
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Gen. 44:18-34	Yehudah offers to take Binyamin's place
Tuesday:	Gen. 45:1-15	Yoseph reveals himself to his brothers
Wednesday:	Gen. 45:16-28	Yoseph sends for his family
Thursday:	Gen. 46:1 - 47:12	Elohim speaks to Ya'aqob; Yoseph's family arrives in Mitsrayim and settles in
Friday:	Gen. 47:13-27	Yoseph buys entire land of Mitsrayim for Pharaoh

After Yoseph was promoted to second in command under Pharaoh, his brothers came to Mitsrayim to buy grain. Yoseph played some tricks on his brothers to test their love for their brother Binyamin. In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, he will reveal himself to them and make peace with them. Now, let's read Gen. 44 & 45:1-15.

PARSHA POINTS

- After sharing a meal, Yoseph told his house overseer (44:1-2):
 - to fill the men's sacks with as much food (**ochel**) as they could bear
 - to put their silver (**keseeph**) in their sacks as well
 - to put his silver cup (**gevi'a**) in the sack of the youngest brother as well as his silver
- Yoseph's overseer did as he bid - 44:2
- In the morning, the brothers were sent on their way with their donkeys loaded - 44:3
- After they were gone for a little while, Yoseph sent his overseer to pursue the men and ask them why they had repaid good for evil - 44:4
- He was also to accuse them of stealing Yoseph's cup, the one from which he divined (foresaw) things, and to reprimand them for doing an act of evil - 44:5
- When the overseer caught up to them and spoke the words that Yoseph had commanded him, the brothers protested that they would never do such a thing to their master - 44:6-7
- They pointed out that they had returned the silver that was in their sacks the first time, and asked how he could possibly think that they would now steal any silver or gold from their master - 44:8
- Then they proposed that if indeed the cup was discovered among them, the guilty one should be put to death and the others would become their master's slaves - 44:9



- The overseer stated that the one in whose bag the cup was found would be punished by becoming his slave, but the others would be found innocent - 44:10
- The brothers hurried to open their bags, beginning with the oldest first and on down to the youngest - 44:11-12
- Lo and behold, the cup was found in Binyamin's sack - 44:12
- The brothers all tore their garments in grief, then loaded their donkeys again and returned with Binyamin - 44:13
- When Yehudah and his brothers found Yoseph still at home, they came near and fell down before him - 44:14
- Yoseph chastised them for their deeds - 44:15
- Yehudah then spoke for his brothers, telling Yoseph that Elohim had repaid their crookedness, and now they were all going to be his servants - including Binyamin - 44:16
- Yoseph declared that he would keep only the thief as his slave, and allow all the rest to return to their father (**av**) in peace - 44:17
- Yehudah respectfully and humbly acknowledged Yoseph's lofty position as second in command, and asked permission to speak to Yoseph freely - 44:18
- Yehudah then proceeded to recount the events of their initial trip to Mitsrayim and their conversation with Yoseph. He went on to describe their arrival home and their conversation with their father - 44:19-26
- Then he explained why Binyamin was of such crucial importance to Ya'aqob (44:27-31):
 - His wife had given him 2 (**shtayim**) sons
 - The older was no more because an animal had killed him
 - If the younger did not return, they would bring their old, gray-headed father down to She'ol (the grave)
 - If Binyamin did not return with them, their father would die from grief
- Yehudah told Yoseph that he had guaranteed his father that Binyamin would return no matter what; if returned without Binyamin, then he would be forever a sinner in the eyes of his father - 44:32
- Yehudah pleaded to be kept as a slave in Binyamin's place, so that the young man could return to his father with the rest; for he could not bear to come back to his father and witness his grief - 44:33-34
- Upon hearing this plea, Yoseph could not restrain himself any longer - 45:1
- He commanded his whole household to leave him alone with his brothers - 45:1
- He then wept so loudly that the Mitsrites and all Pharaoh's household heard him - 45:2
- Yoseph then revealed himself to his brothers, saying, "I am Yoseph, is my father still alive?" - 45:3
- When his brothers realized what Yoseph was saying, they fell silent and trembled before him - 45:3
- Yoseph then urged them to come near to him, declaring that he was indeed the brother they had sold into slavery - 45:4



- He comforted them and told them not to be grieved for selling him, for he knew that Elohim had sent him there to preserve (save) lives - 45:5
- He then revealed that although 2 years of famine had passed, there were 5 (**chamesh**) more years to go - 45:6
- Yoseph explained again that Elohim had sent him ahead of them to preserve them as a remnant and to give them life by a great escape - 45:7
- He told them that they had not sent him there, but Elohim - 45:8
- He explained that he had been (45:8):
 - made like a father to Pharaoh
 - set as a master of all his house
 - made a ruler over all the land of Mitsrayim
- He then bid his brothers to hurry back to their father with the news that Elohim had made his son Yoseph the master of all Mitsrayim, and not to delay in coming to him - 45:9, 13
- He promised to give them a home in the region of Goshen, where they would be near to him, with all their children, flocks and herds, and all that they had - 45:10
- Yoseph reassured them that he would take care of them and provide for their needs, because the 5 years of scarcity was still to come - 45:11
- After this Yoseph tearfully embraced and kissed Binyamin, then did the same with the rest of his brothers, who spoke with him - 45:14-15



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- From which of Noah's sons did the Mitsrites come from? (10:6) Notice that the brothers did not question Yoseph's obviously lighter complexion, as opposed to the Mitsrites, who would have been darker. The Hyskos who ruled during this time as Semites would have had fairer complexions, although they still adopted the customs and clothing styles of Mitsrites.
- Notice the brothers' bold response to Yoseph's overseer, when they pronounced that the one in whose sack the cup was found would die. Do you think they had much respect for human life? Discuss the many times they sought to kill others: for instance, killing the males of Shekem, and Yehudah's wish that Tamar be killed, as well as Re'uben offering Ya'aqob the right to destroy his own children if Binyamin did not return with them.
- Once again, we see Yehudah taking over the dialogue - this time between the brothers and Yoseph. Notice that he confesses their sins to Yoseph and offers himself up as a substitute for his brother Binyamin. Do you believe that Yehudah was humbled by all the prior events that happened in his life? Could this be why he was later given the honor of having Messiah in his lineage? (9:8-12)