

Genesis 40 - 45 → Joseph in Egypt

Genesis 40, Joseph Forgotten
 Genesis 41, Pharaoh's Dreams
 Genesis 42, Brothers 1st Visit to Egypt
 Genesis 43, Brothers 2nd Visit to Egypt
 Genesis 44, The Testing by Joseph
 Genesis 45, Joseph Revealed

Genesis

#2

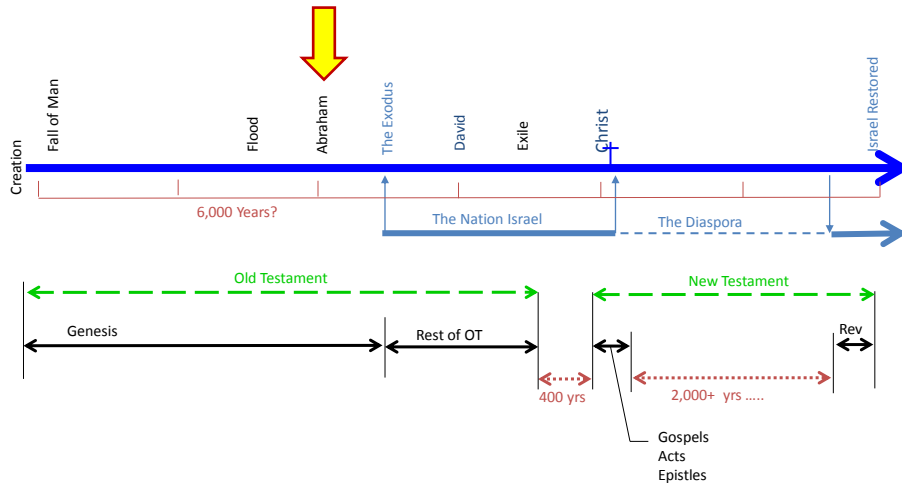
Part 1:

Genesis 1, 2	Creation
Genesis 3	Fall of Man
Genesis 4	Cain & Abel
Genesis 5	Genealogy of Noah
Genesis 6-9	Flood of Noah
Genesis 10-11	Tower of Babel

Part 2:

Genesis 12-20	Abraham
Genesis 21-27	Isaac
Genesis 28-36	Jacob
Genesis 37-48	Joseph
Genesis 49-50	12 Tribes Prophetically

The Panorama of History



Major Topics:

- Genesis 40, Joseph Forgotten
- Genesis 41, Pharaoh's Dreams
- Genesis 42, Brothers 1st Visit to Egypt
- Genesis 43, Brothers 2nd Visit to Egypt
- Genesis 44, The Testing by Joseph
- Genesis 45, Joseph Revealed

Genesis 40:1-3

1] And it came to pass after these things, that the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker had offended their lord the king of Egypt.

2] And Pharaoh was wroth against two of his officers, against the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the bakers.

3] And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound.

- The butler (mashgeh), or drink-giver/wine steward, was a valued member of Pharaoh's household.

In *Neh 1:11* the word is translated "cupbearer." Nehemiah, who bore that title, was a trusted official in the palace of the Persian monarch.

- The baker (opeh) was the superintendent of the bakery, responsible for seeing to it that the monarch's food was safe and palatable.

These two would also be Pharaoh's "tasters" to assure the absence of poison, etc. in his food and drink.

These two high officials in the royal household had offended Pharaoh.

Pending investigation, they were confined in the same prison to which Joseph had been committed.

Genesis 40:4-8

4] And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them: and they continued a season in ward.

5] And they dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which were bound in the prison.

6] And Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them, and, behold, they were sad.

7] And he asked Pharaoh's officers that were with him in the ward of his lord's house, saying, Wherefore look ye so sadly to day?

8] And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me them, I pray you.

That Joseph did not lose faith in God's promise is proved by his willingness to interpret dreams.

He was still convinced that God's revelation in his two previous dreams would be fulfilled; now he was confronted with two more opportunities.

Genesis 40:9-13

9] *And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine was before me;*

10] *And in the vine were three branches: and it was as though it budded, and her blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes:*

11] *And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand: and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand.*

12] *And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days:*

13] *Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler.*

The three vine branches of ripening grapes signified that Pharaoh would lift up the head of this man, that is, restore him to service within 3 days.

“Three days” occurs frequently in Scripture:

- Abraham's trek to Mt. Moriah;
- Jonah in the great fish;
- Jesus in the tomb, etc.

Genesis 40:14-15

14] *But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house:*

15] *For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.*

To this, Joseph added the request that the man remember him and seek his release from prison.

2 years will elapse...

Genesis 40:16-19

16] *When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph, I also was in my dream, and, behold, I had three white baskets on my head:*

17] *And in the uppermost basket there was of all manner of bakemeats for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head.*

18] *And Joseph answered and said, This is the interpretation thereof: The three baskets are three days:*

19] *Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee.*

The language of Joseph describes minutely one form of capital punishment that prevailed in Egypt;

that the criminal was decapitated and then his headless body gibbeted on a tree by the highway till it was gradually devoured by the ravenous birds.

Genesis 40:20-23

20] *And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants: and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants.*

21] *And he restored the chief butler unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand:*

22] *But he hanged the chief baker: as Joseph had interpreted to them.*

23] *Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.*

Joseph was correctly interpreting dreams.

He did not misunderstand God's revelations to him by dreams.

He might not have understood his imprisonment, but he was consistently firm, standing fast in his faith.

The cupbearer forgot him , but God did not.

In the hope of this fact Joseph had a persistent faith.

His faith was not destroyed by his circumstances.

Bread and Wine:

- First mentioned as Melchizedek administers to Abraham (*Gen 14*)
- The Baker and Wine Steward (*Gen 40*)
- The Lord's Last Supper (*Matt 26*)
- Communion (*1 Cor 11*)

22 July 2011

11

Genesis 41:1-3 Pharaoh's Dreams

1] And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river.

2] And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favoured kine and fatfleshed; and they fed in a meadow.

3] And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill favoured and leanfleshed; and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river.

Two full years later Pharaoh had two dreams which caused him great distress.

(In OT times, a partial year was counted as a full year.)

None of the wise men of Egypt could explain them.

22 July 2011

12

God's got a plan and Joseph never forgot it...

Gen 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

No matter how powerful a nation might be, it is still not beyond God's sovereign control.

God used an Israelite captive to confound the wisdom of Egypt, Just as God would use Daniel, another Israelite captive, to confound the wisdom of Babylon.

God promoted both to the #2 position of authority in their captor's kingdoms, but only after much trouble and persecution.

Both Joseph and Daniel were fixed on the fact that God would fulfill His Word and Promises even if they were received in a dream.

They never let circumstances affect their faith or belief.

They are the only two people (other than Christ) of whom no evil is spoken of in Scripture.

Genesis 41:4-8 Pharaoh's Dreams

4] And the ill favoured and lean fleshed kine did eat up the seven well favoured and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke.

5] And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank and good.

6] And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them.

7] And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream.

8] And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.

The magicians (hòartummým) belonged to a guild expert in handling the ritual books of occult and priest craft.

Kine → the old plural of 'cow' (today we just use the word 'cows')

Genesis 41:9-13 Pharaoh's Dreams

9] Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day:

10] Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker:

11] And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream.

12] And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret.

13] And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged.

22 July 2011

15

Genesis 41:14-16 Pharaoh's Dreams

14] Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.

15] And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.

16] And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.

Joseph would have been shaved, as was the Egyptian custom, and in a fresh change of clothes when he stood before Pharaoh.

He glorified God by giving God all the credit for his abilities declaring that the interpretation was with God alone.

1 Cor. 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

22 July 2011

16

Genesis 41:17-21 Pharaoh's Dreams

17] And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the river:

18] And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fat fleshed and well favoured; and they fed in a meadow:

19] And, behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and very ill favoured and leanfleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness:

20] And the lean and the ill favoured kine did eat up the first seven fat kine:

21] And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still ill favoured, as at the beginning. So I awoke.

22 July 2011

17

Genesis 41:22-24 Pharaoh's Dreams

22] And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up in one stalk, full and good:

23] And, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them:

24] And the thin ears devoured the seven good ears: and I told this unto the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.

22 July 2011

18

Genesis 41:25-31 Pharaoh's Dreams

25] And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do.

26] The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one.

27] And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine.

28] This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh.

29] Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt:

30] And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land;

31] And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous.

Genesis 41:32-33 Pharaoh's Dreams

32] And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

33] Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

Joseph explained that because the dream came in two versions it signified that it was of God, and would be carried out soon.

Several things must have been on Joseph's mind:

- his own two dreams,
- his two imprisonments (37:36; 39:20),
- the two dreamers in prison, and
- now Pharaoh's two dreams.

Hos 12:10 I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.

Genesis 41:34-35 Pharaoh's Dreams

34] Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years.

35] And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

Joseph advised Pharaoh to choose a wise man who would oversee storing 20% of the grain during each of the years of plenty for the coming years of famine.

Wisely planning ahead is a basic principle of practical living.

Notice: God's 20% savings plan.
 God's Tithe → 27%-30%
 Lifestyle Plan → live on 50-53%

22 July 2011

21

Money Matters

Lev 27:30 →

Tithe: What we give to support services and ministry

– typically our church the the ministries we support

Alms: What we give to support and meet needs

– typically the poor and oppressed

Offerings: Payment for a service we received

– support and honorariums given to those who lead and teach us

Tithe: the amount of the 100% God gives you; that you give back:

10% : First fruits – must be first or it's last;

– if it's first, there will be a second

– if it's last (or what's left) that's it...it is table scraps and leftovers

10% : Levitical – to support the Levites living

10% : Festival – every 3rd year

27-30% / year

Pastor Bob Coy
 Calvary Chapel
 Ft Lauderdale FL
www.activeword.org

	God gives	100%	
First fruits	10%	90%	10%
Levitical	10%	81%	19%
Festival	10%	73%	27%

Lev 27:30 "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. 31 Whoever would redeem any of their tithe must add a fifth of the value to it. 32 Every tithe of the herd and flock—every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd's rod—will be holy to the LORD. 33 No one may pick out the good from the bad or make any substitution. If anyone does make a substitution, both the animal and its substitute become holy and cannot be redeemed."

TITHE: Don't sort it to keep the best or favorites for yourself – if you do and you keep it back and substitute for it, you owe it and the original as well ...

Borrow the tithe and you owe it plus another 20% of the amount borrowed ...

Reminder: We pay AmEx, Discover, Visa and MasterCard up to 26%-32% to borrow their money..

Genesis 41:36-40 Pharaoh's Dreams

36] And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.

37] And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants.

38] And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?

39] And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

40] Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

No matter his situation, Joseph had been faithful over all the little things God sent him;

Now he would become ruler over all the land of Egypt under Pharaoh.

Genesis 41:41-43 Pharaoh's Dreams

41] And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

42] And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

43] And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.

The words of Mordecai to Esther might have been spoken to Joseph also:

"Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Est 4:4)

Act on Opportunity

God placed you where you are for a reason

22 July 2011

25

Genesis 41:44-45 Pharaoh's Dreams

44] And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

45] And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

Zaphnathpaaneah, in the Coptic, according to some scholars =

"A revealer of secrets," or,

"The man to whom secrets are revealed."

As a token of Joseph's new status, Pharaoh gave Joseph a wife, Asenath.

She was from the priestly family of On; a city which was a center of sun worship 7 miles north of Cairo and also known as Heliopolis.

22 July 2011

26

Genesis 41:46 Pharaoh's Dreams

46] And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

From the prison to the palace in one day!

Joseph was 30 at the time of his installment as the igh Egyptian leader under Pharaoh.

It had been 13 years following the time when he was sold by his brothers (cf. 37:2).

Joseph's high position gave him opportunity to travel extensively across Egypt.

22 July 2011

27

Genesis 41:47-49 Pharaoh's Dreams

47] And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls.

48] And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same.

49] And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.

Psalm 105:16-22 speaks of Joseph's imprisonment, release, and rise to power...

22 July 2011

28

Psalm 105:16-22

[16] Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread.

[17] He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant:

[18] Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron:

[19] Until the time that his word came: the word of the Lord tried him.

[20] The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free.

[21] He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his substance:

[22] To bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom.

22 July 2011

29

Genesis 41:50-52 Pharaoh's Dreams

50] And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him.

51] And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.

52] And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

In spite of his success, he did not abandon his Israelite heritage.

He gave his two sons characteristically Hebrew names.

- Manasseh (forget) signified that God had made him forget the misery of his separation from his family.
- Ephraim (fruitful) signified that God had made him fruitful in the land of Egypt.

It is the descendants of Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, who would named among the 13 'tribes' of Israel ...

Through them Joseph received a double portion.

Genesis 41:53-57 Pharaoh's Dreams

53] *And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended.*

54] *And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.*

55] *And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.*

56] *And the famine was over all the face of the earth: And Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt.*

57] *And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.*

“All” → meaning the whole globe ???
(North/South America, England, China, Japan, Australia)
or the known lands of the region ???

Genesis 42:1-9 The Brother's 1st Visit

God used the famine to bring Israel (Jacob and his people) into Egypt (a biblical symbol for 'the world') under the rulership of Joseph (God's man) who operated in the realm of Pharaoh (the evil ruler of the world in that age).

Israel would live and remain there as sojourners in a foreign land (this world is not my home) for 400 years as God had prophesied to Abram (*Gen 15:13*).

Israel became a great nation (ecclesia) of people in the process.

Then, at the appointed time, God removed them miraculously.

Genesis 42:1-6 The Brother's 1st Visit

1] *Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another?*

2] *And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die.*

3] *And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt.*

4] *But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him.*

5] *And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan.*

6] *And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.*

22 July 2011

33

Genesis 42:7-8 The Brother's 1st Visit

7] *And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food.*

8] *And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.*

Recognizing his brothers, Joseph would test them 4 times by accusing of being spies.

His language, his dress, his official bearing, and his position did their part in disguising him.

His brothers were speaking to a person they thought was dead (v. 13).

He handled them roughly,

but underneath his severity was affection.

22 July 2011

34

Genesis 42:9-12 The Brother's 1st Visit

9] *And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.*

10] *And they said unto him, Nay, my lord, but to buy food are thy servants come.*

11] *We are all one man's sons; we are true men, thy servants are no spies.*

12] *And he said unto them, Nay, but to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.*

Joseph's brothers presence in Egypt confirmed the truth of Joseph's dreams, but not their fulfillment.

Joseph knew that the whole family must come to Egypt submitting to his 'lordship' and protection.

22 July 2011

35

Genesis 42:13-16 The Brother's 1st Visit

13] *And they said, Thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and, behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is not.*

14] *And Joseph said unto them, That is it that I spake unto you, saying, Ye are spies:*

15] *Hereby ye shall be proved: By the life of Pharaoh ye shall not go forth hence, except your youngest brother come hither.*

16] *Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be kept in prison, that your words may be proved, whether there be any truth in you: or else by the life of Pharaoh surely ye are spies.*

He demanded that one of them bring their little brother as proof that they were not spies.

22 July 2011

36

Genesis 42:17-20 The Brother's 1st Visit

17] And he put them all together into ward three days.

18] And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God:

19] If ye be true men, let one of your brethren be bound in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses:

20] But bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so.

Joseph 'entombed' them in a holding cell for 3 days.

The time they left him in the pit...

He then came to them with an offer of release...

One of you stays here in prison as a hostage.

The others go home with food and bring Benjamin back to Egypt.

Bring him back and everyone lives and you can trade for food.

22 July 2011

37

Genesis 42:21-22 Family meeting...

21] And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us.

22] And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required.

A taste of retribution began to awaken feelings in the brothers:

Feelings that Joseph's cries for mercy (v. 21) and

Jacob's tears (37:34-35) had failed to awaken.

They sensed that having to bring Benjamin back to Egypt against the wishes of their father would be punishment for their having sold Joseph.

22 July 2011

38

Genesis 42:23 The Brother's 1st Visit

23] And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for he spake unto them by an interpreter.

24] And he turned himself about from them, and wept; and returned to them again, and communed with them, and took from them Simeon ^[2nd son of Jacob], and bound him before their eyes.

They spoke in their native tongue openly in Joseph's presence.

They did not realize that Joseph could understand them.

Joseph had been using an interpreter to communicate with them so as not to give a clue he was their 'supposedly' dead brother.

Joseph is overcome and leaves them for a time.

When he returns, they talk and while they watch, Joseph has Simeon bound and carried off.

22 July 2011

39

Genesis 42:24-28 The Brother's 1st Visit

25] Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way: and thus did he unto them.

26] And they laded their asses with the corn, and departed thence.

27] And as one of them opened his sack to give his ass provender in the inn, he espied his money; for, behold, it was in his sack's mouth.

28] And he said unto his brethren, My money is restored; and, lo, it is even in my sack: and their heart failed them, and they were afraid, saying one to another, What is this that God hath done unto us?

"What is this that God has done to us?":

Notice that they didn't treat this as a windfall,

like many of us when we are undercharged or get back more change than we deserve.

They apparently felt that Joseph would accuse them of theft, which would support his contention that they were spies.

Genesis 42:29-34 The Brother's 1st Visit

29] *And they came unto Jacob their father unto the land of Canaan, and told him all that befell unto them; saying,*

30] *The man, who is the lord of the land, spake roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country.*

31] *And we said unto him, We are true men; we are no spies:*

32] *We be twelve brethren, sons of our father; one is not, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.*

33] *And the man, the lord of the country, said unto us, Hereby shall I know that ye are true men; leave one of your brethren here with me, and take food for the famine of your households, and be gone:*

34] *And bring your youngest brother unto me: then shall I know that ye are no spies, but that ye are true men: so will I deliver you your brother, and ye shall traffick in the land.*

22 July 2011

41

Genesis 42:35-38 The Brother's 1st Visit

35] *And it came to pass as they emptied their sacks, that, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack: and when both they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid.*

36] *And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me.*

37] *And Reuben spake unto his father, saying, Slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee: deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him to thee again.*

38] *And he said, My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he is left alone: if mischief befall him by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.*

22 July 2011

42

Genesis 43:1-6 The Brother's 2nd Visit

1] *And the famine was sore in the land.*

2] *And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the corn which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said unto them, Go again, buy us a little food.*

3] *And Judah spake unto him, saying, The man did solemnly protest unto us, saying, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you.*

4] *If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go down and buy thee food:*

5] *But if thou wilt not send him, we will not go down: for the man said unto us, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you.*

6] *And Israel said, Wherefore dealt ye so ill with me, as to tell the man whether ye had yet a brother?*

Jacob waited until the whole family was in danger of starving unless the brothers returned to Egypt with Benjamin, all the while leaving Simeon in the Egyptian prison.

“Why did you even tell the man you had another brother?”

Genesis 43:7-10 The Brother's 2nd Visit

7] *And they said, The man asked us straitly of our state, and of our kindred, saying, Is your father yet alive? have ye another brother? and we told him according to the tenor of these words: could we certainly know that he would say, Bring your brother down?*

8] *And Judah said unto Israel his father, Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go; that we may live, and not die, both we, and thou, and also our little ones.*

9] *I will be surety for him; of my hand shalt thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever:*

10] *For except we had lingered, surely now we had returned this second time.*

Judah was the one who had come up with the plan to sell Joseph to Egypt (37:26-27).

Now he had to negotiate with Jacob in order to get Jacob to send Benjamin to see Joseph.

Genesis 43:11-13 The Brother's 2nd Visit

11] And their father Israel said unto them, If it must be so now, do this; take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds:

12] And take double money in your hand; and the money that was brought again in the mouth of your sacks, carry it again in your hand; peradventure it was an oversight:

13] Take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man:

Jacob resigned himself to the high risk involved in possibly losing a third son — first, Joseph; then Simeon; and now perhaps Benjamin.

Notice like the famine promised in The Revelation, it was grain – the staples of life that they needed.

They apparently had plenty of the luxuries – fruits, balm, hone, spices, myrrh, nuts, and money...

22 July 2011

45

Genesis 43:14-15 The Brother's 2nd Visit

14] And God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother, and Benjamin. If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.

15] And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand, and Benjamin; and rose up, and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.

Before sending his sons away, Jacob prayed that God Almighty (El Shaddai) might keep them and supply every need.

22 July 2011

46

Genesis 43:16-18 The Brother's 2nd Visit

16] *And when Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the ruler of his house, Bring these men home, and slay, and make ready; for these men shall dine with me at noon.*

17] *And the man did as Joseph bade; and the man brought the men into Joseph's house.*

18] *And the men were afraid, because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, Because of the money that was returned in our sacks at the first time are we brought in; that he may seek occasion against us, and fall upon us, and take us for bondmen, and our asses.*

22 July 2011

47

Genesis 43:19-23 The Brother's 2nd Visit

19] *And they came near to the steward of Joseph's house, and they communed with him at the door of the house,*

20] *And said, O sir, we came indeed down at the first time to buy food:*

21] *And it came to pass, when we came to the inn, that we opened our sacks, and, behold, every man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight: and we have brought it again in our hand.*

22] *And other money have we brought down in our hands to buy food: we cannot tell who put our money in our sacks.*

23] *And he said, Peace be to you, fear not: your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks: I had your money. And he brought Simeon out unto them.*

The unnamed steward of Joseph's house reassures them:

- Your debt is paid – you owe nothing
- Your God and the God of your father provided this to you
How did he know their God and that he was the God of their father.
- He set their pledge – the captive (Simeon) free

Genesis 43:19-26 The Brother's 2nd Visit

24] And the man brought the men into Joseph's house, and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their asses provender.

25] And they made ready the present against Joseph came at noon: for they heard that they should eat bread there.

26] And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves to him to the earth.

They were washed

Then they made themselves presentable to Joseph

And when he had come, they sat down at a feast table in Joseph's house

A noon meal was prepared for Joseph's 11 guests.

When they presented their gifts to Joseph they bowed down before him in fulfillment of God's Prophecy – His promise - Joseph's dream (37:7).

Genesis 43:27-30 The Brother's 2nd Visit

27] And he asked them of their welfare, and said, Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive?

28] And they answered, Thy servant our father is in good health, he is yet alive. And they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance.

29] And he lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, Is this your younger brother, of whom ye spake unto me? And he said, God be gracious unto thee, my son.

30] And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there.

Joseph, seeing Benjamin, could not hold back his tears of joy.

Benjamin was his full brother; the others were half brothers.

As before, when he talked with the 10 (42:24), he went aside and wept.

Genesis 43:31-34 The Brother's 2nd Visit

31] And he washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Set on bread.

32] And they set on for him by himself, and for them by themselves, and for the Egyptians, which did eat with him, by themselves: because the Egyptians might not eat bread with the Hebrews; for that is an abomination unto the Egyptians.

33] And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men marvelled one at another.

34] And he took and sent messes unto them from before him: but Benjamin's mess was five times so much as any of theirs. And they drank, and were merry with him.

At the dinner, Joseph seated them from the firstborn to the youngest.

They hadn't told him the proper order but yet he knew it increasing their uneasiness at the whole situation.

Note that the brothers and the Egyptians were seated at separate tables.

The Egyptians wouldn't sit at a meal with the Hebrews. Joseph (a Hebrew himself) was at a third table as the host and a ruler of the land.

Genesis 44:1-3 The Testing By Joseph

1] And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put every man's money in his sack's mouth.

2] And put my cup, the silver cup, in the sack's mouth of the youngest, and his corn money. And he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken.

3] As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their asses.

Joseph's final test: their concern for Benjamin.

If they had no compassion for this second son of Rachel, then they had not changed and would have no part in the promises.

God could start over again and make Joseph into a great nation if the others proved unworthy.

God threatened to do this in Moses day – destroy unworthy Israel and start again with Moses.

Genesis 44:4-9 The Testing By Joseph

4] *And when they were gone out of the city, and not yet far off, Joseph said unto his steward, Up, follow after the men; and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good?*

5] *Is not this it in which my lord drinketh, and whereby indeed he divineth? Ye have done evil in so doing.*

6] *And he overtook them, and he spake unto them these same words.*

7] *And they said unto him, Wherefore saith my lord these words? God forbid that thy servants should do according to this thing:*

8] *Behold, the money, which we found in our sacks' mouths, we brought again unto thee out of the land of Canaan: how then should we steal out of thy lord's house silver or gold?*

9] *With whomsoever of thy servants it be found, both let him die, and we also will be my lord's bondmen.*

The steward caught up with them and accused them of theft.

Search us. If it is found the owner of the sack in which it is found will die – the rest will become **bond servants**.

Genesis 44:10-12 The Testing By Joseph

10] *And he said, Now also let it be according unto your words: he with whom it is found shall be my servant; and ye shall be blameless.*

11] *Then they speedily took down every man his sack to the ground, and opened every man his sack.*

12] *And he searched, and began at the eldest, and left at the youngest: and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.*

Joseph's steward deliberately created tension among them by opening the sack of the oldest first and ending with the youngest.

He knew that the silver cup was in Benjamin's sack.

The sudden threat to Benjamin was like a sword thrust through their hearts (cf. Solomon's plan, *1 Kgs 3:16-28*).

Genesis 44:13-15 The Testing By Joseph

13] Then they rent their clothes, and laded every man his ass, and returned to the city.

14] And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house; for he was yet there: and they fell before him on the ground.

15] And Joseph said unto them, What deed is this that ye have done? wot ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine?

This time their response showed how different they were.

They tore their clothes in grief, a response which they had earlier caused their father to make over Joseph's loss (*Gen 37:34*).

The brothers returned and bowed again before Joseph.

Joseph did not actually use divination in discovering their treachery (*44:5, 15*).

He was saying,

'Do you take me for a fool? Did you really think you could put this over on me without my knowing?'

Genesis 44:16-17 The Testing By Joseph

16] And Judah said, What shall we say unto my lord? what shall we speak? or how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants: behold, we are my lord's servants, both we, and he also with whom the cup is found.

17] And he [Joseph] said, God forbid that I should do so: but the man in whose hand the cup is found, he shall be my servant; and as for you, get you up in peace unto your father.

Judah's intercession was remarkable, one of the sublime utterances of literature:

He offered no excuse,
made no denial.

Joseph indignantly answers that Benjamin will be enslaved and the rest can go home to Jacob.

Genesis 44:18-19 The Testing By Joseph

18] Then Judah came near unto him, and said, Oh my lord, let thy servant, I pray thee, speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not thine anger burn against thy servant: for thou art even as Pharaoh.

19] My lord asked his servants, saying, Have ye a father, or a brother?

Judah approaches Joseph to speak quietly and privately interceding for the boy;

His lengthy plea to be imprisoned in place of Benjamin is among the finest and most moving of all petitions.

It demonstrated his concern for his father who would surely die if Benjamin did not return with them.

The spirit of self-sacrifice, once so foreign to Judah, shone forth with rare beauty.

By his references to his father's suffering, Judah revealed himself as one now keenly aware of sacred values and relationships.

22 July 2011

57

Genesis 44:20-25 The Testing By Joseph

20] And we said unto my lord, We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, a little one; and his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother, and his father loveth him.

21] And thou saidst unto thy servants, Bring him down unto me, that I may set mine eyes upon him.

22] And we said unto my lord, The lad cannot leave his father: for if he should leave his father, his father would die.

23] And thou saidst unto thy servants, Except your youngest brother come down with you, ye shall see my face no more.

24] And it came to pass when we came up unto thy servant my father, we told him the words of my lord.

25] And our father said, Go again, and buy us a little food.

22 July 2011

58

Genesis 44:20-30 The Testing By Joseph

26] *And we said, We cannot go down: if our youngest brother be with us, then will we go down: for we may not see the man's face, except our youngest brother be with us.*

27] *And thy servant my father said unto us, Ye know that my wife bare me two sons:*

28] *And the one went out from me, and I said, Surely he is torn in pieces; and I saw him not since:*

29] *And if ye take this also from me, and mischief befall him, ye shall bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.*

30] *Now therefore when I come to thy servant my father, and the lad be not with us; seeing that his life is bound up in the lad's life;*

22 July 2011

59

Genesis 44:31-34 The Testing By Joseph

31] *It shall come to pass, when he seeth that the lad is not with us, that he will die: and thy servants shall bring down the gray hairs of thy servant our father with sorrow to the grave.*

32] *For thy servant became surety for the lad unto my father, saying, If I bring him not unto thee, then I shall bear the blame to my father for ever.*

33] *Now therefore, I pray thee, let thy servant abide instead of the lad a bondman to my lord; and let the lad go up with his brethren.*

34] *For how shall I go up to my father, and the lad be not with me? lest peradventure I see the evil that shall come on my father.*

22 July 2011

60

Jacob and Joseph Compared

- Both begin with the father being deceived and the brothers being treacherous *Gen 27; 37*
- Both include a 20-year period of separation, with the younger brother in a foreign land.
 - Jacob *Gen 31:38*
 - Joseph
 - 13 years in Potiphar's house & prison from age 17 to 30
Gen 37:2; 41:46
 - after 7 years of abundance his brothers came to Egypt,
Gen 41:53-54; 42:1-2
- Both conclude with a reunion and reconciliation of the brothers
Gen 33:1-15; 45:1-15

22 July 2011

61

Genesis 45:1-3 Joseph Revealed

1] Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.

2] And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard.

3] And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence.

22 July 2011

62

Genesis 45:4-6 Joseph Revealed

4] And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.

5] Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

6] For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest.

Joseph quickly spoke to ease their minds.

- He would not seek revenge for their ugly deed.
- He sought to reconcile.
- He sought to explain to them the plans and purposes of God.

The providential purpose of God is always more important and significant than any minor act of mortal man.

In Joseph's case, that purpose involved preserving alive a remnant who could be used to work out the Lord's will in the earth.

Genesis 45:7-8 Joseph Revealed

7] And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8] So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

One who is spiritually minded will seek to see the hand of God in every event.

Therefore they are able to forgive those who wrong them.

Genesis 45:9-11 Joseph Revealed

9] *Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not:*

10] *And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast:*

11] *And there will I nourish thee; for yet there are five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty.*

They could settle in the land of Goshen, which was about 40 miles from the site of present-day Cairo.

The district of Rameses (*Gen 47:11; cf. Ex 1:11*).

It was situated in the delta of the Nile, this eastern section was the best of the land for herds and flocks.

It was also near On and Memphis, where Joseph himself lived.

22 July 2011

65



Genesis 45:12-16 Joseph Revealed

12] And, behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my mouth that speaketh unto you.

13] And ye shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that ye have seen; and ye shall haste and bring down my father hither.

14] And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck.

15] Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him.

16] And the fame thereof was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, Joseph's brethren are come: and it pleased Pharaoh well, and his servants.

The brothers were reunited, first Joseph and Benjamin, then all of them.

Their previous hatred and jealousy of Joseph was now gone.

22 July 2011

67

Gen 45:17-20 Pharaoh pays the freight

17] And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Say unto thy brethren, This do ye; lade ^[load up] your beasts, and go, get you unto the land of Canaan;

18] And take your father and your households, and come unto me: and I will give you the good of the land of Egypt, and ye shall eat the fat of the land.

19] Now thou art commanded, this do ye; take you wagons out of the land of Egypt for your little ones, and for your wives, and bring your father, and come.

20] Also regard not your stuff; for the good of all the land of Egypt is yours.

22 July 2011

68

Genesis 45:21-24 Joseph Revealed

21] And the children of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the commandment of Pharaoh, and gave them provision for the way.

22] To all of them he gave each man changes of raiment; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver, and five changes of raiment.

23] And to his father he sent after this manner; ten asses laden with the good things of Egypt, and ten she asses laden with corn and bread and meat for his father by the way.

24] So he sent his brethren away, and they departed: and he said unto them, See that ye fall not out by the way.

22 July 2011

69

Genesis 45:25-28 Joseph Revealed

25] And they went up out of Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan unto Jacob their father,

26] And told him, saying, Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not.

27] And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived:

28] And Israel said, It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die.

This royal invitation to Jacob, the old patriarch near the end of hope, and to the 10 brothers burdened with guilt, was a turning point in their lives and a fulfillment of God's prediction (*15:13-16*) that they would go into isolation in a foreign country and multiply without losing their identity.

22 July 2011

70

22 July 2011

71



King Merenptah

- 13th son of Ramses II
- On the 'Victory Stela'
 - There are 28 lines of metered poetical hymn celebrating victories over a Lybian coalition
 - it includes a reference to Israel as a tribe

Official Catalogue, Egyptian Museum
Cairo, Item 212, Ground floor, Room 13

- Merentah's lungs contained salts indicating death by drowning in salt water (as in the Red Sea)

22 July 2011

73







Study Questions

- 1) Contrast the details of the two dreams that Joseph interpreted while in prison.
- 2) What is the possible significance of the detail that the bread in the baker's dream may have had "holes" in it?
- 3) How long did he have to wait after the butler was released?
- 4) Why do we suspect that Joseph had been held in the cistern for three days?
- 5) Compare the careers of Joseph and Daniel: similarities and differences.
- 6) Compare the narratives of Jacob and Joseph: similarities and differences.

Discussion Questions

“Where two people agree, one is redundant.”

- 1) What may be the significance of two in
 - a) the number of dreams in his childhood;
 - b) the number imprisonments;
 - c) the number dreamers in prison;
 - d) the number of Pharaoh’s dreams?
- 2) Was it appropriate for Joseph to charge for the dispensation of food to the hungry?
- 3) Why do we suspect that Jacob had his suspicions about the fate of Joseph?
- 4) Discuss the manner in which Joseph handled his brothers on their 1st and 2nd visits to Egypt.
Why did he do what he did, and what was accomplished?

22 July 2011

79

Research Projects

- 1) Trace the use of bread and wine throughout the entire Bible.
- 2) Trace the use of “three days” throughout the Scripture.
- 3) Trace the use of birds as adversatives in the Scripture.
- 4) Continue compiling your list of possible parallels between Joseph and Jesus Christ.

22 July 2011

80

The Patriarchs

