

Homework Genesis 37–50
“The Story of Joseph from prison to palace”

Genesis 37

1. What reasons did Joseph’s brothers have for hating him? 37:2-5

2. How vengeful did Joseph’s brothers become? 37:18-20

3. What was Joseph’s fate? 37:36

Genesis 38,39

4. In the strange account of Judah and Tamar, what extreme actions did Tamar take to make her father-in-law fulfill the duty of providing her with a husband to carry on her dead husband’s name? (See Deuteronomy 25:5,6)

5. What was Judah’s assessment of his own actions versus Tamar’s? 38:26 What does this event indicate about the influence of the culture of Canaan on Jacob’s children?

6. From 39:1-6, list the increasing responsibility that Joseph was given and the ways that the Lord (“Jehovah”) blessed him and others.

7. What reasons did Joseph give for refusing to lie with Potiphar’s wife? 39:8,9
 - What was Potiphar response to his wife’s deception? 39:19-20

8. How did the Lord (*Yahweh/Jehovah*) bless Joseph in jail and what responsibility was Joseph given? 39:21-23 (Compare 39:6 and 39:23)

9. What reason is given for Joseph’s success? 39:2,3,21,23

Genesis 40,41

10. What happened to Joseph regarding a cupbearer and baker? Genesis 40
 - How did this lead to Joseph’s release from prison? 41:1-15

11. For what did Joseph gave God credit? 40:8; 41:16

12. List the extent of the power that Pharaoh gave Joseph.

- 41:40
- 41:41
- 41:44

Genesis 42-45

13. Consider the last time Joseph had seen his brothers, over 20 years earlier (37:82). What types of concerns do you think would be going through his mind about his family?

14. What did Joseph find out about his brothers in 42:13? In 42:21-23?

15. What did Judah's confession in 44:16 and plea in 44:30-34 say about their hearts?

“That the sons of...Leah had come to terms with their father's special love for Rachel and her two boys was amazing. That Benjamin, the second of these children, should now be loved by the other brothers was astounding. And that Judah could reference his father's favoritism of Benjamin as the reason for freeing Benjamin meant that a transformation had taken place in his soul.” - R. Kent Hughes

Genesis 46-50

16. Where did the Israelites settle? 47:27

- How did God keep them separated from the culture of the Egyptians? 46:34

17. What special blessing was given to the tribe of Judah? 49:10 (Compare Numbers 24:17; Luke 1:32)

until Shiloh comes “Shiloh is an obscure word, probably meaning the one ‘To Whom It Belongs.’ That is, until the One to whom all royal authority belongs comes, the tribe of Judah will always have a lawgiver in its ranks (Isa. 9:1-6). Shiloh, like Seed (3:15) is a name of the coming Messiah.” - The Nelson Study Bible

18. What final reconciliation was there between Joseph and his brothers? 50:15-21

19. At his death, what phrase in 50:24 and 25 describes the reasons for Joseph's hope of returning to the land of Canaan? (See Exodus 13:19; Joshua 24:32)

- What did God say about Joseph's focus at the end of his life? Hebrews 11:22

VIDEO NOTES

NOTES

Small Group Time: Joseph - Genesis 37 – 50

1. What did you find most interesting or meaningful to you in this video?
2. From Genesis 37:2-11, what two things caused animosity between Joseph and his brothers?
3. How did Reuben and then Judah save Jacob from being killed by his brothers? 37:12-36
4. What does background of the events in Judah's life (Genesis 38) emphasize about Joseph's actions in Genesis 39? What does this say about God's choice of leadership?
 - What phrase is repeated 4 times in this chapter? 39:2,3,21,23
5. In chapter 40, what ability did the Lord give Joseph with the cupbearer and baker's dreams? What did the cupbearer neglect to do at first? 40:23
 - How was Joseph eventually released? 41:1-14 What does this say about the reason for Joseph's rise to leadership?
 - How does Joseph's response to his situation in prison compare to what Jacob probably would have done?
6. What did Joseph say about Pharaoh's dreams? 41:16,32
 - What did Pharaoh recognize about Joseph? 41:39,40
7. What point did Dr. Miller make about the descriptions of Joseph and his providential rise in Genesis 41:40-41,46 and 57?
8. Why did Joseph put his brothers through such a difficult tests in Genesis 42-44?* i.e. What did he want to know? *"What questions had kept him awake at night for 20 years?"*
 - What situation/test for his brothers did Joseph recreate with Benjamin?

9. What did Judah's response reveal to Joseph? See 44:33 (See *Joseph's response in 45:1-15*)

10. Why did Moses devote the largest part of the book to Joseph?

- What characteristics of Joseph did Dr. Miller list that reflect the coming Messiah?
Pure, faithful

11. How is Joseph's statement in 50:20 the theme of the whole book?

- What faith in the promises did Joseph express at the end of his life? 50:24,25 (See Hebrews 11:22)**

12. In Genesis 49:10, what prophecy was made about the tribe of Judah? To whom did this point? (See Matthew 1:3,16)



Applying the Word:

- *When, if ever, has God forced you into a decision to trust Him when you couldn't see through the circumstances? How did He lead you? What was the outcome?*
- *What hurts from your past would you like God to move you beyond? What does Joseph's example teach you about God's forgiveness of hurts you may have caused? What does Joseph's life teach you about hurts done to you?*

* *"Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. Although he could immediately deliver them from the famine, he intended to test them to see if their hearts had changed since they despised their father by selling their brother. The best test which he could arrange was a duplication of the first test. Joseph placed another of Rachel's sons, Benjamin, the delight of his father's heart, in jeopardy to see if the brothers would 'sell' him by putting their interests first (as they had Joseph) or protect him by subordinating their interests to his".*

** *"Both Jacob and Joseph express faith in the promises of God as they die. Jacob desired to be buried in the land of promise, implying that God's promises were incomplete but would be fulfilled. Joseph also commanded that his bones be carried back to the promised land in the Exodus."*

- Dr. Chris Miller "Old Testament Lit. Written Notes"