

## GENESIS 43; February 12; Joseph's Brothers Return

### ANALYSIS:

1. What factors forced Jacob to send Benjamin with his brothers to Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What three things did Jacob send to “the man” over Egypt?  
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3. When Joseph saw Benjamin with his brothers, what order did he give to the ruler of his house? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What fears did the brothers voice as they stood in Joseph's house?  
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5. What seating arrangement surprised the brothers at their table in Joseph's house?  
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### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Jacob had used gifts of appeasement many years before to effect reconciliation with his brother (32:4-5; 33:3-11). Now he hopes a present will favorably influence “the man” in Egypt whose word will determine the destiny of his sons. He creates the most elaborate “present” possible in his famine desolated country. However, note Jacob's blessing on his sons as they depart for Egypt: “And God Almighty give you mercy before the man...” (v 14). He was trusting the LORD above the present! Where is our trust?

There is a place for honest and sincere gifts, but a bribe is never right. A carefully selected and presented gift may open a door and bring you “before great men” (Pro 18:16) for an interview. “A gift in secret pacifieth anger” (Pro 21:14), and may restore a relationship you damaged by some offense. Use only with prayer and trust in the LORD.

### HELP:

1. The famine was sore so they needed more food to survive, and Judah explained that “the man” in Egypt would not see them if they did not bring their youngest brother (vs 1, 3).

2. (1) A present of balm, honey, spices, myrrh, nuts & almonds, (2) double money, (3) Benjamin (v 11-13).

3. Bring these men home, slay, make ready, these men shall dine with me at noon (v 16).

4. This is happening because of the money in our sacks, he seeks occasion against us, to fall upon us, to take us as bondsmen and our asses (v 18).

5. They were seated according to birth order, firstborn to youngest (v 33).