

Genesis 37-41 Joseph

The story of Joseph makes up twenty-five percent of this “Book of Beginnings.” The penman of this book, Moses, is writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He also is writing undoubtedly from the stories told him by his dear mother. On her knees, she tells him of a boy named Joseph. I believe she realized her own son, Moses, would be facing many of the same pressures as he too would stand before these same groups of people (Egyptians). This obviously was part of God’s plan in preparing Moses.

So, as we finish the study of the book of Genesis, it is all about Jacob’s second youngest son. This son was born to Jacob by his wife Rachel, whom he loved dearly. (Gen. 30:24)

Chapter 37

Joseph is loved and favored above his brethren by his father Jacob. This, of course, brought tension between he and his brothers. Joseph’s _____ half brothers grew to despise him.

Three Reasons

1. He told his father some of the bad things they were doing. (Verse 2)
2. His father showed his favoritism and gave Joseph a _____. (Verse 3)
3. His prophetic _____ made them hate him even more. (Verses 5-8)
 - a. He dreamed they were all in a field of sheaves, and his sheaf stood upright while theirs bowed down before it. (Verses 5-8)
 - b. He had another dream in which the sun, moon and eleven stars bowed to him. (Verses 9-11)

Joseph’s ten brothers are sent to feed his father’s flock in Shechem. Isreal, Joseph’s father, sends him to check on them and he goes _____. When he arrives they are not there. A man tells him that the men have gone to _____, fifteen miles from Shechem. He goes to where they are and as he approaches, they conspire to kill him and say one to another, “Behold, this _____ cometh.” (Verses 12-19) (“He came unto his own and his own received him not.”)

_____, who was the oldest, convinced them not to kill him, but to throw him in a pit. Then he would secretly take Joseph back to his father. (Verses 20-22) They put Joseph in the pit and they sat down to eat. As they were eating, some Ishmeelites from Gilead came by. _____ and eight of his brothers made a decision to sell Joseph to the Ishmeelites and not kill him. Apparently, Reuben was not there. They sold Joseph for _____

pieces of silver. Reuben returns and Joseph is no longer in the pit. Reuben weeps. (Verses 24-30)

The brothers kill a kid goat and dip Joseph's coat in its blood. They did this to deceive their father, Israel, into believing that Joseph was dead. Their father weeps and mourns for Joseph and refuse to be comforted. (Verses 31-35)

The chapter closes with Joseph being sold as a slave to _____.

Chapter 38

Judah, the ringleader in the selling of Joseph, leaves home and marries a pagan woman. She bears Judah three sons, Er, Onan and Shelah. Er marries _____ in a marriage set up by Judah. Er's wickedness soon causes God to kill him. Judah then tells Onan to take Tamar to wife. He too is slain by God for wickedness. Judah then sends Tamar away until Shelah is grown. She goes to live at her father's house. Judah had no intention of sending for her when Shelah is older. Judah's wife dies in the meantime. Tamar then disguises herself to be a harlot and lures Judah to herself. He does not realize that this is Tamar. She demands payment of his signet, bracelets and staff and through this act of deception, she conceives. Judah hears that Tamar is expecting and orders her to be _____ to death. She presents him the signet, bracelets and staff. Realizing what has happened Judah sets her free.

Tamar has twins, _____ and _____. What an amazing thing that Tamar and her sons are included in the genealogy of Christ. (Matthew 1:3)

Chapter 39

Joseph is now in Egypt and is sold as a slave to _____, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard. The Lord was with Joseph and his master saw this. The Lord made things to _____ at the hands of Joseph. Potiphar made him _____ of his house and put all that he had into Joseph's hand. (Verses 1-6) As so often is the case, this rise to power brought along _____. Potiphar's wife "cast her eyes upon him" and tried to lure him to herself. Joseph keeps his _____ and refuses. In her anger of his refusal, she accuses him of rape. Potiphar puts him in _____, a place where the king's prisoners are bound. In verse 21, we read these wonderful words, "But the _____ was with Joseph and shewed him _____, and gave him _____ in the sign of the keeper of the prison." So in his persecution the Lord _____ him.

Chapter 40

Pharaoh's _____ and _____ are thrown into prison where Joseph is. While there, both the butler and baker have dreams. God gives Joseph the ability to interpret these dreams. The interpretation of the butler's dream was that within three days Pharaoh would restore him to his former position. The interpretation of the baker's dream was that Pharaoh would take off his head within three days, impale his body on a pole and the birds would come and eat of his flesh.

Joseph had asked the butler to remember him when he was restored to his position. Just like Joseph said, the interpretation of the dreams come true. The butler was _____ and the baker _____. However, the butler failed to remember Joseph when back in the presence of the Pharaoh.

Chapter 41

Two years have passed and Pharaoh has two dreams. Pharaoh was troubled by the dreams and he calls for his magicians and wise men to give him an interpretation. They were not able. The butler then remembers Joseph's ability and tells Pharaoh about him. Pharaoh sends for Joseph. Joseph cleans up, shaves and changes his clothes to stand before the Pharaoh. Pharaoh tells his dreams to Joseph and Joseph interprets them. Both dreams meant the same thing. The meaning was that there would be seven years of _____ followed by seven years of _____. Joseph advises Pharaoh to put someone over organizing a program to gather from the seven years of plenty in preparation for the seven years of famine. Pharaoh appoints Joseph to this position. The only person higher than Joseph in all the land of Egypt was Pharaoh himself.

He changes Joseph's name, gave him a wife and placed him over all the land of Egypt. Joseph was _____ years old now. In one day, he had gone from the _____ to the _____. It had been 13 years since he first arrived in Egypt. Joseph and his wife have two sons named _____ and _____.

Joseph's predictions came true with seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. This caused many people from different lands to buy their food in Egypt.