



Introduction

Joseph tests his brothers.



Questions

1. How does Joseph treat his brothers when he first sees them?
2. Why did the brothers think this distress had come on them?
3. What was Jacob's reaction to the idea of Benjamin going to Egypt with his brothers?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 5** After hearing there is grain in Egypt, Jacob sends ten of his sons to Egypt to buy grain
- **v 6 to 17** Recognising his brothers, Joseph accuses them of being spies and puts them in prison
- **v 18 to 28** As a test he requires them to bring Benjamin, his younger brother, to Egypt on their next visit. He returns their money in their sacks of corn
- **v 29 to 38** The brothers arrive home. Jacob is reluctant to let Benjamin go to Egypt. He tells them that if Benjamin doesn't come back, "you will bring down my grey hairs with sorrow to Sheol (or grave, see theme)."

Timeline to 2000 BC (see below)



Information

What is Sheol (or Hell)?

In the Old Testament, Sheol is the original Hebrew word. It is translated as hell, grave or pit. In some Bible versions it is left untranslated. The Bible tells us that Sheol is the place where dead people go.

Jacob says he will go to Sheol (translated grave in some versions) if anything happens to Benjamin, his youngest son:

Genesis 42 verse 38

David suggests that Solomon his son should bring Shimei's "head down to Sheol" for cursing him earlier:

1 Kings 2 verse 9

The psalmist makes it clear that the dead are in Sheol:

Psalms 6 verse 5

The prophet Isaiah echoes the same sentiments:

Isaiah 38 verses 18 and 19

The book of Ecclesiastes encourages us to be diligent now because we can't do anything in Sheol:

Ecclesiastes 9 verse 10



? Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 7 and 9, Q 2: v 21, Q 3: v 36 and 38

Bible timeline

