

Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

21. Joseph before Pharaoh

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

Ch 41



What do you think of Joseph?

Joseph gave a **bad report**
of his brothers to **Jacob**



Joseph was plainly
Jacob's favourite son



His brothers hated him



Joseph told **his dreams**
to **Jacob** and his brothers



His brothers hated him
all the more

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

Joseph is 17
years old

**Rejected by
his brothers**



Sold into slavery



Tested and tempted



Falsely accused



**Abandoned
in prison**

Abandoned in prison

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

(Genesis 40:23)

Joseph is 28
years old

Genesis 41

After two whole years,
Pharaoh dreamed...

Genesis 41

- 1 - 7 • **Pharaoh** dreams and is deeply troubled
- 8 • His wise men cannot interpret the dreams
- 9 - 13 • The chief cupbearer remembers **Joseph**
- 14 - 24 • **Pharaoh** tells **Joseph** the dreams
- 25 - 32 • **Joseph** tells **Pharaoh** the interpretation
- 33 - 36 • **Joseph** advises **Pharaoh** on what to do
- 37 - 46 • **Joseph** is made the governor of Egypt
- 47 - 49 • **Joseph** stores grain in the **7 years of plenty**
- 50 - 52 • **Joseph** has two sons, **Manasseh** and **Ephraim**
- 53 - 57 • The **7 years of famine** begin

One extraordinary day!

A slave
in prison



A governor
over all Egypt

In just one day...

Morning

Evening

Joseph is now
30 years old

Look at Joseph – what can you see?

Some say they can see Adam...

- God created Adam to have dominion.
- Pharaoh received Joseph and gave him dominion.

Christ Jesus
– the last Adam
(1 Corinthians 15:45)

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

(Psalm 118:22-23)

Let all the house of Israel therefore
know for certain that God
has made Him both **Lord** and **Christ**,
this **Jesus** whom **you crucified**.

(Acts 2:36)



Look at Joseph – what can you see?



Real history

A picture



Is this you?

**Can you see a believer,
a child of God in the world?**

For whatever was written
in former days was written
for our instruction...

(Romans 15:4)

A child of God in the world

For this **light momentary affliction** is preparing for us
an **eternal weight of glory** beyond all comparison,
as we look not to **the things that are seen**
but to **the things that are unseen**.

For **the things that are seen** are **temporary**,
but **the things that are unseen** are **eternal**.

(2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

1. Early days

2. Hard times

3. God's purpose

A child of God in the world

(2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

1. Early days

The things that are seen

Joseph had meaningful dreams.
He chose to live a righteous life.
We have God's promises in Scripture
and know the Spirit's work in our lives.
We too choose to live differently.

The things that are unseen

He who began a good work in you
will bring it to completion... (Philippians 1:6)

A child of God in the world

(2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

2. Hard times

The things that are seen

Joseph's brothers planned to kill him!

They sold him into slavery, and he suffered a lot, was imprisoned and seemingly forgotten.

Our suffering is light, but mockery and rejection can make life hard.

Brothers and sisters in other places are **suffering more**, even unto death.

The things that are unseen

God is faithful... (1 Corinthians 10:13)

I am with you always... (Matthew 28:20)

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven... (Matthew 5:12)

A child of God in the world

(2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

2. Hard times

The things that are seen

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The things that are unseen

Joseph was being prepared through many hard experiences for the task that God alone knew lay before him. **His faith** enabled him to be equipped.

We are **sanctified** and **equipped** for God's service by proving God's faithfulness and by learning truth about ourselves in hard times.

A child of God in the world

(2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

3. God's purpose

The things that are seen

Joseph was promoted to a high position in which he became a “**saviour**” for the Egyptian nation and his family.

We are called to be a **blessing** to our family, to the church and to the community – **the light of the world**.

The things that are unseen

Joseph's position was to prepare for the coming of **the Messiah** through the nation that would grow in Egypt.

Our simple service is part of **the eternal purpose of God**, to be fulfilled ultimately in the new creation.

A child of God in the world

For this **light momentary affliction** is preparing for us
an **eternal weight of glory** beyond all comparison,

**This is
living faith
in action**



as we look not to **the things that are seen**
but to **the things that are unseen.**



**This is the
life of the
Lord Jesus**

For **the things that are seen** are **temporary**,
but **the things that are unseen** are **eternal.**

(2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

A child of God in the world

Joseph teaches us that...

- ✓ Nothing of the Lord in our life is insignificant.
- ✓ God is with us and always in control during hard times.
- ✓ We must be trained and sanctified to be fruitful.
- ✓ We are part of something so much greater than ourselves.



I am the vine; you are the branches.

Whoever abides in Me and I in him,
he it is that bears much fruit,
for apart from Me you can do nothing.

(John 15:5)