

JOSEPH

GENESIS 37 – 50

Joseph Sold into Slavery

- ▶ Jealousy (**Gen 37.2-11**)
- ▶ The dreams
 - Sheaves
 - Sun, moon and 11 stars
- ▶ Joseph sent to check on brothers at Shechem
 - Plot to kill
 - Sold to Ishmaelites (Midianites) instead
- *Non-participation of Reuben (Gen 37.18-22, 29)*
- ▶ Jacob deceived
- ▶ Joseph sold to Potiphar, *captain of Pharaoh's guard* (36)

Side Story re Judah and Tamar

Genesis 38

- ▶ Judah moves out and marries a Canaanite, Shua
- ▶ Levirate marriage (vv. 1-10; cp. Deu 25.5-6)
- ▶ Judah deceives Tamar
- ▶ Tamar deceives Judah
 - Birth of Perez and Zerah
 - Perez in the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1.3)

Meanwhile back in Egypt . . .

(Genesis 39)

- ▶ Potiphar, captain of Pharaoh's guard (39.1; cp. 37.36)
- ▶ The uprightness of Joseph with Potiphar's wife
- ▶ His imprisonment
- ▶ Favor with the chief jailer
 - Jailer = captain of guard (40.3) = Potiphar?
 - Potiphar's dismay?

From Dreamer to Interpreter of Dreams (Gen 40.1 – 41.32)

Chief cupbearer and chief baker

- ▶ cupbearer restored
- ▶ baker executed
- ▶ interpretations valid
- ▶ cupbearer forgets Joseph

Dream of Pharaoh

- ▶ 7 cows
- ▶ 7 Ears of “corn”
- ▶ same dream (→ certainty that God will bring it about)
- ▶ 7 years of plenty → 7 years of famine

Joseph the Administrator

Gen 41.33-57

- ▶ Joseph freed and elevated to “ruler” of the land
- ▶ Given Egyptian name & Egyptian wife
- ▶ 30 years old
- ▶ 2 sons born
 - Manasseh: “one who causes to forget”
 - Ephraim: “*fruitful*”
- ▶ Storage during the years of plenty
- ▶ Drought/famine comes

The Visits of Joseph's Brothers

Gen 42 – 45

Ten sent

- ▶ Benjamin not allowed to go
 - Jacob still shows favoritism
- ▶ Joseph recognizes brothers and remembers his dreams (→ confirmation of the LORD's blessing)

The Visits of Joseph's Brothers

Joseph tests his brothers (42.9-16, 21-24)

- ▶ Accused them of being spies
- ▶ Benjamin's visit demanded
- ▶ Joseph overhears Reuben realizing the judgment is b/c their treachery against him
- ▶ Simeon kept as ransom
- ▶ The 9 return home, finding money in the sacks

Jacob's Dilemma

Jacob's reluctance (42.36)

- Joseph is no more
- Simeon is no more
- Everything is against me! ("Guess I'll just eat worms")
- ▶ Jacob gives in (43.13-14)

Joseph's further testing

Judah assumes leadership, pledging himself as surety

- ▶ brothers return with Benjamin, gifts, double money
- ▶ Simeon released → they have a meal with Joseph
- ▶ The silver cup in Benjamin's sack
- ▶ Judah offers himself in ransom for Benjamin: **test passed!**
- ▶ Joseph reveals his identity
- ▶ Jacob sent for

Joseph's Family in Egypt

Gen 46.1 – 47.27

The Land Of Goshen



- ▶ Recall Genesis 15
- ▶ Covenant development: God reassures Jacob, “I will make you a great *nation* there” (46.1-4)
- ▶ To the land of Goshen
- ▶ Joseph ministers in the land and Pharaoh prospers

The Last Days of Jacob

Gen 47.28 – 49.33

- ▶ Jacob lived 17 years in Egypt, dying at age 147
- ▶ Jacob blesses Joseph's sons
 - Ephraim preeminent over Manasseh
 - Both made heirs (tribes) of Jacob

Jacob Gives His Blessings

Genesis 49.1-28

- Reuben: preeminent → no preeminence (4)
 - Simeon (7)
 - Levi (7)
 - Judah (8-12)
- dispersed

- Zebulun (13): at seashore (?)
- Issachar (14): enslaved
- Dan (17-18)
- Gad (19): shall be raided and raid

- Asher (20): food will be rich (abundant)
- Naphtali (21): a doe let loose
- Joseph (22-26)
- Benjamin (27): ravenous wolf

The Death of Jacob

Jacob dies (49.33)

- ▶ Embalmed in the manner of the Egyptians (50.2-3)
- ▶ Buried at Hebron with Abraham and Isaac

The Providence of God

Gen 50.15-20

- ▶ You meant evil against me; God meant it for good
- ▶ **Blessing** to many people (→ Abrahamic covenant)

Death of Joseph

Gen 50.21-26

- ▶ Brothers reassured that they would be restored to the land (Genesis 15)
- ▶ Joseph's bones to be carried back to Canaan
- ▶ Joseph died at age 110

Questions/Comments about Joseph

Unit Three: In Egypt

ISRAEL IN EGYPT AND HER DELIVERANCE
(Exodus 1 – 13)

Significance of Israel's Residence in Egypt and Departure

1. For Israel: a nation was established
 - ❖ People: Developed from one family (Jacob/Israel) into a nation with a sense of nationhood
 - ❖ Identity: People unified by oppression, experience, worship
 - ❖ Culture: unique values, customs, relationships
 - ❖ Skills: agriculture, construction, craftsmen
2. Book of Exodus records basic steps in God's fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant

Historical Background (Exodus 1)

- Joseph dies (1805 BC)
- Lived ~70 years after his family came to Egypt
- This was during Egypt's 12th Dynasty (~2000 – 1790 BC), one of the strongest
- A Semitic tribe from Palestine, the Hyksos, infiltrated and took control of Egypt during the late 18th century BC
 - the first Hyksos ruler, Salatis, was the “new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph” (Ex 1.8)



Historical Background

- Ahmose (first ruler of the 18th Dynasty, which was even stronger than the 12th): drove out the Hyksos in the early 16th century BC

→ **First order** for **Hebrew midwives** to kill Hebrew male babies at birth (Exodus 1.16) came from Ahmose or Amenhotep I)

- Thutmose I: Beginning of empire status for Egypt

~50 years → Moses born ~1526 BC