

GENESIS 42



- The Famine was caused by low rainfall
- Affected much of the Middle East
- Upper Egypt is “down”, Lower Egypt is “up”
- Nile flows south to north



- Two major rainfall basins are at the head of the Nile
- White Nile merges with Blue Nile at Khartoum to form the Great Nile River
- Nile empties at the Delta into the Sea
- Land of Goshen in Delta Region
- Marshy land excellent for pasture
- The only thing that makes Egypt inhabitable is the Nile

EGYPTIANS DUG CANALS

- Annual rise and fall of the Nile that determined feast or famine
- Overflow watered the land AND introduced nutrients into the soil
- Nile did NOT dry up in Joseph's day, it just didn't overflow its banks
- Food still grew, just not in sufficient quantity



MUCH TRADE BETWEEN CANAAN AND EGYPT

- Weather patterns different for Canaan and Upper Egypt
- This time, drought throughout the Middle Eastern and N. Africa region
- Stored food was not given away, it was sold
- VERY high prices
- Egyptians sold their liberty to get food
- After Joseph's death, the Egyptians would blame Joseph for their servitude
- A pattern of nations blaming Israel for their problems



JACOB IS STILL IN CANAAN



- Israel is the tool God would use to bring about His divine plan
- Jacob's sons were doing nothing to solve the food problem
- God did NOT choose Israel because they were great men
- We stand with Israel not because they merit it, but because it is God's command!

JACOB ORDERS HIS SONS TO GO TO EGYPT FOR FOOD

- Did not allow Benjamin to go along
- Common knowledge that it was Joseph that controlled the food program
- 20 years had passed since Joseph sold by his brothers
- They did not recognize him
- He dressed and behaved like an Egyptian
- He left a boy, now was a mature man



JOSEPH NOW KNOWS HIS DREAMS WERE TRUE!



- His brothers bowed down to him, but didn't recognize him
- Joseph accuses them of being spies
- They are helpless before this ruler of Egypt
- Joseph finds out his father, Jacob, and his brother, Benjamin, are still alive
- Brothers are put into jail for 3 days, so Joseph can deal with them apart from all the others coming for grain



- Rueben tries to absolve himself
- Simeon is kept hostage
- Money paid for grain is hidden in their grain sacks
- Brothers determine God is paying them back for their treachery against Joseph all those years ago
- Jacob refuses to allow Benjamin to go so Simeon can be released

REUBEN SPEAKS UP



- Offers the lives of his 2 children if Jacob will allow Benjamin to go to Egypt
- Reuben showing why he was not worth of the Firstborn rights
- Famine terrible, but Jacob paralyzed from indecision
- Jacob no longer trusts his sons

GENESIS 43

- The Famine continues
- Israel and clan running out of food
- Judah is humbled by his experience with Tamar
- Judah offers HIMSELF as surety for the safe return of Benjamin
- Judah probably saw himself as the one to inherit
- Jacob felt he could trust Judah
- Jacob relents, allows Benjamin to go



THE BANQUET



- Joseph instructs brothers to dine with him
- Biblical portrayal is quite accurate
- Joseph eats alone
- Even the servants don't eat with the brothers because it was "abhorrent for Egyptians to eat with Hebrews"
- Shepherds seen as low class
- Egyptians preferred cattle
- Each brother seated in birth order
- Benjamin given 5 times as much as the others
- Benjamin's descendants would produce the first king of Israel: Saul