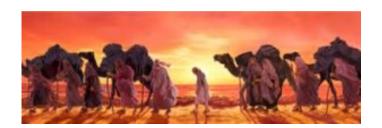


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## The Second Journey to Egypt

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 ha-Kodesh 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**.