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Psalm 144:2

"He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me."

This passage expresses the psalmist's praise and gratitude to God. The psalmist praises God as their guide and protector in battle and struggle. God is described as a rock, merciful, a fortress, a stronghold, a deliverer, and a shield. The psalmist hopes for God's shelter and protection, relying on Him to face the battles and challenges of life.

This passage reminds us that in the battles and struggles of our lives, God is our protector and refuge. We can trust in God's power and love, seeking His help and shelter. No matter what difficulties and trials we face, God's hand is always with us, protecting and guiding us.

Father,

I acknowledge that every good and perfect gift comes from You, for You are the ultimate source of love, life, and holiness. Your greatness is revealed through the wonders You perform, and Your mightiness is evident in all You do. I humbly ask for Your mercy to be poured upon me.

I am deeply grateful for the life You have given me, and I thank You for Your unwavering presence and guidance in my life. Your hands are a shield that protect me in times of battle and struggle. I recognize that even in my faults and weaknesses, You extend Your forgiveness and shower me with Your mercy. I am truly thankful for the righteousness of Christ that You have bestowed upon me, granting me access to Your holy presence.

In both joyful and challenging times, I am grateful, knowing that You are with me every step of the way. As You hold my hands, I am confident that You will lead me through each day, and I will respond with grace, lifting my voice in praise to You.

I offer this prayer with a heart full of gratitude and adoration, recognizing Your goodness and faithfulness in my life.

In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Genesis chapter 43

Summary:

In Genesis chapter 43, the narrative picks up after Joseph's brothers return to their father Jacob, also known as Israel, in Canaan. They had previously gone to Egypt to buy grain, and upon their return, they discovered that their money had been mysteriously returned to their sacks. The famine in the land persisted, and their food supplies were running low.

Jacob instructs his sons to go back to Egypt and buy more grain. However, he insists that they bring their youngest brother, Benjamin, along with them this time. The brothers are hesitant because they had previously been ordered by the Egyptian governor (who was, in fact, Joseph) to bring Benjamin to him. They fear that harm may come to Benjamin.

Nevertheless, Judah persuades his father, Jacob, to send Benjamin with them, offering to take responsibility for his safety. Jacob agrees, and the brothers set off for Egypt, taking a double portion of money to repay the previous grain purchase and to buy more.

Upon their arrival in Egypt, the brothers are taken to Joseph's house. They are afraid because they believe they are being brought there due to the previous money that was returned in their sacks. They approach Joseph's steward and explain the situation, emphasizing their innocence. The steward reassures them and brings Simeon, who had been held captive, out to meet his brothers.

When Joseph arrives, the brothers present him with the gifts they had brought from their father, Jacob. They bow before Joseph, fulfilling the dream Joseph had years ago, where his brothers would bow down to him. Joseph asks about their father's well-being and inquires about their younger brother, Benjamin. Overwhelmed with emotion, Joseph leaves their presence briefly to weep in private. He then returns and orders a feast to be prepared for them.

Important Verses:

Genesis 43:14: "And may God Almighty grant you mercy before the man, that he may release your other brother and Benjamin. If I am bereaved, I am bereaved!"

This verse shows Jacob's concern for the safety of his sons and his acceptance of the risks involved in sending Benjamin to Egypt.

Genesis 43:29-30: "Then he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, 'Is this your younger brother of whom you spoke to me?' And he said, 'God be gracious to you, my son.' Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep. And he went into his chamber and wept there."

These verses reveal Joseph's deep emotions upon seeing his younger brother Benjamin after many years of separation.

Genesis 43:34: "Then he took servings to them from before him, but Benjamin's serving was five times as much as any of theirs. So they drank and were merry with him."

Joseph's special treatment of Benjamin highlights his affection and favor towards his younger brother.

Genesis chapter 43 sets the stage for the climax of the Joseph narrative, where the brothers will face a significant test of character and reconciliation with their long-lost brother.

From Genesis chapter 43, several lessons can be gleaned:

The importance of trust and obedience: Despite their fears and concerns, Jacob's sons obey his instructions and return to Egypt with Benjamin. Their willingness to trust and obey their father's wishes demonstrates the importance of trust within family relationships.

The power of forgiveness and reconciliation: Joseph's emotional response upon seeing his brother Benjamin reveals his longing for reconciliation and forgiveness. The chapter highlights the potential for healing and restoration in broken relationships when forgiveness is extended.

The test of character: The brothers face a test of character when they are accused of theft and must confront their past actions. This chapter foreshadows a pivotal moment where the brothers will have to demonstrate true repentance and changed behavior.

The impact of favoritism: The contrast between Joseph's treatment of Benjamin and his other brothers highlights the negative consequences of favoritism within a family. It serves as a reminder of the potential harm caused by showing partiality and the importance of treating all family members with fairness and equity.

God's providence and timing: The events in this chapter demonstrate God's providential guidance and control over circumstances. The return of the money in the brothers' sacks, the meeting with Joseph, and the subsequent feast all align with God's unfolding plan and His provision during the famine.

Overall, this chapter emphasizes the themes of trust, forgiveness, repentance, reconciliation, and the faithfulness of God in orchestrating events to fulfill His purposes. It encourages readers to reflect on their own relationships, the importance of trust and forgiveness, and the need for genuine repentance and reconciliation.