

GENESIS CH. 37-50

JOSEPH

My Aims in these Studies

- **STRATEGY** - to see in each story
 - God's core strategies at work (CREATE, REDEEM & RESTORE)
 - the benefits of aligning our strategy with His (the path of blessing)
- **HELP BUILD PERSONAL "AIDA" (Awareness, Interest, Desire, Action)**
 - awareness of God's nature, purposes, sovereignty, strategy, guidelines
 - to understand history properly and learn from it
 - to help us align our strategy and planning with His
 - to experience his strategies (new creation, redemption, restoration)
 - to reach our full potential in character, worship & service
- **HIGHLIGHT "PLACE"** (the "theology of place" i.e place-based education)
 - **Individual places** - help us learn/recall Bible stories and principles
 - **Linked places** - which illustrate, amplify & confirm key biblical themes

“... In every place where I record My name and cause it to be remembered I will come to you and bless you.” Exodus 20:24 (AMP)

NOTE:

God's names for **places** have meanings (just the same as God's names for **people** have meanings)

THE 6 P's

1.PLOT

2.PERIOD

3.PLACES

4.PEOPLE

5.PLAY

6.PRINCIPLES

1. PLOT

Structure of Genesis Chapters 37-50

- Joseph's dreams (Genesis 37:1-11)
- Joseph sold into slavery (Genesis 37:12-36)
- Judah and Tamar (Genesis 38)
- Joseph and Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:1-19)
- Joseph in prison (Genesis 39:20-40:23)
- Pharaoh's dreams (Genesis 41:1-36)
- Joseph, prime minister of Egypt (Genesis 41:37-57)
- Joseph helps, forgives brothers (Genesis 42-45)
- Jacob and family settle in Egypt (Genesis 46-47)
- Jacob's last days (Genesis 48-49)
- Joseph's last days (Genesis 50)

Joseph Storyline

- One of the 12 sons of Jacob
- Born of Rachel
- Resented by his 10 of his brothers (sons of Leah and her concubine)
- sold by them into slavery in Egypt, where he was falsely accused and imprisoned
- later set free to be second in command to the Egyptian Pharaoh
- Guided and used by God throughout in order to preserve the family of Jacob during time of great famine and so to preserve the line of covenant promise from destruction.

He was sold into slavery
and taken into Egypt.

■ Genesis 37:28

■ Genesis 39:1

Joseph

Entered Egypt at age 17

Became a ruler at age 30

Governed Egypt for 80 years

Lived in Egypt some 93 years

He died at the age of 110, was
embalmed, put in a coffin, and
buried in Canaan 400 years
later. ■ Genesis 50:22-26

He was falsely accused by
Potiphar's wife and
sentenced to prison.

■ Genesis 37:28

■ Genesis 39:1

He was given the ability to
interpret the dream of Pharaoh.

■ Genesis 41:8

■ Genesis 41:14-16

He was made ruler over Egypt,
second only to Pharaoh.

■ Genesis 41:33-34

■ Genesis 41:41

■ Genesis 41:43-46

He was able to plan for the
famine that was to come,
saving Egypt and the
surrounding nations.

■ Genesis 41:53-42:3

He was able to see God's hand
of sovereignty in Egypt

■ Genesis 50:50

He was able to start his own
family in Egypt: a wife and
two children.

■ Genesis 46:20

He was able to save and
reunite his family.

■ Genesis 43:2

■ Genesis 45:4

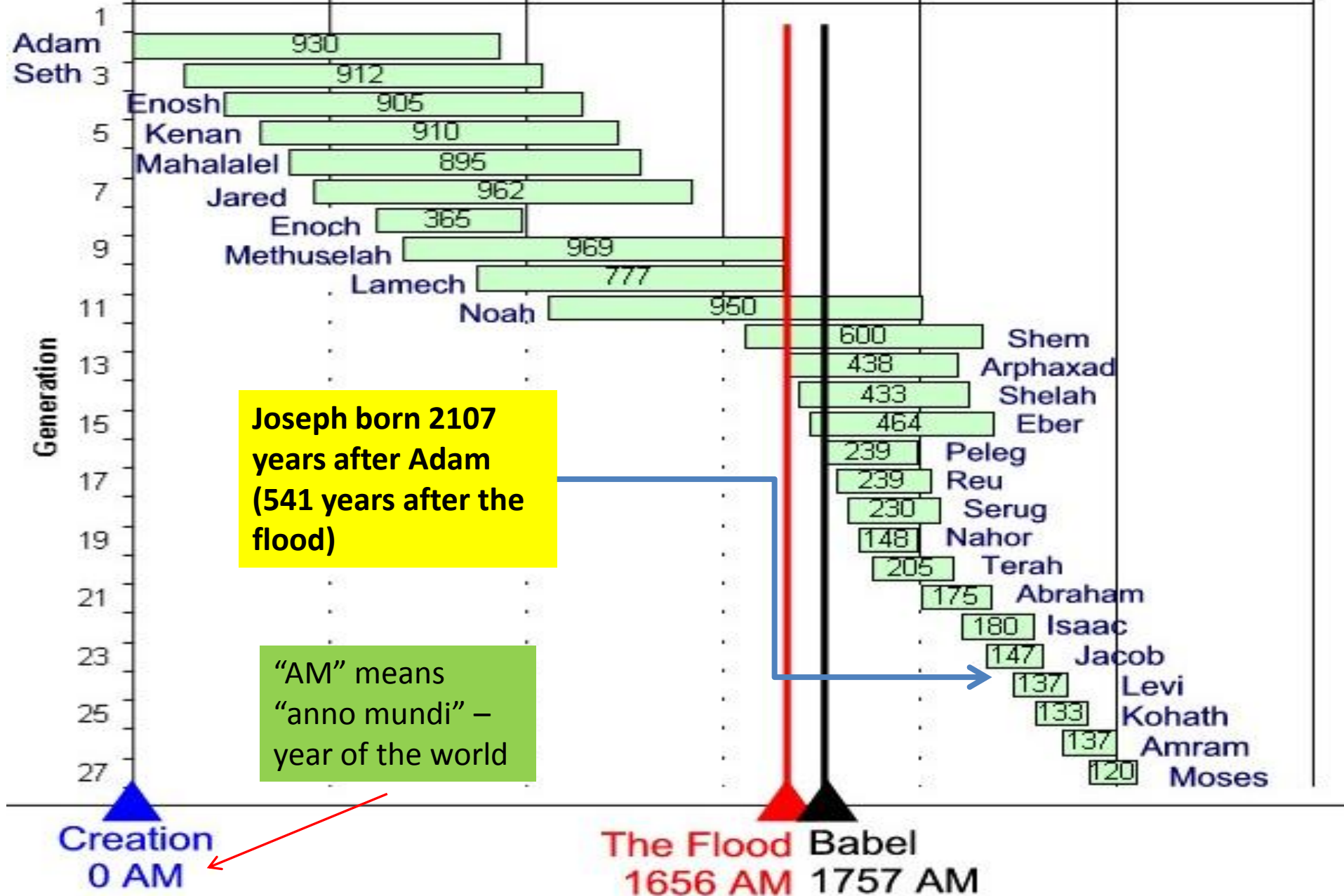
■ Genesis 45:8-9, 18-20



2. PERIOD

Year (AM)

0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000



[illegible]

TIMELINE

4104 BC

Creation

2448 BC

The Flood

2093 BC

Call of Abraham

1917 BC

Birth of Joseph

1898 BC

Joseph to Egypt

1876 BC

Jacob & family to Egypt

1824 BC

Death of Joseph

- first 8 years in Haran
- next 9 years in Canaan as a shepherd
- total 17 years at home
- aged 17 when sold into slavery
- 13 years as a slave and prisoner in Egypt
- aged 30 when made a ruler in Egypt (significant?)
- aged 37 when the famine began
- aged 44 when the famine ended
- governed Egypt 44 years after the famine
- aged 110 when he died
- total 80 years as a ruler of Egypt (110 minus 30)
- his bones buried in Canaan 400 years later

Egyptian History

Archaic Period	Old Kingdom	1st Intermediate Period - Abraham	Middle Kingdom	2nd Intermediate Period - Hyksos	New Kingdom	3rd Intermediate Period
	Dynasties 3-6		Dynasty 12		Dynasties 18-20	
	2686 – 2181?		1991 – 1786?		1587 – 1085?	
	Pyramid era 		Era of the biblical patriarchs		Era of Moses and the Exodus	

3. PLACES

The Ancient Near East, 1800 to 1400 B.C.






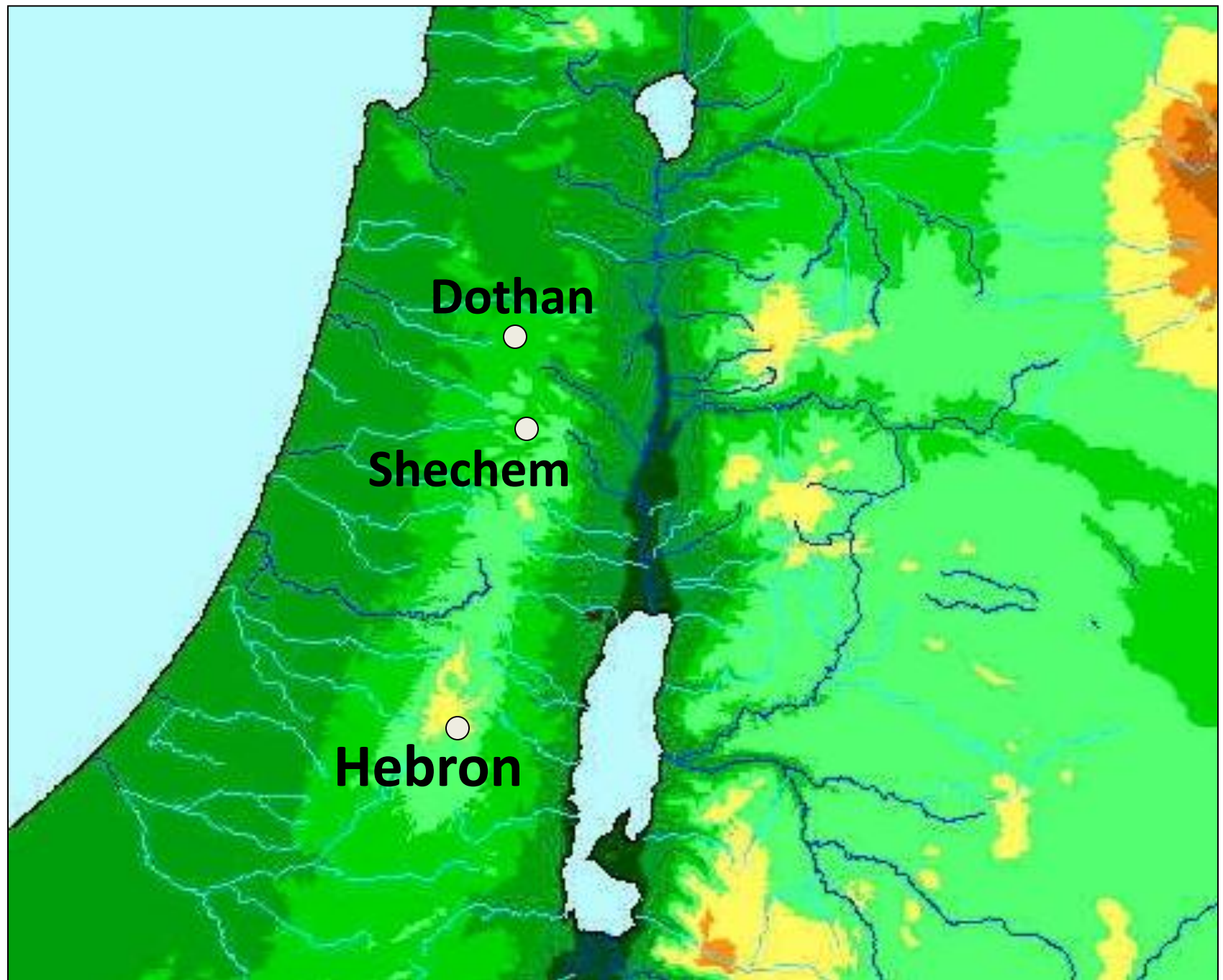


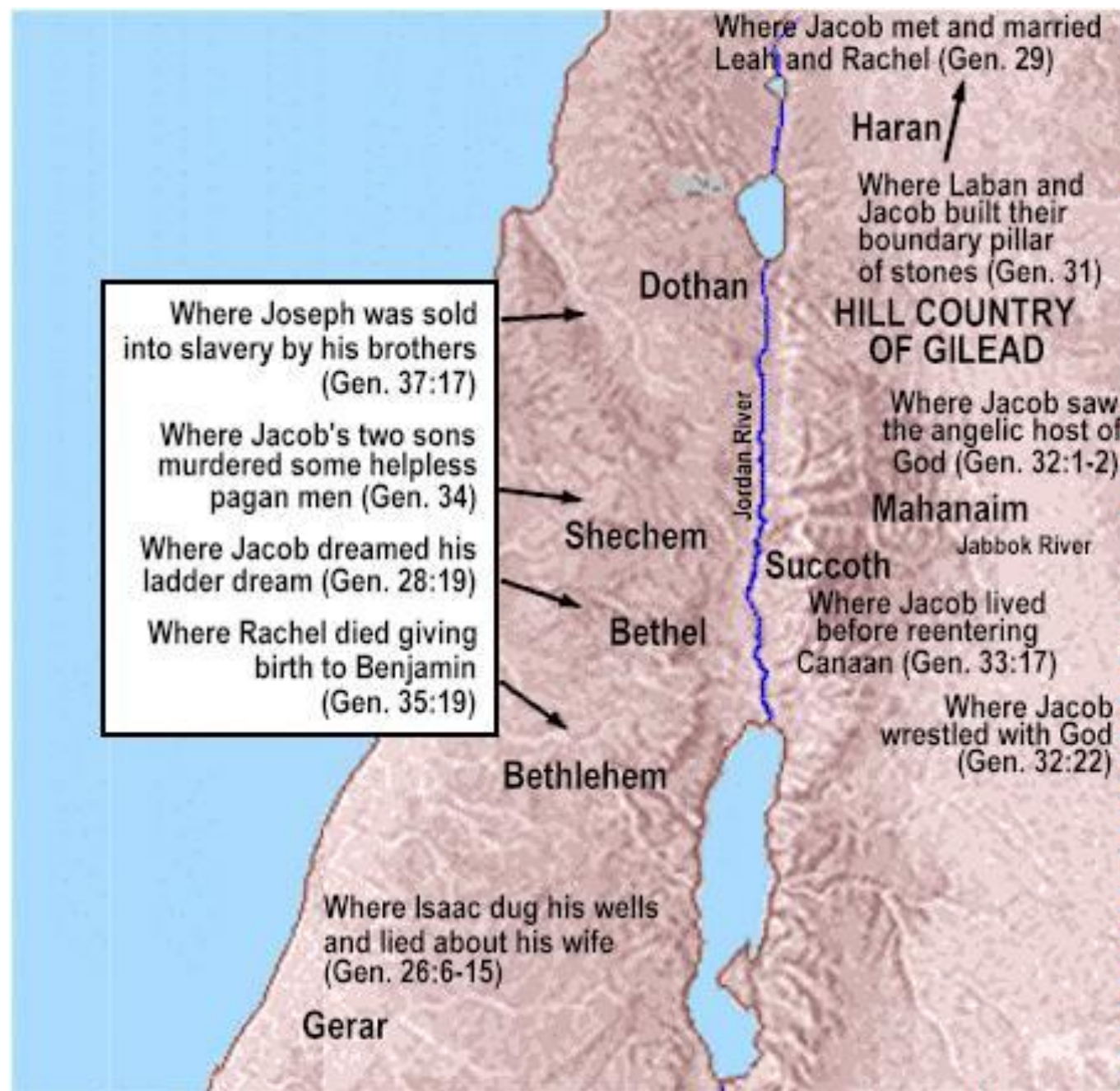






The Pyramids were
already many
hundreds of years
old

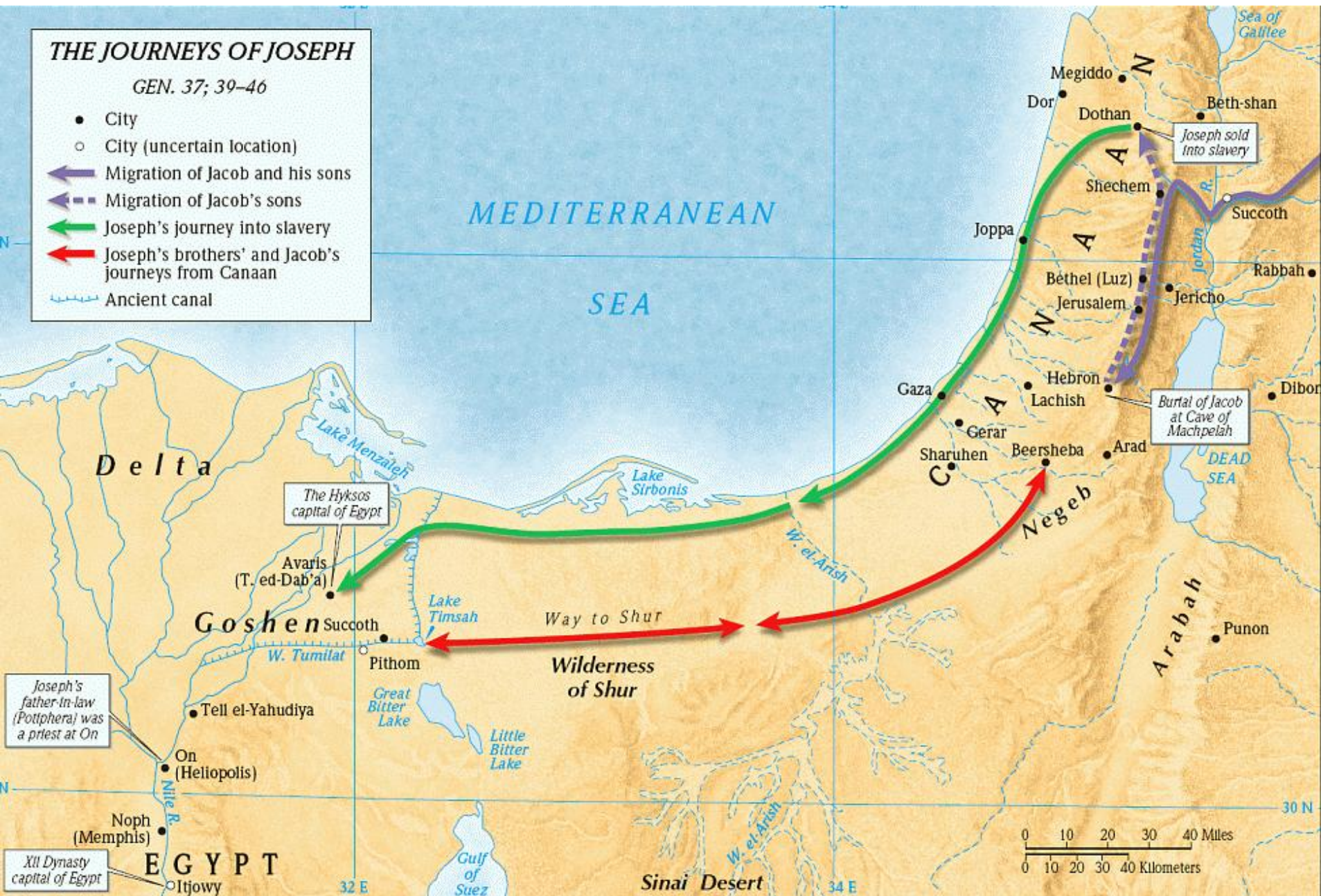




THE JOURNEYS OF JOSEPH

GEN. 37; 39-46

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ← Migration of Jacob and his sons
- ← Migration of Jacob's sons
- Joseph's journey into slavery
- Joseph's brothers' and Jacob's journeys from Canaan
- Ancient canal





JOSEPH'S JOURNEY TO EGYPT

1. Driven by jealousy, Joseph's brothers plot to kill him. Judah, however, persuades them to sell him into slavery to a passing caravan of traders.

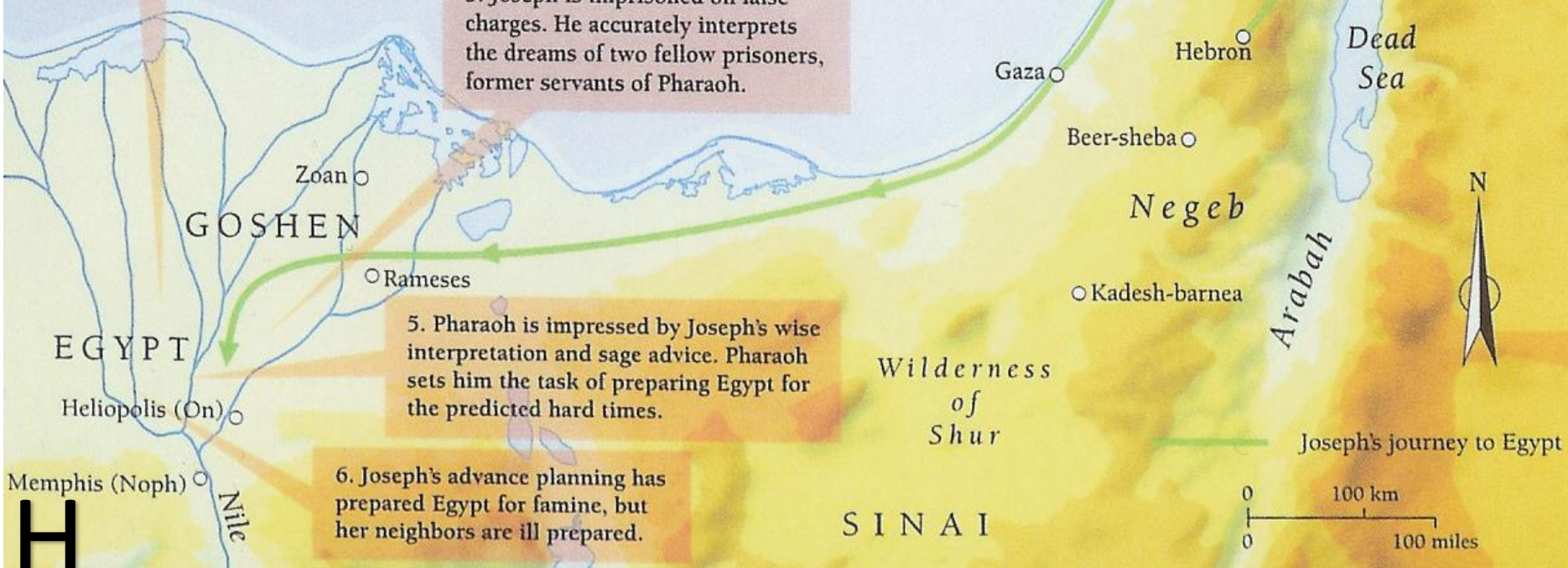
2. Now a slave, Joseph enters the service of Potiphar.

3. Joseph is imprisoned on false charges. He accurately interprets the dreams of two fellow prisoners, former servants of Pharaoh.

4. Pharaoh is troubled by dreams. Joseph is summoned from jail to interpret the dreams.

5. Pharaoh is impressed by Joseph's wise interpretation and sage advice. Pharaoh sets him the task of preparing Egypt for the predicted hard times.

6. Joseph's advance planning has prepared Egypt for famine, but her neighbors are ill prepared.



Joseph's Journey to Egypt



Joseph's Families Journey to Goshen Due to the Famine

Fertile Nile Delta

Canaan

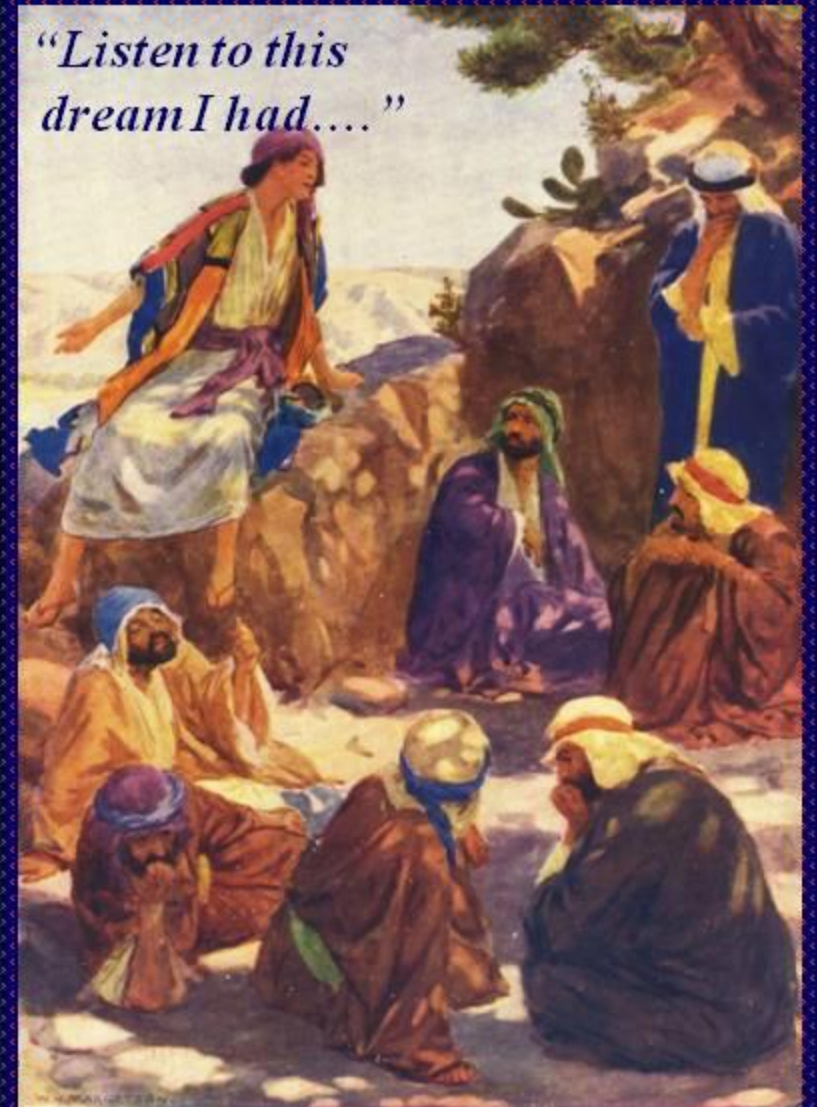
Egypt



4. PEOPLE

Joseph: Vital Statistics

- Joseph = May God Add
- Shepherd, Slave, Prisoner, Ruler
- Born: 1917 BC
- Lived: 110 Years
- Parents: Jacob and Rachel
- Brothers: 11
- Wife: Asenath
- Sons: Manasseh, Ephraim

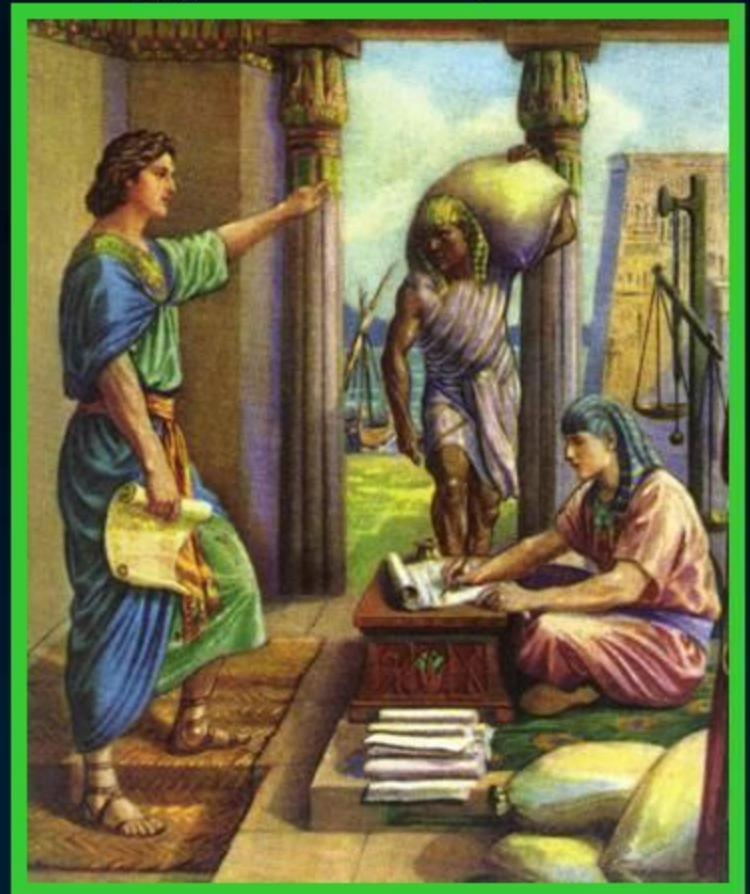


- Joseph means “May God add or increase”
- 11th son of Jacob
- born when Jacob was 90
- born 8 years before Jacob returned from Haran to Canaan)
- firstborn of 2 brothers to his mother Rachel
- favourite son of the favourite wife
- grandson of Isaac
- Joseph 36 when Isaac died – knew him well?
- 1 brother (Benjamin)
- 10 half-brothers
- a dreamer of dreams
- an interpreter of dreams
- 13 chapters of Genesis devoted to His life

Joseph: Strengths & Weaknesses

- + Went from Slave to Ruler
- + Personal Integrity
- + Spiritual Sensitivity
- + Saved Egypt from Famine
- Youthful Pride Caused Conflict with Brothers

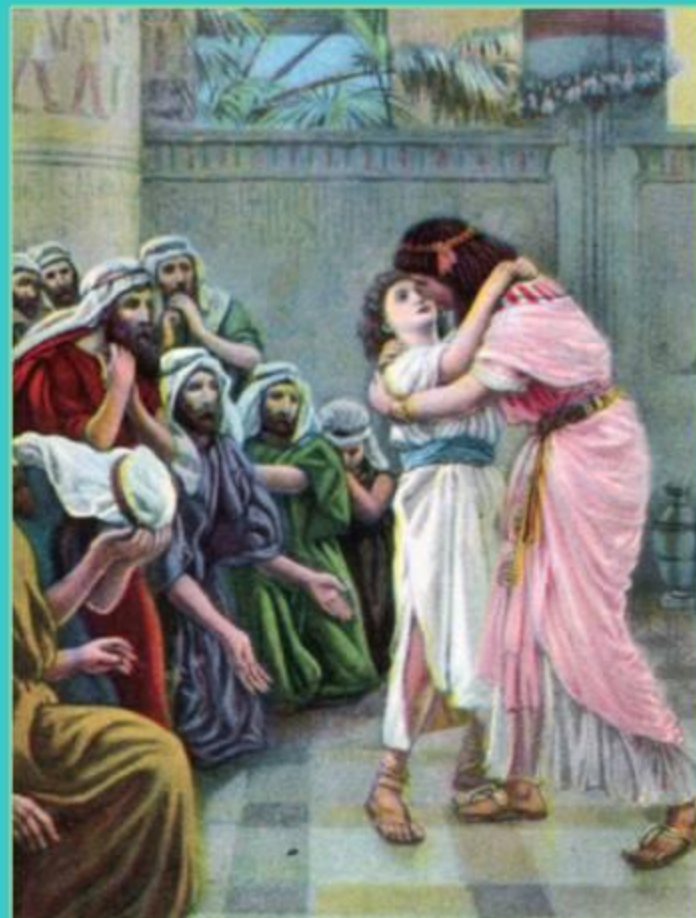
*... so he made him ruler over
Egypt and all his palace.*



Joseph: Verses

- Genesis 37: 19-28; 39: 7-15; 41: 15-27; 37-42; 45: 1-8
- Acts 7: 9-19
- Hebrews 11: 22

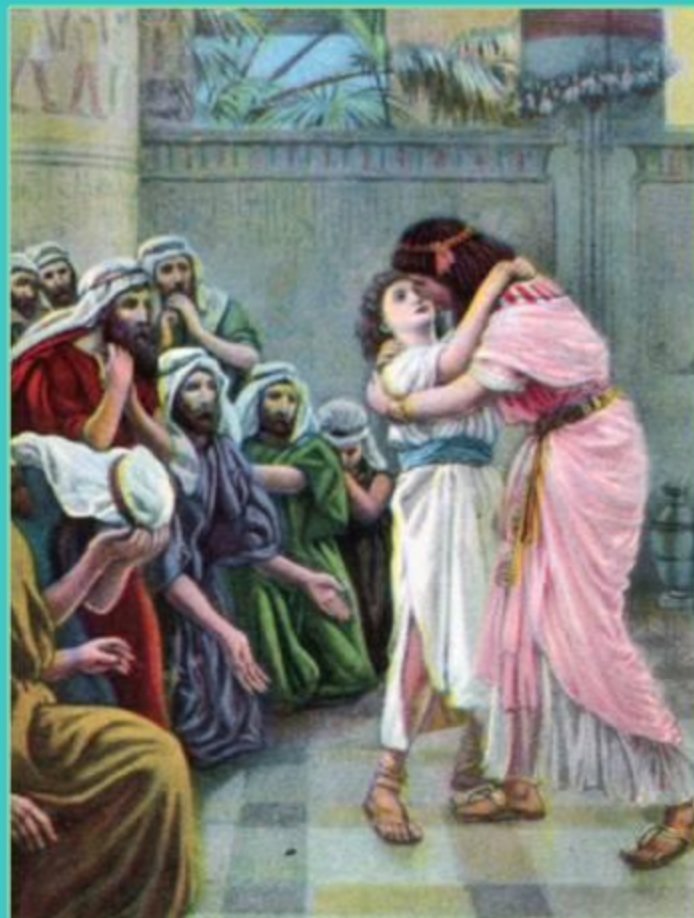
Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept....



Joseph: Verses

- Genesis 37: 19-28; 39: 7-15; 41: 15-27; 37-42; 45: 1-8
- Acts 7: 9-19
- Hebrews 11: 22

Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept....



Judah

Went to a foreigner of his own will.

Sexual immorality: went in to his daughter-in-law (38:12-18).

Left his seal & his cord.

Accuser (38:24).

Judgment of God against sons (38:6-10).

True accusation of woman (28:25).

Joseph

Taken to Egypt against his will.

Sexual morality: resisted seduction (39:6-12).

Left his garment.

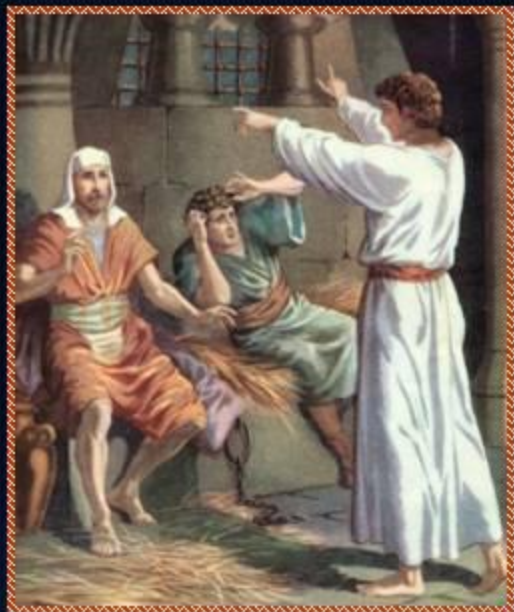
Falsely accused (39).

Blessing of God (39:20-23).

False accusation of woman (39:13-20).

Joseph & Jesus Comparison

- Loved by Father
- Shepherd
- Hated by Brothers
- Plots to Harm Him
- Bound in Chains
- Exalted after Suffering
- Forgave Others
- Saved the Nation



5. PLAY

Genesis 37:1-17

Joseph despised for his dreams.

- discord in Jacob's family
- Joseph's brothers hated him
 - because he was Jacob's favorite son and
 - because of his dreams, in which he had seen his entire family bowing down to him.

Joseph's Dreams

First Dream

- Binding sheaves in a field
- Other sheaves bowed down to Joseph's sheaf

Second Dream

- Sun, moon, and eleven stars bow down before Joseph

Genesis 37:18-36

Joseph sold, Jacob deceived.

- Joseph's brothers attacked him, took his prized robe, and sold him to some Ishmaelites headed for Egypt.
- They smeared goat's blood on the robe, allowing Jacob to conclude that Joseph had been killed by a wild beast.
- In a sense, Jacob reaped what he had sown ([Gal 6:7-8](#))
 - Jacob had deceived his father using a young goat's skin ([Gen 27:16](#));
 - now his own sons deceived him using a young goat's blood.

Genesis 38:1-10

Er and Onan: Both brothers die by divine judgment.

- Judah "left home," possibly because of the family discord, and married a Canaanite.
- The marriage, against Israelite traditions ([Gen 24:3](#); [Gen 28:1](#)) and later forbidden by the law ([Deu 7:3-4](#)), led to disaster.
- God judged and killed two of Judah's sons.
 - Er died first, for unspecified reasons.
 - Then Onan died for refusing to father a son to carry on Er's name. Fathering children for a deceased brother was a common practice in ancient times. Known as levirate marriage, it would become a part of the law ([Deut. 25:5-10](#)).

Genesis 38:11-26

Tamar and Judah: Harlotry and hypocrisy.

- Er's widow, Tamar, denied an heir by Onan, became upset when Judah refused to give her his third son in marriage.
- Still wanting a child, she disguised herself as a prostitute and seduced Judah.
- Hearing that Tamar was pregnant, Judah self-righteously ordered her to be killed
- until he learned that the child was his own ([Genesis 38:24-26](#)) and humbly confessed his sin.

Genesis 38:27-30

Another case of older vs. younger.

- Tamar had twin boys.
- The midwife tied a scarlet thread around the wrist of Zerah, whose hand appeared first, but he drew back his hand and the other baby, Perez, was actually born first.
- Note:
 - Christ's lineage from this illegitimate birth
 - also Rahab the prostitute and other less-than-noble people.

Genesis 39:1-18

Joseph denies her, so she defames him.

- Joseph's Ishmaelite captors sold him to Potiphar, a soldier in Pharaoh's court.
- Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph, but he denied her advances and ran from her house
- Furious at Joseph's refusal, Potiphar's wife told her husband that Joseph had raped her.

Genesis 39:19-23

Joseph prospers in prison.

- Believing his wife's false accusations, Potiphar had Joseph imprisoned.
- But God was with Joseph, and soon the chief jailer had put him in charge of the entire prison.

The Lord's Presence

- **The LORD was with Joseph**, so he became a successful man (39:2).
- Now his master saw that **the LORD was with him** and how the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand (39:3).
- **But the LORD was with Joseph** and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer (39:21).

Genesis 40:1-23

A tale of two dreams.

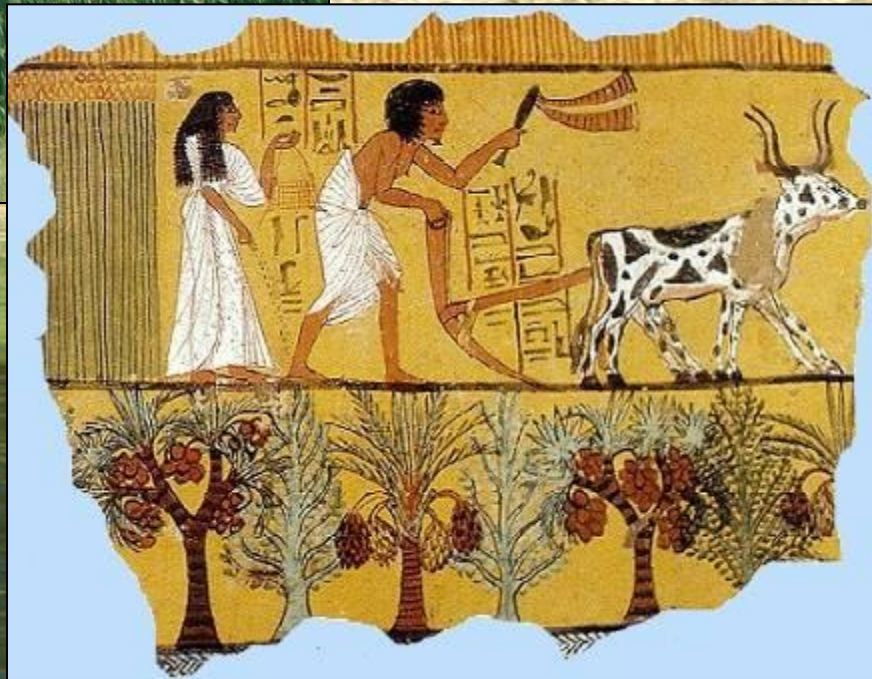
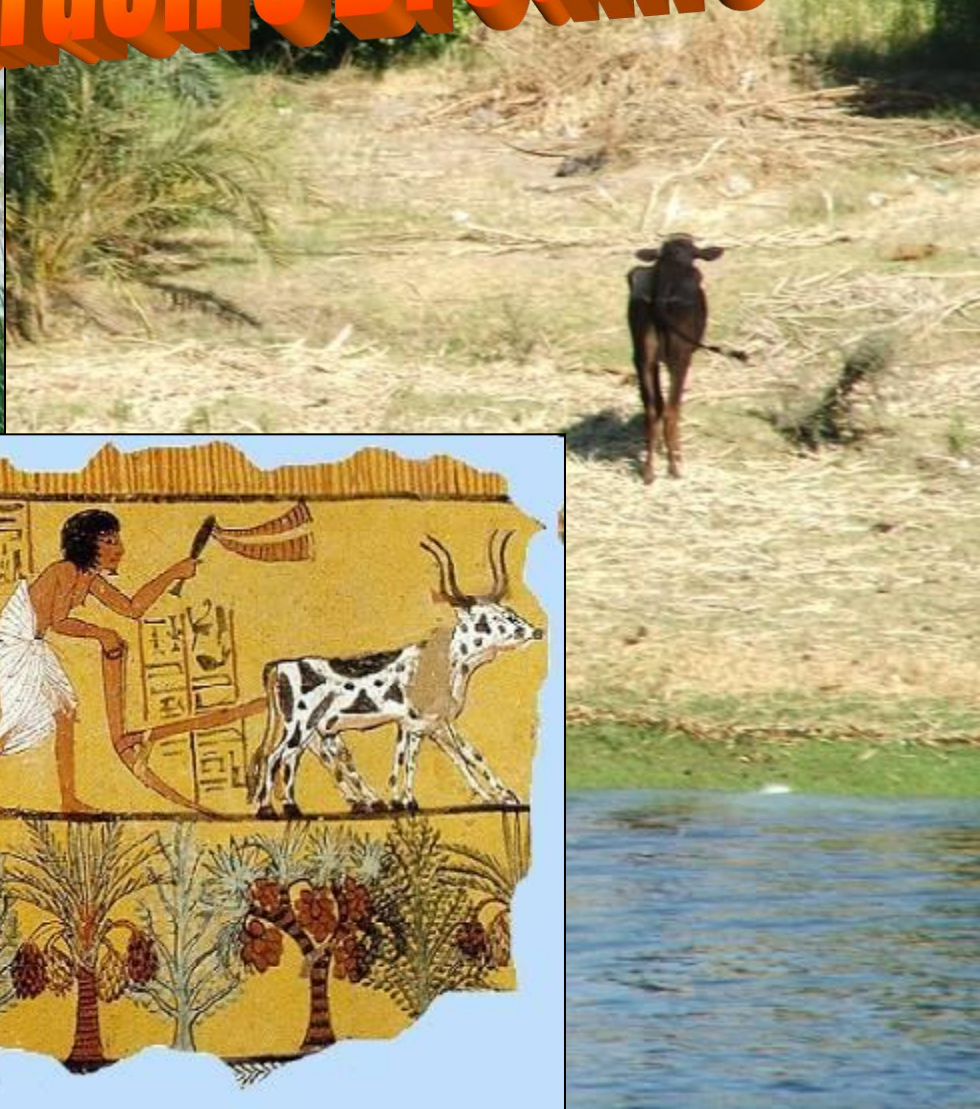
- Two of Joseph's fellow prisoners, servants to the king, had strange dreams
- Joseph correctly interpreted both of them.

Genesis 41:1-36

Joseph's 14-year forecast.

- When Pharaoh had two strange dreams, Joseph was called to interpret them.
- The dreams, said Joseph, meant that Egypt would soon have a severe famine.

Pharaoh's Dreams



Genesis 41:37-57

Promoted from prisoner to prime minister.

- Pharaoh made Joseph his prime minister, to prepare Egypt for the predicted famine.
- In one day Joseph, age 30, was elevated from prison to palace, but this high honor came only after many long years of imprisonment—showing the value of humility ([Psa 75:6-7](#); [1 Pe 5:6](#)).
- Joseph married Asenath, an Egyptian woman ([Gen 41:45](#)), and had two sons ([Gen 41:50-52](#)).
 - Manasseh – name signifies God had enabled Joseph to forget the bitter past.
 - Ephraim – named signifies Joseph’s fruitful present and future.

Genesis 42:1-38

Joseph's brothers bow before him.

- famine in Canaan as well.
- Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy food
- they bowed in the presence of Egypt's chief administrator, not knowing he was Joseph, but Joseph recognized them.
- he gave them food and sent them home but held Simeon hostage until they would return with Benjamin.
- Jacob, however, refused even to consider sending Benjamin to Egypt.

Genesis 43:1-34

Benjamin brought to Egypt.

- After the food brought back from the first trip ran low, Jacob was forced to send his sons, including Benjamin, back to Egypt.
- He sent with them many gifts for "the man" in charge of the food.
- Upon their return to Egypt, Joseph prepared a meal for his brothers.
- They were astonished when this Egyptian official seated them according to their ages.
- Benjamin was given five times as much as the others.

Genesis 44:1-34

A silver cup in his sack!

- As the brothers left again for Canaan, Joseph had his silver cup secretly placed in Benjamin's sack.
- Joseph's steward stopped the brothers and, of course, found the cup.
- Joseph demanded that Benjamin become his personal slave for stealing the cup.
- A desperate Judah offered to take Benjamin's place.

Genesis 45:1-28

"I am Joseph, your brother."

- Unable to contain his secret any longer, Joseph revealed himself to his brothers.
- He reassured them that he was not angry with them for selling him as a slave: God had a purpose for his slavery—to save the lives of many during the famine.
- Joseph told them to return home and bring Jacob back to Egypt.
- Pharaoh sent several wagons and donkeys with gifts for Jacob.
- At first Jacob wouldn't believe that Joseph was alive, but when he saw the wagons loaded with Egyptian treasures he was convinced.

Genesis 46:1-27

"Go to Egypt, but I'll bring you back to Canaan!"

- God told Jacob that he should move to Egypt to escape the famine but that his descendants would someday return to the Promised Land.
- [Gen 46:8-27](#) lists the 66 members of Jacob's family who went with him to Egypt. Counting Joseph and his wife and two sons, 70 Israelites now lived in Egypt.
- It was about 1876 B.C., some 430 years before the Exodus (compare [Gen 15:13](#) and [Exo 12:40](#)).

Genesis 46:28-47:10

Reunion in Goshen, presentation at the palace.

- Jacob and Joseph met in Goshen.
- At Joseph's advice, the entire clan settled there, for it was the only part of Egypt where shepherds were not despised.
- Joseph then presented his father and five of his brothers to Pharaoh, and they informed him of their decision to live in Goshen.

Genesis 47:11-26

Joseph's generous tax: Only 20% for Pharaoh.

- As the famine worsened, people were forced to use all their money, livestock, and fields to buy grain.
- Joseph generously arranged for them to give just one-fifth of their harvest to Pharaoh, keeping the rest for food and seed.

Genesis 47:27-31

Jacob's final request: "Bury me in Canaan."

- Feeling that death was near at age 147, Jacob requested that he be buried in the cave of Machpelah in Hebron.
- Joseph promised to honor that request (see [Gen 50:13](#)).

Genesis 48:1-22

The right hand on the wrong head?



- As Jacob blessed Joseph's sons, he placed his right hand on the head of Ephraim, the younger, instead of on Manasseh and said that Ephraim would be greater than Manasseh.
- 450 years later, Moses agreed ([Deu 33:17](#)). Israel's history would bear out both prophecies—yet another case of the older serving the younger (see [2 Chr 25:7](#), where the name Ephraim stands for all of Israel's 10 northern tribes).
- Jacob's adoption of Joseph's sons ([Gen 48:5](#); [1 Chr 5:1](#)) gave them equal status with Jacob's other sons.
- Joseph's descendants through them would become two separate tribes bearing their names, confirming once again Joseph's dreams of being elevated above his brothers ([Gen 37:1-11](#)).

Genesis 49:1-33

A father foretells his family's future.

- Jacob then gathered his own sons around him and prophesied concerning their descendants.
- From the tribe of Judah, he said, would come the Messiah himself.
- Jacob's predictions reflected the way each son had lived, suggesting that a person's character and actions can affect his children and grandchildren.
- Moses blessed the 12 tribes in similar fashion ([Deu 33](#)).

Genesis Chapter 50

Burial arrangements for Israel (1-3)

Joseph's petition to Pharaoh (4-6)

Preparation to bury Jacob (7-9)

Mourning over Jacob (10-12)

Burial of Jacob (12-14)

Joseph's brothers petition him (15-21)

Burial arrangements & death of Joseph (22-26)

Genesis 50:1-13

Egypt honors the Hebrew patriarch.

- all Egypt observed Jacob's death.
- following 70 days of mourning, an escort of Egyptian officials served as an honor guard as Jacob's body was carried back to Canaan.

Genesis 50:14-21

"Now that our father is dead, we're dead!"

- Joseph's guilt-ridden brothers assumed they would be killed now that their father was dead.
- But Joseph reassured them that he had no such intentions, especially considering how God had brought good out of the situation.

Genesis 50:22-26

Joseph's final request: "Bury me in Canaan."

- Joseph died at 110.
- His request for burial in Canaan would be honored, but not until centuries later ([Exo 13:19](#)).



**Locating his
burial site
near
Dothan,
among
other
Genesis
sites**



Predicted site

**(based on thematic
lines from Keyline
Research)**



P1020896 - Bill and Trevor in Joseph country. Great site.



P1020903 - Trevor was excited - Wed 24 April 2013



6. PRINCIPLES

SO MANY KEY PRINCIPLES TO LEARN

GOD

- Sovereignty
- Fresh-start strategy
- Testing
- All things work together for good
- Prophecy
 - Use of prophets
 - Types

MAN

- Self-centredness
 - Decline
- God-centred
 - Growth
 - Trusting, faithful
 - Patient
 - Provision
 - Victory

GOD'S STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH SPIRITUAL DECLINE

SPIRITUAL DECLINE IN THE PATRIARCHAL AGE			
First Generation	Second Generation	Third Generation	Fourth Generation
Abraham	Ishmael and Isaac	Esau and Jacob	Joseph and his eleven brothers
Abraham: man of faith believed God	Ishmael: not son of promise Isaac: called on God believed God	Esau: unspiritual little faith Jacob: at first compromised, later turned to the Lord	Joseph: man of God showed faith Brothers: treachery, immorality, lack of separation from Canaanites
Abraham: built altars to God (Gen. 12:7, 8; 13:4, 18; 22:9)	Isaac: built an altar to God (Gen. 26:25)	Jacob: built altars to God (Gen. 33:20; 35:1, 3, 7)	No altars were built to God in the fourth generation

A FRESH START ... THROUGH ONE MAN

God's Sovereignty & Providence

- Joseph just happened to be sent to meet his brothers.
- A man just happened to have heard the brothers' moving plans
- Reuben just happened to intervene
- The caravan of Ishmaelites just happened along
- They just happened to go to Egypt



GREAT BEGINNINGS

RELEVANCE FOR TODAY

Sin is always exposed

- Don't hide sin, but confess it

Faith is always rewarded

- Keep faith in God's promises

Obedience is always blessed

- Respond to God's call

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

GENESIS 50:20

See next slide on
“imputation” –
God's strategy for
our restoration

IMPUTATION – the heart of the gospel

This idea of a reckoning of righteousness is at the heart of the doctrine we know as imputation. By this term, we mean that God reckons or imputes or credits to us the very righteousness of Jesus Christ when we believe. In the same way our sins were imputed or reckoned to Jesus when He was upon the cross, so His righteousness is imputed or credited to us. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says God *made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

• Genesis 45:7



But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

• Genesis 50:20

THE POWER OF STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

NOTICE THE SEQUENCE

- **GOD AUTHORS/DESIGNS THE STRATEGY**
- **IT'S THE BEST PLAN FOR THE INDIVIDUAL**
- **IT'S THE BEST PLAN FOR HIS PEOPLE**
- **GOD COMMUNICATES THE PLAN**
- **MAN LISTENS & OBEYS**
- **MAN SEES THE BIG PICTURE**
- **GOD & MAN MOVE TOGETHER STEP BY STEP**
- **OUTCOME - BLESSING & TRUE PROSPERITY**
- **Remember his name meant "May God add"**

Amo 3:7 (ESV) "For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets."

Hos 12:10 (ESV) I spoke to the prophets; it was I who multiplied visions, and through the prophets gave parables.

Joseph - A Type of Christ

JOSEPH	CHARACTERISTIC OR ATTRIBUTE	CHRIST
Genesis 37:4	Both were despised	John 1:11
Genesis 37:36	Both went into Egypt	Matthew 2:13-15
Joshua 24:32	Both returned from Egypt	Matthew 2:19-23
Genesis 39:20	Both were arrested	John 18:12
Genesis 39:14-19	Both were falsely accused	Mark 14:57-58
Genesis 39:7-12	Both resisted temptation & sin	Matthew 4:1-11
Genesis 39:31-35	Both were separated from their fathers	John 20:21
Genesis 41:40	Both had great power & authority	Matthew 28:18
Genesis 37:28	Both were sold	Matthew 26:15
Genesis 42:24	Both showed great love	John 15:13
Genesis 45:5-7	Both helped preserve life	Matthew 1:21
Genesis 45:3	Both were found alive	Luke 24:46
Genesis 45:1-15	Both were reunited with brethren	John 19:19-29
Genesis 45:6-7	Both showed compassion	2 Corinthians 8:9
Genesis 45:15	Both showed pardon	Luke 3:34
Genesis 39:21	God was with both	Matthew 17:5

TYPE - "A historical fact that illustrates a spiritual truth."

Passing the Tests of Life

Genesis 41:37-43

Like Joseph, we face



- ☞ **THE TEST OF PURITY, Gen. 39:8.** Joseph pursued purity, set parameters for purity, and made provision for purity.
- ☞ **THE TEST OF PRIDE, Gen. 41:16.** Pride often manifests itself in unconfessed sin, an unteachable spirit, and an unyielded will.
- ☞ **THE TEST OF PRIORITIES, Gen. 41:38.** Even Pharaoh recognized that Joseph had the anointing of God upon him. He was the best son, shepherd, slave, servant, manager, and administrator he could be. He truly sought first the Kingdom of God.
- ☞ **THE TEST OF PARDON, Gen. 45.** Joseph demonstrated forgiveness for his brothers who had sought to kill him, abandoned him, selling him into slavery, and telling their father he had been killed by wild animals. Forgiveness is one of life's most difficult tests.
- ☞ **THE TEST OF PERSEVERANCE, Gen. 50.** Joseph lived faithfully for the Lord until he died at the age of one hundred and ten years old.

ARE YOU PASSING THE TESTS OF LIFE?