

# (Genesis) Genesis 44:1-15

by J. Vernon McGee

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*Joseph tests his brethren to see if they will give their life for their brother Benjamin, and uses his gift of prophecy to divine the future.*

**Duration:** 5:06

**Scripture:** Genesis 44:2-34

**Topics:** "Genesis"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher focuses on the 44th chapter of Genesis, where Joseph tests his brothers' affection for their youngest brother, Benjamin. Joseph sends his brothers away with corn, but secretly puts his silver cup in Benjamin's sack. When the brothers are overtaken and accused of stealing the cup, they vehemently deny it and offer to be Joseph's servants if the cup is found. However, the cup is indeed found in Benjamin's sack, causing great distress among the brothers. The preacher highlights the significance of Judah's willingness to take responsibility for Benjamin and emphasizes Joseph's ability to divine the future.

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## Transcript

Now, that brings us to the 44th chapter here, and again, we have a very wonderful chapter before us here. And we find that Joseph now is going to send his brethren away with corn, but he's got something else up his sleeve, and it is to test their affection for the youngest brother, for his own brother, Benjamin. You see, they sold him in slavery.

Now, have they changed? Would they, any one of them, be willing to give his life for his brother? Joseph's going to really find out something about these, and this brings Judah into a marvelous picture here, because Judah was willing to take his place. Now, let me read verse 1 of chapter 44. He commanded the steward of his house, saying, Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put every man's money in his sack's mouth, and put my cup, the silver cup, in the sack's mouth of the youngest, and his corn money.

And he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken. As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their assets. When they were gone out of the city, and not yet far off, Joseph said unto his steward, Up, follow after the men, and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good? Is not this it, in which my Lord drinketh, and whereby indeed he divineth? Ye have done evil in so doing.

Now, it was his cup. And you will notice that he speaks of the fact that he divineth. I'll say something about that in a minute, because we come to it later.

Verse 6, He overtook them, and he spake unto them these same words. And they said unto him, Wherefore saith my Lord these words, God forbid that thy servants should do according to this thing. In other words, the brethren start out, they think everything is all right, and when they get out a little ways, they're overtaken.

Here comes a whole troop after them, and the accusation is made. Somebody got Joseph's cup. One of you fellows heisted his cup.

He says, Behold the money, which we found in our sack's mouths, we brought again unto thee out of the land of Canaan. How then should we steal out of thy Lord's house silver or gold? With whomsoever of thy servants it be found, both let him die, and we also will be my Lord's bondmen. They were so sure that none of them had gotten the cup.

And he said, Now also let it be according unto your words. He with whom it's found shall be my servant, and ye shall be blameless. Then they speedily took down every man his sack to the ground, opened every man his sack, and he searched and began at the eldest and left at the youngest, and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

Then they rent their clothes and laid every man his ass and returned to the city. They went back. They're not going back home without Benjamin, you may be sure.

And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house, for he was yet there, and they fell before him on the ground. Here they go down before him again, and this time I tell you it's in dismay and agony. And Joseph said unto them, What deed is this that ye have done, what ye not are? know ye not that such a man as I am can certainly divine? Now Joseph apparently was a prophet, apparently was able to tell the future, and we know that's so because he interpreted the dreams of the baker and the butler and also Pharaoh himself.

He was a prophet, and he apparently used this cup in it. This was a gift that God had given him. You must understand this is before Revelation.

Now don't you run and get a cup or go to anybody that's got one and think you can read tea leaves or something like that. That's all perfect nonsense today, and this business of the horoscope that's got so many people involved today, it's absolute nonsense, and it reveals the sad spiritual condition that people are in when they'll turn to that sort of thing. This was a gift God had given this man.

Now Judah comes to the front, and the nobility of this man stands out. You can see probably why, out of the tribe of Judah, the Savior's coming. Will you know?

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