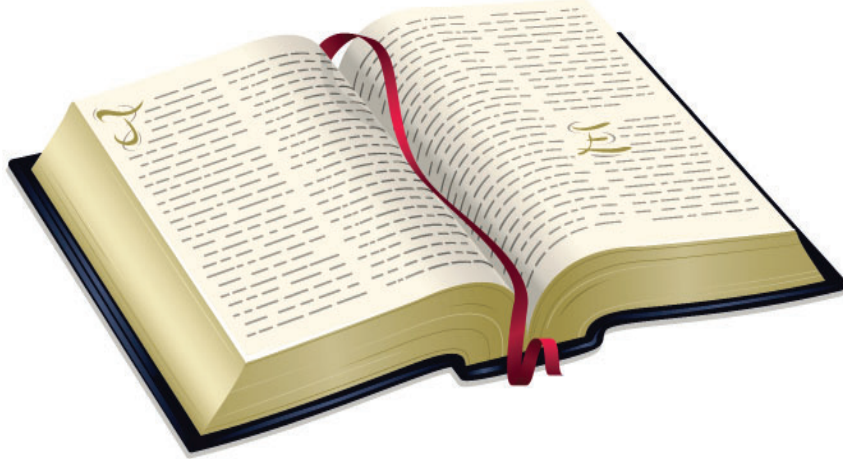


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Answer Sheet New International Version (NIV)



In The Beginning Series

Twelve Lesson Study on the Book of Genesis

This Lesson - Genesis Chapter 41 - 45

Please read Genesis Chapter 41 ☐ Check

Chapter 41

After years in prison, Joseph is finally restored as his circumstances are dramatically reversed. Prior to this, he has spent quite some time unjustly jailed; he has been forgotten even by those he has helped (Genesis 40:14–15, 23).

Pharaoh, king of Egypt, experiences two troubling and prophetic dreams. In the first, seven beautiful, healthy cows come up out of the Nile River to feed on the grass. Then seven famished, emaciated cows come up after them and devour them. The second dream is similar. Pharaoh sees seven good ears of grain growing on a single stalk. Then seven thin, wasted-looking ears grow up after them and somehow swallow up the healthy ears of grain. Ancient Egyptians placed great emphasis on dreams, and these are especially vivid: Pharaoh is shaken by these visions (Genesis 41:1–7).

After the global disaster that Joseph predicted, that leads to a new position, that leads to an amazing reunion with Joseph's family. Over the next few chapters, the same brothers who sold him as a slave, will come to Egypt for help. Without knowing it, they will encounter their once-hated younger brother, and he will act to save them from starvation.

1. (Genesis 41:1) How much time has passed between the time that Pharaoh reinstated the chief cupbearer (Genesis 40:23) to the time Pharaoh had a dream?

two full years

2. (Genesis 41:2) In Pharaoh's dream, what came out of the Nile/river, and what shape were they in? seven cows, sleek and fat

3. (Genesis 41:3-4) The next thing that happens in Pharaoh's dream was: seven ugly and gaunt, scrawny and thin cows came up out of the river/Nile.

What did these seven cows do? the cows that were ugly and gaunt ate up the seven sleek, fat cows.

4. (Genesis 41:5-7) Describe the second dream that Pharaoh had?

Seven heads of grain, healthy and good, were growing on a single stalk.

After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted—thin and scorched by the east wind.

The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads.

5. (Genesis 41:8) After the two dreams, Pharaoh called for all the magicians of Egypt and all the wise men to come and interpret his two dreams. What was the outcome of this?

no one could interpret them for him.

6. (Genesis 41:16) When Pharaoh asked Joseph to interpret his dream how did he respond to Pharaoh? "I cannot do it,"

Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."

7. (Genesis 41:25) After Pharaoh told the two dreams to Joseph, what comment did he make about them? "The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same.

8. (Genesis 41:26-31) **In your own words**, what was the meaning of the healthy fat cows versus the thin ugly cows?

Understanding Genesis 41:33

In the ancient world, rulers were often treated as deities. Even when the king was not considered an actual god, those around him had to maintain a level of reverence and respect. One would expect advice to come only from those specifically appointed by the ruler, and only when requested. In this verse, however, the king of Egypt—Pharaoh—is receiving advice, unrequested, from a literal slave: Joseph.

Joseph was summoned to interpret dreams (Genesis 41:14–15). He has done so, but not before correcting the Pharaoh by indicating that God is the one with the required knowledge (Genesis 41:16). His interpretation was complete when he explained the impending years of prosperity and starvation (Genesis 41:28–32). And yet, Joseph now continues, presuming to tell the master of all Egypt how he should govern his own nation. If Joseph is afraid as he speaks these words, no indication is given. He likely recognizes this as a unique position, provided by God, and he intends to use his influence for the greatest good.

9. (Genesis 41:39) What statement did Pharaoh make about Joseph right before he appointed him to this high position? _____

“Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you.”

10. (Genesis 41:42) After Pharaoh placed Joseph over his house/palace and told him “all my people shall be ruled according to your word”, what did he take off and put on Joseph? _____

Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph’s finger.

11. (Genesis 41:44) Referring to Joseph’s position, what final order did Pharaoh give to all of Egypt about what Joseph’s authority will be? _____

“I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt.”

12. (Genesis 41:45) What new Egyptian name did Pharaoh give Joseph? _____

Zaphenath-Paneah

He also gave him a wife, what was her name? _____

Who was she the daughter of? _____

13.(Genesis 41:50) How many sons did Joseph have? two sons

What was his wife's name? Asenath

14 (Genesis 41:51-52) Joseph and Asenath had two sons before the famine years.

What were their names?

First sons's name: Manasseh Second son's name: Ephraim

What did Joseph say about the first born? "It is because God has made me forget
all my trouble and all my father's household."

What did Joseph say about the second born? "It is because God has made me
fruitful in the land of my suffering."

15. (Genesis 41:54) Where else did the famine effect besides Egypt?

There was famine in all the other lands

16. (Genesis 41:55) When Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread.

What did he say to all the Egyptians? "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you."

17. (Genesis 41:56) When the famine got severe what did Joseph do?

Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians,

18. (Genesis 41:57) How widespread was the famine? all the world came to Egypt
to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere.

Notes on the Famine:

It was not just Egypt that got struck by the famine (Genesis 41:54). People were growing dangerously low on food in all lands. People came from everywhere to Egypt and to Joseph to buy grain. This will dramatically increase the wealth and power of Egypt and her ruler (Genesis 47:13–26). Through Joseph's God-empowered interpretation of the Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:14–15), people of many lands would be saved from starvation. As the following chapters will reveal, this includes Joseph's own family.

Chapter 42

Genesis 42 begins with Jacob sending his ten oldest sons to Egypt to buy grain for the family. It ends with him refusing to send his youngest son back as part of a second trip.

Severe famine has gripped the region, just as Joseph had predicted (Genesis 41:53–56).

Due to his preparations in Egypt under the authority of Pharaoh (Genesis 41:46–49), Egypt alone had grain for its people and surplus to sell to those in danger of starving after two years of no crops. Jacob's family is in exactly that position—near starvation—so he sends his ten oldest sons to Egypt with money. Jacob does not send his beloved youngest son Benjamin with them, however. He fears some harm might come to the boy, and he could not bear to lose him (Genesis 42:1–5).

The famine will not be over any time soon, however. Jacob will soon be forced to reconsider his stance (Genesis 43:1–2).

1. (Genesis 42:2) What did Jacob hear about Egypt?

"I have heard that there is grain in Egypt

What did he send his 10 sons to do?

Go down there and buy some for us,

What did he say would happen if they didn't do it?

so that we may live and not die.

2. (Genesis 42:4) Which of Jacob's sons did not go to Egypt with the others?

Benjamin

Why did Jacob not want him to go with the other brothers?

he was afraid that harm might come to him.

3. (Genesis 42: 6) Once the 10 brothers got into the land of Egypt what did they do in front of Joseph?

So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground.

4. (Genesis 42:7) How did Joseph act towards his brothers?

he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them.

5. (Genesis 42:8-9) Joseph recognized his brothers but they did not recognize him. He remembered the dream about them. What did Joseph accuse them of being?

You are spies!

What did he say they came to Egypt to do?

You have come to see where our land is unprotected.

6. (Genesis 42:15-20) Joseph said he would test/prove to see if they were telling the truth. **In your own words** how was Joseph going to test them?

7. (Genesis 42:21) How did Joseph's brothers finally come to the conclusions about themselves to what they did to their brother?

"Surely we are being punished because of our brother.

We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come on us."

8. (Genesis 42:25) When it was time for the brothers to return to Canaan to bring back their younger brother, what command did Joseph give about filling their sacks?

fill their bags with grain, to put each man's silver back in his sack,

and to give them provisions for their journey.

9. (Genesis 42:33-34) When the brothers got back to Canaan they told their father all that had happened. What did they say the man, the lord of the country/governor of the land told them to do to prove they were not spies?

Leave one of your brothers here with me, and take food for your starving households and go.

But bring your youngest brother to me so I will know that you are not spies but honest men.

10. (Genesis 42:37) What did Reuben tell his father he could do if he didn't bring Benjamin back to him?

"You may put both of my sons to death if I do not bring him back to you.

Chapter 43

The previous chapter ended with Jacob's insistence that he would not allow his beloved youngest son Benjamin to be taken to Egypt with his brothers (Genesis 42:38). He was willing to leave Simeon in prison there (Genesis 42:19–20, 24) rather than risk seeing Benjamin come to harm. This continues a pattern of outrageous favoritism that started with Jacob's own parents (Genesis 25:28) and continued into his own life (Genesis 37:2–4).

The understanding, at this time, is that all 11 brothers will be sent back to Canaan with full sacks of grain. Things are going better for Joseph's brothers than any of them could have hoped. Joseph has one last test in mind, however (Genesis 44:1–2), before revealing his identity (Genesis 45:1–3).

1. (Genesis 43:3-4) After Jacob and his sons had eaten up the grain which they had brought from Egypt, Jacob told his sons they needed to go back to Egypt and buy more food. How did Judah respond to this?

"The man warned us solemnly,

'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.'

2. (Genesis 43:11-12) What did their father Israel/Jacob say to them if they must go back to Egypt?

Put some of the best products of the land in your bags and take them down to the man as a gift—a little balm and a little honey, some spices and myrrh, some pistachio nuts and almonds. Take double the amount of silver with you, for you must return the silver that was put back into the mouths of your sacks.

3. (Genesis 43:16) What did Joseph say to the steward/ruler/manager of his house when he saw Benjamin?

"Take these men to my house, slaughter an animal and prepare a meal; they are to eat with me at noon."

4. (Genesis 43:18) Why were the men/brothers afraid when they were brought into Joseph's house?

"We were brought here because of the silver that was put back into our sacks the first time."

5. (Genesis 43:23) When the brothers told the steward/manager of Joseph's house about them discovering the money in the grain sacks the last time they were there, how did he respond to them?

"Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks;

6. (Genesis 43:26) While in the house, what did the brothers do when Joseph got home?
they presented to him the gifts they had brought into the house,
and they bowed down before him to the ground.

7. (Genesis 43:30) How did Joseph respond and what did he do when he saw Benjamin?
Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to weep.
He went into his private room and wept there.

8. (Genesis 43:32) When it was time to eat, what was the seating arrangement between Joseph, his brothers and the Egyptians, and why?
They served him by himself, the brothers by themselves, and the Egyptians
who ate with him by themselves, because Egyptians could not eat with Hebrews,
for that is detestable to Egyptians.

9. (Genesis 43:33) What was the seating arrangement between the brothers?
The men had been seated before him in the
order of their ages, from the firstborn to the youngest;

10. (Genesis 43:34) How much bigger was the portion given to Benjamin?
five times as much

Chapter 44

The last chapter seemed to be a happy ending. Eleven of Jacob's sons are on their way back to Canaan with everything they came for. They have the grain they need to avoid starvation. They have Simeon, released from prison after being held as security. And they have Jacob's beloved Benjamin, safe and well. They even have their money, once again returned, seemingly with their knowledge, adding yet another blessing. They have not yet realized that the powerful Egyptian governor with whom they've dealt is their estranged brother, Joseph (Genesis 42:7–8), who is testing them (Genesis 44:1–2).

1. (Genesis 44:1-2) What did Joseph command/instruct his steward to do with the money/silver that the brothers brought to pay for the food/grain?

put each man's silver in the mouth of his sack.

- What did he tell his steward about his silver cup? put my cup,

the silver one, in the mouth of the youngest one's sack,

2. (Genesis 44:13) After all the brothers had left Joseph's house with the sacks of grain and they were not far off Joseph sent his steward after them. When he caught up with them he looked in their sacks. What happened after they looked in Benjamin's sack and found the silver cup?

they tore their clothes. Then they all loaded their donkeys and returned to the city.

3. (Genesis 44:19) What question did Judah ask Joseph when he was speaking for his brother? The same similar question that Joseph had asked him on their first trip?

'Do you have a father or a brother?'

4. (Genesis 44:30-31) When Judah is pleading with Joseph to let Benjamin go back to his father, what does Judah say will happen to his father when he sees the lad/boy is not with them? he will die

5. (Genesis 44:33) What offer does Judah make with Joseph if he let's Benjamin go back with his brothers?

let your servant remain here as my lord's slave in place of the boy,

and let the boy return with his brothers.

Chapter 45

Genesis 45 is a chapter filled with revelations. It begins with Joseph revealing his identity to his terrified brothers. It ends with those brothers revealing to their father that his beloved son Joseph is not dead; he is living as a ruler in Egypt. While the events of Genesis are factual, this passage also serves as an example of excellent storytelling. Genesis 45 provides the emotional “payoff” that has been building over the last several chapters. Joseph, unrecognized by his ten older brothers when they arrive in Egypt to buy grain (Genesis 42:7–8), has chosen not to reveal himself to them. Instead, Joseph has tested them by both providing generously and treating them harshly as well (Genesis 43–44).

1. (Genesis 45:1-2) When Joseph revealed to his brother who he was he sent everyone else out so only he and his brothers could hear, but who all heard and why?

he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

2. (Genesis 45:5) After Joseph told his brothers who he was, he told them not to be angry with themselves for selling me here, for what reason?

because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

3. (Genesis 45:6) According to Joseph, how much longer will the famine last? five years
-

4. (Genesis 45:8) Write out the statement that Joseph told his brother, “Who sent me here”?

it was not you who sent me here, but God.

5. (Genesis 45:17-20) **In your own words**, what did Pharaoh tell Joseph to tell his brothers about moving to Egypt?

6. (Genesis 45:21-22) What two things did Joseph give to each of his brothers?

1. provisions for their journey
2. he gave new clothing

What did he give to Benjamin?

1. he gave three hundred shekels of silver
2. five sets of clothes

7. (Genesis 45:23) What two things did Joseph send to his father for the journey to Egypt?

1. ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt
2. ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other provisions for his journey.

8. (Genesis 45:24) What did Joseph tell his brothers not to do on their way back to Canaan?

"Don't quarrel on the way!"

9. (Genesis 45:28) When Israel/Jacob believed that Joseph was alive, what did he say he must do?

I will go and see him before I die.

Notes on the end of Genesis 45

Fittingly, this verse once again refers to Jacob using the name Israel (all except the NLT). This is the name given to him by the Lord after they wrestled before Jacob's fearful reunion with Esau (Genesis 32:24–28). Both names continue to be used interchangeably in the book of Genesis.

What Israel says demonstrates that he has accepted the story his sons have told him. He believes Joseph is alive and thriving as a ruler over all of Egypt (Genesis 45:25). That leaves the question of what to do about his ten oldest sons—they had cruelly sold Joseph into slavery and then lied about it (Genesis 37:24–33). Amazingly, Jacob chooses to focus purely on the good in this tremendous turn of events. He declares "it is enough" to know that Joseph is not dead.

Despite Jacob's sense of his impending death, he would live another 17 years in the land of Egypt (Genesis 47:28). As he sets out, he will also be reassured by God that this is the right course of action (Genesis 46:2–4).

ESV ☐, KJV ☐, NIV ☐, NKJV ☐, NLT ☐, Other: _____

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