

Great Stories of the Bible - 2/23/22

The Life of Joseph

TEXT – Genesis 50:20-21 *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. Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.*

INTRO – The amazing story of Joseph reveals how he love and blessed his brothers who mistreated him. How can God love us after we have gone our own way and sinned against Him?

Joseph is the most perfect type of Christ. Nothing bad is said of Joseph,

Both were the beloved son of their father
Both were despised by their own brethren
Both went into Egypt
Both returned from Egypt
Both were arrested
Both were falsely accused
Both resisted temptation & sin
Both were separated from their fathers
Both had great power & authority
Both were sold
Both showed great love
Both helped preserve life
Both were found alive
Both were reunited with brethren
Both showed compassion
Both showed pardon
God was with both

I. Joseph The Beloved Son

A. Joseph loved of his father

Genesis 37:3 *Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.*

B. Joseph's special name

abundance, one who adds to, a multiplier

C. He is distinct from his brothers

D. Joseph given future knowledge through dreams

Genesis 37:5-9 *And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and*

for his words. And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

II. Joseph Rejected by His Brethren

A. His brothers conspired against him

*And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams. **Genesis 37:18-20***

B. His brothers sought to kill him

C. His brothers sold him into slavery

D. His father was heartbroken

III. Joseph Betrayed and Forgotten

A. Joseph prospered in the house of Potiphar

*And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. **Genesis 39:2-4***

B. Joseph sinned not

*There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? -- **Genesis 39:9***

C. The Lord was with him

*And the LORD was with Joseph . . . **Gen 39:2***

*And Joseph found grace in his sight . . . **Genesis 39:4***

*But the LORD was with Joseph . . . **Genesis 39:21***

D. Forgotten by the butler **Gen. 40**

IV. Joseph Exalted

A. Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream

7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine

B. Pharaoh elevates Joseph to be 2nd in the kingdom

*And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said unto his servants . . . **Genesis 41:37-42***

Joseph was seventeen years old when he went to Egypt and thirty years old when he was delivered from the prison -- Gen 41:46

Daniel was a revealer of secrets later but Joseph is also at this time.

Note the three secrets that Joseph revealed.

- The secret of his future
- The Secret of the butler and the baker
- The Secret of Pharaoh's Dreams (Gen 41:1-57)
- The Secrets of His Brothers' Hearts (42-44)
- The Secret of God's Purpose (Gen 45:1-28)

C. Joseph distributes all the food during the next 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine.

V. Joseph and The Salvation of His Family.

A. Joseph's marriage to a Gentile bride is a type of Christ's marriage to the church during this age when His brothers after the flesh have rejected Him.

B. God's plan was to preserve Israel

All of this was a part of a greater plan, a plan to preserve Israel and prepare the way for the birth of Christ.

Ten of the sons went down to Egypt, and Joseph recognized them even though they did not recognize him. Certainly his appearance had changed in twenty years, and his Egyptian speech and dress would lead them to believe he was a native. Note that the ten men bowed down ([Gen 42:6](#)), but that Joseph's dreams had predicted that eleven would bow ([Gen 37:9-10](#)). This explains how Joseph knew the men would return with his brother, Benjamin.

Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt and sent his sons to secure food. Consider their two visits to Egypt.

- **The first visit ([Gen 42:1-38](#))**

Why was Joseph so hard on his brothers? And why did he wait so long to reveal himself to them? Because he wanted to be sure they had repented of their sins.

He spoke roughly to them and accused them of being spies ([Gen 42:7-14](#)); he kept them locked up for three days ([Gen 42:17](#)); he kept Simeon as hostage and bound him before their eyes ([Gen 42:18-24](#)). He gave them back their money ([Gen 42:25-28](#)).

The men confessed, "We are guilty!" See [Gen 42:21-23](#).

The second visit (chaps. 43-44)

God made Jacob's family hungry again, these men had to go back or starve to death. We see here other indications of their change of heart: Judah's willingness to be surety, to bear the blame for young Benjamin; their willingness to return the money; and their confession of the truth to Joseph's steward ([Gen 43:19-22](#)).

- **The only way Joseph could excuse their sins was by receiving their honest confession and repentance.**

Joseph used two devices to bring them to the place of confession:

The feast of joy ([Gen 43:26-34](#) — note that in [Gen 43:26](#) and [Gen 43:28](#) all eleven men bowed before him) and

The discovery of the cup in Benjamin's sack.

All eleven men fell down before Joseph in true contrition.

... *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.* **Genesis 44:16.**

Joseph's revelation of himself brought his brothers terror, for they fully expected him to judge them for their past sins. But he had seen their repentance; they had bowed before him; and he knew he could forgive them. He explained that five more years of famine would follow, but that he had prepared a place of refuge for them and their families there in Egypt. God had sent him before to save their lives.

CONCL — Joseph promised to nourish them ([Gen 45:11](#)) and protect them. He wept over them and kissed them, and he sent gifts to his father to assure him of the riches that lay in Egypt. "Come unto me!" was his invitation ([Gen 45:18](#)). Then, what a change took place in Jacob after he discovered that Joseph was alive — a change not too different from the change in the disciples when they discovered that Christ was alive! Before, Jacob had said, "All these things are against me ([Gen 42:36](#)), but now he could say, "**All things are working together for good!**"

*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. -- **Genesis 50:20***