

Story 9. Joseph's Brothers Return to Egypt
Genesis 43:1-14

Backgrounds/Overlays (For scene one/in order used)



W/S



W



M15A



M15S

Figures (in order used)



D2

D19B

D23B

D22



D20A

D24

We are not told how long the grain the brothers purchased in Egypt lasted; certainly Jacob made it last as long as he could. But when the food is finally gone Jacob's refusal to let Benjamin go is once again put to the test. Only this time it is not Reuben but Judah who forces his father to face reality. When Jacob demands to know why they told the ruler they even had a younger brother, we learn more about their conversation with Joseph.



When Jacob is finally forced to allow Benjamin to go along he gives his sons some wise counsel about how to approach the difficult Egyptian ruler. So the story begins.

Now the famine in the land of Canaan was severe.  And when the family had eaten all the grain that

Joseph's brothers had brought from Egypt, their father Jacob said to them,  "Go back to Egypt and buy us a little food." 

But Judah said to his father, "The man sternly warned us, saying, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.' If you will send Benjamin with us, we will go down and buy you some food. But if you won't send him, we won't go down, for the man told us, 'You will not see my face, unless your brother is with you.'"

And Israel said, "How can you treat me this way—why did you even tell the man that you had another brother?"

The brothers replied,  "The man asked us specific questions—questions about ourselves and our family, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?'  We simply answered the questions he

asked us. How could we possibly know he would say, 'Bring your brother down here?'"

Then Judah said to Israel his father, “Send the boy with me, and we’ll get prepared and go, so we and you and our little ones can live and not die. I give you my word—I will keep Benjamin safe. You can hold me completely responsible. If I don’t bring Benjamin back to you and put him right here in front of you—I will bear the blame forever. If we hadn’t waited so long—we could have gone and returned twice already!”

Then their father Israel said to them, “If it has to be this way—at least do this—take some of the best products from the land along with you in your sacks. Prepare a present for the man and take it down to him when you go—a little balm and a little honey, some gum, myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds. And take twice as much money as you did before. And return the money you found in your sacks last time—perhaps it was a mistake.



Take Benjamin with you—get prepared and go back to the man. And may God Almighty grant you mercy when you stand before him—so he will send Simeon and Benjamin back with you. As for me if I lose my children—I lose my children.”