

Study Notes and Questions for Genesis 44, 45 and 46

Chapter 44

- In **verses 1 and 2** what does Joseph direct his steward to do?
- How are Joseph's actions meant to test his brother's concern for Benjamin?
- How many opportunities were Joseph's brothers given in this chapter to abandon Benjamin?
- What was their response in **verse 13**?
- What does Judah admit on behalf of his brothers in **verse 16**?
- Describe Judah's impassioned speech (vs. 18-34) in your own words.

Chapter 45

- Why do you think Joseph finally felt free to reveal his identity to his brothers?
- How did his brothers respond when Joseph revealed himself?
- What is Joseph saying in **verses 5 thru 8** and what does his explanation reveal about his new perspective of all that had happened to him over the past several years?
- In the study, Pastor Paul spoke of "circumstantial Christians" meaning Christians who allow their circumstances to dictate their view of God and whether or not God loves them. Describe how Joseph may have felt had he allowed himself to be a circumstantial Christian.
- What instructions does Joseph give his brothers about the journey home?

Chapter 46

- As Jacob began to make his way to Egypt what did he stop to do at Beersheba?
- What is the significance of the Lord appearing to Jacob in a vision at Beersheba?
- What did the Lord mean when He told Jacob, "Joseph's hand shall close your eyes"?
- What was the significance of Joseph telling his brothers that they were to tell Pharaoh that they were shepherds?
- Why was it important for the sons of Israel to retain their Jewish culture and heritage while living in Egypt?