Joseph Saw His Brothers

1 When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why do you continue to look at one another?” 2 Then he said, “Listen, I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some grain for us from there, so that we may survive and not die!”

3 Then 10 of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy some grain from Egypt. 4 However, Jacob did not send Benjamin (Joseph’s full brother) along with them, because Jacob thought that something bad might happen to Benjamin. 5 So, the sons of Jacob were among those who went to buy grain. The famine had reached the land of Canaan, too.

6 Joseph was the Supreme Governor over the land of Egypt. He was the one who sold grain to all the people of the world. Joseph’s half-brothers came and bowed down low to the ground to him. 7 When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he acted like a stranger to them. He spoke harshly with them, asking them, “Where do you come from?”

They answered, “We come from the land of Canaan to buy some food.”

8 Joseph recognized his half-brothers, but they did NOT recognize him. 9 Then Joseph remembered the dreams that he once had about them. Joseph said to them, “You are spies! You have come to this land to see where we Egyptians are weak!”

10 But they said to him, “No, my lord! We have only come to buy food! 11 All of us are the sons of one man. We are honest! We are NOT spies!”

12 But Joseph said to them, “No! You have come to find out the weakness of our country!”

13 But they answered, “There were twelve of us brothers; we are the sons of one man in the land of Canaan. Listen, the youngest one is with our father today, and another is dead.

14 But Joseph said to them, “It is exactly as I said to you: You ARE spies!”