

The Final Test

Genesis Chapter 44

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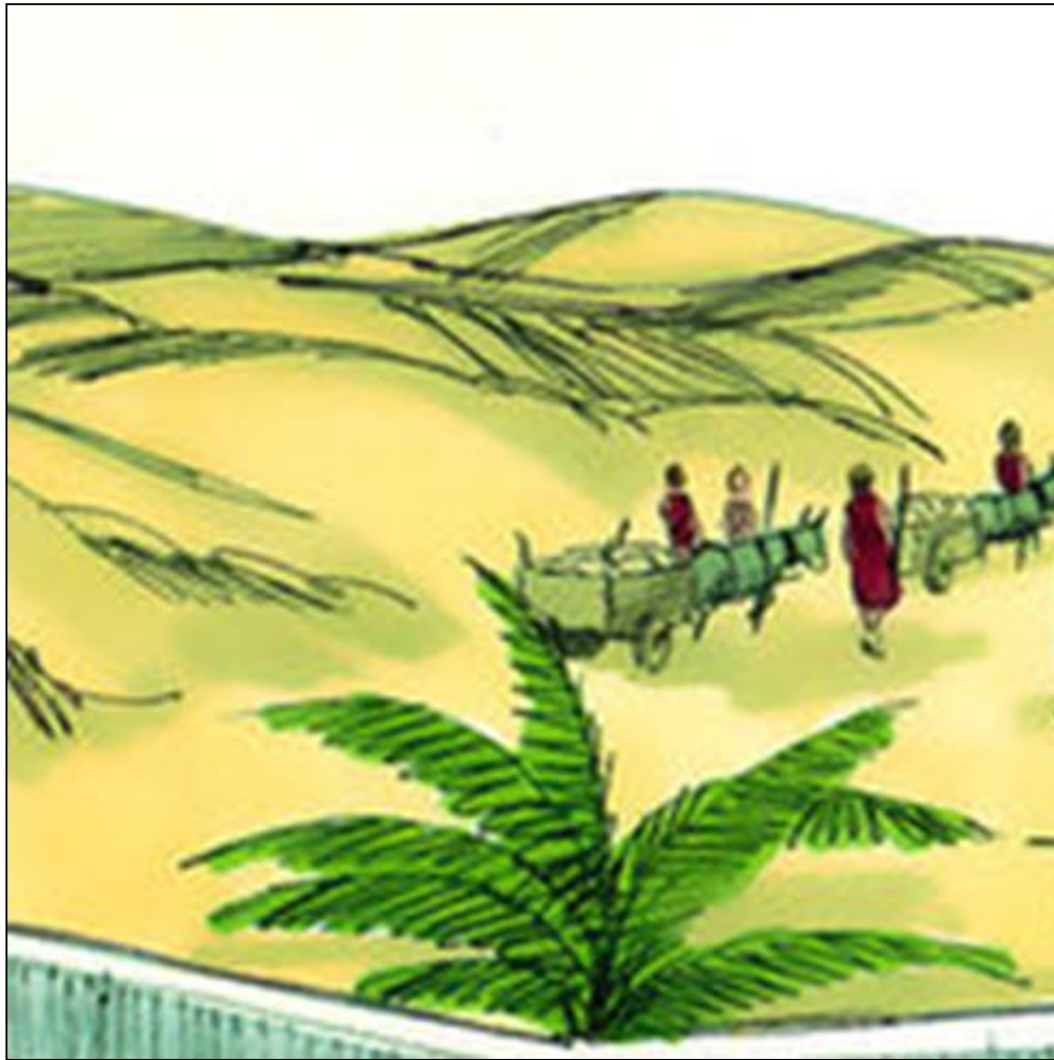
Now Joseph gave these instructions to the steward of his house..
"Fill the men`s sacks with as much food as they can carry, and put
each man`s silver in the mouth of his sack. Then put my cup, the
silver one, in the mouth of the youngest one`s sack, along with the
silver for his grain." And he did as Joseph said. v1-2



The servant is in on the plot ?

As morning dawned, the men were sent on their way with their donkeys.

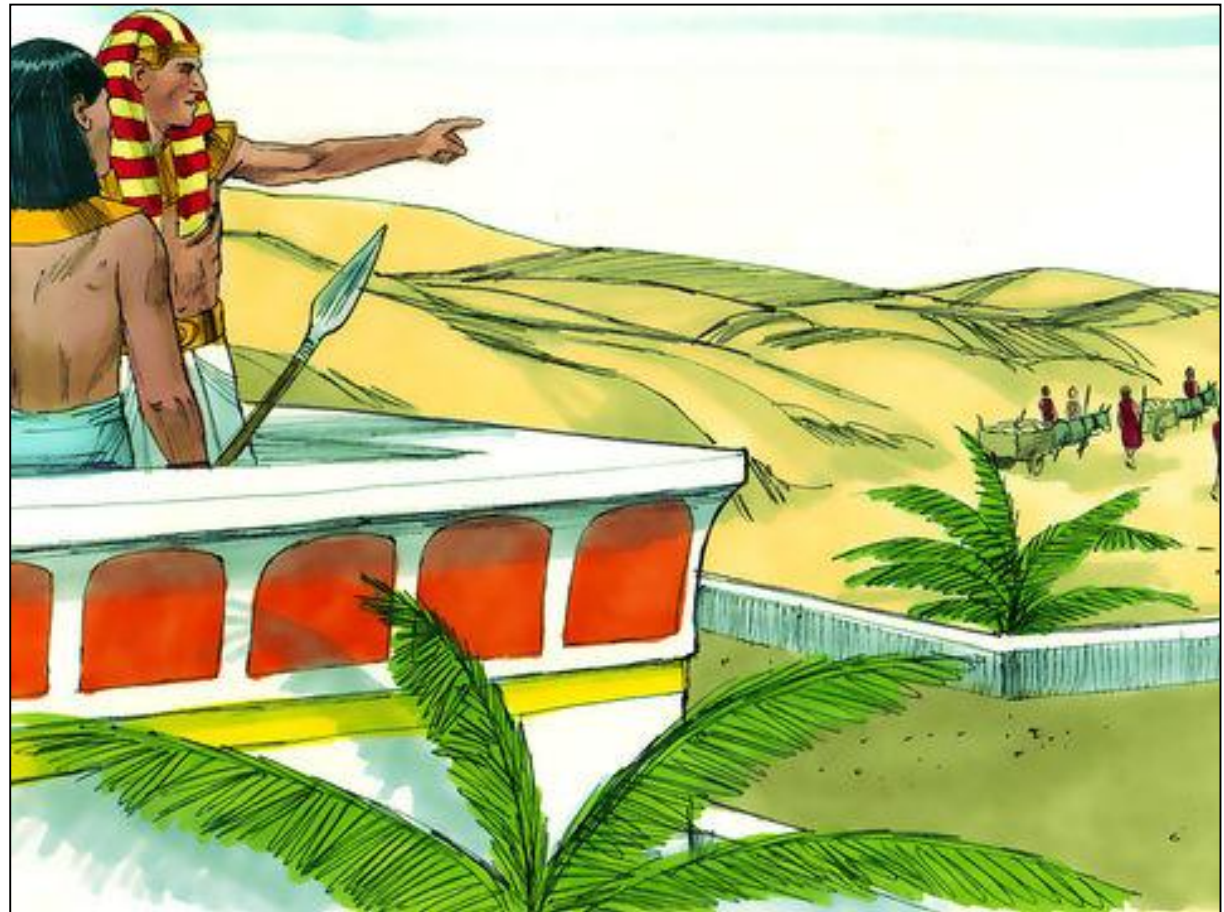
v3



James 4:14

They had not gone far from the city when Joseph said to his steward, "Go after those men at once, and when you catch up with them, say to them, `Why have you repaid good with evil? Isn't this the cup my master drinks from and also uses for divination? This is a wicked thing you have done.`" v4-5

You know
what to say !



When he caught up with them, he repeated these words to them.



But they said to him, "Why does my lord say such things? Far be it from your servants to do anything like that! We even brought back to you from the land of Canaan the silver we found inside the mouths of our sacks. So why would we steal silver or gold from your master`s house? If any of your servants is found to have it, he will die; and the rest of us will become my lord`s slaves." v7-9



The confidence of a clear conscience !

"Very well, then," he said, "let it be as you say. Whoever is found to have it will become my slave; the rest of you will be free from blame."
v10

Here is my



Each of them quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it. Then the steward proceeded to search, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin`s sack.

v11-12

**Why did he
do it
in this order
?**



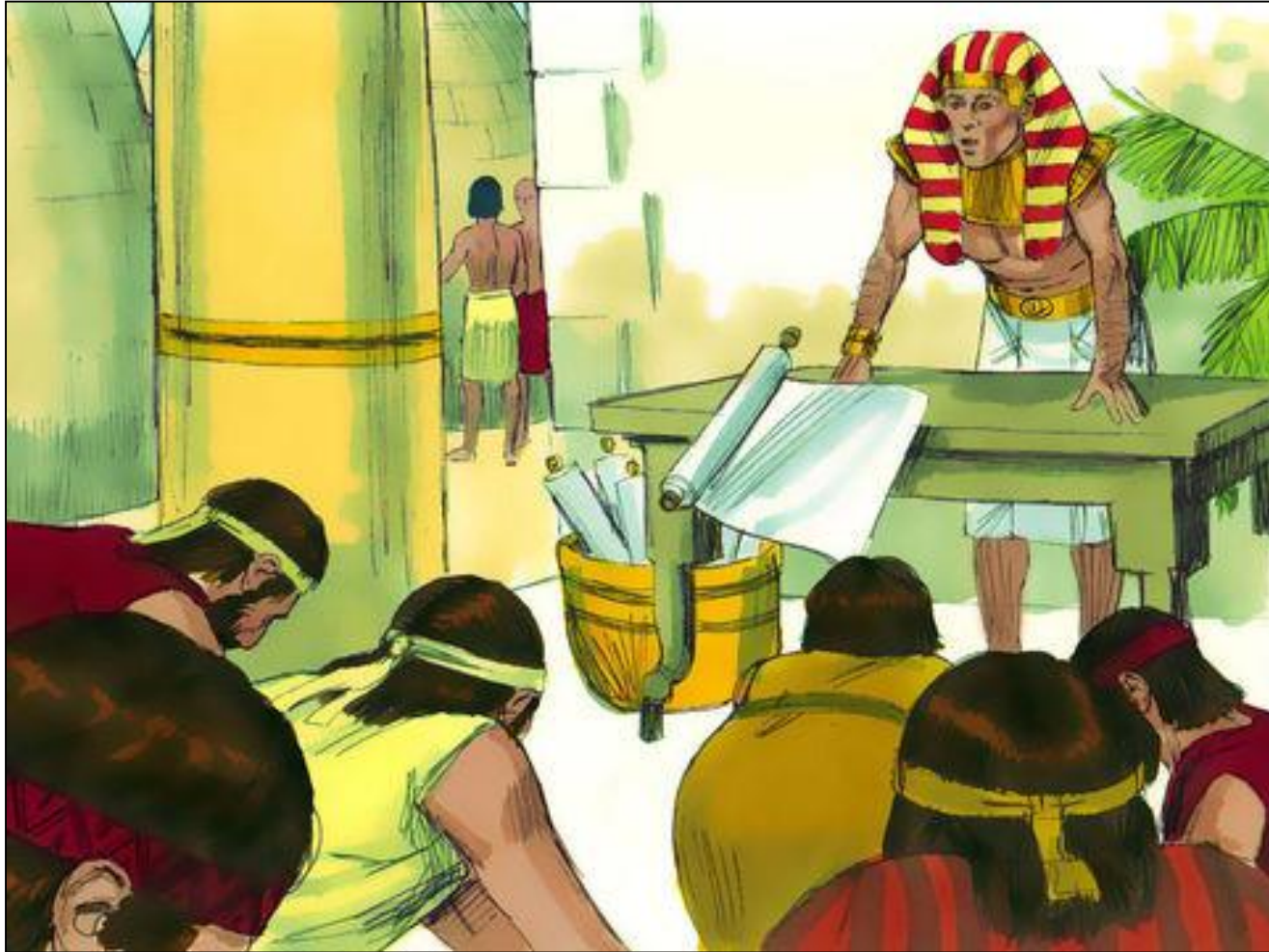
At this, they tore their clothes. Then they all loaded their donkeys and returned to the city.

v13

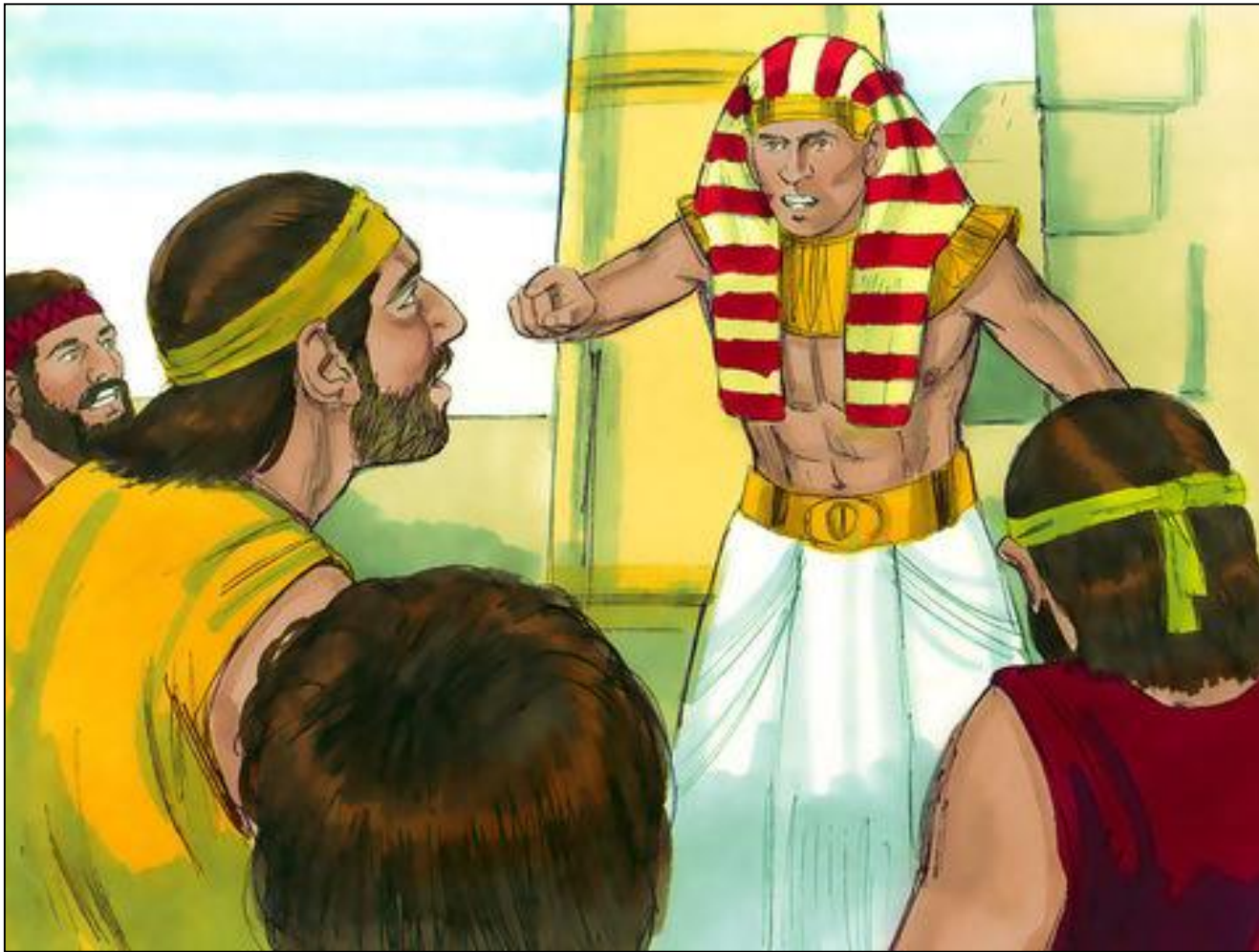


Solidarity !

Joseph was **still in the house** when Judah and his brothers came in, and they threw themselves to the ground before him. v14



Joseph said to them, "What is this you have done? Don't you know that a man like me can find things out by divination?" v15



Playing the Egyptian part ?

"What can we say to my lord?" Judah replied. "What can we say? How can we prove our innocence? **God has uncovered your servants` guilt.**

v16



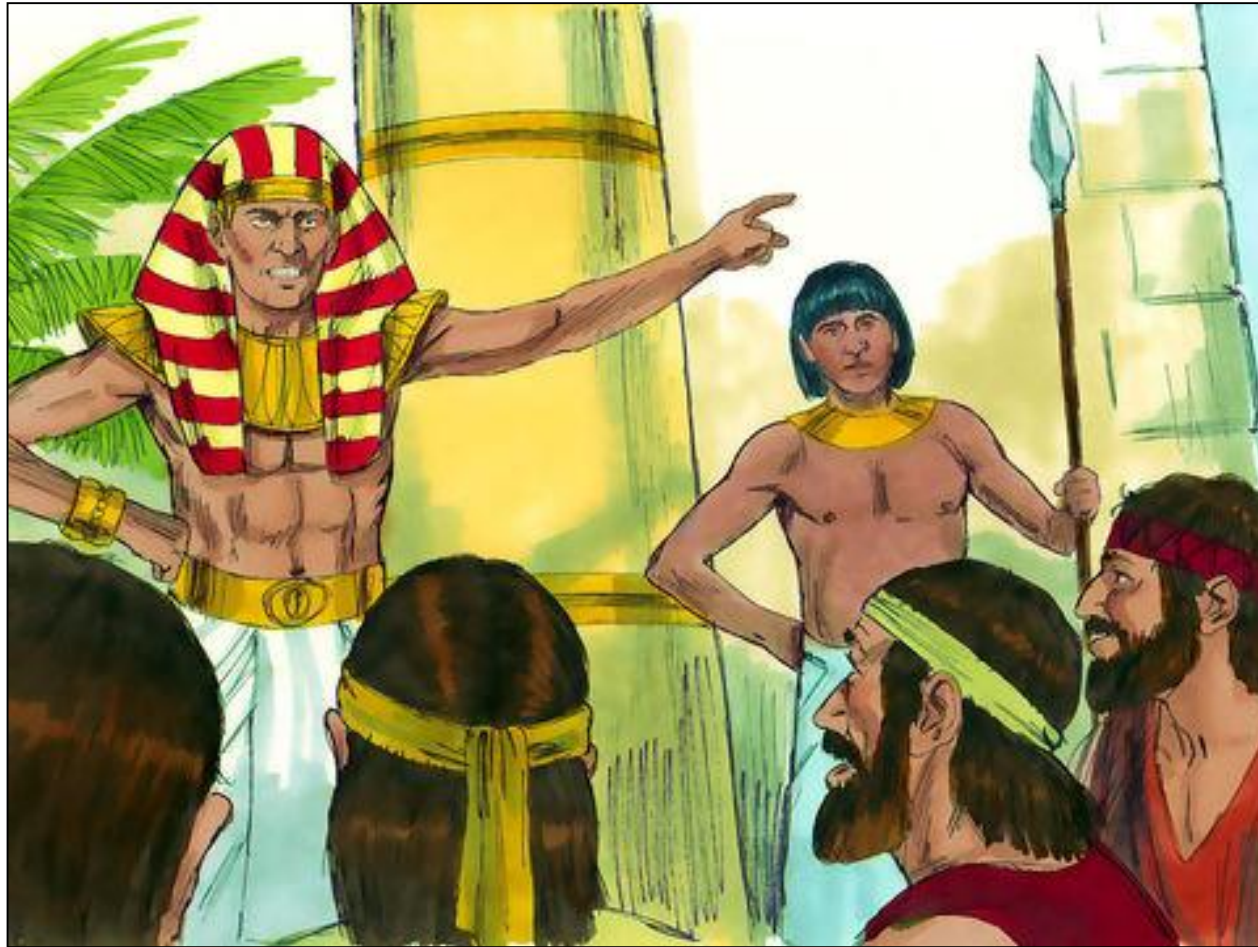
Innocent of this sin but

We are now my lord`s slaves--we ourselves and the one who was found to have the cup."
v16



Solidarity !

But Joseph said, "Far be it from me to do such a thing! Only the man who was found to have the cup will become my slave. The rest of you, go back to your father in peace." v17



Sharpening the point !

Then Judah went up to him and said.. "Please, my lord, let your servant speak a word to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, though you are equal to Pharaoh himself. v18

Judah makes good !

Leader

Humbly bold



My lord asked his servants, `Do you have a father or a brother?`
And we answered, `We have an aged father, and there is a young
son born to him in his old age. His brother is dead, and he is the
only one of his mother`s sons left, and his father loves him.` v19-20



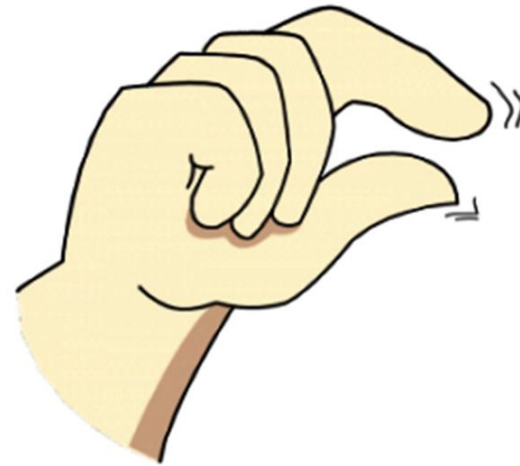
"Then you said to your servants, `Bring him down to me so I can see him for myself.` And we said to my lord, `The boy cannot leave his father; if he leaves him, his father will die.` But you told your servants, `Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you will not see my face again.`

v21-23



When we went back to your servant my father, we told him what my lord had said. "Then our father said, `Go back and buy a little more food.` But we said, `We cannot go down. Only if our youngest brother is with us will we go. We cannot see the man`s face unless our youngest brother is with us.`" v24-26

Just A Little More!



"Your servant my father said to us, `You know that my wife bore me two sons. One of them went away from me, and I said, "He has surely been torn to pieces." And I have not seen him since. If you take this one from me too and harm comes to him, you will bring my grey head down to the grave in misery.` v27-29

First Argument ! - the terrible effect on dad.



"So now, if the boy is not with us when I go back to your servant my father and if my father, **whose life is closely bound up with the boy`s life**, sees that the boy isn`t there, he will die. Your servants will bring the grey head of our father down to the grave in sorrow.

v30-31



Your servant guaranteed the boy`s safety to my father. I said, `If I do not bring him back to you, I will bear the blame before you, my father, all my life!`

v32

Second Argument ! - I gave a solemn promise !



"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. How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? v33-34

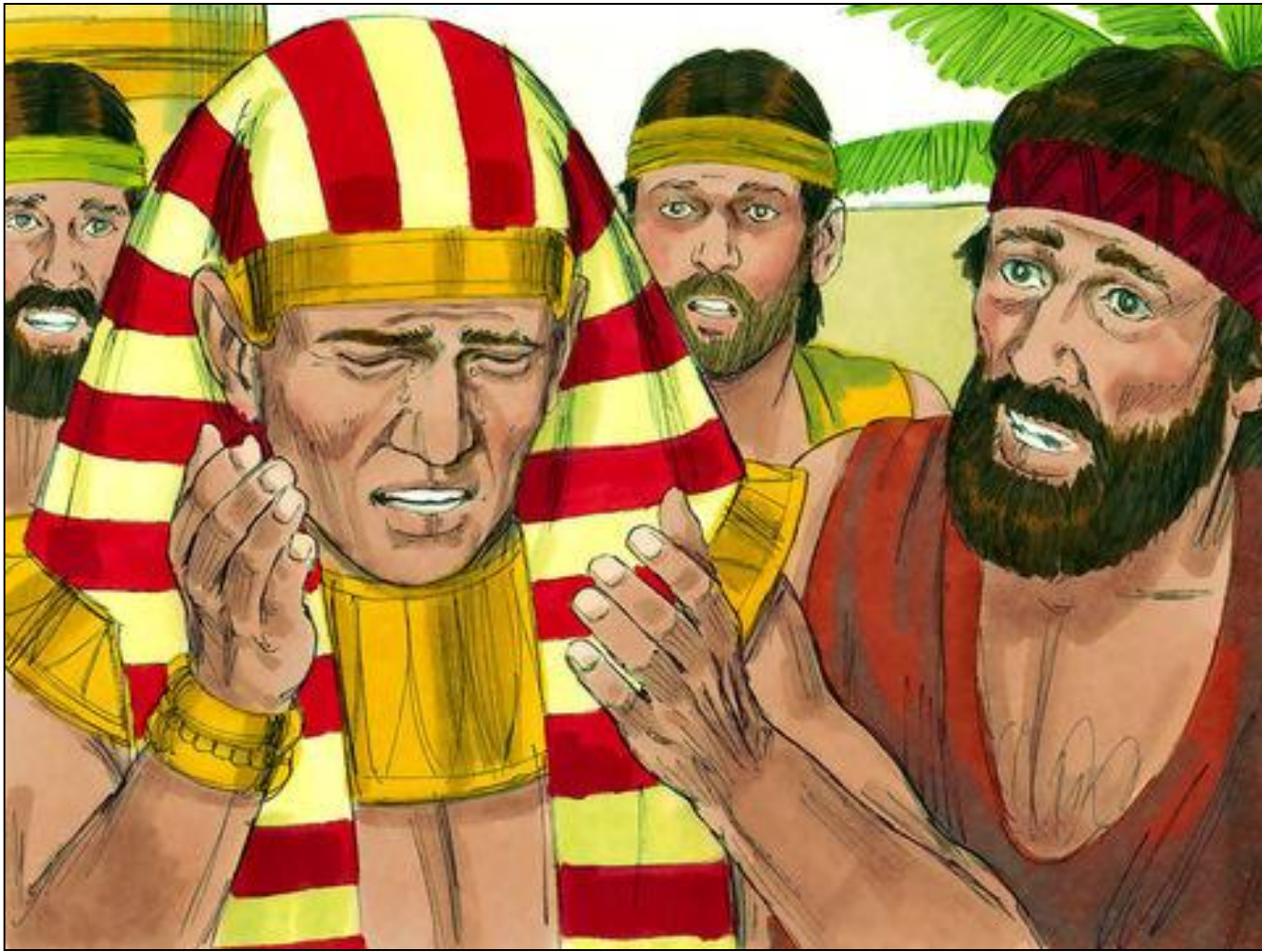


Judah makes good !

Offer of substitution

No! Do not let me see the misery that would come upon my father."

v34

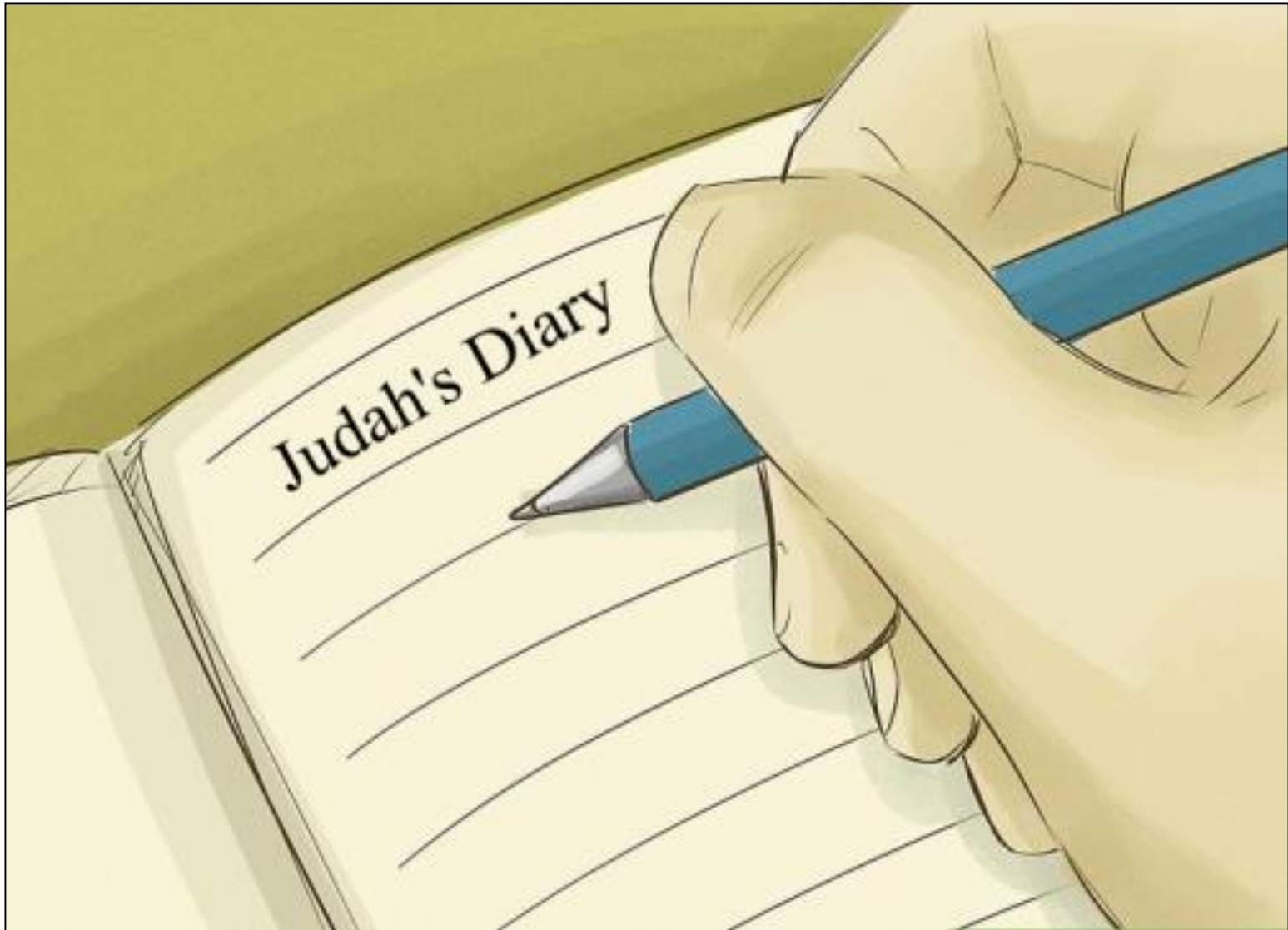


I appeal to your mercy ?



TEST PASSED

TEST PASSED



What would he have written during his visits to Egypt ?

God has worked in their hearts

How do we know it ? – by their response to the test



LOVE

is patient
is kind
does not envy
does not boast
is not proud
is not rude
is not self-seeking
is not easily angered
keeps no record of wrongs
does not delight in evil
rejoices with the truth
always protects
always trusts
always hopes
always perseveres
NEVER FAILS

1 Corinthians 13:4-8