

GENESIS

(BERE'SHEET)¹

CHAPTER 43:14 And EL SHADDAI will give to you mercy^p before the face^p of the man, and he will send² to you, your other brother, and Benjamin. As for me, if I am bereaved—*surely* I will be bereaved.”³ **15** And the men took this present, and double silver they took in their hand, and Benjamin, and they rose, and went down to Egypt, and stood before the face^p of Joseph. **16** And Joseph saw Benjamin with them and said to the one over his house, “Cause the men to come toward the house, and slaughter a slaughtered thing, and make firm,⁴ for the men will eat with me at noon.” **17** And the man did as Joseph had said, and the man caused the men to come toward the house of Joseph, **18** and the men feared because they had been caused to come toward the house of Joseph, and they said, “Upon the matter⁵ of the returned silver, returned in our sacks at the beginning, *we* have been caused to come, for rolling himself upon us and throwing himself upon us, and taking us for servants, and with our donkeys.” **19** And they drew near toward the man who *was* over the house of Joseph, and spoke toward him at the opening of the house, **20** and said, “Pardon me⁶ my master! We really came down from the beginning to buy eatable *things*, **21** and it was, when we came toward the lodging-place, and opened our bags, and look!—the silver of a man *was* in the mouth of his bag, our silver in its *full* weight, and we caused it to return in our hand, **22** and we have caused to come down other silver in our hand to buy eatable *things*; we do not know who placed our silver there in our bags.” **23** And he said, “Peace to you, fear not, your ELOHIM and the ELOHIM of your father has given to you treasure in your bags. Your silver came toward me.” And he caused Simeon to come out toward them. **24** And

¹ The books of the Hebrew Bible are named from their opening words: here *Bere'sheet*, meaning “At *the* first of”

² Intensive form of the verb (Piel).

³ Double use of the verb indicates emphasis.

⁴ I.e., cause things to be ready, the verb is causative, difficult to bring out in English.

⁵ Lit “thing.”

⁶ Lit “with me,” an elliptical expression of entreaty, used to address superiors, meaning “against me” may be the consequence of this pleading.

the man caused the men to come toward the house of Joseph, and gave water, and they washed their feet, and he gave fodder for their donkeys, **25** and they made firm⁷ the present until the coming of Joseph at noon, for they had heard that there they were to eat bread. **26** And Joseph came toward the house⁸ and they caused to come to him the present that *was* in their hand, toward the house, and bowed himself down to him, toward the land.⁹ **27** And he asked of them of peace, and he said—“the peace of your father?—the old man of whom you have spoken, *is* he still alive?” **28** And they said, “Peace *is* to your servant, to our father, he *is* still alive,” and they bowed, and bowed themselves down.¹⁰ **29** And he lifted his eyes, and saw Benjamin his brother, the son of his mother, and said, “Is this your brother, the small one¹¹ of whom you have spoken to me?” And he said, “May ELOHIM favor you my son.” **30** And Joseph hurried *out*, for his insides were inflamed toward his brother, and he sought *a place* to weep, and he came toward the room, and wept there. **31** And he washed his face^p and went out, holding himself,¹² and said, “Place bread.” **32** And they placed for him, he alone, and for them, them alone, and the Egyptians who were eating with him, them alone, because the Egyptians were not able to eat bread with the Hebrews, for it *is* a detestable thing to the Egyptians. **33** And they sat before his face^p, the firstborn according to his firstborn *right*, and the little one according to his *being* little,¹³ and the men were amazed, a man toward his fellow. **34** And he lifted things lifted¹⁴ from his face^p toward them, and he caused to be abundant, the thing lifted of Benjamin, from the things lifted of them, five hands,¹⁵ and they drank, and they were drunk with him. **CHAPTER 44:1** And he charged the one over his house, saying, “Fill the bags of the men *with* eatable *things*, as much as they are able to lift, and place the silver of a man in the mouth of his bag, **2** and my bowl, the silver bowl,

⁷ Verb is causative, difficult to bring out in English.

⁸ Lit “house-ward.”

⁹ Lit “land-ward.”

¹⁰ Two different verbs are used here for “bowing,” the first, perhaps, meaning the head, then the whole body.

¹¹ I.e., the younger one.

¹² Lit “causing himself to be held,” that is restraining his emotions. The verb is causative, difficult to bring out in English.

¹³ I.e., in rank from oldest to youngest.

¹⁴ I.e., here portions of food.

¹⁵ I.e., five helpings, or five times as much.

place in the mouth of bag of the small one,¹⁶ and his silver for grain.” And he did according to the *spoken*-thing of Joseph, that he had spoken. **3** The morning *was* light, and the men had been sent away, they and their donkeys. **4** *They* had gone out of the city, they were not causing distance, and Joseph said to the one over his house, “Rise, pursue after the men, and overtake them, and say toward them, ‘Why have you completed¹⁷ bad instead of¹⁸ good?’ **5** Is not this, that with which my master drinks, and he prognosticating¹⁹—he *surely* prognosticates with it?²⁰ You have caused bad *in* that which you did.” **6** And he caused to reach them, and spoke toward them these *spoken*-things, **7** and they said toward him, “Why does my master speak according to these *spoken*-things? Far be it from your servants to do according to this *spoken*-thing. **8** Look!— *the* silver which we found in the mouth of our bags we caused to return toward you from the land of Canaan, and how could we steal from the house of your master silver or gold? **9** With whoever of your servants it is found, let him die, and also *we* will be to my master for servants.” **10** And he said, “Now, also, according to your *spoken*-things, thus it *is*. He with whom it is found will be to me a servant, and you^p will be clear.” **11** And they hurried and caused to go down, a man his bag, toward the land,²¹ and they opened, a man, his bag, **12** and he searched,²² with the large one he began, and with the small one²³ he finished. And the cup was found in the bag of Benjamin. **13** And they tore their outer-garments, and a man loaded his donkey, and they returned toward the city.²⁴ **14** And Judah came^s, and his brothers, toward the house of Joseph,²⁵ and he was still there. And they fell before his face^p, toward the land,²⁶ **15** and Joseph said to them, “What *is* this doing that you have done? Do you not

¹⁶ I.e., the younger one.

¹⁷ I.e., in the sense of paying a debt, or finishing a transaction.

¹⁸ Or “under.”

¹⁹ Heb *nachash*, to ascertain by signs or omens, see Gen 44:5,15; Lev 19:26; Deut 18:10; 2 Kgs 17:17. The nominal form of the word means “snake,” (Gen 3:1).

²⁰ Double use of the verb indicates emphasis, and this verb is always in the intensive form (Piel).

²¹ I.e., “land-ward.”

²² Intensive form of the verb (Piel).

²³ I.e., from oldest to youngest.

²⁴ Lit “city-ward.”

²⁵ Lit “house-ward.”

²⁶ Lit “land-ward,” i.e., their faces on the ground in homage.

know that a man such as me, prognosticating²⁷—he *surely* prognosticates?”²⁸

16 And Judah said, “What can we say to my master? What can we speak? How can we justify ourselves? The ELOHIM has found the crookedness²⁹ of your servants. Look!— we *are* servants to my master, both we, and he in whose hand the cup has been found.” **17** And he said, “Far be it from me to do this, the man in whose hand the cup has been found, he will be to me a servant, and **you**, go up in peace toward your father.”

²⁷ See note on v. 5.

²⁸ Double use of the verb indicates emphasis, and this verb is always in the intensive form (Piel), see note on v. 5.

²⁹ Heb *‘avon* can refer to the deed, or to its “guilt,” in the sense of deserving punishment. The verb means to twist, bend, or turn.