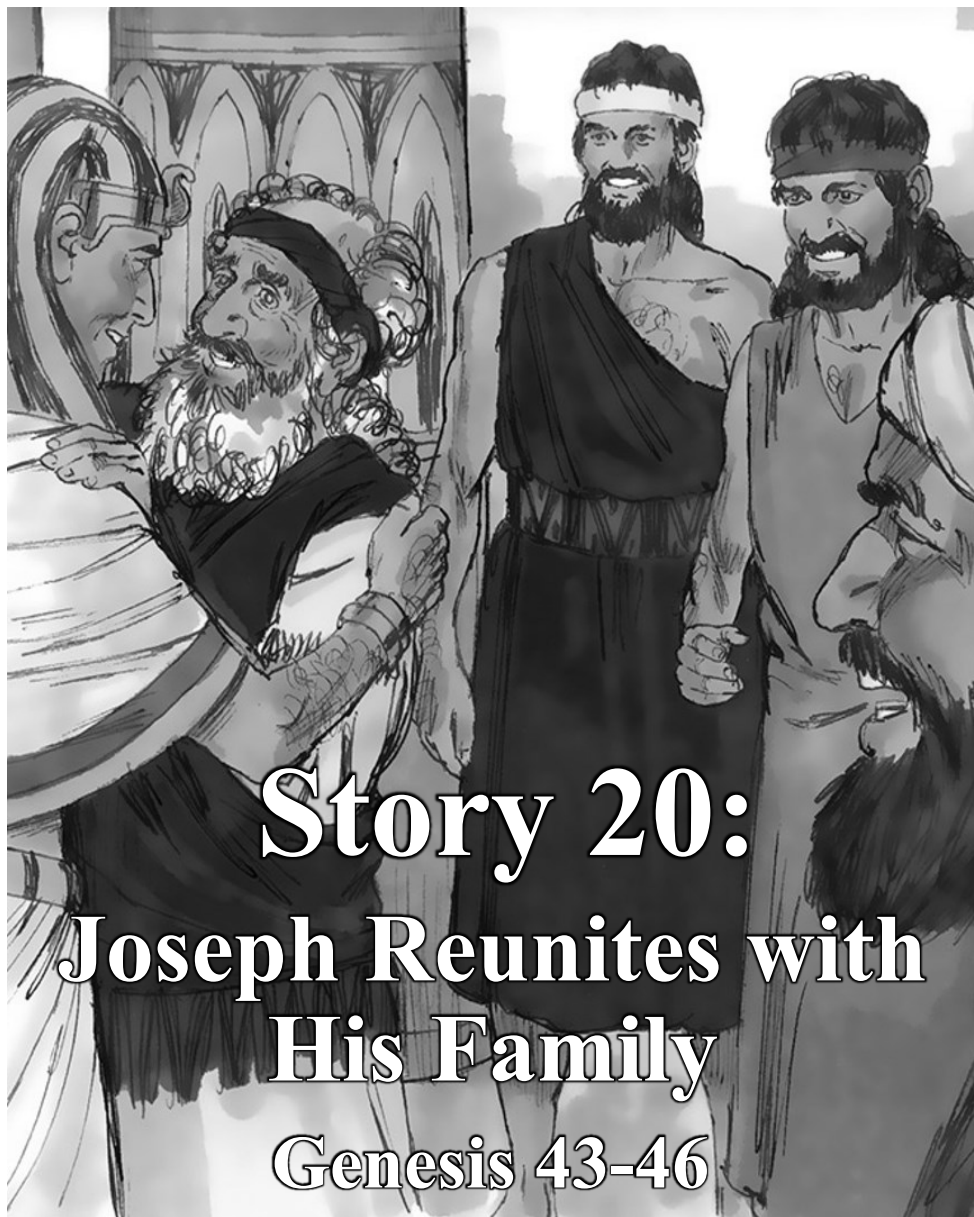


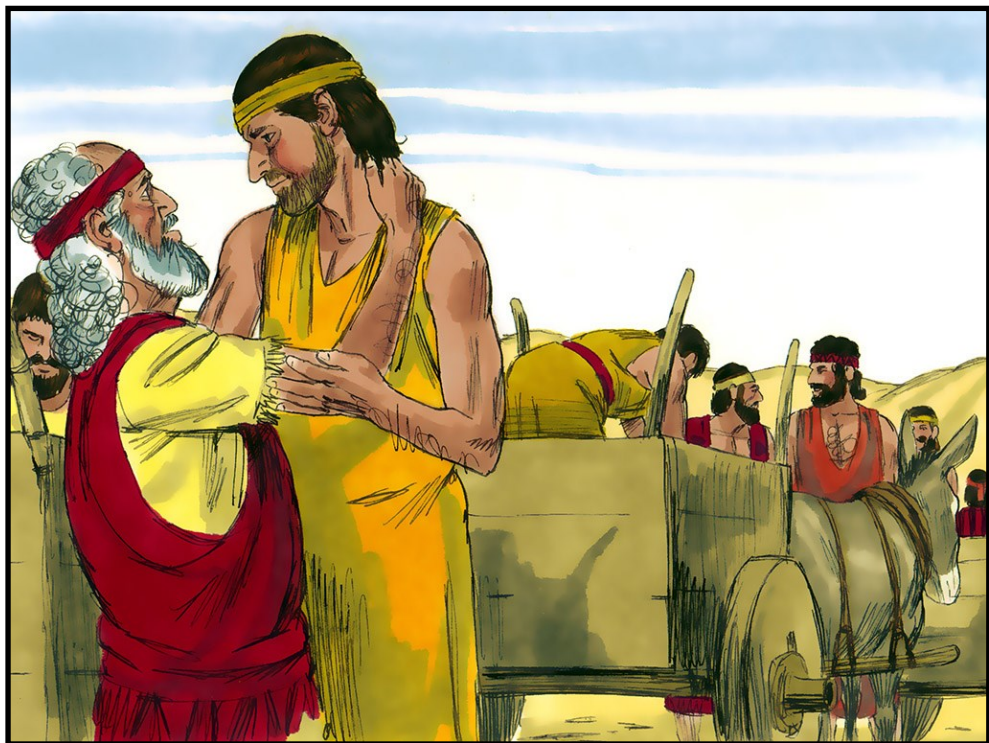
Story 20:
Joseph Reunites with
His Family
Genesis 43-46



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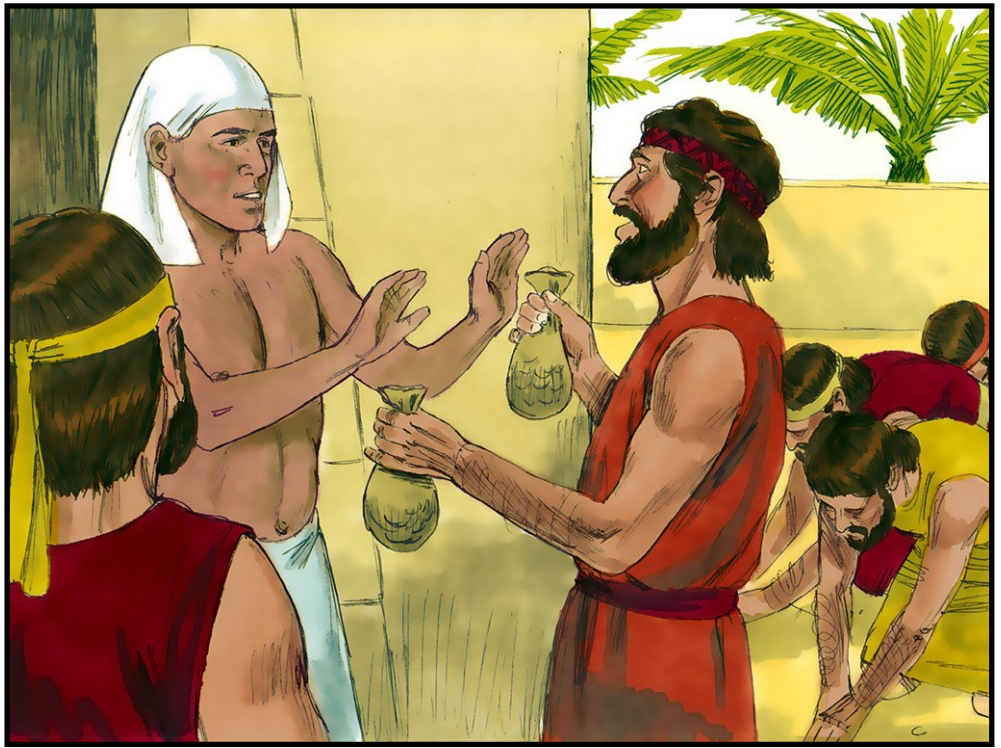
Joseph Reunites with His Family

Genesis 43-46



The seven years of famine continued to rage on in the land. When Jacob's family had used up the grain that they bought from Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Go back and buy more food."

But, Judah replied, "We cannot go without Benjamin. The man in charge of the food told us, 'You will not see me again unless your brother comes with you.' Father, please listen. Send Benjamin with me. I will be responsible for him."



Jacob replied, “If you must go to Egypt, make sure that you return the silver that was found in your bags when you arrived home.”

When they went to Egypt, Joseph saw that his brothers had brought Benjamin, so he invited them to dinner at his house. The brothers were afraid and tried to give back the money from their bags. But, Joseph’s servant said, “I already received your silver. Your God must have put it back in your bag.”

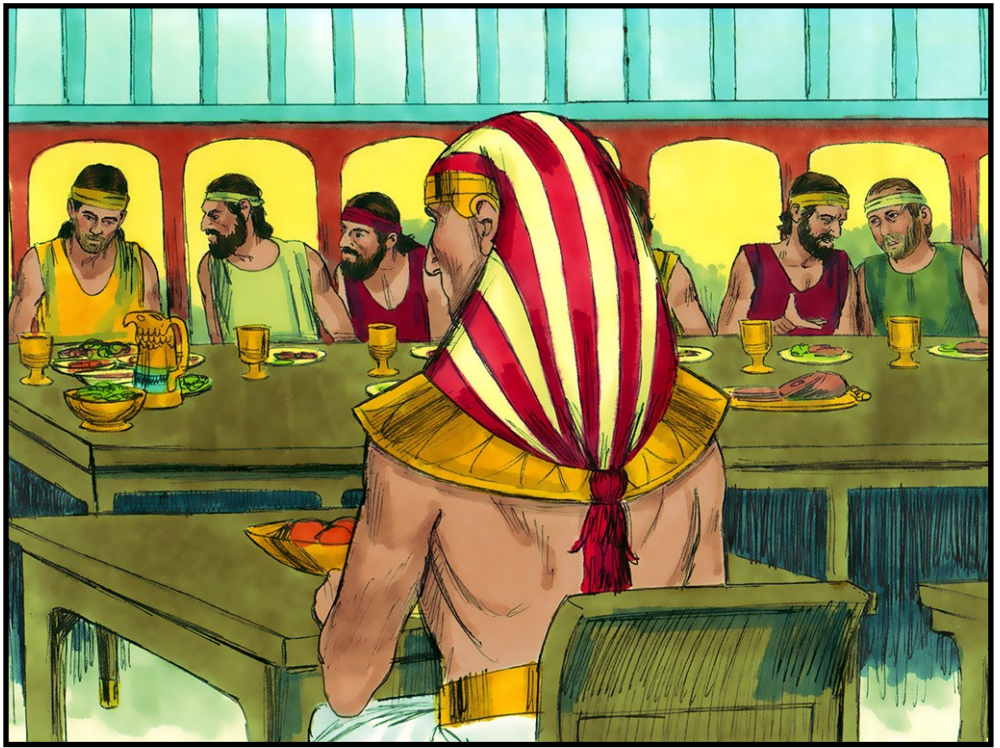


Then, a servant returned with their brother Simeon who had been in prison. The servant led all of them to Joseph's house. When Joseph arrived, they bowed down and presented him with gifts.

Joseph asked, "How is your father? Is he still alive?"

They responded, "Yes, he is well."

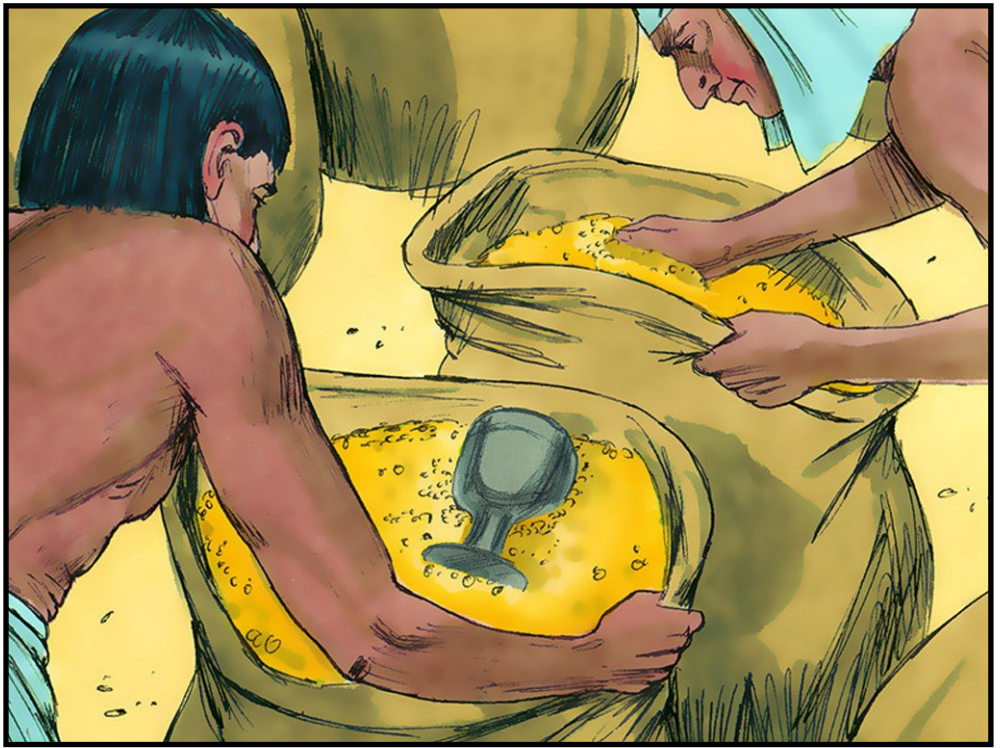
Then, Joseph saw his youngest brother Benjamin, and he was overcome with emotion. He left them and went into another room to cry.



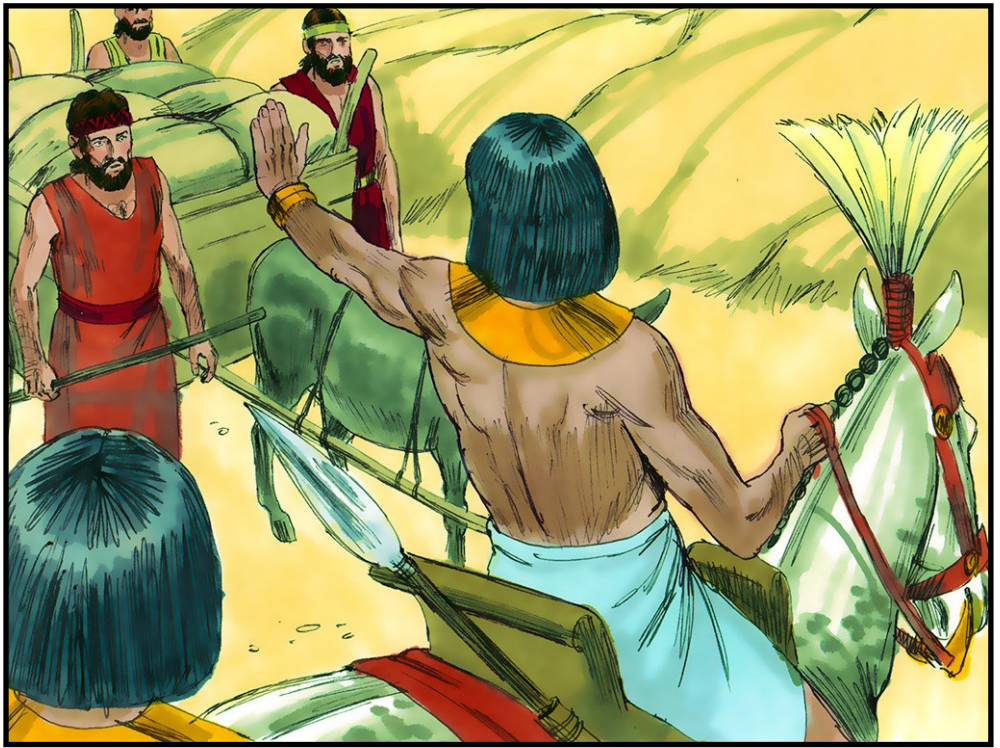
When he had regained his composure, he washed his face, and came back out. Then, he told his servants to begin serving the meal.

Joseph sat all by himself because Egyptians do not eat with Hebrews, and he was still pretending to be an Egyptian.

His brothers sat in the order of their age. When they were served their food, Benjamin received five times as much as any of the other brothers.

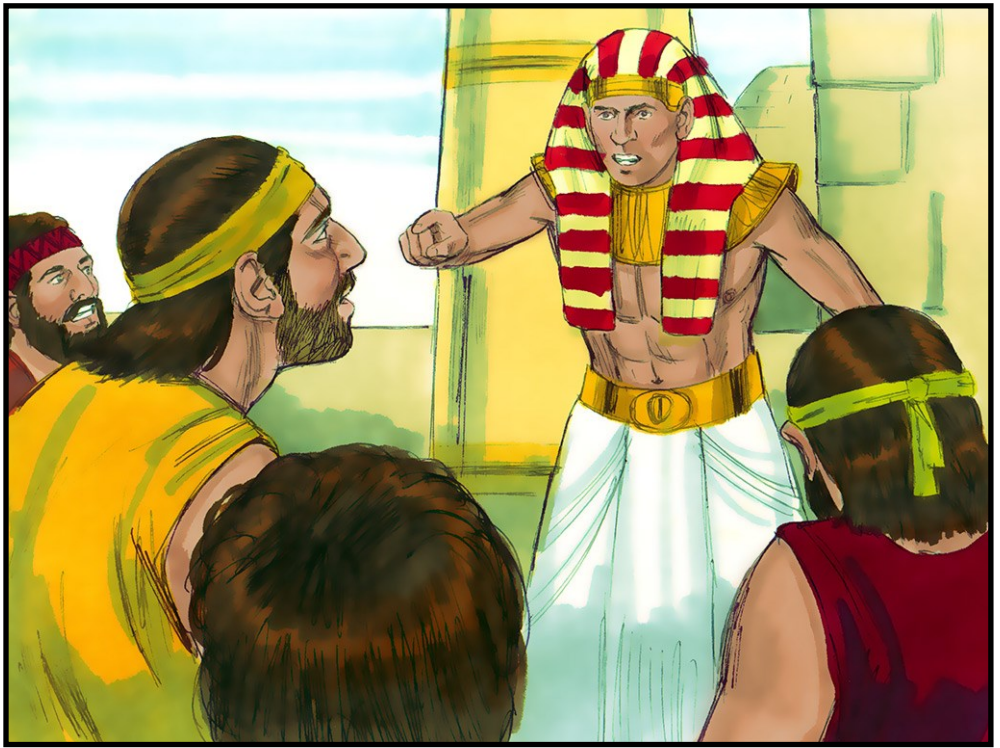


After the meal, Joseph commanded his servant saying, “Fill the men’s bags with as much food as they can carry. Put the silver that they used to buy the food back in the top of their sack as you did before. Then, take my silver cup and put it at the top of the youngest brother’s bag along with the silver for his grain.”



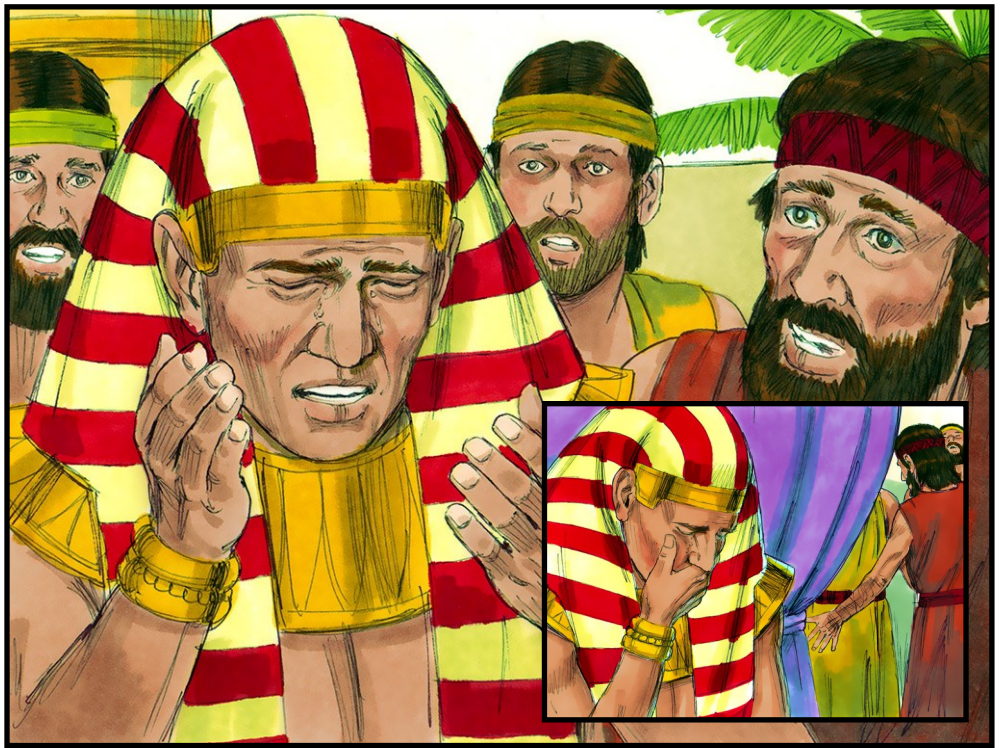
At dawn the following morning, the men left with their donkeys. They had not gone very far when Joseph told his servant, “Go after them. When you catch up to them say, ‘Why have you done evil and stolen my master’s silver cup?’”

When he did this, the brothers replied, “How could we steal from your master? If the cup is found in any of our bags, that brother must die and the rest of us will become your master’s slaves.



Joseph's servant began searching their bags starting with oldest and ending with the youngest. And, he found the cup in Benjamin's bag. In their sorrow, the brother's tore their clothes and returned to Joseph's house.

When they arrived, Joseph told them, "I will not punish you all, but the brother whose bag that the cup was found must become my slave."



Judah pleaded, “Please take my life in place of the boy! Our father loves our youngest brother so much that if he hears that something has happened to him, he will die.

Joseph could no longer hold back the tears. He told all his servants to leave immediately. Only his brothers remained. But, he wept so loudly that his servants and the servants of Pharaoh heard it.

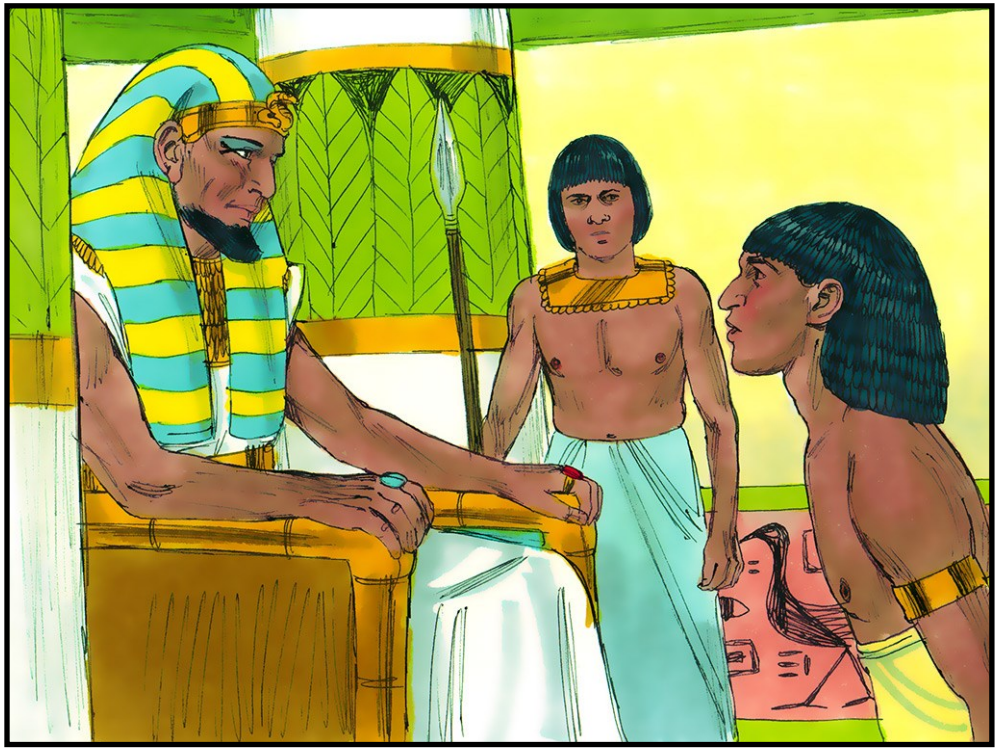


He finally spoke saying, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But, his brothers were terrified and unable to answer him.

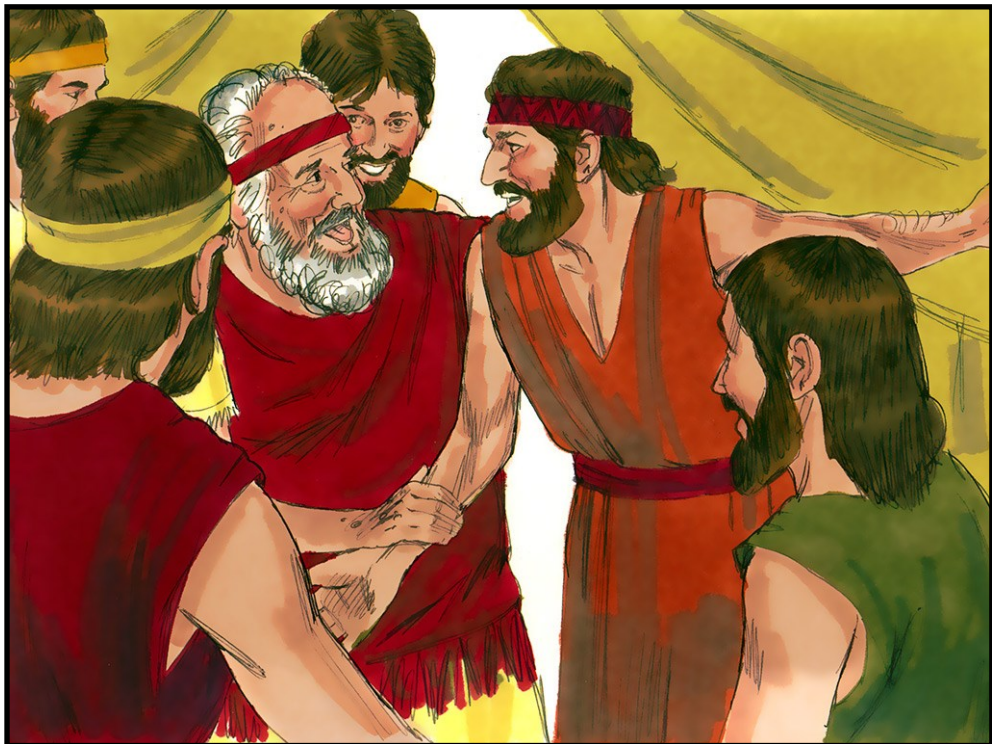
He told them, “Though you sold me into slavery, God had his hand on my life. He sent me here so that I could help keep you and your families alive during the famine. God has made me an adviser to Pharaoh and ruler over the land of Egypt.”



Then, Joseph threw his arms around his brother Benjamin. They embraced and wept together. Then he kissed each of his brothers on the cheek and said, “Return quickly to my father and tell him that I have become lord of all Egypt. Tell him to come down to me as soon as possible. He must bring his children, grandchildren, flocks and herds. This famine has been raging for only two years and will continue on for another five.

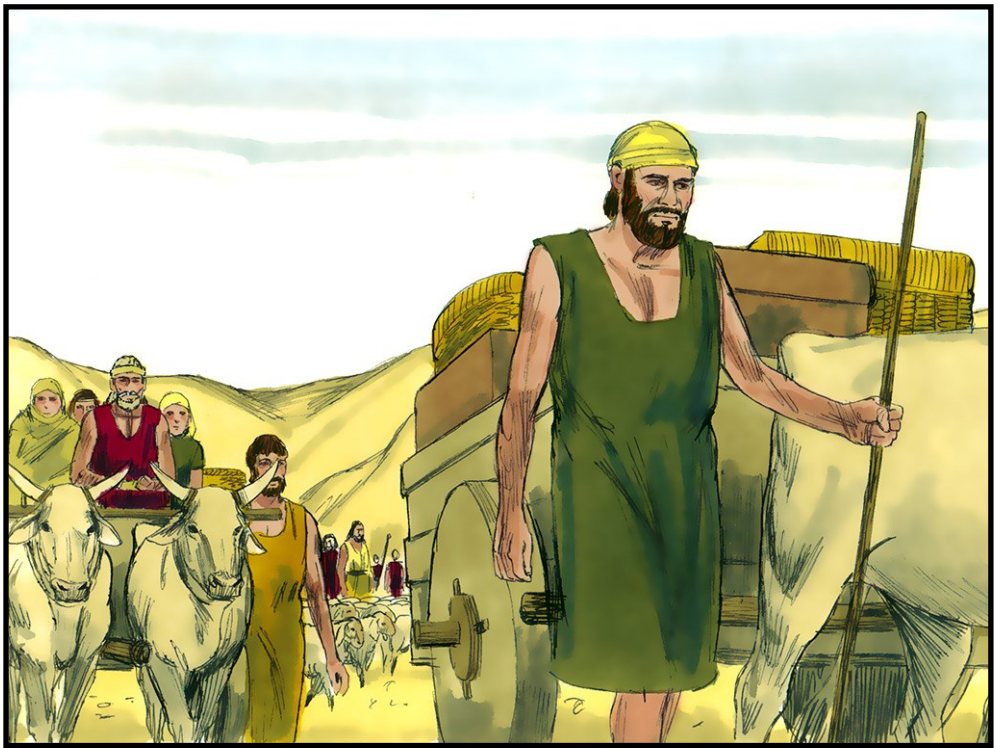


The news reached Pharaoh that Joseph's brothers had come to Egypt. This pleased him and all of his servants. He said to Joseph, "Go, bring your father and all of your family here. I will give you the best of the land for them to live.



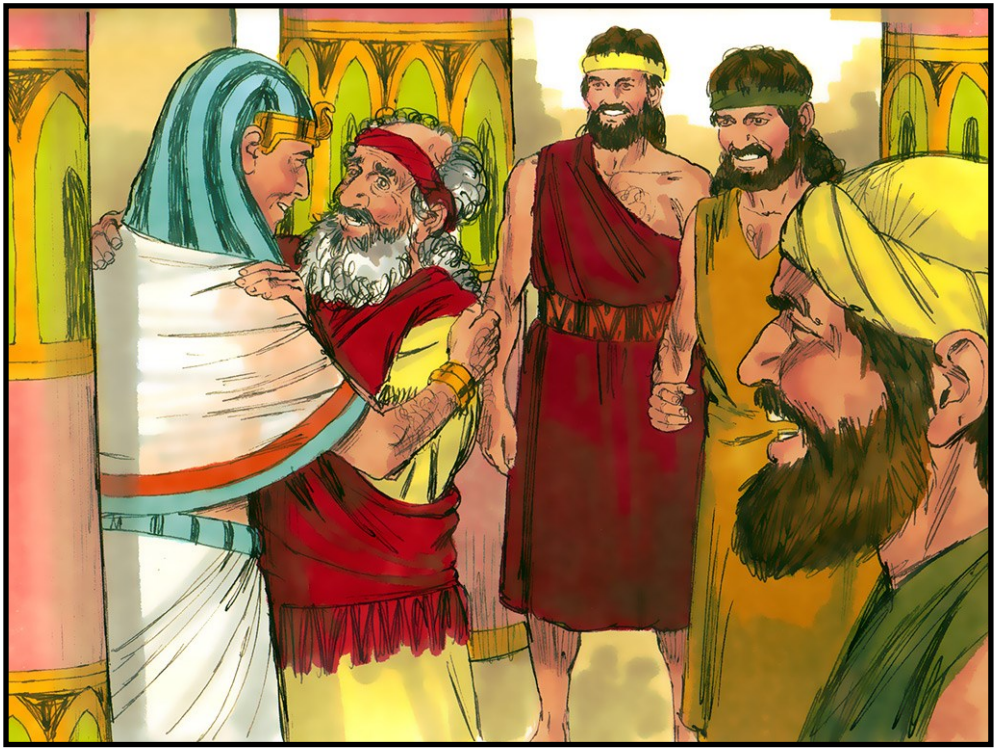
Joseph's brothers returned to their father and said, "Our brother is alive! Joseph is ruling over the land of Egypt."

At first, Jacob did not believe them. But when he heard the things Joseph had said and when he saw the wagons waiting to take him to Egypt, he said, "It must be true! My son is alive! I must go to him."



So Jacob set out with all that he had—his children, grandchildren, and all his flocks and herds.

When he came to Beer-sheba he stopped and offered sacrifices to God. God spoke to him there in a vision saying, “Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt. I will surely make you into a great nation there. And your son Joseph will be beside you when you die.”



When Jacob arrived in Egypt, he embraced Joseph and said, “I can finally die in peace because you are alive and I have seen your face!”



Pharaoh was very kind to Jacob. He allowed his family, all seventy of them, to settle in a region of Egypt called Goshen.

When it came time for Jacob to die, he called Joseph and blessed his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh. He gave his family instructions to bury him in the cave near Mamre where Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Rebekah were buried. Jacob had lived in Goshen for seventeen years when he died.

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