

Genesis 42 keywords and shape

When Jacob learned that there was **grain** in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you keep looking at one another? I have heard," he said, "behold, that there is **grain** in Egypt; go down and **buy grain** for us there, that we may live and not die." So ten of **Joseph's brothers** went down to **buy grain** in Egypt. But Jacob did not send **Joseph's brother** Benjamin with his **brothers**, for he feared that harm might come to him.

Thus the sons of Israel were among the other people who came **to buy grain**, for the famine had reached the **land** of Canaan.

Now **Joseph** was governor over the **land**; it was he who **sold grain** to all the people of the **land**. And **Joseph's brothers** came and bowed themselves before him with their noses to the ground. When **Joseph** saw his **brothers**, he became like a stranger to them and spoke harshly to them. "Where do you come from?" he said. They said, "From the **land** of Canaan, to buy food." Although **Joseph** had recognized his **brothers**, they did not recognize him. **Joseph** also remembered the dreams that he had dreamed about them.

He said to them, "**You are spies**;

you have come to see **the nakedness of the land!**" They said to him, "No, my lord; your slaves have come to buy food. We are **all sons of one man**; we are **honest**; your slaves have never been spies."

But he said to them, "No, you have come to see **the nakedness of the land!**" They said, "We, your slaves, are twelve **brothers**, the **sons of one man** in the **land** of Canaan; the **youngest**, behold, is today with our father, and **one** is no more."

But **Joseph** said to them, "It is just as I have said to you; **you are spies!**

Here is how you shall be tested: as Pharaoh lives, you shall not leave this place unless your **youngest brother** comes here! Let **one** of you go and bring your **brother**, while the rest of you remain in prison, in order that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you; or else, as Pharaoh lives, surely you are spies."

And he gathered them all together in prison for three days.

On the third day **Joseph** said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God: if you are **honest**, let **one** of your **brothers** stay here where you are imprisoned. The rest of you shall go and carry **grain** for the famine of your households and bring your **youngest brother** to me. Thus your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they agreed to do so.

And said man to his brother, "Alas, we are paying the penalty for what we did to our **brother**; we saw his anguish when he pleaded with us, but **we would not listen**. That is why this anguish has come upon us." Then Reuben answered them, "Did I not tell you not to wrong the boy? But **you would not listen**. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood." They did not know that **Joseph was listening** to them, since he spoke with them through an interpreter. He turned away from them and wept; then he returned and spoke to them. And he took Simeon and had him bound before their eyes.

Joseph then gave orders to fill their bags with grain, to return every man's **silver** to his sack, and to give them provisions for their journey. This was done for them. They loaded their donkeys with their **grain** and departed. When **one** of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his **silver** at the mouth of the sack. He said to his **brothers**, "My **silver** has been put back; behold, it is in my sack!" At this they lost heart and turned trembling to one another, saying, "What is this that God has done to us?"

When they came to their father Jacob in the **land** of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying, "The man, the lord of the **land**, spoke harshly to us, and charged us with spying on the **land**. But we said to him, 'We are **honest**, we are not spies. We are twelve **brothers**, sons of our father; **one** is no more, and the **youngest** is now with our father in the **land** of Canaan.' Then the man, the lord of the **land**, said to us, 'By this I shall know that you are **honest**: leave **one** of your **brothers** with me, take **grain** for the famine of your households, and go your way. Bring your **youngest brother** to me, and I shall know that you are not spies but **honest**. Then I will release your **brother** to you, and you may travel in the **land**.'" As they were emptying their sacks, behold, in each one's sack was his bag of **silver**. When they and their father saw their bundles of **silver**, they were afraid. And their father Jacob said to them, "I am the one you have bereaved of children: **Joseph** is no more, and Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin. All this has happened to me!" Then Reuben said to his father, "You may kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you. Put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you." But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his **brother** is dead, and he alone is left. If harm should come to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol."