

Genesis 44

Chapter 44

¹ **A**ND he commanded the steward of his house, saying, Fill the men's sacks *with* food, as much as they can carry, and put every man's money in his sack's mouth.

² And put my cup, the silver cup, in the sack's mouth of the youngest, and his corn money. And he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken.

³ As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their asses.

⁴ *And* when they were gone out of the city, *and* not *yet* far off, Joseph said unto his steward, Up, follow after the men; and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good?

⁵ *Is* not this *it* in which my lord drinketh, and whereby indeed he divineth? ye have done evil in so doing.

⁶ ¶ And he overtook them, and he spake unto them these same words.

⁷ And they said unto him, Wherefore saith my lord these words? God forbid that thy servants should do according to this thing:

⁸ Behold, the money, which we found in our sacks' mouths, we brought again unto thee out of the land of Canaan: how then should we steal out of thy lord's house silver or gold?

⁹ With whomsoever of thy servants it be found, both let him die, and we also will be my lord's bondmen.

¹⁰ And he said, Now also *let it be* according unto your words: he with whom it is found shall be my servant; and ye shall be blameless.

¹¹ Then they speedily took down every man his sack to the ground, and opened every man his sack.

¹² And he searched, *and* began at the eldest, and left at the youngest: and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

¹³ Then they rent their clothes, and laded every man his ass, and returned to the city.

¹⁴ ¶ And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house; for he *was* yet there: and they fell before him on the ground.

¹⁵ And Joseph said unto them, What deed *is* this that ye have done? wot ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine?

¹⁶ And Judah said, What shall we say unto my lord? what shall we speak? or how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants: behold, we *are* my lord's servants, both we, and *he* also with whom the cup is found.

¹⁷ And he said, God forbid that I should do so: *but* the man in whose hand the cup is found, he shall be my servant; and as for you, get you up in peace unto your father.

¹⁸ ¶ Then Judah came near unto him, and said, Oh my lord,

let thy servant, I pray thee, speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not thine anger burn against thy servant: for thou *art* even as Pharaoh.

¹⁹ My lord asked his servants, saying, Have ye a father, or a brother?

²⁰ And we said unto my lord, We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, a little one; and his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother, and his father loveth him.

²¹ And thou saidst unto thy servants, Bring him down unto me, that I may set mine eyes upon him.

²² And we said unto my lord, The lad cannot leave his father: for *if* he should leave his father, *his father* would die.

²³ And thou saidst unto thy servants, Except your youngest brother come down with you, ye shall see my face no more.

²⁴ And it came to pass when we came up unto thy servant my father, we told him the words of my lord.

²⁵ And our father said, Go again, *and* buy us a little food.

²⁶ And we said, We cannot go down: if our youngest brother be with us, then will we go down: for we may not see the man's face, except our youngest brother *be* with us.

²⁷ And thy servant my father said unto us, Ye know that my wife bare me two *sons*:

²⁸ And the one went out from me, and I said, Surely he is torn in pieces; and I saw him not since:

²⁹ And if ye take this also from me, and mischief befall him, ye shall bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.

³⁰ Now therefore when I come to thy servant my father, and the lad *be* not with us; seeing that his life is bound up in the lad's life;

³¹ It shall come to pass, when he seeth that the lad *is* not *with us*, that he will die: and thy servants shall bring down the gray hairs of thy servant our father with sorrow to the grave.

³² For thy servant became surety for the lad unto my father, saying, If I bring him not unto thee, then I shall bear the blame to my father for ever.

³³ Now therefore, I pray thee, let thy servant abide instead of the lad a bondman to my lord; and let the lad go up with his brethren.

³⁴ For how shall I go up to my father, and the lad *be* not with me? lest peradventure I see the evil that shall come on my father.