Reconciliation – Second Journey
PART I
Genesis 43

Main Thought In their second journey toward reconciliation, all eleven brothers bow down to Joseph (Phil. 2:10-11).

In Canaan – Family Negotiations (1-14).

- As Joseph was absolute ruler in Egypt, so Jacob in Canaan. He not only sends his sons back to Egypt but will agree to go himself (45:28).
- Judah, forceful but respectful, insists that Benjamin go with them to redeem Simeon. Judah (4th born) is now the leader (49:8-10; Matt. 1:2, 17).
- Israel (Jacob) must have been curious why the man (Joseph) asked such detailed questions about the family and was upset they told so much.
- Judah all but insists by offering himself as surety (unlike Reuben who offered his sons) for the boy’s (22 yrs. old) safe return. Delay is not an option.
- “If it must be” (11) is Jacob resigning himself to God Almighty’s mercy. “It I am bereaved, I am bereaved” (Est. 4:16).
- They prepare gifts to demonstrate respect – balm (37:25), honey (prized sweetener – Psa. 19:10), spices, myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds. They also will return the silver found returned in their sacks. “Perhaps it was a mistake” shows Jacob’s doubt in their story.

In Egypt – Feasting with Joseph (15-34).

- They follow Israel’s instructions precisely. Joseph instructed they be brought to his house for a feast at noon.
- It frightened them. Why were they being singled from the others? They make full and truthful CONFESSION to the steward. He assures them with SHALOM (“it’s all right” – 23). This forms the basis for their new relationship with Joseph and ours with Christ (Rom. 5:8; 1 John 1:9).
- Joseph’s steward shows respect for their God who was blessing them with the silver. In return, he returns Simeon to them. He prepares them for their feast with Joseph by washing them (John 13:8).
- They presented their gifts to him and all 11 brothers bow down before him (Rev. 4:10) in fulfillment of his previous dreams.
- Joseph asks about the family’s “well being” (HEB-shalom - 3x).
- Joseph acknowledges his full brother Benjamin and blesses him.
- “Deeply moved” (John 11:33, 38), Joseph quickly leaves the room. He cannot contain his emotions as he breaks down weeping.
- Washing his face and controlling himself, he returns to eat but by himself. Astonishingly, he has seated his brothers according to age (how did he know?) and gave Benjamin five times as much food to further test their jealousy.
- Those who CONFESS will feast with Christ in heaven (Rev. 19:7-10).