

Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

22. Joseph and his brothers

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 42



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 brothers
about **his dreams**



His brothers hated him
all the more

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

Joseph is 17
years old

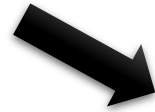
What do you think of Joseph?

Aged 17

Hated



Sold into slavery



Tested and tempted



Falsely accused



**Abandoned
in prison**

Aged 30

What do you think of Joseph?

A slave
in prison



A governor
over all Egypt

In just one day...

Morning

Evening

Joseph is now 30 years old

What do you think of Joseph now?

- ✓ The Lord has had His hand on him from his youth
and
- ✓ Joseph has been a willing learner/trainee
therefore
- ✓ God has been able to equip him for a great work

How has Joseph been trained?

- He has learned to be a servant to all
- He has learned to wait patiently for God
- He has gained the “wisdom from above”

Genesis 42:1 to 43:15 – The 7 years of famine have begun

- | | | |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Ch 42: 1 - 5 | • Jacob sends his sons to Egypt to buy food | } The 1 st trip to Egypt |
| 6 - 7 | • Joseph recognises them and remembers his dreams | |
| 8 - 17 | • Joseph calls them spies and imprisons them | |
| 18 - 20 | • Joseph frees nine of his brothers but holds Simeon | |
| 21 - 24 | • Joseph hears his brothers admit their guilt | |
| 25 - 28 | • Joseph returns their money and they leave Egypt | |
| 29 - 34 | • The brothers report back to Jacob | } In Canaan |
| 36 - 38 | • Jacob despairs and refuses to let Benjamin go | |
| Ch 43: 1 - 10 | • After some time, Judah stands surety for Benjamin | |
| 11 - 15 | • They return to Egypt with Benjamin | |

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Joseph remembers his dreams...

- The sheaves of grain bow down
- The sun, moon and stars bow down
(See Genesis 37:7-9)



Joseph will provide for his whole family from a position of great power.



“Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there...”

(Genesis 15:13)



Joseph’s whole family must come to Egypt where they will become a great nation

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You are spies!

Joseph's brothers

- They were ready to kill Joseph
- They sold him for profit instead
- They deceived and grieved Jacob
- They lived the lie for 20+ years

- Helpless in the face of **injustice**
- Powerless in prison

- 18 - 20 • **Joseph** frees nine of his brothers but holds **Simeon**
- 21 - 24 • **Joseph** hears his brothers admit their guilt
- 25 - 28 • **Joseph** returns their money and **they leave Egypt**

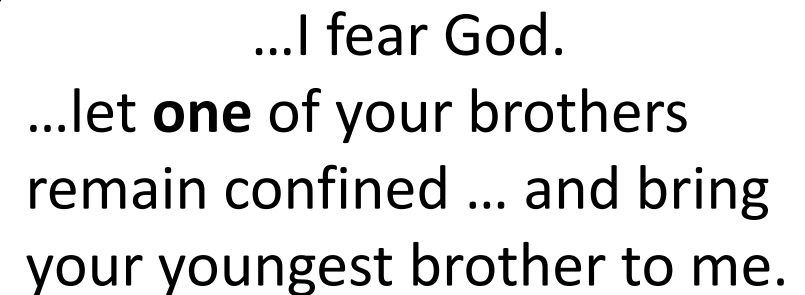
Joseph's brothers

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-
- Joseph's brothers taste **unexpected mercy**.
 - Will they abandon Simeon in the prison?
 - What sort of men are they?



You are spies!

- Helpless in the face of **injustice**
- Powerless in prison



...I fear God.
...let **one** of your brothers
remain confined ... and bring
your youngest brother to me.

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...I fear God.
...let **one** of your brothers
remain confined ... and bring
your youngest brother to me.

“In truth **we are guilty** concerning our brother...”

“Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy?
But you did not listen. So now there comes
a reckoning for his blood.”

The agony of sin uncovered!
The burden of consequences
that cannot be escaped!

Why did Joseph weep?

- 18 - 20 • **Joseph** frees nine of his brothers but holds **Simeon**
21 - 24 • **Joseph** hears his brothers admit their guilt
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“In truth **we are guilty** concerning our brother...”

“Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy?
But you did not listen. So now there comes
a reckoning for his blood.”

“My money has been put back...!”

At this their hearts failed them, and
they turned trembling to one another,
saying,

**“What is this that God
has done to us?”**

**The agony of sin uncovered!
The burden of consequences
that cannot be escaped!**

**Will their hearts
be softened by grace?**

**Will the goodness
of God transform them?**

29 - 34 • The brothers report back to **Jacob**

36 - 38 • **Jacob** despairs and refuses to let **Benjamin** go

Bring your youngest brother to me...
and I will deliver your brother to you,
and you shall trade in the land.



You have bereaved me of my children:
Joseph is no more, and **Simeon** is no more,
and now you would take **Benjamin**.

All this has come against me.



Ch 43: 1 - 10 • After some time, **Judah** stands surety for Benjamin
11 - 15 • **They return to Egypt** with Benjamin

And **Judah** said to **Israel** his father,

“Send the boy with me,
and we will arise and go,
that we may live and not die....

“**I will be a pledge of his safety....**
If I do not bring him back to you
and set him before you,
then let me bear the blame forever.”

Then their father **Israel** said to them,
“**May God Almighty grant you mercy**
before the man, and may he send back
your other brother and **Benjamin**.


**And as for me, if I am bereaved
of my children, I am bereaved.”**


Genesis 42:1 to 43:15 – The 7 years of famine have begun


- **Jacob** sends his sons to **Egypt** to buy food
 - **Joseph** recognises them and remembers his dreams
 - **Joseph** calls them spies and imprisons them
 - **Joseph** frees nine of his brothers but holds **Simeon**
 - **Joseph** hears his brothers admit their guilt
 - **Joseph** returns their money and **they leave Egypt**
- The 1st trip to Egypt
- The brothers report back to **Jacob**
 - **Jacob** despairs and refuses to let Benjamin go
 - After some time, **Judah** stands surety for **Benjamin**
 - **They return to Egypt** with **Benjamin**
- In Canaan

Joseph: A believer living in the world

Psalm 105

The sovereign God  When He summoned a famine on the land...
He had sent a man ahead of them,
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

The dreams  His feet were hurt with fetters...
until what he had said came to pass,
the word of the LORD tested him.

Pharaoh dreamed  The king sent and released him...
he made him lord of his house...
to bind his princes at his pleasure
and to teach his elders wisdom.

(See Psalm 105:16-22)

Joseph: A believer living in the world
A man with spiritual wisdom

In Joseph we do not see

- Bitterness or unforgiveness
- A lust for revenge
- Pride or selfishness

In Joseph we do see

- ✓ Concern for God's purpose
- ✓ Wisdom to work for it
- ✓ Mercy towards the undeserving

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...

(Philippians 2:5)

Joseph's brothers: Men of the world being taught a higher way

- They lived 20+ years with the **burden of their sins**.
- They were not walking in unity nor in **the way of Abraham**.
- Their experiences in Egypt made them admit **their shared guilt**.
- **They experienced grace** which they recognised was from God.
- They were being changed to become **examples** to the new nation.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed...

(Romans 12:1-2)

*Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that **through endurance** and through **the encouragement of the Scriptures** we might have hope.*

(Romans 15:4)

I press on toward the goal** for the prize of the upward call of God **in Christ Jesus.

*Let those of us who are **mature** think this way...*

(Philippians 3:14-15)

