

# Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

**20. Joseph's trials**

# An outline of the Book of Genesis \*

\* Approximate chapter divisions only

## Genesis 1 to 11

**Creation**  
Genesis 1 to 2

**The Fall**  
Genesis 3

**Before the Flood**  
Genesis 4 to 5

**The Flood**  
Genesis 6 to 8

**After the Flood**  
Genesis 9 to 11

## Genesis 12 to 50

**Abraham**  
Genesis 12 to 23

**Isaac**  
Genesis 24 to 27

**Jacob**  
Genesis 28 to 36

**Joseph**  
Genesis 37 to 50



# Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

## We can see that God is working

- to **equip** Joseph for his high calling
- to **preserve** His people, and
- to **prepare** the way for the Messiah.

## **This Dreamer** (Genesis 37:18-28)

### **Joseph's brothers hated him**

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They said to one another, "**Here comes this dreamer.**"

"Come now, **let us kill him ...**

**and we will see what will become of his dreams."**

## **This Dreamer** (Genesis 37:18-28)

Then **Judah** said to his brothers...

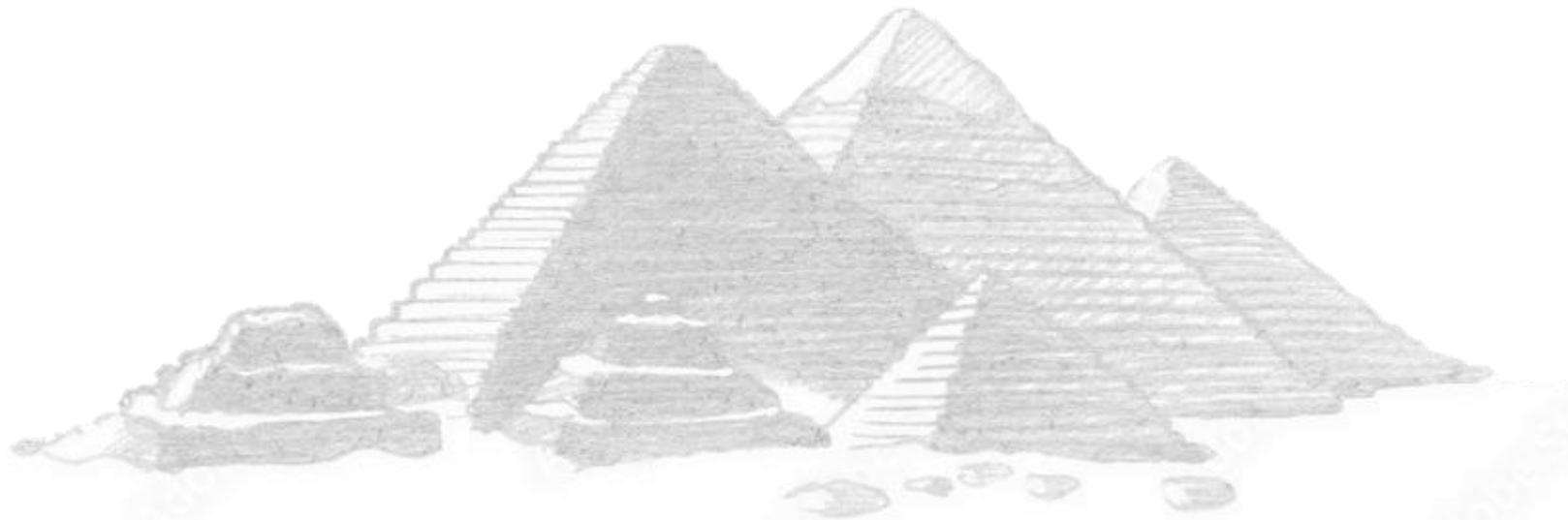
“Come, let us **sell** him to the Ishmaelites,  
and **let not our hand be upon him**, for he is our brother...”

And they drew Joseph up and **sold him** for 20 shekels of silver.



# Joseph disappears into Egypt

So Joseph was sold into Egypt...



Meanwhile...

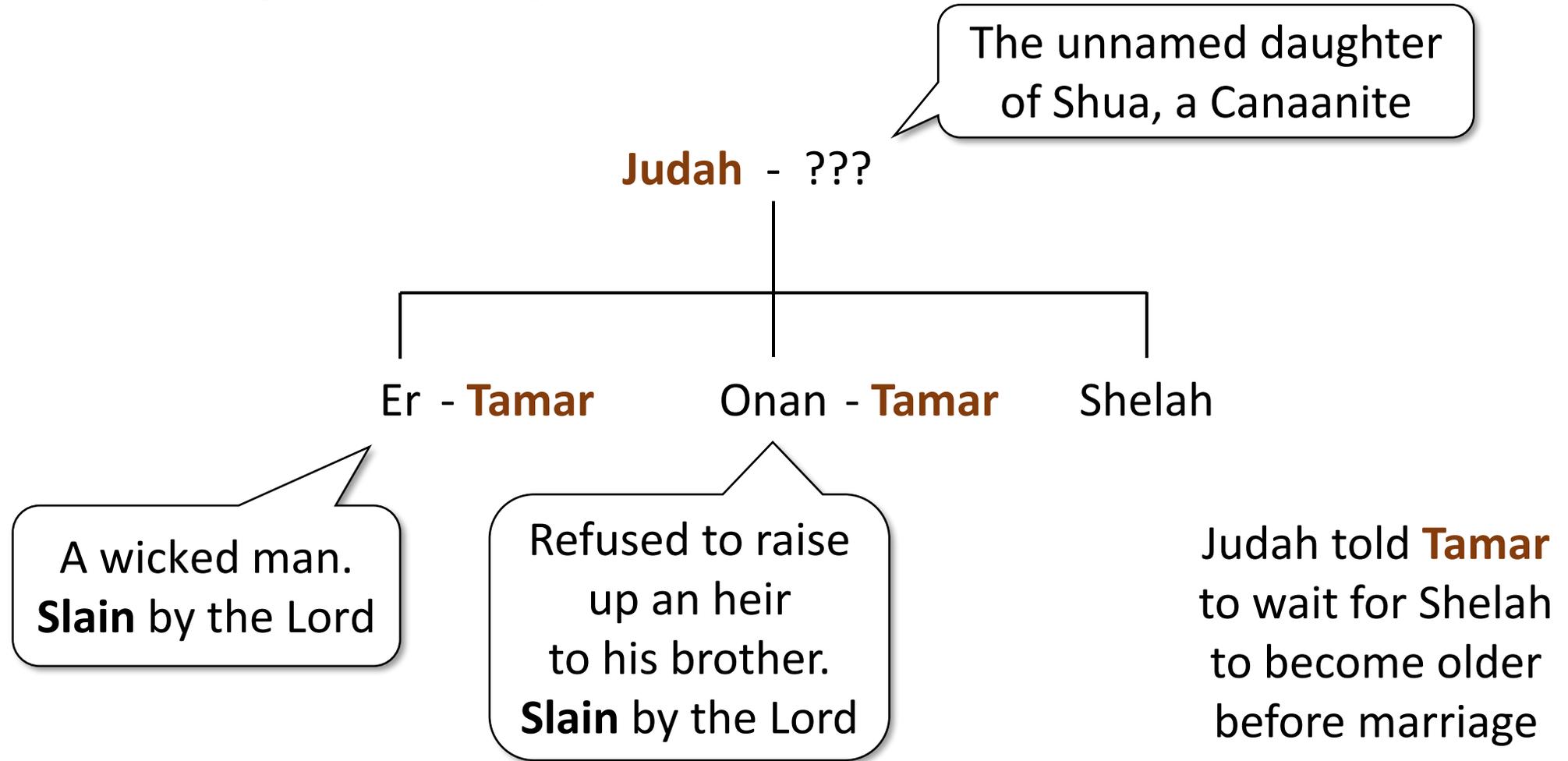
## Judah and Tamar (Genesis 38)

It happened at that time that **Judah** went down from his brothers and turned aside to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah.

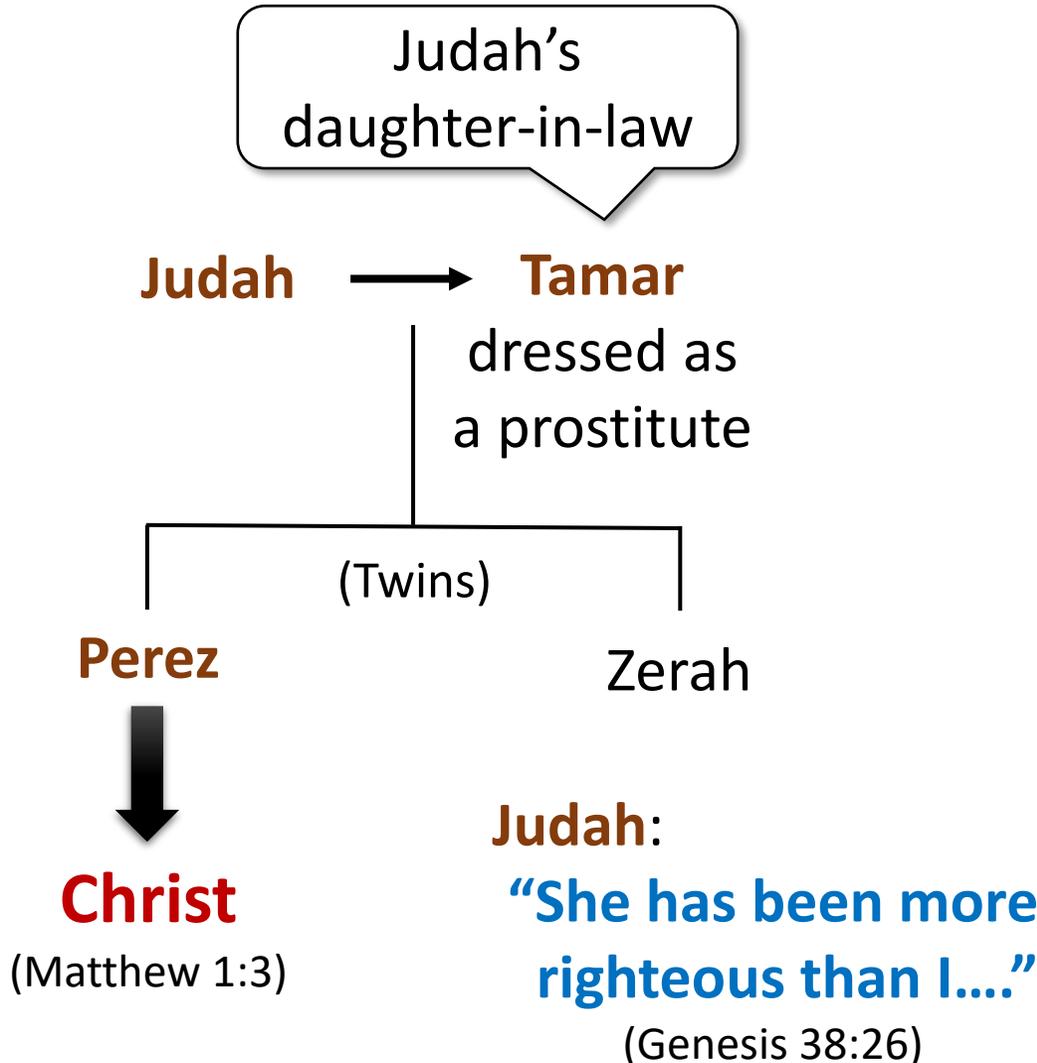
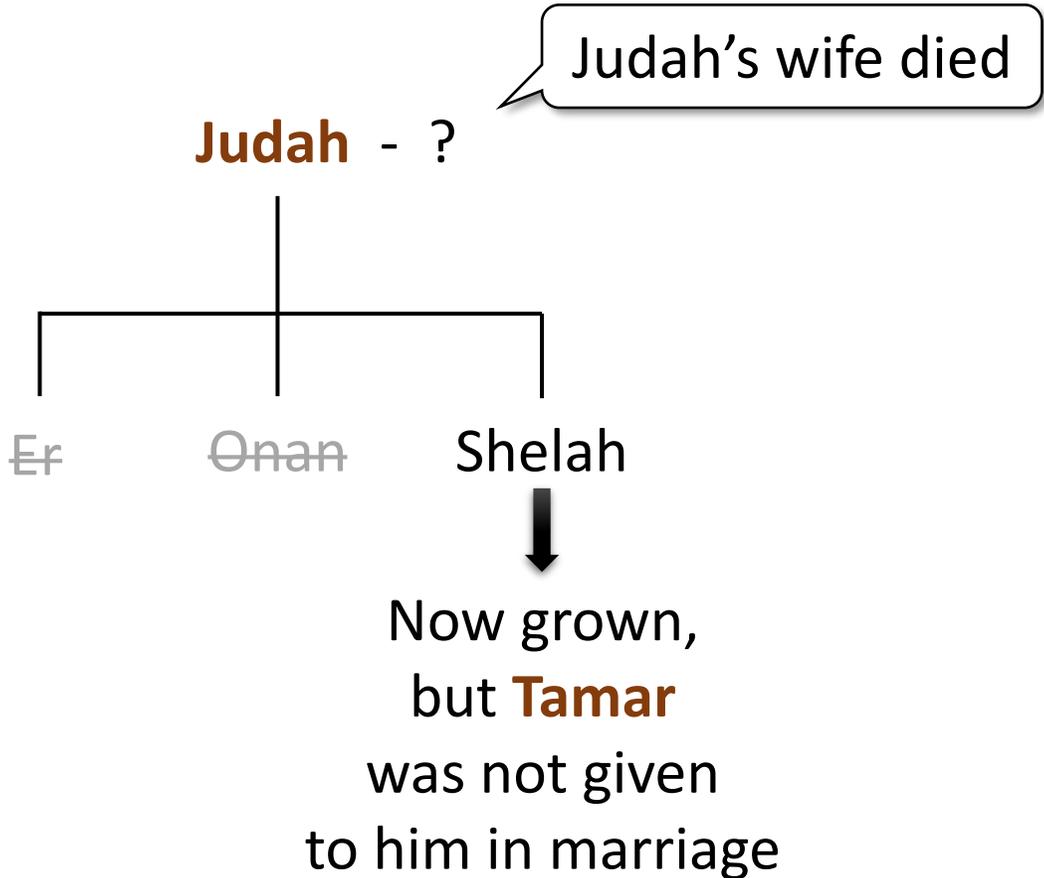
There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua.  
(Genesis 38:1-2)



# Judah and Tamar (Genesis 38)



# Judah and Tamar (Genesis 38)



Meanwhile, in Egypt...

# Joseph's trials in Egypt

## In Potiphar's house



## In the prison



### In Potiphar's house

**A slave in Egypt**

Sexual temptation

### In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

Abandoned

Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh,  
the captain of the guard, an Egyptian,  
had bought him from the Ishmaelites....

**The LORD was with Joseph,  
and he became a successful man...**

(Genesis 39:1-2)

### In Potiphar's house

**A slave in Egypt**

Sexual temptation

### In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

Abandoned

His master saw that **the LORD was with him**  
and that the LORD caused all that he did  
to succeed in his hands.

Psalm 1:3

**So Joseph found favour in his sight**  
and attended him, and he made him overseer  
of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.  
(Genesis 39:3-4)

## In Potiphar's house

**A slave in Egypt**

Sexual temptation

## In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

Abandoned

**From the time** that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, **the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake**; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field.

(Genesis 39:5)

### In Potiphar's house

**A slave in Egypt**

Sexual temptation

### In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

Abandoned

**The LORD was with Joseph...**

**His master saw that the LORD was with him...**

**So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge...**

### What was in Joseph's mind?

How was he able to live with **purpose** and with **integrity**?

- Did he remember the dreams and hope in their fulfilment?
- Could he see God's plan for the nation of Israel being worked out?
- Was he trusting in the God of Abraham?

### What is in your mind?

How are you able to live with **purpose** and with **integrity**?

- Do you remember God's promises and hope in their fulfilment?
- Can you see God's plan for the church (or Israel) being worked out?
- Are you trusting in the God of Abraham?

### In Potiphar's house

A slave in Egypt

**Sexual temptation**

### In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

Abandoned

Now Joseph was handsome  
in form and appearance.

And after a time his master's wife  
cast her eyes on Joseph  
and said,

**“Lie with me.”**

(Genesis 39:6-7)

### In Potiphar's house

A slave in Egypt

**Sexual temptation**

### In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

Abandoned

**But he refused** and said to his master's wife,  
"Behold, because of me my master has  
no concern about anything in the house...

**"How then can I do this great wickedness  
and sin against God?"**

And as she spoke to Joseph  
**day after day,**  
he would not listen to her,  
to lie with her **or to be with her.**

(Genesis 39:8-10)

### In Potiphar's house

A slave in Egypt

**Sexual temptation**

### In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

Abandoned

**But one day,**  
when he went into the house to do his work  
and none of the men of the house  
was there in the house,  
she caught him by his garment, saying,  
**“Lie with me.”**

But he left his garment **in her hand**  
**and fled and got out of the house.**

(Genesis 39:11-12)

### In Potiphar's house

A slave in Egypt

**Sexual temptation**

### In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

Abandoned

**How then can I do  
this great wickedness  
and sin against God?**

### What was in Joseph's mind?

Where was his strength in avoiding the sexual temptation before him?

- Was he bound by an old morality?
- Was he afraid of betraying the trust of his master, Potiphar?
- Was he afraid of sinning against God with whom he was learning to walk?

### What is in your mind?

Where is your strength in avoiding the sexual temptation all around you?

- Is moral purity just the old morality?
- Are you afraid of being found out by your family or church friends?
- Are you afraid of sinning against God with whom you are learning to walk?

### In Potiphar's house

A slave in Egypt

Sexual temptation

### In the prison

**Unjustly imprisoned**

Abandoned



The Hebrew servant,  
whom you have brought among us,  
came in to me to laugh at me.  
But as soon as I lifted up my voice  
and cried, he left his garment  
beside me and fled out of the house.

(Genesis 39:17-18)

And Joseph's master took him and **put him into the prison**,  
the place where the king's prisoners were confined,  
and he was there in prison.

(Genesis 39:20)

### In Potiphar's house

A slave in Egypt

Sexual temptation

### In the prison

**Unjustly imprisoned**

Abandoned

**“The Hebrew servant,  
whom you have brought among us,  
came in to me to laugh at me.”**

### What was in Joseph's mind?

- How could he bear the injustice?
- Did he perhaps think that God had abandoned him?
- How would he have understood why things went from bad to worse?

### What is in your mind?

- How can you bear injustice?
- Did you perhaps think that God has at times abandoned you?
- How do you understand why things can go from bad to worse?

### In Potiphar's house

A slave in Egypt

Sexual temptation

### In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

**Abandoned**

*hesed* = kindness,  
steadfast love,  
loyal love

...and he was there in prison.

**But the LORD was with Joseph** and showed him mercy and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

And the keeper of the prison **put Joseph in charge** of all the prisoners who were in the prison....

And whatever he did, **the LORD made it succeed.**

(Genesis 39:20-23)

Psalm 1:3

### In Potiphar's house

A slave in Egypt

Sexual temptation

### In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

**Abandoned**

Some time after this,  
the **cupbearer** of the king of Egypt and his **baker**  
committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt.

And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers,  
...and he put them in custody  
in the house of the captain of the guard,  
in the prison where Joseph was confined.

Potiphar's house

The captain of the guard appointed Joseph  
to be with them, and he attended them.

Served them

(Genesis 40:1-4)

### In Potiphar's house

A slave in Egypt

Sexual temptation

### In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

**Abandoned**

And one night they both dreamed...

When Joseph came to them in the morning,  
he saw that they were troubled.

So he asked Pharaoh's officers  
who were with him in custody...

**“Why are your faces downcast today?”**

(Genesis 40:5-7)

### In Potiphar's house

A slave in Egypt

Sexual temptation

### In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

**Abandoned**

They said to him,  
“We have had dreams,  
and there is no one to interpret them.”

And Joseph said to them,  
“**Do not interpretations belong to God?**  
Please tell them to me.”

(Genesis 40:8)

### In Potiphar's house

A slave in Egypt

Sexual temptation

### In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

**Abandoned**

## The dreams of the cupbearer and the baker

### The cupbearer's dream



In 3 days Pharaoh will...  
restore you to your office  
(Genesis 40:13)

“...Only **remember me**, when it is well with you,  
and please do me the kindness to mention me  
to Pharaoh, and so **get me out** of this house.

(Genesis 40:13)

### In Potiphar's house

A slave in Egypt

Sexual temptation

### In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

**Abandoned**

## The dreams of the cupbearer and the baker

### The baker's dream



In 3 days Pharaoh will...  
hang you on a tree.”  
(Genesis 40:19)

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants...

He **restored** the chief cupbearer to his position... But he **hanged** the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them.

(Genesis 40:19-22)

### In Potiphar's house

A slave in Egypt

Sexual temptation

### In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

**Abandoned**

Yet the chief cupbearer  
did not remember Joseph,  
**but forgot him.**

(Genesis 40:23)

For 2 years!

### In Potiphar's house

A slave in Egypt

Sexual temptation

### In the prison

Unjustly imprisoned

**Abandoned**

**Yet the chief cupbearer  
did not remember Joseph,  
but forgot him.**

### What was in Joseph's mind?

How could Joseph bear this massive disappointment?

- What did Joseph hope for from his request of the cupbearer?
- How would Joseph have lived from day to day after this?

### What is in your mind?

How can you bear the pain of great disappointments?

- What do you hope for when you try to get an advantage for yourself?
- How do you live from day to day in the midst of confusing situations?

# Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

## Joseph could not see how God was working

- to **equip** him for his high calling
  - to **preserve** His people, and
  - to **prepare** the way for the Messiah.
- 

## Joseph's trials encourage us

- to **believe God's word** in bewildering situations
- to **live our faith** in the place where God has put us, and
- to **walk before God** each day, trusting in His faithfulness.

# Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

**Joseph is a fruitful bough,  
a fruitful bough by a spring...**

(Genesis 49:22)

**By this My Father is glorified,  
that you bear much fruit...**

(John 15:8)