

SERMON: GENESIS – REUNIFICATION (Genesis 43)

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November 25, 2018

After all that Joseph's brothers have done to him, when Joseph becomes second in command in Egypt, he could use his power to exact vengeance from his brothers. But instead, he eventually reconciles with his brothers. Then when the brothers are getting ready to go see their brother Joseph a second time, Judah offers to bear the blame if something happens to his younger brother Benjamin. How far are we willing to go for the sake of love, forgiveness and reunification? Christ went all the way to the cross for us.

"Joseph said to them, 'It is just as I told you: You are spies! And this is how you will be tested: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here'" – Genesis 42:14-15

Division Perpetuates _____...

Genesis 42:4, Genesis 43:6-9

"Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him." – Genesis 42:4

Moving from _____ **to** _____...

Genesis 44-45

1. A _____

"They said to one another, 'Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come on us.'" – Genesis 41:29

2. Strong _____

Genesis 44

3. Shared _____

Colossians 1:19-20

God _____ **!**

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." – John 17:20-21



Have you experienced a rift between family or friends?

Does division tend to grow or heal itself over time?

Does division between two people affect others around them?

What are some other problems that disunity causes?

If you were Joseph would you have exacted revenge on your brothers?

What are some things that will cause people to reunite?

How does our conscience move us toward reconciliation?

How does love cause us to move toward reunification?

How is forgiveness given and received as part of reconciliation?

How does a shared struggle bring even enemies together?

Is disunity a tool of God or the devil?

Why should we do everything possible to be at peace with one another?

Why does God care if His people are united?

Read Jesus' prayer for unity among His disciples: John 17:20-26

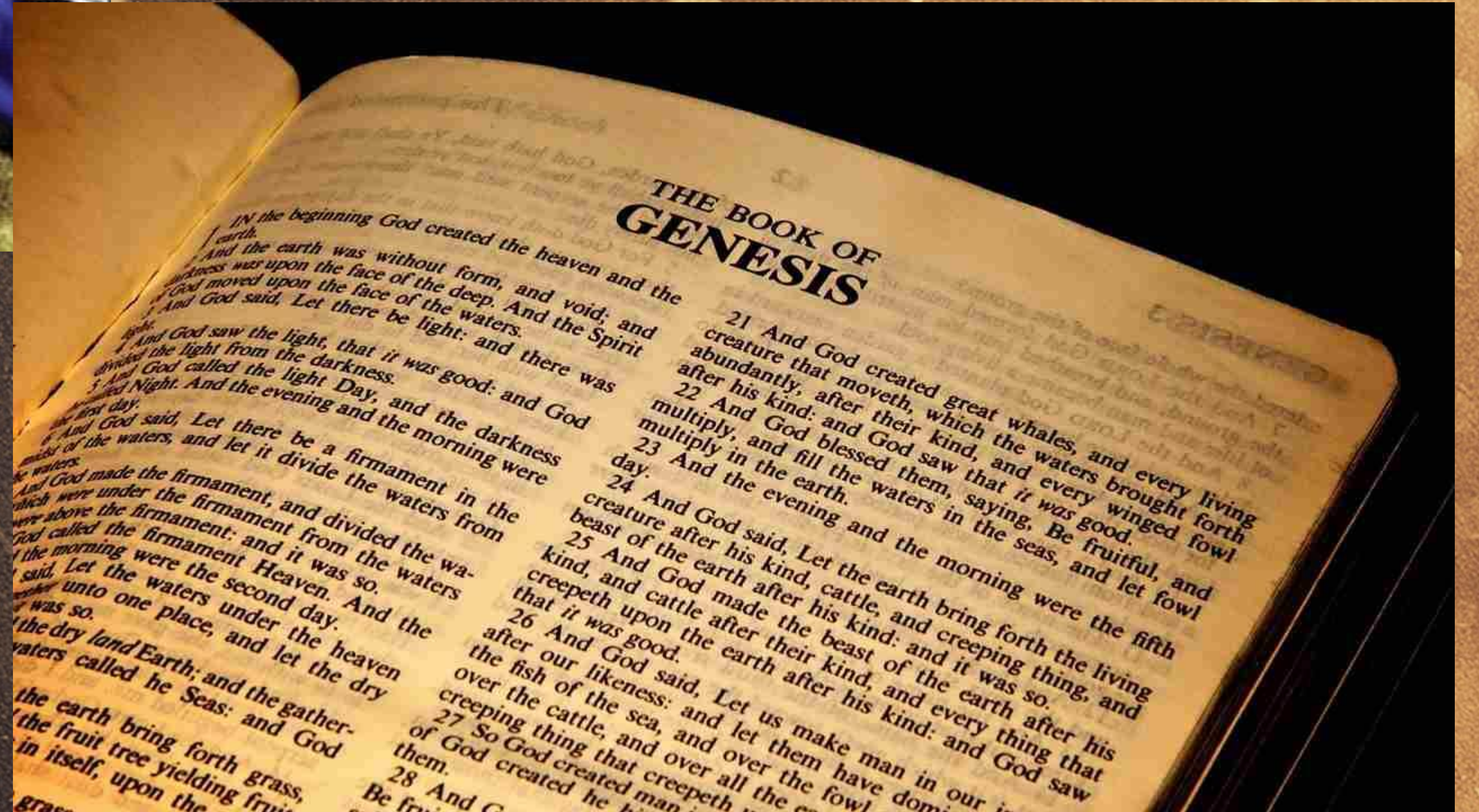
Taking it home / Memory Verse:

"That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." – John 17:21

GENESIS

REUNIFICATION





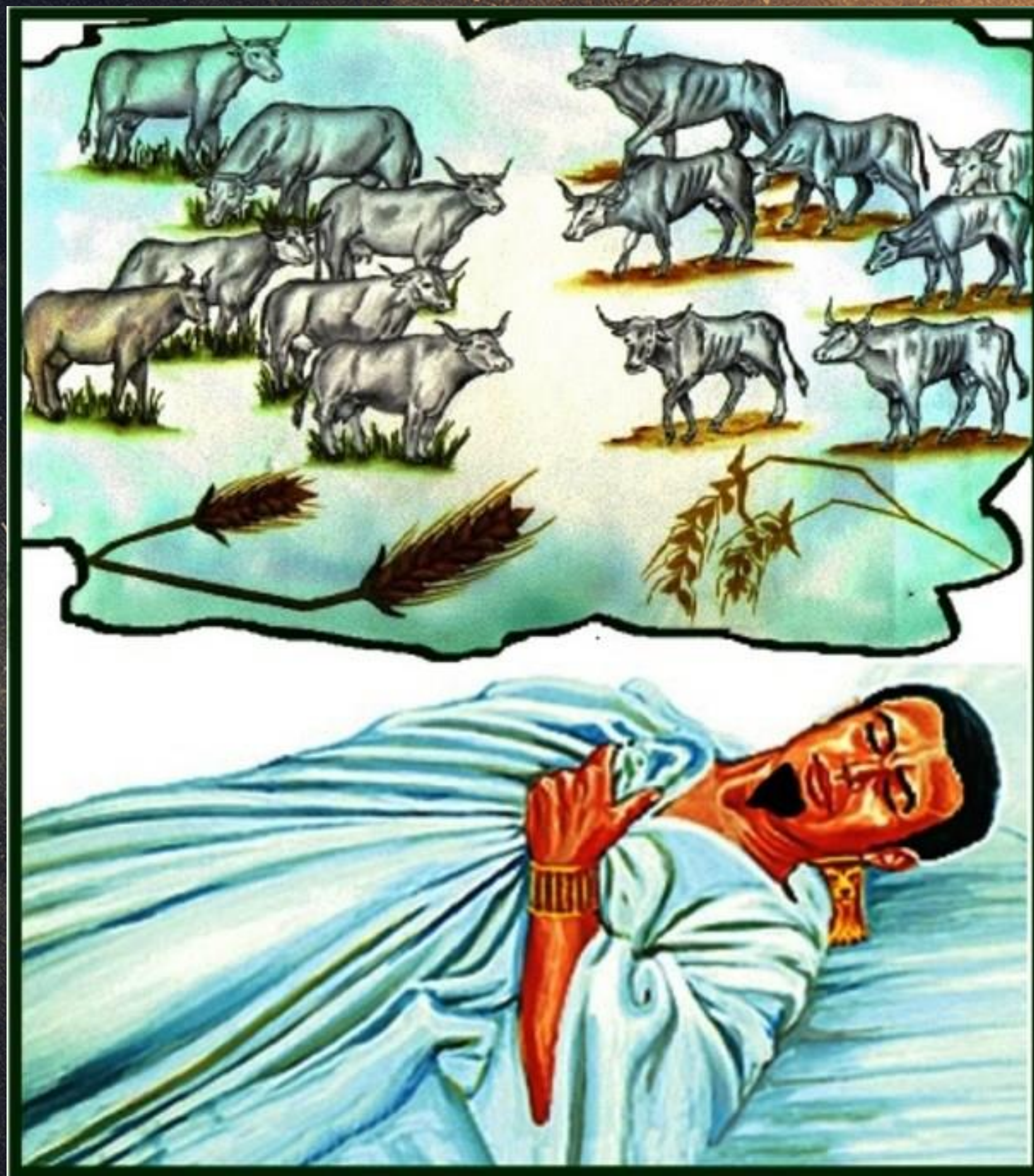
GENESIS

REUNIFICATION



GENESIS

REUNIFICATION



⁵ Israel's sons were among those who went to buy grain, for there was famine in the land of Canaan also. ⁶ Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground.

GENESIS 42:5-9, 13-15

⁷ As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. “Where do you come from?” he asked. “From the land of Canaan,” they replied, “to buy food.”

⁸ Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.

GENESIS 42:5-9, 13-15

⁹ Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, “You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected.”

¹³ But they replied, “Your servants were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more.”

GENESIS 42:5-9, 13-15

¹⁴ Joseph said to them, “It is just as I told you: You are spies! ¹⁵ And this is how you will be tested: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here.”

GENESIS 42:14-15

Division Perpetuates TROUBLE...

Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him.

GENESIS 42:4

⁶ Israel asked, “Why did you bring this trouble on me by telling the man you had another brother?” ⁸ Then Judah said to Israel his father, “Send the boy along with me and we will go at once, so that we and you and our children may live and not die.

GENESIS 43:6, 8-9

⁹ I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you, I will bear the blame before you all my life.”

GENESIS 43:6, 8-9

Division Perpetuates TROUBLE...

Moving from DIVISION to UNITY ...

Moving from DIVISION to UNITY ...



Moving from DIVISION to UNITY ...

1. A GUILTY CONSCIENCE

They said to one another, “Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that’s why this distress has come on us.”

GENESIS 41:29

Moving from DIVISION to UNITY ...

1. A GUILTY CONSCIENCE

Moving from DIVISION to UNITY ...

1. A GUILTY CONSCIENCE

2. Strong LOVE

“Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord’s slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers.”

GENESIS 44:33

Moving from DIVISION to UNITY ...

1. A GUILTY CONSCIENCE

2. Strong LOVE

3. Shared STRUGGLE



¹⁹ God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Christ, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.

COLOSSIANS 1:19-20

God LOVES UNITY!

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

JOHN 17:20-21

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