



## Introduction

*The final tests for the brothers.*



## Questions

1. What does Joseph tell his steward to do?
2. What did Judah tell Joseph that God had found out about them?
3. What does Judah offer to do so that Benjamin can return to his father and why does he make the offer?



## Summary Points

- **v 1 to 6** Joseph asks his steward to hide his cup (see information) in Benjamin's sack. When his brothers leave next morning he sends his steward after them to retrieve it
- **v 7 to 13** The brothers protest their innocence and suggest that whoever is found having Joseph's cup will die and the rest of them will be Joseph's slaves. They are dismayed when the cup is found in Benjamin's sack
- **v 14 to 34** Judah tells Joseph that God has found out their guilt. Joseph says that Benjamin will be his slave, and the rest can return home. Judah says that leaving Benjamin behind will kill his ageing father, so he offers to be Joseph's slave

**Timeline** to 2000 BC (see below)



## Information

### Joseph's cup

In ancient Egypt, it was thought that the future could be foretold by looking at how liquids move in a cup.

So it would have been regarded as a serious offence to steal the means whereby a ruler of Egypt could foretell the future.

There is no hint in the record that Joseph ever did use his cup for this purpose. From what we are told about Joseph it is highly unlikely.



## Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 1 and 2, Q 2: v 16, Q 3: v 33 and 34



# Bible timeline

