
5. Substitutionary Atonement
  - Moses said "blot me out of thy book" - Ex. 32:32
  - Paul said "I could wish myself accursed" - Rom. 9:1-3