

# Joseph in Egypt (1)

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**GENESIS 37-50**

# Joseph, son of Jacob

**Genesis 37:2**, “this is the history of Jacob”.  
He is recorded primarily as a son of Israel (Jacob).

His life is found in **Genesis 37-50**.

His name means, “He will add”. He was born to Rachel, as the 11<sup>th</sup> son of Jacob, and her first son.

Of the sons of Jacob, he has the greatest prominence in the account of Genesis.

He is mentioned 6 times in the NT, 4x in **Acts 7** & 2x in **Hebrews 11** (also **Revelation 7:8** – the tribe of Joseph)

# Joseph, son of Jacob

Previously (**Genesis 37**), we have introduced him as a child.

Note the favoritism of Jacob toward him and the jealousy it produced

He told his brothers 2 dreams about how they would bow down to him

Their hatred was so strong that they wanted to kill him, but instead sold him to a group of Midianite traders for 20 shekels of silver (the price of a slave was 30 shekels – **cf. Exodus 21:32**)

# Joseph in Egypt

**Genesis 39:1**, being sold by his brothers, we now find Joseph in Egypt. He was sold at age 17 (**Gen. 37:2**) to Potiphar and served faithfully in his house.

Potiphar's wife desired him and sought to seduce him. Joseph faithfully resisted. See **39:8-9**

One day she entrapped him and he fled, but she kept his robe. She then accused him of trying to assault her.

Potiphar (reluctantly? TT) had him put in prison

# Joseph in Egypt

**Genesis 39:21-23**, in prison the LORD showed him mercy and he again excelled but was placed over the rest of the prisoners.

**40:1ff**, While in prison, he interprets the dreams of 2 of Pharaoh's servants the butler and baker. The interpretation comes true – the butler being delivered and the baker hung.

Joseph asked the butler to remember him, but he was forgotten about. Remained in prison for 2 years (**41:1**)

# Joseph in Egypt

**Genesis 41**, Pharaoh has 2 dreams, one of cattle and the other stalks of grain. He called his magicians and wise men but not could interpret the dream.

The butler then remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh.

Joseph was quickly cleaned up and brought before Pharaoh (**41:14**)

Joseph, through the hand of God interprets his dreams (see **vs. 16**)

# Joseph in Egypt

**Genesis 41:33ff**, following his interpretation, Joseph advises Pharaoh as to what he needed to do to prepare for the coming famine.

Pharaoh listens to Joseph and appoints him second in command over all Egypt (**41:37-44**)

He gave him a wife – Zaphnath-Paaneah. They had 2 sons – Manasseh (“God has made me forget”) and Ephraim (“God has caused me to be fruitful”) (**45-52**)

# Joseph in Egypt

**Genesis 41:46**, Joseph was 30 years old when he stood before Pharaoh. He had been in Egyptian bondage/prison for about 13 years.

**42** – as the famine begins after 7 years, Jacob sends 10 sons to Egypt to buy grain. When they arrive, they appear and BOW before Joseph (**42:6**). Joseph recognizes them and treats them harshly calling them spies. He interrogates them and finds out Jacob is still alive and his brother Benjamin is with him.



# Joseph in Egypt

**Genesis 42:18ff**, Joseph has them put in prison for 3 days, then he tells them that he will keep 1 in custody and send the rest home to bring Benjamin back.

Note **42:21-22**, where they still bear the guilt of what they had done to Joseph. Joseph wept.

He sends them home with their money and grain. They arrive home and tell Jacob what transpired.

Jacob refuses to send Benjamin though Reuben intercedes on his behalf. But after they begin to run out of food, he concedes and sends Benjamin with them. Judah promises to protect him.

# Joseph in Egypt

**Genesis 43**, they again arrive in Egypt and appear before Joseph. He sees his brother, and orders they all be brought to his house.

There he has a feast for them. When they see Joseph, they again BOW before him (**43:26-28**). He weeps seeing Benjamin. Then he seats his brothers in order by age. They are astonished (**43:33**). He gives Benjamin 5x as much as the others.

# Joseph in Egypt

**Genesis 44**, Joseph then permits them to leave filling their bags with grain, their money. He puts his silver cup in Benjamin's bag.

After they leave, his servants pursue them. They find the cup in Benjamin's bag and thus they all return to Egypt.

Joseph tells them to all leave except Benjamin (likely this was a test to see if they had repented).

**44:18-34** – Judah passionately intercedes and offers to take the place of Benjamin.

# Joseph in Egypt

**Genesis 45**, Joseph cannot restrain himself anymore. He orders everyone out and reveals himself to his brothers. They could not answer him!

**45:5-8ff** – He comforts them and notes why he is there. He attributes it to God.

Then he tells them to get Jacob and his family and move to Egypt where they would be protected and cared for.

When they return home they tell Jacob that Joseph is alive. His spirit is revived (**45:27** – after 22 years).

They all travel to Egypt numbering about 70 (**46:27**)

# Lessons from Joseph in Egypt!

## The Providence of God

**Genesis 45:5-8** - Throughout this account we see the hand of God at work. Providence by definition means God working through natural processes (as opposed to miraculous)

God can take care of us, cf. **Philippians 4:13**,  
**Romans 8:28**

We will further develop this in our next lesson

# Lessons from Joseph in Egypt!

## **Always conduct yourself with integrity**

No matter where Joseph was, he acted honorably, and it was noticed (similar to Daniel).

He always trusted God, even as a slave and prisoner (for 13 years)

We are to live so that we not give others cause to accuse

– **1 Peter 2:11-16**

# Lessons from Joseph in Egypt!

## “Flee youthful lusts”

**2 Timothy 2:22** - Actually, flee ALL lusts!

Joseph fleeing Potiphar’s wife is the best example of this. Note that he RAN away from the temptation and environment.

What steps will we take to avoid temptations?

**Matthew 5:27-30**, What did He mean by “pluck out your eye” or “cut off your hand”?

# Lessons from Joseph in Egypt!

## “How can I sin against God?”

**Genesis 39:9** – Joseph knew that what she was asking was wrong. He notes that it was a sin against God.

All sin is against God!

**Psalms 51:4**, David knew this!

**1 John 3:9**, we cannot sin because we have been born of God.



# Lessons from Joseph in Egypt!

## Keep your faith!

Joseph never forgot God which is why God was with him and he excelled. He continually knows that ultimately what happened was God's plan!

Consider 3 occasions: 1) His brother's betrayal; 2) Potiphar's wife; 3) The butler forgot him for 2 years. God could still use him and did – interpreting dreams and preserving his family!

**1 Peter 4:19**, commit your souls to Him in doing good.

# Lessons from Joseph in Egypt!

## There are consequences to sins

Certainly, there are direct consequences at times. You reap what you sow! (**Galatians 6:7-8**)

But there is also the mental anguish of sins – after 22 years, Joseph's brothers STILL know what they did was wrong and regretted it.

God can forgive any sin, and you can make reparations. But likely, you will NEVER forget (**cf. 1 Timothy 1:15, 1 Corinthians 15:9, etc.**) And that can be a good thing, if you learn from it!

What have you learned from  
Joseph?

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Let us pray!

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