



The Greater Test

Oct 9

INTRODUCTION: Favoured child, slave, prisoner and now Prime Minister. God exalted the humble and had fulfilled Joseph's dreams. Now, Joseph is God's tool to test and humble his brothers. The story is racing towards God's plan in it all.

REVIEW: [Genesis, pt. II](#) (be cautious with other videos)

KEY POINT: providence, confession, selfless, substitute, peace

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Gen 42, Guilty Consciences)

- Why do the brothers have to go down to Egypt?
- How is God's timing perfect?
- How does Joseph seek to awaken their consciences?
- What is our conscience? How does it work?
- What alone can cleanse a guilty conscience?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Gen 43, Tested for Truth)

- How is Joseph an example of godly wisdom and leadership?
- How was Jacob/Israel tested?
- How was Joseph testing his brothers?

READ: Gen 44

QUESTIONS:

1. *Joseph's brothers have come for food twice. They have been tested concerning their honesty. Now Joseph tests one more thing.*
2. V.1- What was the return of their money meant to convey?
3. **How happy do you think they were to finally be away?**
4. *Vv. 2—4- Again, to test and awaken, Joseph plants his cup and then sends his steward. **Why?** (V. 3—4).*
5. *In v. 5 and again in v. 15 divination is mentioned. Divination is a means by which to gain secret knowledge. Forbidden in the Law (Dt 18:9—12), it was a common Egyptian practice but probably a ruse. **Why are people interested in this today rather than God?***
6. **From His position of power and authority, how is Joseph a picture of God's providence?**

7. **Like Joseph's claim, how should God's omniscience cause us to live?**
8. How do the brothers protest their innocence? So convinced of their innocence what do they [foolishly] swear? (Ironically, this is exactly what they meted out to Joseph).
9. *They all return to Joseph's house.*
10. *V.15- Joseph's ruse to be all knowing is again used to awaken their consciences and really test his brothers.*
11. **V.16- What guilt is Judah referring to? From Ch. 37:26 and ch.38, what sort of character was Judah?**
12. Known already, what encouragement do we have to confess (agree with God about) our sins, bringing them into the light?
13. V.17- Joseph would not take them all, only Benjamin. **Why was this so devastating?**
14. *What follows is one of the longest speeches in Genesis. Judah is respectful and recounts their interchanges as part of his plea. Judah had pledged surety (43:9) and is willing to be Benjamin's substitute. **How do we see Judah's selfless attitude?***
15. *V.33- Substitution is a key biblical theme (Lev 17:11; Heb 9:26, 28). **As debtors to God why is our only hope Jesus' substitutionary death if we are to go free?***
16. *Remember, Joseph was testing his brothers, he was awakening their consciences to see if they bore true remorse. **Read these verses about remorse (Isa 66:2b; Mt 3:8). Why will true remorse always lead to true repentance and true repentance to actions/fruit?***
17. **When they spurned Joseph as Jacob's favourite son, how now is it interesting that Judah should be so interested in Benjamin?**
18. **These tryings seem to have caused the earlier envy and hatred to be turned into what?**
19. **Speaking of our Christian community, how is peace and unity the marks of conversion? (Read Eph 4:25, 31—32). How can their presence/absence hinder/help corporate spiritual growth?**
20. *Knowing the sincerity of their confession prepares us for ch. 45.*

NEXT WEEK: Oct 16- Joseph and the Famine, Genesis 47