

The First Journey to Egypt

42: 1-38

As the **famine** spread throughout the earth, **Israel's** family was beginning to fall on hard times. The famine that had started in **Egypt** had affected Canaan and other lands in the Near East. The Promised Land was not flowing with milk and honey. The invisible hand of **ADONAI** had turned off the tap. It had become a land of starvation and desperation. **Jacob's** family business was primarily raising cattle and sheep rather than farming. **They** had endured a year of **famine** before, and **they** had reserves for such an occurrence. But when the second year of **famine** came upon them and **their** reserves had run out, it was time to act. They had to find **grain** to sustain themselves and **their** families, about eighty people in all. But even though **they** had great wealth, there was no **grain** to be bought in Canaan. So **Ya'akov** sent **his ten sons** to **Egypt** to buy it there. But why didn't **he** send all of **his sons**? **He** had lost **Yosef**, and **he** wasn't about to lose **Benjamin**.⁶⁴⁸