

Study Notes and Questions for Genesis 42 and 43

Chapter 42

- As chapter 42 opens, we see a momentary shift of the scene from Egypt to where?
- What does Jacob's comment in **verse 1** suggest about his son's unwillingness to consider a journey to Egypt?
- What position had Joseph been given in the land and what do we see him doing in this chapter with his position?
- In what way are Joseph's dreams as a young man fulfilled in this chapter?
- Why do you think Joseph keeps his identity a secret from his brothers?
- What is the purpose of Joseph's questions and accusations against his brothers?
- In **verses 21 and 22** Joseph overhears his brothers speaking of their guilt. Describe in your own words what is happening in their hearts.
- How did Joseph's brothers react when they found their money in their sacks and what does that tell you about what they were feeling?
- Although Joseph seems stern with his brothers, where do you see acts of mercy and compassion?

Chapter 43

- In this chapter, how do you see God using the famine to fulfill His plan?
- What concession is Jacob forced to make in this chapter to get food for his family?
- Why was Benjamin so special to Jacob?
- What were Joseph's brothers thinking when they were brought into Joseph's home?
- What did Joseph's steward tell them about their money and how are his words a reflection of God's grace?
- What do Joseph's emotional responses toward his brothers tell you about his character?
- Why were Joseph's brothers amazed when they sat down to eat?
- Why do you think Joseph gave Benjamin five times more than his other brothers?
- In what ways would you consider Joseph to be a foreshadowing of Jesus?