

God Awakens the Conscience

In this list, we see ten specific parallels between the sin the brothers committed against Joseph, and the situation God orchestrates in the meeting between Joseph and his brothers in Egypt.

1. Jacob sends them to Egypt to buy food. **Gen. 42:1-2**
Egypt is the place they sent Joseph as a slave. **Gen. 37:28**
2. Jacob won't send Benjamin to Egypt because he can't bear to lose another son of Rachel. **Gen. 42:4**
Jacob lost a son to Egypt by the hand of the brothers and the brothers know it. **Gen. 37:33**
3. Joseph accuses them of the "bad" behavior of being spies. **Gen. 42:9-21**
Joseph accuses them by bringing a "bad" report on their behavior. **Gen. 37:2**
4. Joseph wouldn't listen to their pleas that they were not spies. **Gen. 42:9-21**
The brothers wouldn't listen to Joseph's pleas to spare him from slavery. **Gen. 42:21**
5. Returning from Egypt, the brothers must explain to Jacob why they are returning without a brother (Simeon). **Gen. 42:33**
Returning from Dothan, the brothers must explain to Jacob why they are returning without a brother (Joseph). **Gen. 37:29-33**
6. Joseph unjustly imprisoned his brothers for three days. **Gen. 42:14-17**
The brothers unjustly sent Joseph into prison by selling him as a slave. **Gen. 37:26-28**
7. Joseph binds and imprisons Simeon in their presence. **Gen. 42:24**
The brothers watch as the slave traders take possession of Joseph and lead him off to his fate (they probably bound him though the text doesn't say). **Gen. 37:28**
8. Because Joseph had the money put back in each brother's sack, they return home with money instead of their brother Simeon. **Gen. 42:35-36**
By selling Joseph to the slave traders, his brothers return home with money instead of their brother Joseph. **Gen. 37:31-32**
9. Jacob tells his sons that they have taken his children, Joseph and Simeon. Though Jacob doesn't know the circumstance behind Joseph's demise, the brothers are directly confronted with their guilt in both situations. **Gen. 42:36**
10. In both cases, Jacob refused to be comforted by the brothers. **Gen. 37:34-35; 42:36, 38**