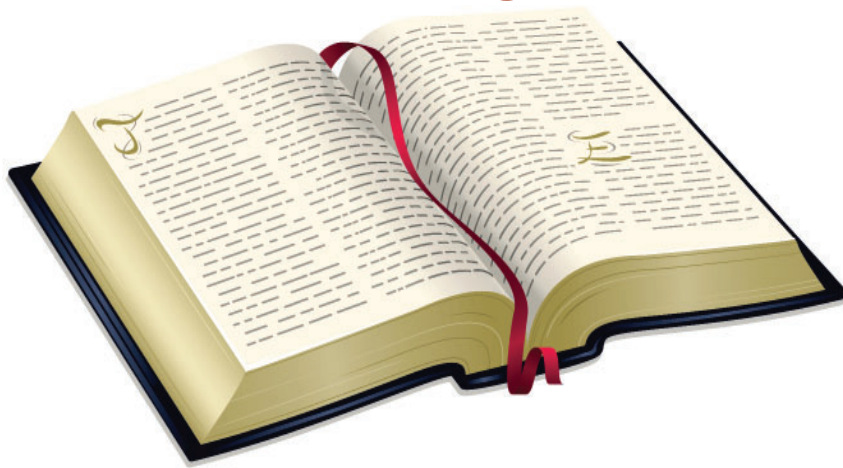


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Answer Sheet New Living Translation NLT)



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 fat, healthy cows

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 scrawny, thin cows ate the seven healthy, fat cows!

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

he saw seven heads of grain, plump and beautiful, growing on a single stalk.

Then seven more heads of grain appeared, but these were shriveled and

withered by the east wind. And these thin heads swallowed up the seven plump,

well-formed 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?

not one of them could tell him what they meant.

6. (Genesis 41:16) When Pharaoh asked Joseph to interpret his dream how did he respond to Pharaoh? "It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied.

"But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease."

7. (Genesis 41:25) After Pharaoh told the two dreams to Joseph, what comment did he make about them? "Both of Pharaoh's dreams mean the same thing.

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 revealed the meaning of the

dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are.

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 removed his signet ring from his hand and placed 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 no one will lift a hand or foot in the entire land of Egypt
without your approval.”

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

Zaphenath-paneah

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

Who was she the daughter of? Potiphera, the priest of On

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? _____

"God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father's family."

What did Joseph say about the second born? _____

"God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief."

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

The famine also struck all the surrounding countries,

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 whatever he tells you."

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

Joseph opened up the storehouses and distributed grain to the Egyptians,

18. (Genesis 41:57) How widespread was the famine? all around came to Egypt

to buy grain from Joseph because the famine was severe throughout the world.

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 there is grain in Egypt.

What did he send his 10 sons to do?

Go down there, and buy enough grain to keep us alive.

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

Otherwise we'll 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?

some 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?

When they arrived, they bowed before him with their faces to the ground.

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

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 how vulnerable our land has become.

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?

"Clearly we are being punished because of what we did to Joseph long ago.

We saw his anguish when he pleaded for his life,

but we wouldn't listen. That's why we're in this trouble."

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?

ordered his servants to fill the men's sacks with grain, but he also gave secret

instructions to return each brother's payment at the top of his sack. He also gave them

supplies for their journey home.

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 grain for your starving families

and go on home. But you must bring your youngest brother back to me.

10. (Genesis 42:37) What did Reuben tell his father he could do if he didn't bring Benjamin back to him? You may kill my two sons if I don't bring Benjamin 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 was serious when he warned us,

'You won't 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?

Pack your bags with the best products of this land. Take them down to the man as gifts—balm, honey, gum, aromatic resin, pistachio nuts, and almonds.

Also take double the money that was put back in your sacks

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

"These men will eat with me this noon. Take them inside the palace.

Then go slaughter an animal, and prepare a big feast."

4. (Genesis 43:18) Why were the men/brothers afraid when they were brought into Joseph's house? because of the money someone put in our sacks last time we were here,
-

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?

"Your God, the God of your father, must have put this treasure into your sacks."

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

7. (Genesis 43:30) How did Joseph respond and what did he do when he saw Benjamin?
Joseph hurried from the room because he was overcome with emotion for his brother.
He went into his private room, where he broke down and wept.

8. (Genesis 43:32) When it was time to eat, what was the seating arrangement between Joseph, his brothers and the Egyptians, and why?
waiters served Joseph at his own table, and his brothers were served at a separate table.
The Egyptians who ate with Joseph sat at their own table, because Egyptians
despise Hebrews and refuse to eat with them.

9. (Genesis 43:33) What was the seating arrangement between the brothers?
Joseph told each of his brothers where to sit, and to their amazement,
he seated them according to age, from oldest to 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 money back into his sack.

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

cup at the top of the youngest brother'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 clothing in despair.

Then they loaded their donkeys again 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? our father will die

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

let me stay here as a slave instead 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 the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly
carried to Pharaoh's palace.

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?

God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives.

3. (Genesis 45:6) According to Joseph, how much longer will the famine last? 5 more years

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

it was God who sent me here, not you!

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. supplies for the journey
2. each of them new clothes

What did he give to Benjamin?

1. five changes of clothes
2. 300 pieces of silver

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

1. ten male donkeys loaded with the finest products of Egypt
2. ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other supplies

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

"Don't quarrel about all this along the way!"

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

I must 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: _____

Use the space below for any Prayer request, questions, or comments:

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