

OLD

**TESTA
MENT**
survey

Genesis **PART 5** (chs. 36-50)

DR. BILL EGNER | NOVEMBER 4, 2018

COMING UP ... NOV 11 How We Got Our Bible **NOV 18** Job part 1 **NOV 25** NO CLASS **DEC 2** Job part 2

WHATEVER BECAME OF ...

... Terah?

Abraham: received the Abrahamic covenant
Learned that faith means living without scheming

... Isaac?

Isaac: his spiritual complacency led to decline
Jacob: wasted 30 years resisting & wrestling God

... Jacob?

Joseph: the way up is the way down

LESSON THEME: God's leaders must first become God's servants
The "unwritten curriculum" of God's School of Hard Knocks



Stephen J. Egner

Then they discovered that rumors of Pharaoh's sense of humor had been greatly exaggerated.

A MAN BEING PREPARED BY GOD

101 – "The Pit"

Course description:

Given no advance warning; thrust upon Joseph
A place of despair without the right perspective
A place from which he couldn't rescue himself

Why was it a required class?

To remind him that God had a plan for his life
To get him to look up, pray and seek God
To turn Joseph's life in His direction

201 – "Potiphar's House"

Course description:

A public place, like a workplace
Where his life overlapped the unbelieving world
Where he's watched; where he's "in the fish bowl"

Why was it a required class?

To prove/test his faith and integrity (temptation)
To promote his spiritual maturity (witness)
To prepare him for future service (tongue)

301 – "The Prison"

Course description:

A private place; a dungeon (Ps 105:17-22)
Where he felt "chained up" and walled in
Where he felt alone, out-of-sight and forgotten

Why was it a required class? Perhaps ...

In 101 God tested his surrender (grip on plans)
In 201 He tested his fidelity (drawn/driven away)
In 301 He refines his character ...

Where Joseph learns to desire God more than a leadership position, a role or a function
The place where he finally abandons trying to nudge the arm of Providence (R.T. Kendall)
The place where he learns to have contentment ... without credit or recognition
The place out of which he'll be prepared to stand before a king as his servant

A MAN BEING USED BY GOD

Pharaoh's Palace

JOSEPH'S CHARACTER

Joseph has been betrayed by his brothers
He's been hurt even for doing his job well
His reputation has been defaced by a false accusation of which he's never been cleared
He's been hurt by the forgetfulness of others
Yet he's gracious, humble and forgiving; he carries no grudges
Lesson: the bitter cannot bless others

Excursus: Forgiving Others

Joseph chose to forgive those who hurt him. (see "Overcoming a Painful Past," p. 5)

1. **Choose** to forgive those who've hurt you.

You're *willing* to take the next step ...

2. As God opens doors, seek **reconciliation**.

Reconciliation takes two

Reconciliation takes the other's repentance

JOSEPH'S SERVICE

He has an intimate, well-known public relationship with God
He's an outstanding administrator
Joseph serves God and Pharaoh with integrity of heart and skill of hands (Ps 78:72)
God uses him to preserve Jacob's family as well as to bless the Egyptians
What God promised, God brought to pass

***Application:** God's leaders must first become God's servants*

How is God Preparing You?

Has He enrolled you in 101 - "The Pit?"

Unexpected; a place from which you can't rescue yourself

Be reminded: God has a plan for your life

Look up to Him, seek Him and pray

Has He enrolled you in 201 - "Potiphar's House?"

Teaching you to handle temptation rightly

Teaching you to maintain your witness

Teaching you to control your tongue

Has He enrolled you in 301 - "The Prison?"

A place of waiting; feeling alone, out-of-sight, forgotten

Learn the great gain of godliness with contentment

Learn to desire God most ... and *wait* for release

Upperclassmen ...

Have unreservedly made themselves available to God for new service assignments
Have fled temptation, absorbed unfairness, and controlled their tongues ... and still give their *all* daily
Have been faithful to serve and bless others wherever God has put them ... even if it's out of sight
Have served with integrity the *people* in the *places* and *positions* God has chosen for them

Have come to the point where they can truly thank God for their past hardships and heartaches, to say with Joseph that "God meant it for good"

Have been made ready to serve the King of kings

God's leaders must first become God's servants

The Lesser And Greater Servants

A father's beloved son
Hated by his brothers
Rejected by his brothers
Sold as a slave for 20 pieces of silver
A faithful servant who ministered to others
Victorious over temptation
Falsely accused, arrested and treated unjustly
Suffered before he entered his glory
Went "public" at about the age of 30
Exalted to a throne and made responsible for saving the nations
Given a Gentile bride
Not recognized by his brothers on their first visit
Though sold as a slave, met his brothers later as king
Put brothers through a trial for repentance
Revealed himself to his brothers on their second visit
His brothers bowed before him
He protected and preserved Israel all the days of his life

A Father's beloved Son
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Went "public" at about the age of 30
Exalted to a throne and made responsible for saving the nations
Given a Gentile bride
Not recognized by His brothers on His first visit
Though sold as a slave, will meet His brothers later as King
Will put His brothers through a tribulation
Will reveal Himself to His brothers at His second coming
His brothers will bow before Him
He will protect and preserve Israel all the days of His never-ending life

Some Final Comparisons

JOSEPH

Completely forgave his blood brothers
Invited his brothers to live with him where he was
Interceded for his brothers before Pharaoh
Unashamed of his brothers before Pharaoh
Presented his brothers "faultless" to Pharaoh
Gave his brothers preferential treatment out of the overflow of his greatness
His authority provided continual access to the throne for his brothers

JESUS

Completely forgives His blood brothers (Rom 8:16-17)
Invites us to live with Him where He is now (John 14:3; 17:24)
Intercedes for us before His Father (Heb 7:25)
Unashamed of His brothers before His Father (Heb 2:11)
Presents us faultless to His Father (Eph 5:27)
Gives us preferential treatment out of the overflow of His greatness (Phil 4:19)
His authority provides continual access to the throne for His brothers (Heb 4:14-16)

The Family Tree of Faith

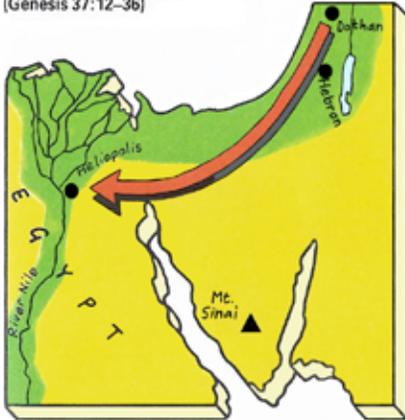
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (1)
Anticipation of a covenant people (2-11)
Establishment of a covenant people (12-36)
Incubation of a covenant people (37-50)
And so God moves the covenant family of faith to Egypt to await His call ... in the book of Exodus

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

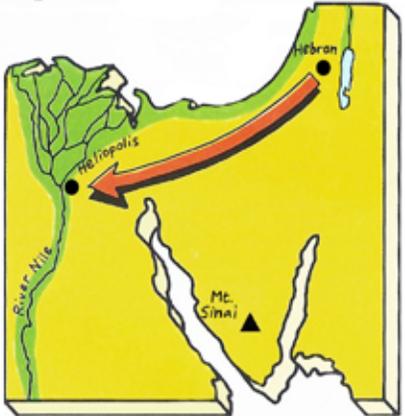
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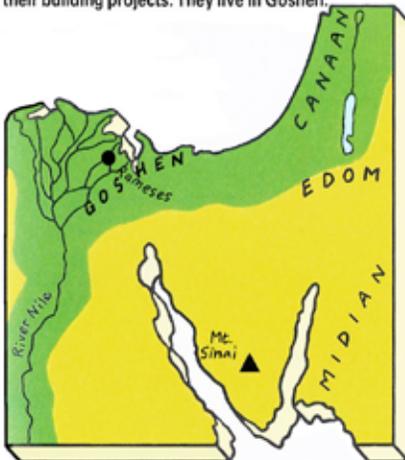
Joseph is one of Jacob's 12 sons. His older brothers grow to hate him for his arrogance. Jacob sends Joseph to Dothan where the brothers are looking after the sheep. They decide to kill him but on second thoughts sell him to traders. Joseph is taken to Egypt. (Genesis 37:12-36)



Years later, Joseph has become a governor in Egypt, in charge of food. Famine strikes and Joseph's brothers travel to Egypt to buy corn. Joseph recognizes them and eventually tells them who he is. Jacob and his family move down into Egypt. (Genesis 42-47:12)



After 430 years, the Hebrew descendants of Jacob's family have become slaves to the Egyptians, used on their building projects. They live in Goshen.



Joseph's Story

Joseph, sold by his brothers into slavery in Egypt, has now become governor in charge of food stored against the coming famine.

- 1 Jacob their father sends 10 of Joseph's brothers to Egypt for grain. He keeps the youngest son Benjamin (his favourite) with him for safety.
- 2 They do not recognize Joseph and he pretends not to know them. He accuses them of spying. He keeps Simeon hostage, sends the rest home with food. They must bring back Benjamin to prove they are not spies.
- 3 On the way home they are frightened to find money in the top of their sacks.
- 4 Jacob is unwilling to let Benjamin go - he has already lost Joseph and Simeon. He changes his mind only when the famine threatens starvation.
- 5 The 9 brothers and Benjamin go to Egypt, loaded down with gifts for Joseph.
- 6 Simeon is released and Joseph gives a great feast.
- 7 He sends them home again with food. But he orders his silver cup to be planted in Benjamin's sack.
- 8 A servant pursues them and discovers Joseph's cup.
- 9 Joseph says they can go free, but Benjamin will stay as his slave. Judah pleads with Joseph on behalf of Jacob. With great emotion, Joseph tells them who he is.
- 10 The 11 brothers return to Jacob. He comes to live in Egypt.

Joseph: The Mysterious Pathway of God's Purpose

REFERENCE	ACTIONS AGAINST JOSEPH	JOSEPH'S RESPONSE	RESULT
<i>Genesis 37:2-11</i> Joseph shares his dreams with his brothers	37:12-35 Dreams trampled Heart trampled Kidnapped Threatened with murder Disposed of in pit	42:21 Fearful and distressed Pleads for mercy	37:36 Sold into slavery in Egypt
<i>Genesis 39:1-10</i> Joseph in charge of Potiphar's house in Egypt	39:7-15 Solicitation for immorality Falsely accused	39:12 Maintains integrity	39:19-20 Put in prison
<i>Genesis 39:20-40:22</i> Joseph in charge of king's prison	40:23 Forgotten by freed cupbearer	Unknown but presumably remains faithful based on what follows Did not complain	41:1 Forgotten in prison for two more years
<i>Genesis 41:2-45</i> Joseph in charge of all of Egypt	none	Faithfulness Wisdom	41:46-57 Egypt prospers
<i>Genesis 42-44</i> Brothers return to Egypt	none	45:1-8 God-like forgiveness	45:9-15 Reconciliation Family invited to relocate in Egypt

Overcoming a Painful Past . . . or Present

How we handle relational pain is one mark of our maturity.

I. _____ to forgive those who have hurt you.

- A. *What is biblical forgiveness?*
Not a feeling, but a conscious choice to release the offender from the penalty and guilt of the offense.
- B. *Why is it important to choose to forgive?*
- Because Jesus commanded it. (*Mat 18:21-22*)
 - Because God, in Christ, has forgiven us. (*Eph 4:32*)
 - Because God can use your experience to help others. (*2 Cor 1:4*)
 - Because others will see Christ in you. (*1 Tim 5:25; 1 Pet 2:12*)

C. *How do I choose to forgive?*

- Prepare my mind and heart by meditating on how God is sovereign, good and purposeful.
- "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28*
- Pray for the situation and the person involved.
 - Let it go – leave justice to God and desire mercy.
 - Repeat as necessary.

D. *How do I know if I've really forgiven someone?*

- You want God's best for them rather than His worst.
- If God opened the door, you would consider reconciliation if there is repentance.

II. As God opens doors, seek _____.

- A. *What is biblical reconciliation?*
To substitute a relationship of peace and goodwill for one of hurt, anger and distance.
- B. *Why should I seek reconciliation?*
- Because God desires unity and peace in His family. (*Eph 4:3*)
 - Because the spiritual development of both parties is at stake. (*Prov 27:17; Eph 4:13*)
- C. *How do I seek reconciliation?*
- Wait on God. (*Gen 41:56-42:2; 43:1-2; 45:11*)
 - If the opportunity arises, take a step of initiative. (*Gen 45:4; Rom 12:18*)

"We are most like beasts when we kill. We are most like men when we judge. We are most like God when we forgive."

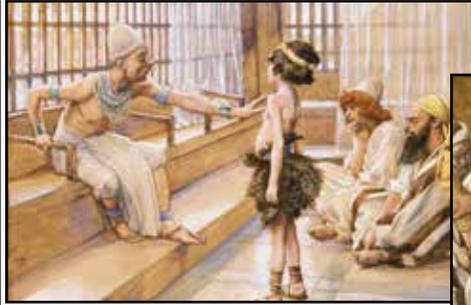
William Arthur Ward



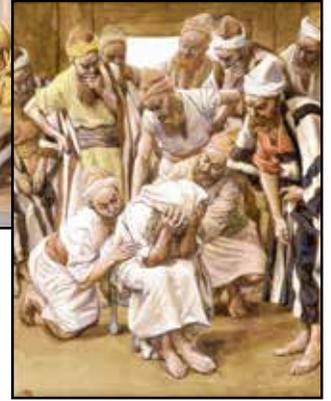
"Joseph Reveals His Dream" by James Tissot



"Joseph Cast Into The Pit" by James Tissot



"Joseph Sold Into Egypt" by James Tissot



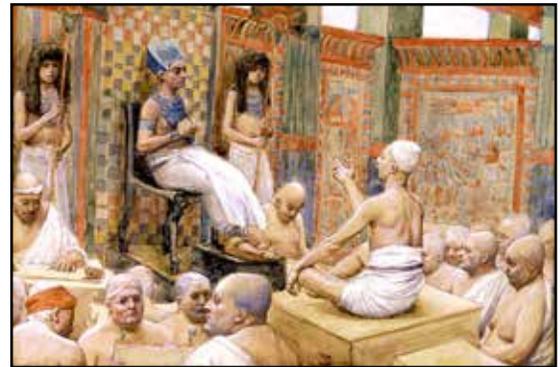
"Jacob Mourns His Son Joseph" by James Tissot



"Joseph Is Tempted By Potiphar's Wife" by James Tissot



"Joseph Interprets The Dream While In Prison" by James Tissot

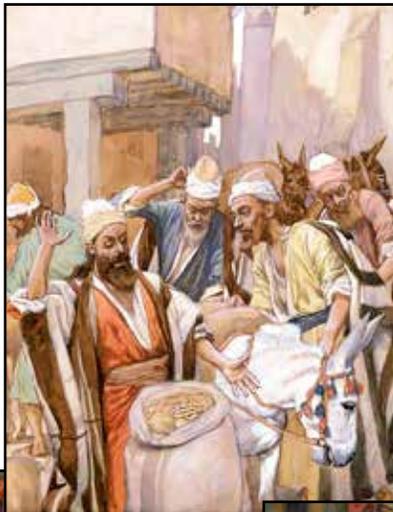


"Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream" by James Tissot

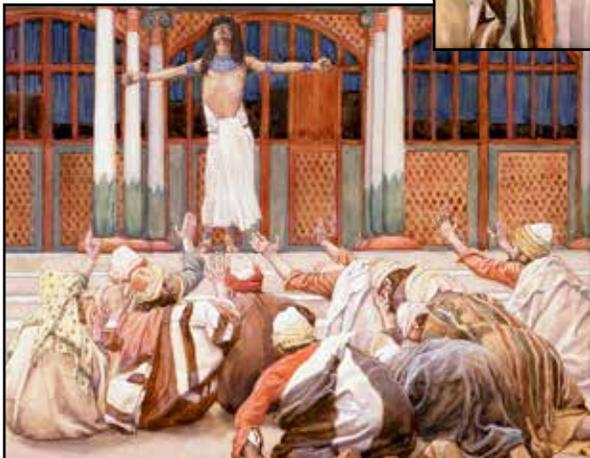


"Joseph Dwelleth In Egypt" by James Tissot

"The Cup Found" by James Tissot



"Joseph Converses With Judah" by James Tissot



"Joseph Maketh Himself Known To His Brethren" by James Tissot



"Joseph Presents His Father Jacob To Pharaoh" by James Tissot