

Understand your Bible

Your notes

Genesis 42

Questions to start you thinking about the chapter - the answers are in verses in the chapter:

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?

Main points that you see in these sections of the chapter:

v 1 to 5

v 6 to 17

v 18 to 28

v 29 to 38

Related theme verses to look at: Your long-term future - What is Sheol (or Hell)?

In the Old Testament, "Sheol" 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 said he would go to Sheol (translated "grave" in some versions") if anything happened to Benjamin, his favourite 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

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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 - 19

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

Ecclesiastes 9 verse 10

What have you personally learnt from this chapter and theme?