

THE PRE-REQUISITES FOR FORGIVENESS

(Gen. 43, 44)

I) Faith of Jacob (Heb. 11:21)

After the first journey to Egypt and back to Canaan:

- Reuben pleading with his father to let Benjamin go with them to Egypt (Gen. 42:37)
- Jacob refused to let Benjamin go to Egypt (Gen. 42:38)
- Judah had to argue with the father in Gen. 43 to let Benjamin go with them to Egypt
- Where was the faith of Jacob (Gen. 43: 6, 7) as he questioned Judah

II) The Pre-requisites for Forgiveness (Gen. 43 – 44)

Joseph's brothers' first trip to Egypt:

1. Repentance

- After 20 years, Joseph met his brothers in Egypt (Gen. 42: 7, 8)
- First sign of their repentance (Gen. 42:21, 22)

Joseph's brothers' second trip to Egypt with Benjamin:

2. Changed life

- First time after 20 years, Joseph saw his brother Benjamin
- They were seated to eat with Joseph (Gen. 43:33)
- The test (v.34)
- The pre-requisites for forgiveness is when you see a true change in the life of the person (see Luke 19:8, 9; Rom. 6:1,2)

Such a changed life is seen in Judah's love for his brother Benjamin and his father, Jacob (Gen. 44)

- How did the brothers react with Benjamin's life on the line?
- The confession by Judah on behalf of Benjamin who was accused of stealing the Governor's cup (Gen. 44:16)
- Judah offered to take the place of Benjamin as a slave in Egypt

Conclusion:

- Look for signs of repentance and a changed life