

Understand your Bible

Your notes

Genesis 43

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

1. What is the different name that Jacob is called in this chapter?
2. What does Israel now say about the idea of Benjamin going to Egypt with his brothers?
3. What two things surprised the brothers about the meal?

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

v 1 and 2

v 3 to 14

v 15 to 25

v 26 to 34

Related information to look at: Jacob's change of name to Israel.

The meanings of Jacob's old and new names may give us a clue as to why his name was changed. "Jacob" means "heel catcher" or "supplanter". It implies getting the better of someone else by devious means.

In Jacob's early life we can see this trait in him when he had tricked his brother Esau who complained:

Genesis 27 v 36

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Jacob's name was initially changed when he wrestled with a man who, we later learn, was an angel. Jacob became lame teaching him to trust in God, not in his own cunning:

Genesis 32 v 24 to 28

Genesis 32 v 31

This contrasts with the meaning of the name Jacob. God later reminds Jacob of his change of name and of promised blessings:

Genesis 35 v 9 to 12

What have you personally learnt from this chapter and information?