

The Second Journey to Egypt

43:1 to 45:28

Joseph's brothers had experienced a measure of repentance during **their** traumatic experience in **Egypt**, but there was still much more to be accomplished in **their** hearts by **the Ruach haKodesh** before **they** would be truly prepared and unified spiritually to serve **their** fathers and be the founders of the twelve tribes of **Isra'el**. **They** had not yet confronted **Yosef himself**, learned to confess **their** sin, and finally experience the joy of forgiveness that brings fellowship and unity.

To accomplish these things, another trip down to **Egypt** was necessary. The famine continued longer than anyone could have anticipated, and the abundant supplies that **they** had brought back on **their** first trip were nearly exhausted. Nevertheless, **they** kept putting off a second trip because of **their** certainty that it would prove disastrous unless **Benjamin** were with **them** and because of **Jacob's** adamant refusal to let **him** go.⁶⁵⁵

The reunion of **Joseph** and **his brothers** is one of the most beautiful and moving stories in the entire Bible. Reconciliation between **brothers** once alienated is in itself a powerful theme. But in this case, the offended **brother**, being **Joseph**, was totally innocent of any wrongdoing. On the other hand, the treacherous **brothers** were racked with the pain of guilt, having long since assumed **Yosef** was **dead**. Furthermore, the narrative is written in such a way as to heighten the suspense and build to the dramatic moment in which **Joseph** revealed **his** true identity to his **brothers**. It is the climax of the story of **Yosef**.