

Joseph – Genesis 37 to Genesis 50

Read Genesis 37: 1-4

What can we learn about the life of Joseph in this passage?

- Joseph was seventeen years old. He was a shepherd.
- He brought reports of his brothers' misconduct and mischief to his father.
- He was the favorite of Jacob. Jacob loved him more than all his brothers. Jacob made a coat of many colors for him.
- His brothers hated him for this reason and could not even talk with him well.
- Joseph was rather naive to tell his dreams to his brothers about his future supremacy and his brothers' submission to him. That intensified their hatred towards him.
- Reuben tried to rescue him by persuading them not to kill him. His brothers sold him to the caravan going to Egypt.

Read Genesis 39:1-20

What can we learn about Joseph from this passage at Potiphar's house?

- He was a good administrator and faithful servant.
- Fair and handsome (Gen 39:6)
- God was with him and made him prosperous and successful.
- God blessed his master through him. (Gen 39:2)
- Potiphar, his master had entrusted him with charge of all of his house affairs.

What details do we learn about the temptation of Joseph?

- No one would have known if he'd have given into the temptation by Potiphar's wife.
- He had a healthy fear of God. (Gen 39:9)
- His temptation period was long. (Gen 39:10)
- He tried to resist her as much as he could, but when time came he had to flee from the place.
- Due to false accusation of Potiphar's wife, he was cast into prison (Gen 39:20) and he paid a price for being upright.

Read Genesis 39:20 – 41:37

Describe the time Joseph spent in prison.

- Joseph continued to be faithful, he did not give up.
- The Lord again blessed him in all his work. The Jailer gave him charge of all the other prisoners.
- In prison, he helped the chief butler (cup-bearer) to restore his position in Pharaoh's office. But the cupbearer forgot his promise to mention Joseph's innocence to the Pharaoh.
- After two years, when Pharaoh had two dreams, the cupbearer remembered Joseph and his skills to interpret dreams.
- So when Joseph was brought to Pharaoh, he interpreted dreams about seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine.
- He suggested the preparation for the famine by storing food during the good harvest years.

Read Genesis 41:41-56

How had Joseph's life changed as Head of State?

- He was given Egyptian name and was married to Egyptian priest's daughter.
- He was 30 years old. After 13 years of struggle, God made him the most influential person in all known world at that time.
- His wisdom and planning saved lives of people from not only Egypt but many other nations during the famine.

Read Genesis 42-50

Describe the Unusual Family Reunion.

- The famine brought all people from different nations to Egypt for help, including his brothers from Israel.
- They could not recognize him, but he knew them. He remembered the dream he had, when he was a young boy.
- Joseph, after testing them in different ways, made him known to them. (Gen 45:1-15)
- He forgave them and persuaded them to settle in Egypt with their father, Jacob.

What lessons have been learned from Life of Joseph?

God's plans and purpose are greater and better than ours! • God's providence and favor to the righteous
Suffering to God's people is not always bad! • Self control in youth • Patience and perseverance in the time of troubles
Honesty and strong work ethics • Fear of God and Faithfulness to God

Key-verses from Life of Joseph:

“The Lord was with Joseph”. (Gen 39:2, 39:21)

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” (Gen 50:20)