

The Multicolored Story of Joseph

Class Composite 2009

Book Suggestion

Joseph : A Man of Integrity and Forgiveness

Charles Swindoll

**People will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you made them feel.**
Quoted by Maya Angelou

Connection to the previous class on Luke 1

Consider the story of those on the road to Emmaus

**What did these men have in common
with the brothers of Joseph?**

**There was the unexpected appearance of someone
that they considered dead.**

Jesus did not reveal himself on the road (at first).

How much does God reveal Himself to man?

How much can man understand of it?

We have to be made to think!

The purpose of this class

1

The Greatest Story Ever Told

Fulton Oursler

This book was written about the story of Christ.

A movie was also made from the book.

The story of Joseph is one of my favorites.

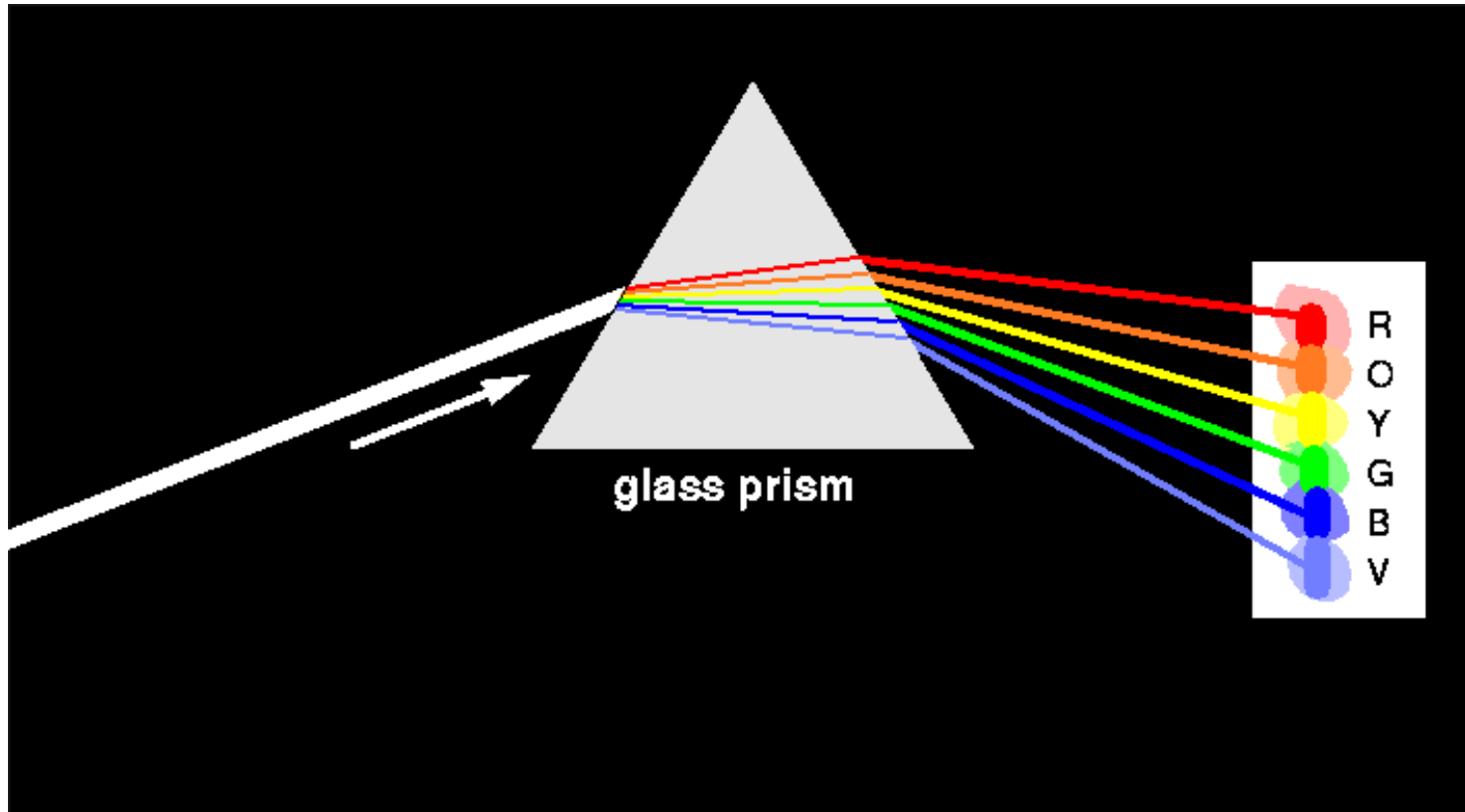
I rank it as the Second greatest story ever told.

This story has the closest parallel to the story of Christ
of any in the Bible.

I call it the Multi-colored Story of Joseph --
in tribute to the great gift (the coat) from his father,
as well as the spectrum of levels in this story.

A Multi-colored Approach

A prism separates the components of color from the spectrum.



We react psychologically to color.

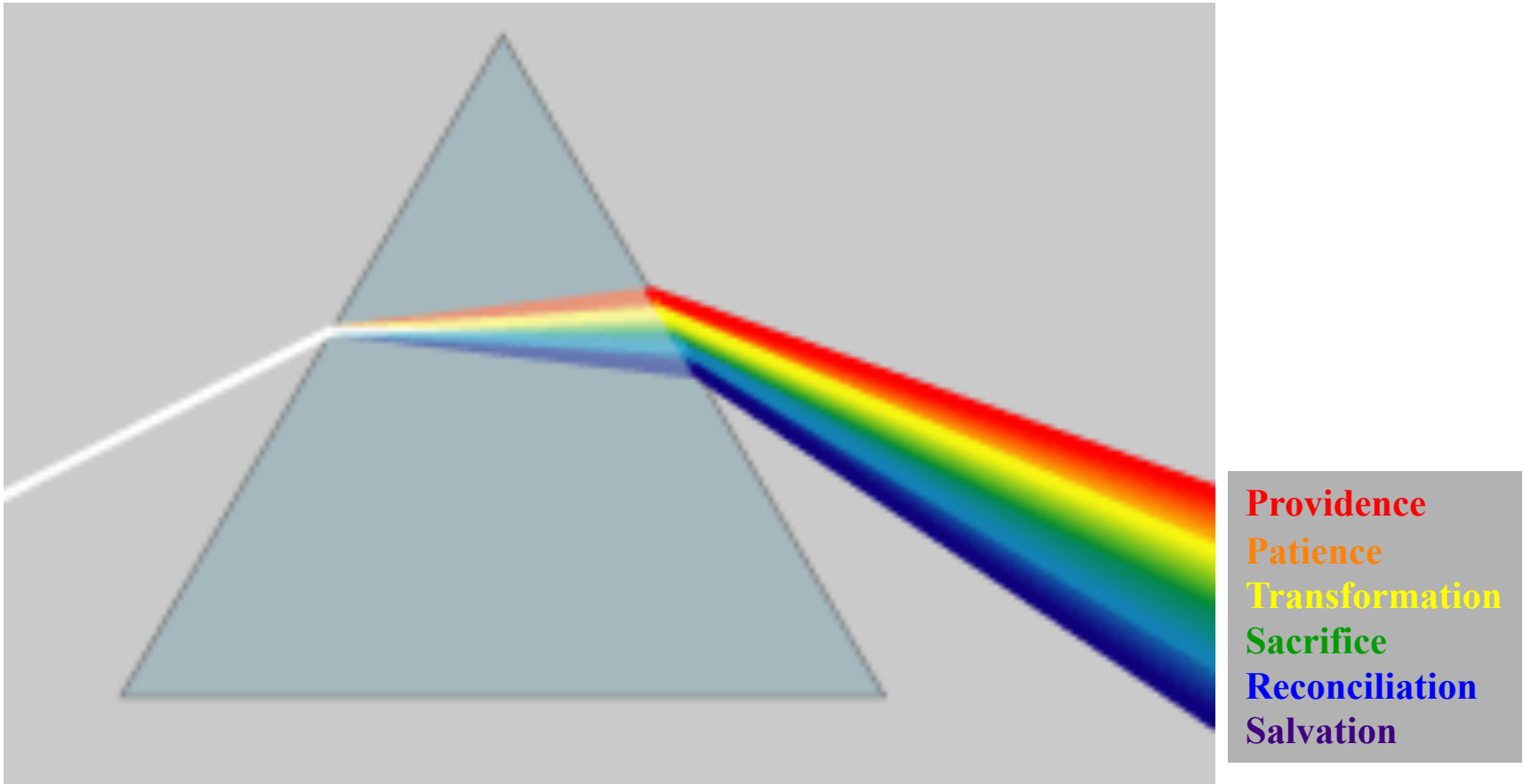
Psychological Reponse to Color

- **White** - cheer, purity, cleanliness, precision, innocence, sterility, death
- **Black** - power, sophistication, death, mystery, fear, unhappiness, elegance
- **Blue** - trust, conservative, security, technology, cleanliness, order
 - reduces mental excitability and therefore helps one to concentrate
- **Green** - nature, healthy, good luck, jealousy ("green with envy"), renewal
 - is a cooling color
- **Yellow** - cheer, optimism, hope, philosophy, dishonesty, cowardice, betrayal
 - stimulating and draws attention
- **Red** - power, energy, warmth, passions, love, aggression, danger
 - exciting and stimulates the brain.
- **Purple** - spirituality, mystery, royalty, transformation, cruelty, arrogance
 - sedative and soothing
- **Brown** - earth, reliability, comfort, endurance
 - restful and warming
- **Grey** - intellect, futurism, modesty, sadness, decay

Separation of Lessons (example)

1

We also react psychologically to these themes.



We will connect to NT themes when appropriate.

There is a word which the New Testament uses to describe the grace of God, the word *poikilos* (1 Peter 4:10).

The AV translates it manifold; the RSV and the NEB translate it varied.

It really means many-colored; and the idea is that there is no color in the human situation which the grace of God cannot match.

Whatever be a man's experience, whatever be a man's temperament, Jesus Christ has that which can meet man's need.

William Barclay

Christ is our light. He gives color to a grey world.

Spectral Beauty



We should see the same glory in this story.

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- **Introduction**
- **Background history**
- **Joseph's early life in Canaan**
- **The brothers sell Joseph**
- **The development of Joseph in Egypt**
- **First contact**
- **Second contact**
- **The brothers brought before Joseph**
- **Family reunion**
- **Life after Jacob's death**
- **Summary**

Introduction (1)

The Multicolored Story of Joseph

**Selling Joseph into captivity is a critical event;
the people of Israel were chosen through Abraham,
but they were really made into a people
because of this incident with Joseph
and the way they came out of it;
it is a double slavery --
the slavery of Joseph,
then the slavery of the people,
and each one was delivered by the hand of God.**

Introduction (2)

The Multicolored Story of Joseph

**Why did God want the people of Israel
developed in the land of Egypt
instead of out on their own?**

**Perhaps because they needed to be
delivered as one nation --**

**If they had been allowed to spread out
they might not have become encapsulated
and basically unified.**

Introduction (3)

The Basic Story of Joseph

Joseph is Jacob's favorite son, which creates jealousy and resentment amongst Joseph's brothers.

Jacob's attitude toward Joseph is symbolized by his present to Joseph of a beautiful multicolored coat.

His brothers hate him as a result of this favored treatment.

This is a marvelous story of sibling rivalry, big dreams, attempted murder, slavery, sexual harassment, false imprisonment, political intrigue, famine, deception, redemption, and reconciliation.

The Bible remains so current.

Introduction (4)

The Multicolored Story of Joseph

**The spirit of the story of Joseph
is that of forgiveness and reconciliation.
It is also a story that teaches us
to know our values and to live by them,
doing what we know is right even if the face of temptation.
Joseph learned to trust God
no matter what his circumstances were.
Throughout the story,
there is a theme that God is working behind the scenes
to work his will in the world.**

Introduction (5)

The Multicolored Story of Joseph

**Not that I speak in respect of want:
for I have learned,
in whatsoever state I am,
therewith to be content.**

Philippians 4:11

**No matter what circumstances life brings us,
we must trust in Jesus and go along with persistence.**

Introduction (6)

The Multicolored Story of Joseph

The Joseph saga serves as a transition to the book of Exodus. The themes of Joseph are different from the earlier stories, which dealt with the mysteries of faith and God's covenant. The Joseph story deals with ethics, faithfulness in exile, and the mysteries of Providence.

Introduction (7)

The Multicolored Story of Joseph

In the Middle Ages,

**writers used the image of the wheel of fortune
to illustrate what Joseph experienced.**

Fortune spins the wheel,

**and the mighty are brought low
while the low are lifted.**

Each time that Joseph rises,

his fortune changes and he is brought low.

He was stripped of his coat and sold into slavery,

but prospered as a servant.

He was falsely imprisoned,

but prospered there as well.

It appears that Joseph is a victim of fate,

and we need to acknowledge the truth

that we do not have full control over our destinies.

Quotes from Jerry Peterson

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The Beginning

Creation of man (Adam and Eve)

The entrance of Sin -- God forces man to leave the Garden

The population of the earth

God cleanses the earth with the flood (Noah)

God makes a covenant with mankind

The tower of Babel -- God confuses man's language

God calls out Abraham

The Call of Abram (Abraham)

The LORD had said to Abram,

**"Leave your country, your people and your father's household
and go to the land I will show you.**

**"I will make you into a great nation
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.**

**I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."**

Genesis 12:1-3

Abram obeys God and leaves for Canaan

God's covenant with Abram (Abraham)

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

**"Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield, your very great reward."**

But Abram said...

**"You have given me no children;
so a servant in my household will be my heir."**

Then the word of the LORD came to him:

**"This man will not be your heir,
but a son coming from your own body will be your heir."**

He took him outside and said,

**"Look up at the heavens and count the stars —
if indeed you can count them."**

Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

**Abram believed the LORD,
and he credited it to him as righteousness.**

Genesis 15:1-6

The great nation will first be enslaved and then set free

1

**As the sun was setting,
Abram fell into a deep sleep,
and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.**

**Then the LORD said to him,
"Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers
in a country not their own,
and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.
But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves,
and afterward they will come out with great possessions.**

Genesis 15:12-14

The covenant is confirmed (1)

**When Abram was ninety-nine years old,
the LORD appeared to him and said,
"I am God Almighty;
walk before me and be blameless.
I will confirm my covenant between me and you
and will greatly increase your numbers."**

Genesis 17:1-2

The covenant is confirmed (2)

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,

"As for me, this is my covenant with you:

You will be the father of many nations.

No longer will you be called Abram;

your name will be Abraham,

for I have made you a father of many nations.

I will make you very fruitful;

I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.

I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant

between me and you and your descendants after you

for the generations to come,

to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien,

I will give as an everlasting possession to you

and your descendants after you;

and I will be their God."

Genesis 17:3-8

Circumcision is Abraham's part of keeping the covenant.

God changes the names

1

Changing the name implies a conversion process; a change of service

**No longer will you be called Abram;
your name will be Abraham,
for I have made you a father of many nations.**

**God also said to Abraham,
"As for Sarai your wife,
you are no longer to call her Sarai;
her name will be Sarah.**

**I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her.
I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations;
kings of peoples will come from her."**

Genesis 17:5,15-6

Abram (exalted father) --> Abraham (father of many)

Abram (local father) --> Abraham (global father)

Sarai (local princess) --> Sarah (global princess)

Were the first people whose name God changed?

Thoughts on the “Call”

A “call” is given to bring someone out of their normal life to accomplish some particular purpose.

- Noah got the first call when God asked him to build an ark to keep mankind from being totally erased from the earth.**
- Abram gets the next call when God asked him to move to the Promised Land to be the father of a great nation.**

**Other “call”s will be examined as we go along in our study.
Think about what it means to be called by God.**

How do we know that we are “Called”

1

How did people learn their mission?

When I was in the sixth grade I saw the movie called Trapeze. I was entranced by the grace and courage of those flying trapeze artists. After leaving the movie I became convinced that God was calling me to be a trapeze artist. I hung some ropes in the trees and began my rehearsal for my life calling. I tried to convince my sister that God was also calling her and had some evangelistic success in recruiting her to become a part of the Flying Millers. But after I dropped her a time or two, she was somewhat insecure about either of our callings...

Finally I had to admit that no one saw my identity as I did...

Still, whom we hunger to be has a great deal to do with whom we become.

In the years since then, I have wanted to be more like Christ than Burt Lancaster, the star of Trapeze.

Calvin Miller

How God Calls Us

Adam and Eve	Direct Contact
Cain and Abel	Direct Contact
Noah	Direct Contact
Abram	Direct Contact, Visitors, Dream/Vision (direct - great nation)
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Dreamers and Interpreters

**Walter Brueggemann asserts that the Joseph narrative
“is distinguished in every way
from the narratives dealing with Abraham and Jacob”.**

**The earlier stories involved direct encounters with God,
but in the Joseph cycle
all communication is in the form of dreams.**

**In other stories of those times,
there were dreamers and there were interpreters.**

**The Joseph story is odd in that
he is both a dreamer and an interpreter.**

**There is no key to happiness.
The door is always open.**

unknown

This Week's Research Question

Name those who went to Egypt for refuge.

Abraham and Sarah (famine)

Joseph (escape his brothers)

Joseph's brothers (famine)

Jacob (famine)

Hadad (fled from King Solomon, 1 Kings 11:17)

Jereboam (fled from King Solomon, 1 Kings 11:40)

Uriah (fled from King Jehoakim, Jeremiah 26:23)

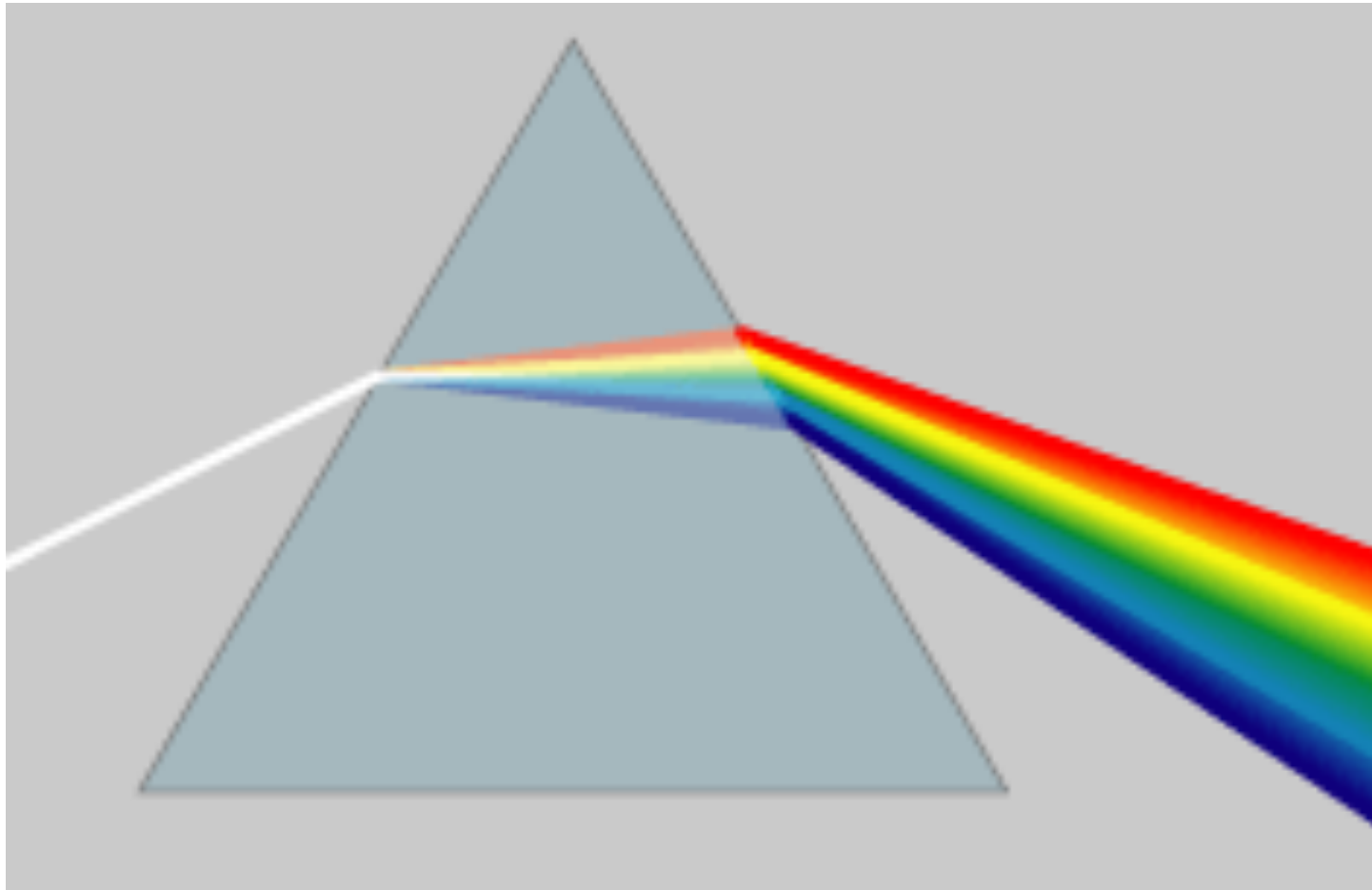
Johanan son of Kareah (fled from Babylonians, Jeremiah 43:4)

Joseph, Mary, and Jesus

The purpose of this class

2

The story of Joseph is the Second greatest story ever told.



Providence
Patience
Transformation
Sacrifice
Reconciliation
Salvation

We will study the Multi-colored Story of Joseph -- in tribute to the great gift (the coat) from his father, and examine the spectrum of levels in this story.

Spectral Beauty



We should see the same glory in this story.

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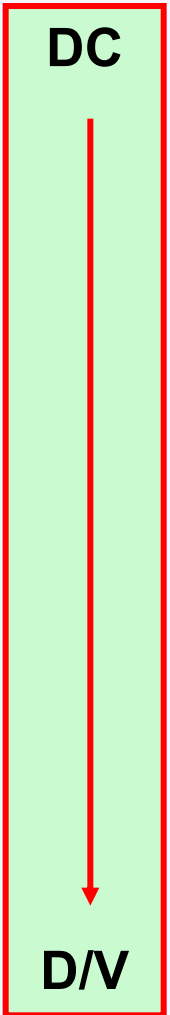
The tower of Babel -- God confuses man's language

God calls out Abraham and promises that he will become a great nation

God changes the names of Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah

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The Covenant People

God is known as the father of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

Ishmael is born of a maidservant, but Isaac is the chosen son
Isaac has two sons -- Jacob and Esau (Jacob is the chosen son)
Jacob steals the birthright and blessing and leaves the country
Jacob has a dream -- stairway to heaven (deal made with God)
Jacob falls in love with a cousin -- Rachel
Jacob marries Leah and Rachel -- they have twelve sons
Jacob decides to return home
-- Wrestles with God (or His angel)
-- Name changed from Jacob (deceiver or supplanter)
to Israel (he struggles with God)
Think about this as the name of God's people
-- Esau receives him again
Rachel dies in childbirth -- her sons are Joseph and Benjamin

What sons are more favored than the others?

God's Chosen -- or His Favorite?

God chooses a nation -- through Abraham

Abraham has the first two sons from a wife and a handmaid

Isaac is chosen over Ishmael as the son of promise

Abraham offers his son in worship to God

Isaac has twin sons -- Jacob and Esau

Esau is the eldest, but Jacob is blessed by God

(Jacob 'steals' the birthright and the blessing)

Jacob has twelve sons -- from two wives and their handmaids

Rachel is the favorite (the one Jacob 'fell in love with')

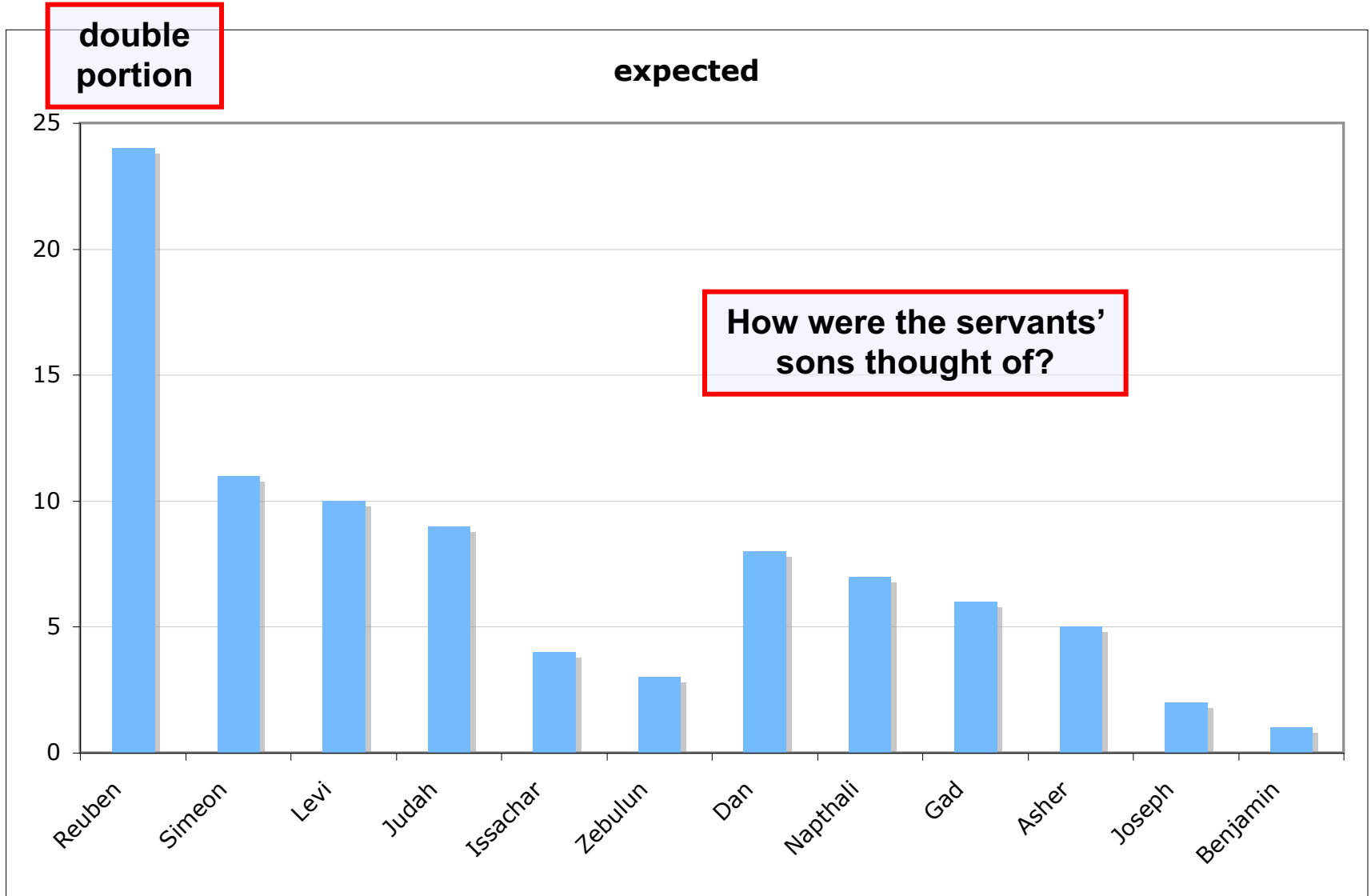
Leah is not really loved, but God blesses her with more sons

Were others given the opportunity for this kind of sacrifice?

Were all others rejected? (Did He not love other people?)

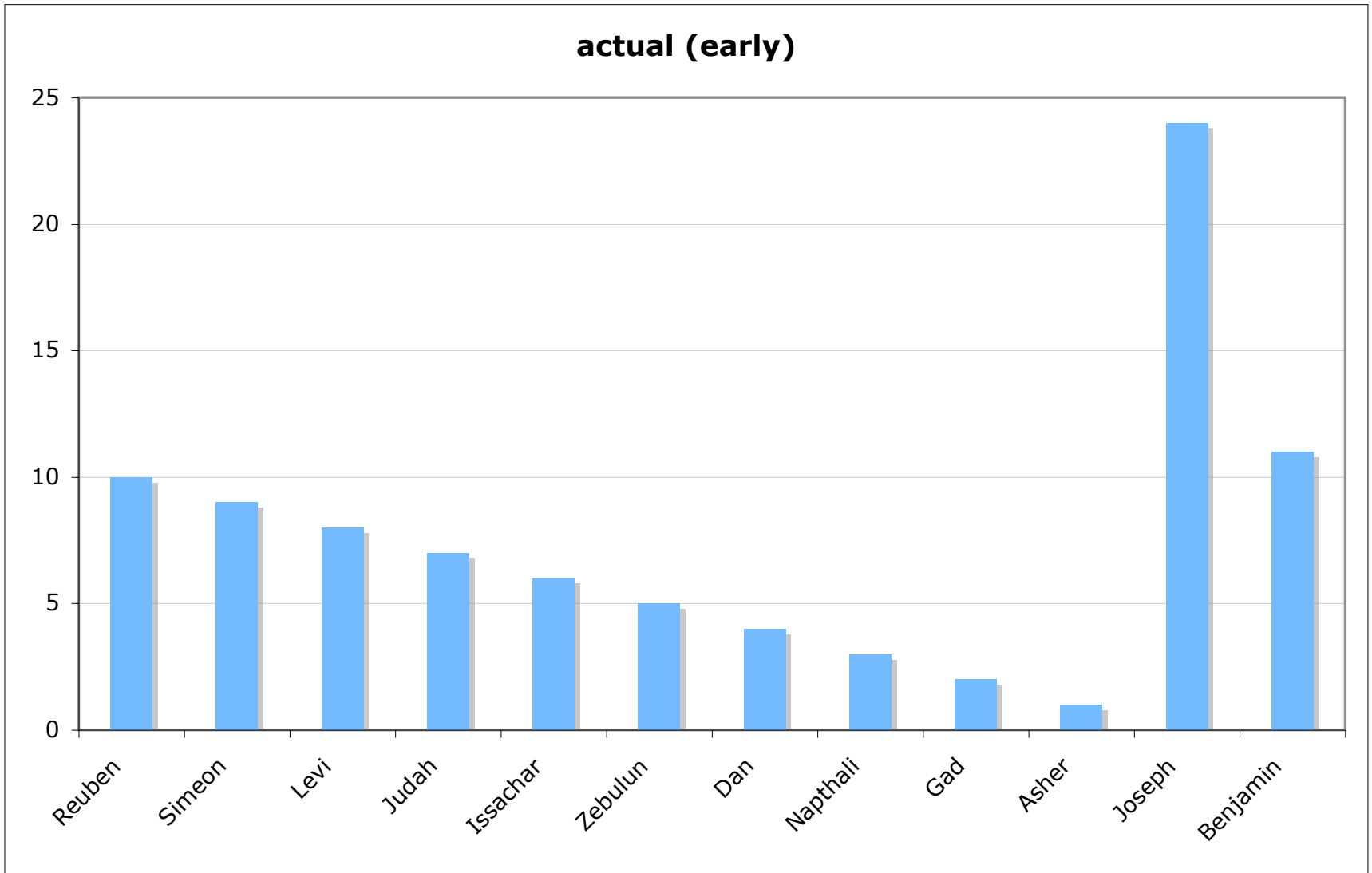
God's "Chosen people" is based on the offering of a son

Favorite Sons (1)



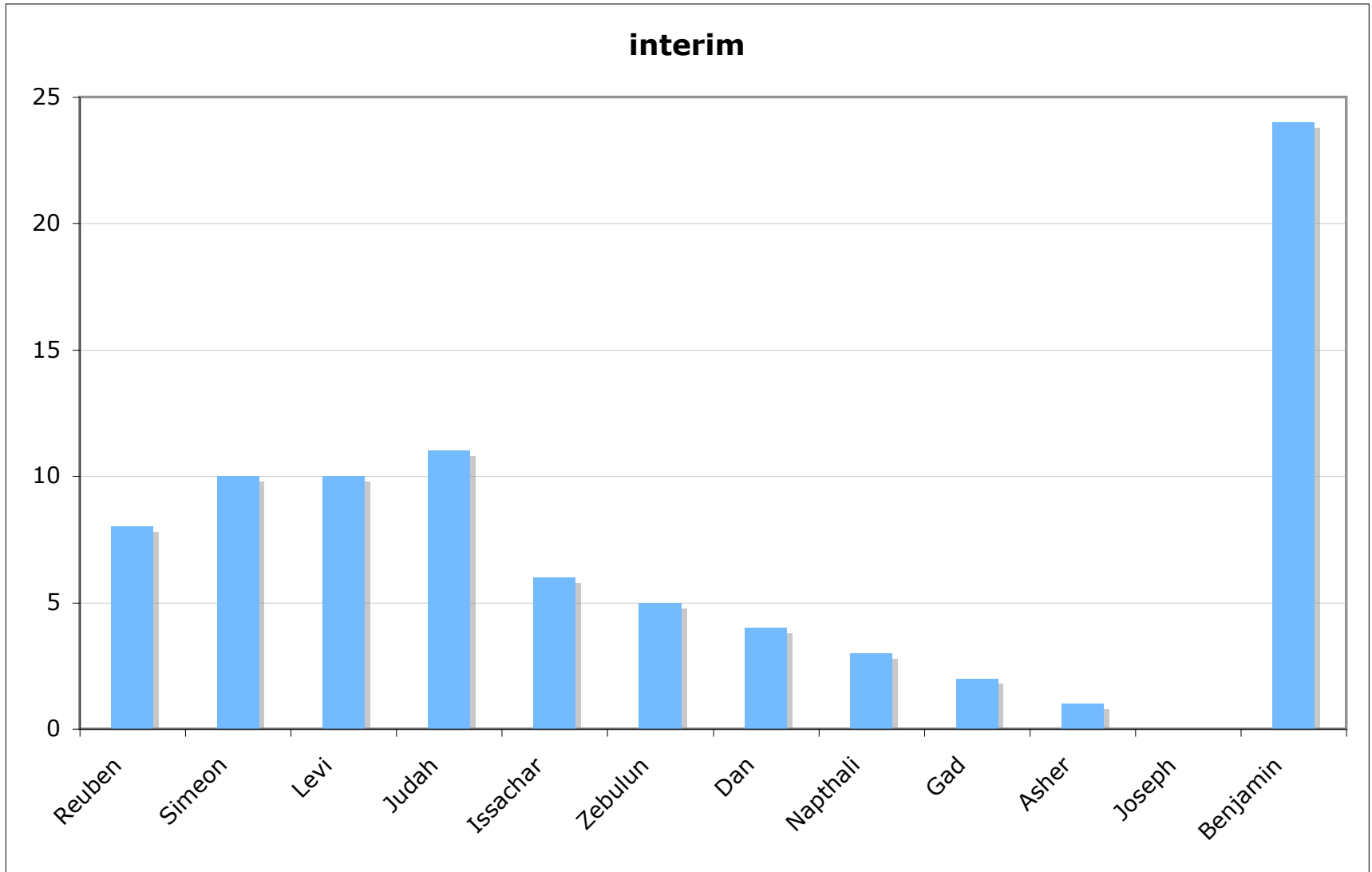
What sons were expected to be favored?

Favorite Sons (2)



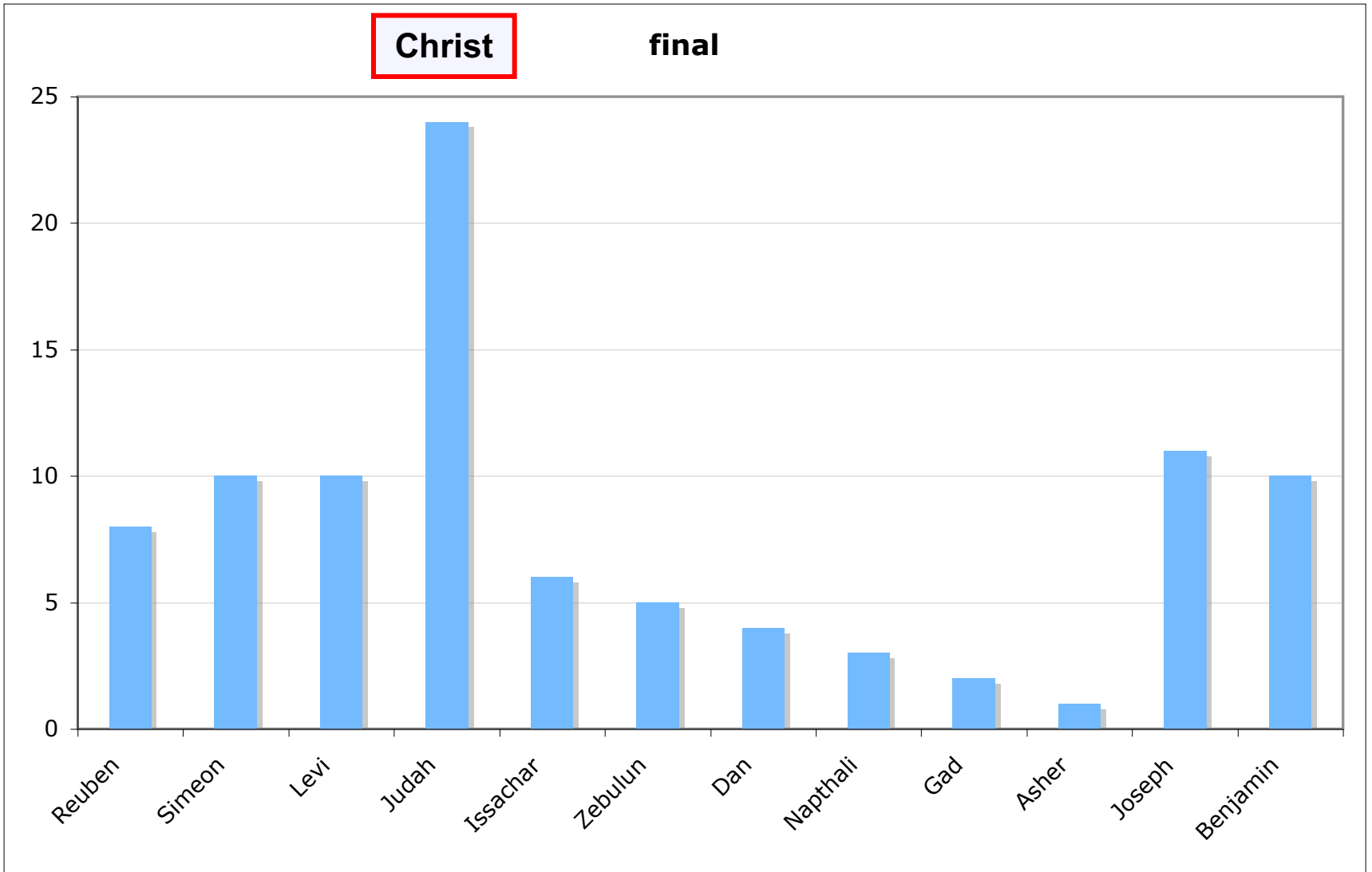
What sons were actually favored (in the beginning)?

Favorite Sons (3)



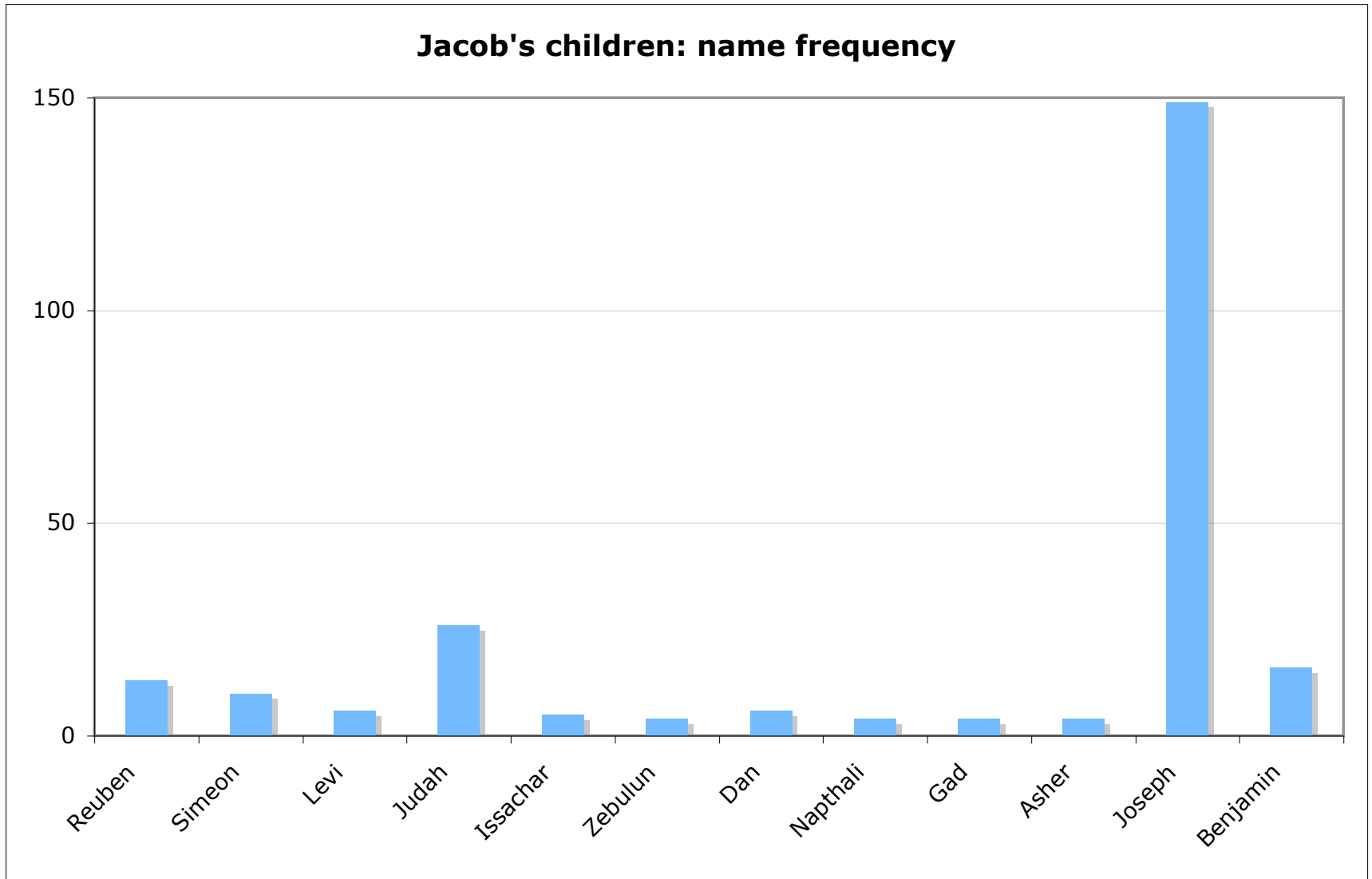
What sons were favored (after Joseph was 'eliminated')?

Favorite Sons (4)



What sons were favored (after the family was reunited)?

Interaction with the Sons



How much were each of the sons referred to?

Interaction with the Apostles

**Sons of
Jonah**

**Sons of
Zebedee**

How much were each of the apostles referred to?

Comparing the two 'Twelves'

Jesus probably chose twelve apostles because of the twelve tribes.

The Opposites -- Judah and Judas

The sons of thunder -- Simeon and Levi; James and John

Those removed from the group -- Levi and Judas

Two added later -- Manasseh and Ephriam; Matthias and Paul

Those who struggled to be first -- Joseph; James and John

The favorite -- Joseph; John (or Peter?)

The others -- not much is known about their actions or their speech

Those ready to give themselves up -- Judah; Thomas and Peter

Did Jesus ever show favoritism?

Did Jesus Show Favoritism?

Christ's Circle

The Twelve

The Three (Peter, James, and John)

The one (Peter or John?)

One person reacted badly to it (Judas)

David's Circle

The Thirty

The Three (Jashobeam, Eleazar, and Shammah)

The one (Abishai)

No one of David's crew reacted badly

(but David did, as he betrayed one of the thirty – Uriah)

The Law of the Firstborn (primogeniture)? 2

Reversal of Fortune The Chosen Ones at Risk

Isaac (the second son) -- **in danger of being sacrificed by Abraham**

Jacob (the second son) -- **in danger of being killed by Esau**

Rachel (the second daughter) -- chosen by Jacob

Joseph (the eleventh son) -- **in danger of being killed by brothers**

Ephriam (the second son) -- chosen by Jacob

Judah (the fourth son) -- chosen by God to be the kingly line

God did not conform to this human tradition

Brotherly Love -- or Sibling Rivalry?

Isaac and Ishmael

- Hagar and Ishmael forced to leave without any support
- Isaac and Ishmael get together to bury their father
- enmity continues today (Jews vs Muslims)

Jacob

- Esau vows to kill him
- Jacob forced to leave
- reunited in peace

Joseph

- brothers hate him and want to kill him
- sold into bondage to get rid of him
- reunited after being tested
- brother concerned about relationships after Jacob dies

Rachel and Leah also at odds -- contest for affections of Jacob

Tribe of Benjamin nearly wiped out in civil war

Parallel to the Brothers of Joseph and Jesus 2

Ivan McAfee: were Jesus' brothers like Joseph's brothers?

Joseph was the next youngest; Jesus was the oldest

The brothers did not stand behind either at first

The brothers did not believe in either

The brothers both had problems with leadership issues

The Great Struggle

Leah and Rachel had a violent struggle for status

Leah, the unloved, was blessed with children first (and more of them)

Rachel was very jealous and demanded children from Jacob

Rachel sent in her handmaid as a pinch “hitter”

Leah then sent in her handmaid (fair is fair)

Rachel traded (with Leah) her turn in bed with Jacob for mandrakes

(mandrakes may have been thought to contain a fertility drug)

Leah conceived and bore her last son (Zebulun)

(does this remind you of Esau selling his birthright?)

Rachel finally conceived and bore Joseph

Rachel bore Benjamin after the family moved back to Canaan

Children are often the battlefield in domestic problems.

**Jesus isn't saying that we will get our dream house;
he is saying that we will finally find a home.**

John Ortberg

This Week's Research Question

Name those who were told not to go to Egypt.

Isaac, by God, in time of famine (Genesis 26:2);

he was told to go to the Philistines

Joseph's brother Benjamin, by Jacob (Genesis)

People of Israel, by Jeremiah (Jeremiah 42)

Spectral Beauty



We should see the same glory in the story of Joseph.

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God changes the names of Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah

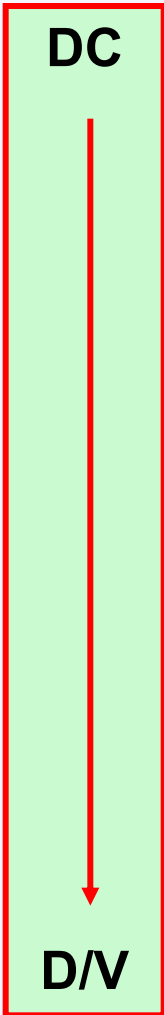
God begins the creation of His covenant people through Abraham

Abraham offers his son in sacrifice to God -- through faith...

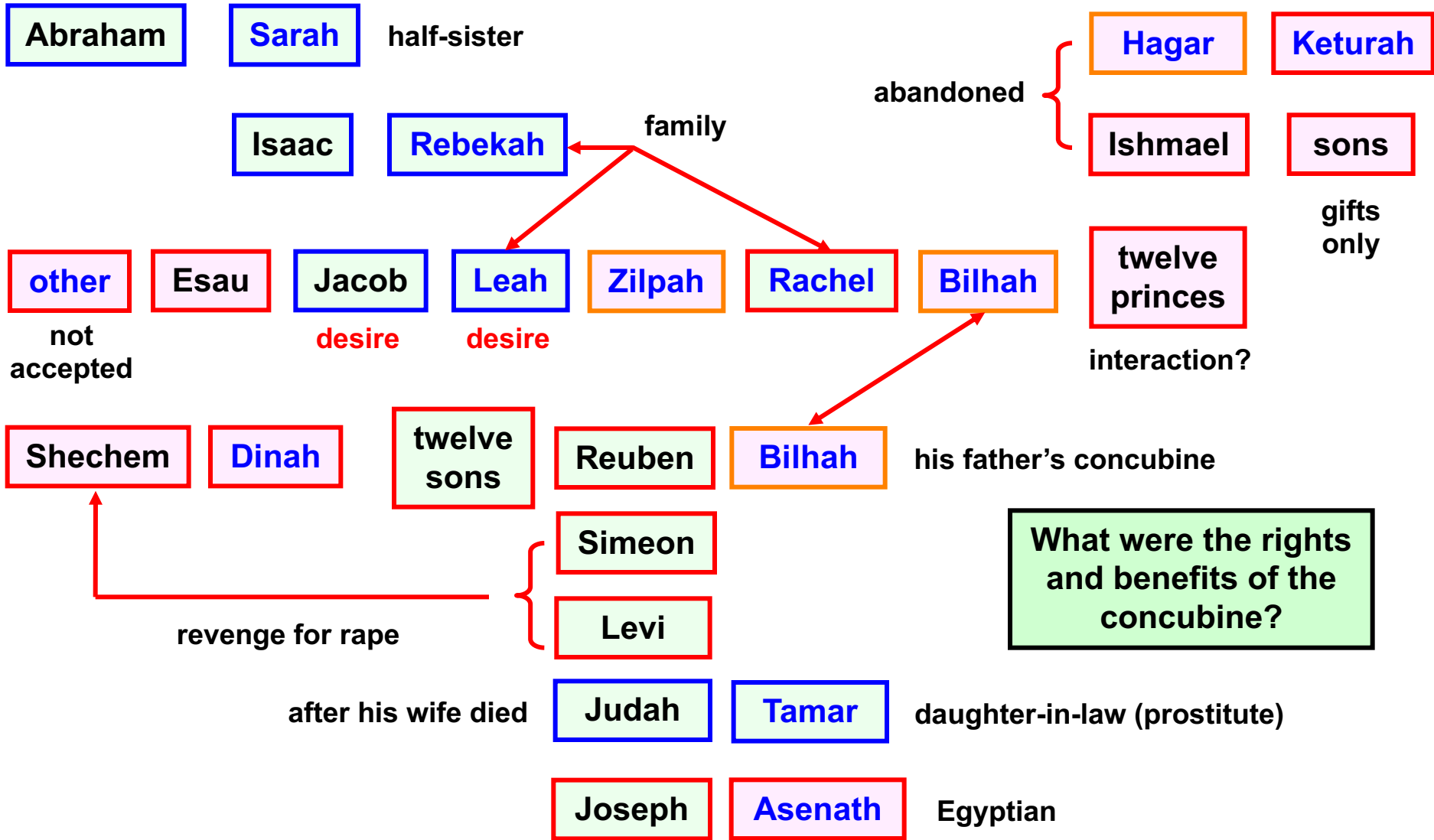
God does not conform to the law of firstborn

How God Calls Us

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The Soap Opera



Leah, the unloved, became the mother of the chosen son (Judah)

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Joseph's Early Life -- Reporting

Joseph was born into a family of shepherds and cattlemen

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed,
the land of Canaan.

This is the account of Jacob.

Joseph,

a young man of **seventeen**,

was tending the flocks with his brothers,

the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah,

his father's wives,

and he brought their father a bad report about them.

Genesis 37:1-2

Were the brothers bad, or was this a difference in management style?

Comment on Favoritism

**I charge you,
in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels,
to keep these instructions without partiality,
and to do nothing out of favoritism.**

1 Timothy 5:21

Joseph's Early Life - Robe (1)

**Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons,
because he had been born to him in his old age;
and he made a richly ornamented robe for him.**

**When his brothers saw that their father
loved him more than any of them,
they hated him
and could not speak a kind word to him.**

Genesis 37:3-4

What an environment to live in at home!

Who made the coat?

Rachel was dead; was it purchased or did Leah make it?

Joseph's Early Life - Robe (2)

Jacob showed his love for Joseph by giving him a special coat.

**Translators have debated for centuries
over just what kind of coat it was.**

**The only other time that this particular Hebrew word
is used in the Bible is to describe coats
worn by the virgin daughters of King David.**

**The Greek version of the OT,
which was used as the basis for the Latin Vulgate,
translated the Hebrew as a multi-colored coat.**

**Most of the Protestant translators during the Reformation
did the same.**

Joseph's Early Life - Robe (3)

Today a multi-colored coat does not sound like much of a gift.

**You can buy a coat of many colors at any discount store,
but in ancient times, dyes were very expensive.**

Beautifully dyed cloth was very expensive.

**A coat of many colors would have been a fabulous gift
in an age when people owned one or two sets of clothes.**

Joseph's Early Life - Robe (4)

Many modern translators dispute the claim that Jacob gave his son a coat of many colors.

The consensus among modern translators is that this was really a coat of long sleeves.

Let's not pass too quickly over the significance of the long sleeves.

They probably covered Joseph's hands, which meant that this was a coat for an overseer, not a worker.

Let's assume that Jacob gave Joseph a coat with long sleeves that was also multi-colored!

Jacob was not simply identifying Joseph as his favorite son; he was to be the leader of the clan, the head of the household.

And the brothers hated that fact.

Joseph's Early Life - Robe (5)

Thought Question:

Name the times was a garment of Joseph used in a lie about him?

Twice:

- 1) the coat of many colors (the brothers used it to claim he had been killed) (Genesis 37:32ff), and**
- 2) the cloak that Potipher's wife used to show Joseph had tried to molest her (Genesis 39:13ff).**

Special robes were made for the priesthood (Exodus 28)

The glory of Joseph's coat could be related to the radiance of Christ at the Transfiguration – it set him apart and drew attention to Him

Christ was given a scarlet robe at his crucifixion (Matthew 27)

The saved will be robed in splendor

Isaiah 63, Revelation

Think about dreams

can you tell one that you remember?

we don't remember many of them

some seem to have great significance to us

they can be very complex (symbolism)

they can recur (underwear, lost, hiking...)

they can help shape the future if they affect your decisions

do you dream in color?

evidence of color in dreams?

(Nebuchadnezzar: gold, silver, bronze)

can you interpret them?

Sigmund Freud was the first to scientifically examine dreams.

Joseph's Early Life - Dreams (1)

Joseph had a dream,

and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.

He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had:

We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field

when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright,

while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

His brothers said to him,

"Do you intend to reign over us?

Will you actually rule us?"

And they hated him all the more

because of his dream and what he had said.

Genesis 37:5-8

Young and naïve, he may have thought his family would support him!

Joseph's Early Life - Dreams (2)

Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers.

**"Listen," he said, "I had another dream,
and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars
were bowing down to me."**

**When he told his father as well as his brothers,
his father rebuked him and said,**

"What is this dream you had?

**Will your mother and I and your brothers
actually come and bow down to the ground before you?"**

His brothers were jealous of him,

but his father kept the matter in mind.

Genesis 37:9-11

His father, knowing the power of God, was thoughtful about it.

Joseph's Early Life - Dreams (3)

Joseph has two dreams

**His family interpreted these dreams (fairly obvious)
(both show the same meaning)**

The prophecy of subservience that was not well received

**Should he have told his family?
(should he have been “honest”?)**

**You'd think Joseph would have learned something
from his family's history.**

Brothers try to kill brothers (Cain and Abel).

**But murder does not really solve problems;
it creates more problems.**

**Silence is often misinterpreted,
but never misquoted.**

Spectral Beauty



We should see the same glory in the story of Joseph.

Iridescence is an optical phenomenon in which hue changes with the angle from which a surface is viewed.

Iridescence may be easily seen in soap bubbles and butterfly wings.

Iridescence is caused by multiple reflections from multi-layered, semi-transparent surfaces that create interference.

The word iridescence is derived in part from the Greek word iris (pl. irides),

meaning "rainbow",

which in turn derives from the goddess Iris of Greek mythology,

who is the personification of the rainbow

and acted as a messenger of the gods.

The Beginning

Creation of man (Adam and Eve)

The entrance of Sin -- God forces man to leave the Garden

The population of the earth

God cleanses the earth with the flood (Noah)

God makes a covenant with mankind

The tower of Babel -- God confuses man's language

God calls out Abraham and promises that he will become a great nation

God changes the names of Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah

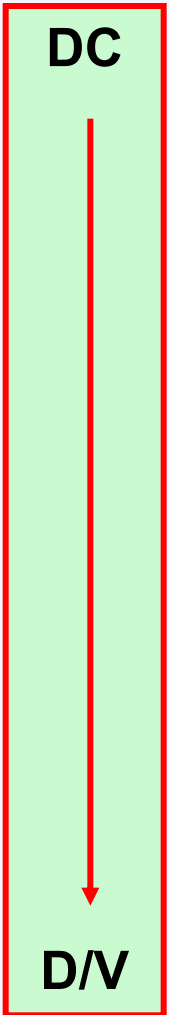
God begins the creation of His covenant people through Abraham

Abraham offers his son in sacrifice to God -- through faith...

God does not conform to the law of firstborn

How God Calls Us

Adam and Eve	Direct Contact
Cain and Abel	Direct Contact
Noah	Direct Contact
Abram	Direct Contact, Visitors, Dream/Vision (direct - great nation)
Isaac	Direct Contact, Dream/Vision (appeared at night)
Jacob	Direct Contact (wrestled with angel) Dream/Vision (direct - stairway to heaven) Dream/Vision (the breeding of animals)
Joseph	Dream/Vision (needed interpretation)



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The brothers sell Joseph (1)

Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them."

"Very well," he replied.

White-collar management

So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me."

Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.

When Joseph arrived at Shechem, a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?"

"They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.' "

The brothers sell Joseph (2)

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan.

But they saw him in the distance,
and **before he reached them,**
they plotted to kill him.

"Here comes that **dreamer!**" they said to each other.

"Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns
and say that a ferocious animal devoured him.

Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

Genesis 37:17a-20

The brothers sell Joseph (3)

When Reuben heard this,

he tried to rescue him from their hands.

"Let's not take his life," he said.

"Don't shed any blood.

Throw him into this **cistern** here in the desert,
but don't lay a hand on him."

Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

So when Joseph came to his brothers,

they stripped him of his robe —

the richly ornamented robe he was wearing-
and they took him and threw him into the cistern.

Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

Genesis 37:21-24

Reuben used by God
to save Joseph

Reuben shows some strength, but his weakness will be made evident.

The brothers sell Joseph (4)

As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead.

Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

Judah said to his brothers,

"What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?

Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites
and not lay our hands on him;

Judah used by God to
save Joseph

after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood."

His brothers agreed.

So when the Midianite merchants came by,

his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern

and **sold him for twenty shekels** of silver to the Ishmaelites,

who took him to Egypt.

2 shekels each for the
10 brothers involved

Genesis 37:25-28

How many pieces of silver was Jesus sold for?

The brothers sell Joseph (5)

Was Judah greedy, or was he trying to save Joseph from murder?

When Reuben returned to the cistern
and saw that Joseph was not there,
he tore his clothes.

He went back to his brothers and said,
"The boy isn't there! Where can I turn now?"

Then they got Joseph's robe,
slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood.

They took the ornamented robe back to their father and said,
"We found this.

cruel and hard-hearted!

Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe."

Genesis 37:29-32

They wanted strong evidence that Joseph was gone.

The brothers sell Joseph (6)

He recognized it and said,
"It is my son's robe!
Some ferocious animal has devoured him.
Joseph has surely been torn to pieces."

Then **Jacob tore his clothes**,
put on sackcloth
and mourned for his son many days.

All his sons and daughters came to comfort him,
but he refused to be comforted.

**more than one
daughter, or
including
daughters-in-law?**

"No," he said, "in mourning will I go down to the grave to my son."

So his father wept for him.

Genesis 37:33-35

They let Jacob draw his own conclusions.

The brothers sell Joseph (7)

Meanwhile,
the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar,
one of Pharaoh's officials,
the captain of the guard.

Genesis 37:36

PDE: Did the Midianites make a good profit?

Captain of the guard: Like the commander-in-chief

The brothers sell Joseph (8)

**The robe that set Joseph apart is desecrated
(symbolizing destruction of Joseph's dream)**

Analysis of the profit:

balance the immediate relief vs long term misery (Jacob's grief)

**What does Joseph hear his brothers talk about
while he is in the cistern (taunts? plans?)**

**Were Joseph's brothers trying to protect the family as a whole;
were they trying to prevent a real split?**

**Once the brothers got hold of the coat,
its prominent color became red!**

Joseph's Early Life -- Key Elements

- 1) Gave bad report on brothers to father
- 2) Given coat of many colors by father
- 3) Told about dreams of authority and leadership
- 4) Sold by his brothers (almost killed by them)

In some ways he reminds us of the young Jacob hanging onto his mother's skirts and usurping his brother's place, but in this case it was the father who made Joseph special.

In the long run, Jacob was correct about Joseph, but in the short run his preferential treatment nearly killed his favorite son.

The coat didn't save Joseph, but it saved his family and thousands of others.

Favorite Son, Hated Brother (chapter title from Swindoll)

Aftermath: the Deed is Done

What did the sons of Jacob hope to gain in getting rid of their brother?

They wanted their father to love them as much as he loved the son of Rachel, but instead of gaining Jacob's love they broke their father's heart.

Rather than being free of Joseph, the brothers would live the rest of their lives under his shadow.

Joseph's dreams had been already fulfilled. Though absent, he became the dominant figure in his brother's lives.

His father bowed down, but in grief.

The brothers hoped to put an end to Joseph's story, but this is just the beginning.

Eventually, the sons of Jacob would have to kneel before the brother they had plotted against, and they would learn the meaning of mercy.

Atwood

The brothers carried guilt for the rest of their lives as a consequence.

Deceit in the Life of Jacob

**Esau claimed that Jacob deceived him twice to gain preeminence
(the birthright and the blessing)**

**Jacob claimed that Laban deceived him over and over
(and Laban claimed that Jacob deceived him
by not telling him that he was leaving to take his family home)**

Jacob's sons deceived him about the absence of Joseph

**Joseph deceived his brothers
about who he was
about the money in their sacks
about his treatment of the one who stole the silver cup**

Genesis 27:36; did Jacob really deceive Esau both times?

Jacob as a Father

Jacob was exhausted from the struggles:

with Esau

with Laban

with Rachel and Leah

**When Jacob learned about the rape of his daughter, he did nothing;
and when he learned that his own son had committed incest
with Bilhah his concubine,
again he did nothing. (Swindoll)**

**How could Jacob avoid seeing the seething hatred and jealousy
within his own household? (Swindoll)**

**Jacob maintained his attitude of favoritism such that
he greatly affected the life of his entire family.**

Life after the call (short-term)

**Jacob had great dreams of God's presence:
then he had great struggles
and lost his favorite wife (Rachel)
and then lost his favorite son (Joseph)**

Lost all hope

**Joseph had great dreams of God's presence:
then he was sold into slavery
and accused of attempted rape
and then thrown into prison
and then forgotten after doing great things**

Kept the faith

**Note the different reactions between father and son,
and their interpretation of God's Call.**

Joseph's Isolation

Joseph received unfair treatment from his family and was isolated from them when he was sold.

He was also isolated from those he was sold to (he did not understand their languages)

When did Joseph give up on thinking that he would send a message to his father?

Joseph was isolated from both sides (family and nation) even when he was second in command.

**True merit is like a river,
the deeper it is,
the less noise it makes.**

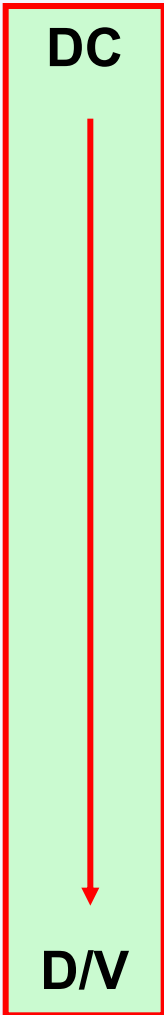
Edward F. Halifax



We should see the same glory in the story of Joseph.

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The Greatness of Joseph

**The greatness of Joseph was not,
as we often think,
that he planned out his life
(key choices, career decisions, etc)
with real wisdom and then executed that plan --**

**Rather it was that he sought to honor God
in whatever circumstance he was placed.**

We will all bow before Christ

...For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

It is written:

" 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord,
'every knee will **bow** before me;
every tongue will confess to God.' "

So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Romans 14:10b-12

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should **bow**,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Phillipians 2:9-11

Joseph's dream is expanded to all mankind for Christ.

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Joseph is bought by Potiphar

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt.

Potiphar,

an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials,

the captain of the guard,

bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

Genesis 39:1

Potiphar was a very high official.

Joseph is highly thought of and is put in charge

**The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered,
and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.**

**When his master saw that the LORD was with him
and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did,
Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant.**

**Potiphar put him in charge of his household,
and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.**

Genesis 39:2-4

Potiphar is blessed because of Joseph

5

**From the time he put him in charge of his household
and of all that he owned,
the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian
because of Joseph.**

**The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had,
both in the house and in the field.**

**So he left in Joseph's care everything he had;
with Joseph in charge,
he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.**

Genesis 39:5-6

The key concept was trust.

Potiphar's wife tries to seduce Joseph

5

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,
and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said,
"Come to bed with me!"

But he refused.

"With me in charge," he told her,
"my master does not concern himself with anything in the house;
everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.

No one is greater in this house than I am.

My master has withheld nothing from me except you,
because you are his wife.

How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"

And though she spoke to Joseph **day after day**, **alone!**
he refused to go to bed with her or **even be with her**.

Genesis 39:7-10

Joseph has to run away

One day he went into the house to attend to his duties,
and none of the household servants was inside.

She caught him by his cloak and said, **Potiphar's wife manipulated this**
"Come to bed with me!"

But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand
and had run out of the house,
she called her household servants.

cloak: evidence again!

"Look," she said to them,
"this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us!
He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed.

When he heard me scream for help,
he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

Genesis 39:7-10

Potiphar's wife puts her own spin on her rejection.

Joseph has to run away

She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home.

Then she told him this story:

**"That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me
to make sport of me.**

**But as soon as I screamed for help,
he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."**

**When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying,
"This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger.**

**Joseph's master took him and put him in prison,
the place where the king's prisoners were confined.**

Genesis 39:7-10

Potiphar could have served as judge, jury, and executioner.

**The probable reason that Potiphar did not have Joseph put to death
was that he did not believe his wife**

Joseph is also favored in prison

5

Because Potiphar is important, Joseph is in a special prison.

**But while Joseph was there in the prison,
the LORD was with him;
he showed him kindness
and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.**

**So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison,
and he was made responsible for all that was done there.**

**The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care,
because the LORD was with Joseph
and gave him success in whatever he did.**

Genesis 39:7-10

The language is very similar:

Joseph relieved both Potiphar and the prison warden of their concerns

Joseph continues to develop through his struggles

Remember that Joseph was sold two different times.

He showed no self-pity

He performs excellently in all that he does (a model for all workers)

God gives him success in everything

God was with him – the relationship was intact (Genesis 39:21)

He would not forfeit his integrity for the possibility of greater rewards

He rose to high level in each case

After being sold to the Egyptians,

Joseph continues to mature.

He shows his loyalty to his values when he resists Potiphar's wife.

Judaism teaches that it is at this point that Joseph

can be called a **tzakik**, a righteous person.

Judaism and Christianity teach this marks

a turning point in his character and in his life.

Jerry Peterson

Joseph has “success” even when life is tough ⁵

God gives him success in everything (and was with him)

This does not mean that he gets anything he wants

It is not a fairy-tale life

Joseph knows that God is with him,

even though Joseph is in prison (which God 'allowed')

This gives us a different perspective on providence and success.

Slavery in the ancient world was different from the slavery that we had in the United States. Slaves were not considered sub-human, and it was not uncommon for slaves to attain higher status than free persons.

Thought Question:

Name the slaves who became rulers

Joseph

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Other Prisoners

Thought Question: Name other prisoners in the Bible

Joseph's brothers

John the Baptist

John (exiled)

Simeon

Jesus

Daniel

Jeremiah

Barabbas

Paul

Jehoahaz (king)

James

Epaphras

Jehoakim (king)

Peter

Samson

Jehoaichin (king)

Paul said:

I, therefore, the **prisoner of the Lord,
beseech you to walk worthy of the calling
with which you were called,
with all lowliness and gentleness,
with longsuffering,
bearing with one another in love,
endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

Ephesians 4:1-3

Are we in a prison?

If we define prison as

**“any undesirable circumstance that we find ourselves
in that we would never choose
and from which we’d like to be released,”
the Bible has much to say to us.**

**Joseph’s example teaches about the grace of God
for God’s people
while facing adversity.**

Paul Borthwick

Prison: work, drugs (and other addictions), marriage?

How do we deal with it?

The book of Philippians,
one of Paul the apostle's last letters,
is written from captivity,
yet it is characterized by the word **joy**.

The word **joy** or **rejoice** appears fourteen times in four chapters...
Compare Joseph and Paul in order to see how **happiness** –
an emotion dependent on
the “happenings” or circumstances of life –
is different from **joy**.

Paul Borthwick

Pharaoh's new prisoners (1)

Some time later,

the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt
offended their master, the king of Egypt.

Pharaoh was angry with his two officials,
the chief cupbearer and the chief baker,
and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard,
in the same prison where Joseph was confined.

The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph,
and he **attended** them.

Genesis 40:1-4

This was Potiphar's jail.

This may have been a more comfortable (as prisons go),
but more importantly,
it will put him in contact with members of Pharaoh's court.

Pharaoh's new prisoners (2)

After they had been in custody for some time,
each of the two men
— the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt,
who were being held in prison —
had a dream **the same night**,
and **each dream had a meaning of its own**.

Genesis 40:5

Pharaoh's new prisoners (3)

Now it is other people's dreams that Joseph has to deal with.

When Joseph came to them the next morning,
he saw that they were dejected.

So he asked Pharaoh's officials
who were in custody with him in his master's house,
"Why are your faces so sad today?"

"We both had dreams," they answered,
"but there is no one to interpret them."

They must have talked about
it among themselves

Then Joseph said to them,
"Do not interpretations belong to God?
Tell me your dreams."

Genesis 40:6-8

Joseph was compassionate, even though he was a prisoner himself.

The Cupbearer (Butler) and Baker

Two of the king's most important servants were in jail with Joseph. The cupbearer and the baker were not mere slaves; they were royal officials.

They were among the few people in Egypt who could approach the king and speak with him confidentially.

One of their most important duties was to make sure that Pharaoh was not poisoned by his enemies.

They were persons of authority and respect, and so they were given special treatment in prison.

The captain of the guard wisely placed them in the care of the trustworthy Joseph.

The text indicates that they were in prison for a long time.

[how long?]

We can presume that during that time Pharaoh was investigating the allegations against them.

**The brook would lose its song
if the rocks were taken away.**

Elizabeth Kellogg

**This is not about us enhancing ourselves.
This relates to looking at our problems in a different way.**

Name the cupbearers of the Bible

Pharoah's Butler (Genesis 40)

Solomon's cupbearers (Sheba's visit, 1 Kings 10:5)

Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1)

Jesus (communion, Matthew 26:27)

Spectral Beauty



“...And please let Mom, Dad, Rex, Ginger, Tucker, me, and all the rest of the family see color.”

We should see the same glory in the story of Joseph.

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Joseph is bought by Potiphar

Was Joseph the only slave for sale that day by the Midianites?

Were they slave traders, or was this a one-time opportunity?

Did Potiphar select Joseph out of a group?

Did he buy more than one slave on that day?

PDE

Potiphar's wife tries to seduce Joseph

**Did Joseph consider telling Potiphar
that his wife had been the aggressor?**

Why might he have not told him?

Would it have done any good?

Had Potiphar's wife been equally trustworthy?

PDE

Joseph is also favored in prison

Is this how God should be able to relate to us?

**God should not need to be concerned
about these blessings He entrusts us with.**

**Joseph did not stoop to treating others in a way
that corresponded to the manner in which he had been treated.**

God's Help for Prisoners

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.
God sets the lonely in families,
he leads forth the **prisoners** with singing;
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

Psalm 68:5-6

He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and **gives food to the hungry**.
The LORD sets **prisoners** free.

famine...

Psalm 146:7

[Satan's perspective]

... the man who made the world a desert,
who overthrew its cities
and would not let his **captives** go home?"

Isaiah 14:17

The Cupbearer (1)

So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream.

He said to him,

"In my dream I saw a vine in front of me,
and on the vine were **three** branches.

number -> time

As soon as it budded,
it blossomed,
and its clusters ripened into grapes.

Pharaoh's cup was in my hand,
and I took the grapes,
squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup
and put the cup in his hand."

sanitary? Is this the usual method?

Genesis 40:9-11

The Cupbearer (2)

**"This is what it means,"
Joseph said to him.**

**"The three branches are three days.
Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head
and restore you to your position,
and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand,
just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer.**

**But when all goes well with you,
remember me and show me kindness;
mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison.
For I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews,
and even here I have done nothing
to deserve being put in a dungeon."**

Genesis 40:12-15

**When the chief baker saw
that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation,
he said to Joseph,**

He was encouraged...

"I too had a dream:

On my head were three baskets of bread.

**In the top basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh,
but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head."**

"This is what it means," Joseph said.

"The three baskets are three days.

number -> time

**Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head
and hang you on a tree.**

And the birds will eat away your flesh."

Genesis 40:16-19

No need to tell the baker to remember him.

Joseph as Counsellor

Telling the Truth:

Joseph could have offered the baker
a few days of peace and hope by lying to him.

Believe me, this is a strong temptation in counseling.

Atwood

Joseph didn't just tell the butler and baker
that they had been treated unfairly (misery loves company);
he didn't lie to the baker to make him feel better
until the true judgment came

How many other cellmates did Joseph have
that he helped or influenced,
especially while waiting for two years
after interpreting the dreams of the butler and baker?

He helped them all!

Viewing God's Providence at Different Levels 6

**God worked at one level, the level He chose --
but it was not the top level (prison);**

**He worked within the prison framework to bless Joseph;
only later did He work the deliverance at the top level.**

**The idea or blessing of how we don't have to understand
every detail of every situation --
we just need to be faithful.**

There is real freedom in that concept.

PDE

**God used someone at the top of the world (Pharoah)
and a lowly prisoner (Joseph)
to save the world.**

The Prophecies Come True

Now the third day was Pharaoh's **birthday**,
and he gave a feast for all his officials.

He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker
in the presence of his officials:

He restored the chief cupbearer to his position,
so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's hand,
but he hanged the chief baker,
just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation.

The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph;
he **forgot** him.

Too much celebration -- it erased his memory
God is waiting for the right moment!

Genesis 40:20-23

Have you ever been forgotten?

Think how Joseph's level of hope sank every day after the birthday.

Pharoah has two dreams (1)

When two full years had passed,
Pharaoh had a dream:

He was standing by the Nile,
when out of the river there came up seven cows,
sleek and fat,
and they grazed among the reeds.

After them, seven other cows,
ugly and gaunt,
came up out of the Nile
and stood beside those on the riverbank.

number -> time

And the cows that were ugly and gaunt
ate up the seven sleek, fat cows.

absurd?

Then Pharaoh woke up.

Genesis 41:1-5

One dream might not have been enough to motivate Pharaoh.

Pharoah has two dreams (2)

He fell asleep again and had a second dream:

**Seven heads of grain,
healthy and good,
were growing on a single stalk.**

**After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted —
thin and scorched by the east wind.**

**The thin heads of grain swallowed up
the seven healthy, full heads.**

**How could this
have happened?**

**Then Pharaoh woke up;
it had been a dream.**

Genesis 41:5-7

Pharaoh searches for answers

Pharaoh doesn't hide the content of the dreams

In the morning his mind was troubled,
so he sent for all the **magicians and wise men** of Egypt.

Pharaoh told them his dreams,
but no one could interpret them for him.

Political “yes” men, but
Pharaoh didn't buy it!

Genesis 41:8

Pharaoh told Joseph that he had consulted his magicians,
but they could not make **sense** of it for him.

This prefigures the contest between Moses
and the Egyptian magicians in Exodus.

Who is stronger, the God of the Israelites
or the gods of the Egyptians?

Joseph assured Pharaoh that the true interpreter of dreams is God.

Atwood

the interpretation didn't
“click”

The butler finally remembers

**Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh,
"Today I am reminded of my shortcomings.
Pharaoh was once angry with his servants,
and he imprisoned me and the chief baker
in the house of the captain of the guard.
Each of us had a dream the same night,
and each dream had a meaning of its own.
Now a young Hebrew was there with us,
a servant of the captain of the guard.
We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us,
giving each man the interpretation of his dream.
And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us:
I was restored to my position,
and the other man was hanged.**

Genesis 41:9-13

Pharaoh sends for Joseph

Pharaoh repeats the dreams to Joseph with more detail

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph,
and he was quickly brought from the dungeon.

When **he had shaved and changed his clothes**,
he came before Pharaoh.

It is so good that we can come before God
in whatever state we happen to be!
He cleans us Himself!

Pharaoh said to Joseph,
"I had a dream, and no one can interpret it.
But I have heard it said of you
that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

"I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh,
"but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."

Genesis 41:14-16

The answer "he desires" is one that reflects the **truth**.

Joseph interprets the dreams (1)

Then Joseph said to Pharaoh,

"The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same.

God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.

The seven good cows are seven years,

and the seven good heads of grain are seven years;

it is one and the same dream.

The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years,

and so are the seven worthless heads of grain

scorched by the east wind:

They are seven years of famine.

Genesis 41:25-27

Joseph would be truthful and brave enough

to tell Pharaoh bad news as well as good news.

That's what a leader needs:

intelligence, wisdom, and honesty in his advisors.

Atwood

Joseph interprets the dreams (2)

**God did not work through a prophet;
He puts the word straight in Pharaoh's heart.**

"It is just as I said to Pharaoh:

God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do.

**Seven years of great abundance are coming
throughout the land of Egypt,
but seven years of famine will follow them.**

**Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten,
and the famine will ravage the land.**

**The abundance in the land will not be remembered,
because the famine that follows it will be so severe.**

**The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms
is that the matter has been firmly decided by God,
and God will do it soon.**

Firmly Decided by God

Joseph told Pharaoh that God had already decided this and nothing could change it.

In other words, there was no point in calling for days of prayer or sitting in sackcloth repenting of sins.

This was not the time for priests and magicians to intercede with the gods to change the future.

The cycle was already in motion and could not be stopped by humans.

Atwood

This is not like the case of Jonah and Ninevah, where the king of Ninevah put on sackcloth and the whole city repented and averted disaster.

Three pairs of dreams

Joseph:

Two dreams that meant the same thing -- both good

Butler and Baker:

Two dreams that meant totally different things -- good and bad

Pharaoh:

Two dreams that meant the same thing -- good, then bad

Seven is often a number associated with completion or perfection

Dream given in two forms: God will do it soon...

Did this apply to Joseph's dreams?

Actually, all of the interpretations came to pass quickly.

**Tears are the material
out of which heaven
weaves its brightest rainbow.**

F.B. Meyer

This Week's Research Question

How many recorded (actual) famines were there?

Gen 12:10 (Abraham, Egypt)

Gen 26:1 (Isaac, Gerar)

2 Sam 21:1 (David, Israel)

Ruth 1:1 (Naomi, Israel)

1 Kings 18:2 (Elijah, Samaria)

2 Kings 4:38 (Elisah, Samaria)

2 Kings 6:24 (Ben-Hadad, Syria)

2 Kings 8:1 (Elisha, Shunammite)

Nehemiah 5 (Nehemiah, Israel)

Jeremiah 52 (Jeremiah, Israel)

Acts 11:28 (Agabus, Roman world)

HM: Luke 4:25 (parable of Prodigal Son)

Spectral Beauty



We should see the same glory in the story of Joseph.

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The absurdity of Pharaoh's the dream

7

The poor cattle/corn eat up the good ones.

Where else do we hear of something like this happening?

Hint:

**something that represented Good swallowed up
something that represented Evil**

Hint:

It happened later in Egypt

**Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake.
But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.**

Exodus 7:12

Joseph as an Interpreter of Dreams (1)

**At no time does God appear to Joseph,
nor is he a prophet in the usual sense of the word.**

- 1) Joseph did have the gift of accurate interpretation of dreams**
- 2) God worked with Joseph and through Joseph for a greater purpose**
- 3) Joseph was a compassionate steward who chose to work for the common good and betterment of others**
- 4) Joseph seized opportunities when they arose and was not merely a victim of fate**
- 5) Joseph remained honest and trustworthy even when giving unpleasant news**

Atwood

**The dreams here are primarily a way to teach important lessons
about how we can live our lives
with faithfulness, compassion, and hope even in the darkest times.**

Joseph as an Interpreter of Dreams (2)

Joseph told the men that the interpretation of dreams belongs to God, not humans.

It is interesting that Joseph appeared to immediately give an interpretation of the dreams.

He didn't [appear to] ask God about them.

Unlike the Egyptian magicians and priests, he did not go into any elaborate rituals to contact God with smoke and incense.

He didn't go into a mystic trance like the oracle of Delphi.

He didn't even cut open a bird to read the entrails like the Romans did.

Joseph did not ask for time to go off and pray (like Daniel)

His prisoner status made him need to get the message across immediately.

The Stage is Set

Now the world waits... seven years of plenty, then

The brothers will be in tremendous need

- They will have to come to him
- could God have set it up any better?

How long do they wait?

- Psalm: how long...; need to turn to God
- (Prodigal: finally decided)

Joseph was also in a state of “famine”

- plenty of food, but famine of family – famine of food
- His wife and sons are not a sufficient replacement

Joseph advises Pharaoh

Joseph sees the possibility of his dreams coming true

"And now **let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man** and **put him in charge** of the land of Egypt.

Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a **fifth** of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance.

They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food.

This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine."

Genesis 41:33-36

Egypt provided the best (dry) climate for food storage.

Pharaoh approves of the plan

The plan seemed **good** to Pharaoh **and to all his officials**.

So Pharaoh asked them,

Professional jealousy?

"Can we find anyone like this man,
one in whom is the spirit of **God**?"

Pharaoh was not
prejudice concerning a
different god

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph,

"Since **God** has made all this known to you,
there is no one so discerning and wise as you.

You shall be **in charge** of my palace, **1**
and all my people are to submit to your orders.

Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you."

Genesis 41:37-40

Somehow Pharaoh sees the truth in this interpretation.

Pharaoh appoints Joseph as his prime minister⁷

This is much better Pharaoh management than what occurs later.

So Pharaoh said to Joseph,

"I hereby put you **in charge** of the whole land of Egypt." 2

Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger.

He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.

political
announcement

He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and men shouted before him, "Make way!"

Thus he put him **in charge** of the whole land of Egypt. 3

Genesis 41:41-43

Pharaoh did not let racial or national prejudice stand in the way of good leadership

Joseph is now in a position to save the world

Pharaoh puts him in charge of everything

7

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph,

"I am Pharaoh,

funny if taken literally!

but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt."

Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah

and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On,

to be his wife.

And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt.

4

Thus he put him **in charge** of the whole land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:44-45

Pharaoh takes care of his social life and family, too!

Pharaoh Management

Joseph did more than interpret Pharaoh's dream;
he offered sound advice on what to do.

Pharaoh could have responded to Joseph's dream
with irrational exuberance,

thinking of ways to spend the money

he could make off of the surplus crops for the next seven years.

But **Pharaoh was wise enough to listen to a Hebrew (foreign) slave.**

Joseph knew that most individuals would not prepare
for the future famine on their own.

The government would have to assist in order
to make sure that things went well.

A piece-meal, voluntary program would not be sufficient;
therefore Joseph encouraged Pharaoh

to use his power and authority to command

that the surplus be preserved for the days of drought and hunger.

Atwood

Joseph begins executing the plan

Joseph was thirty years old

when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence
and traveled throughout Egypt.

During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully.

Joseph collected all the food produced
in those seven years of abundance in Egypt
and stored it in the cities.

In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it.

zones

Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain,
like the sand of the sea;

it was so much that **he stopped keeping records**
because it was **beyond measure.**

management?

Genesis 41:46-49

**Don't miss all the beautiful colors of the rainbow
looking for that pot of gold.**

Spectral Beauty



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Managing the famine

How much food was available in time of famine?

Consider that only 20% was stored each year (0.2)

Assume that 1.0 was available in time of plenty

- thus 0.2 was stored each year for 7 years (total: 1.4)
- assume half was wasted or sold in time of plenty
- this gives 0.5 consumed each year in time of plenty

The average storage available each year in time of famine was 0.2

- assume 30% food production level in time of famine (0.3)
- assume some (0.05) was sold in time of famine
- This leaves 0.45 per year consumed in time of famine

The reduction in amount consumed is to 90% that consumed in time of plenty

**How well could they sell food and still survive?
Everyone had to greatly reduce their consumption**

Joseph's family grows

Before the years of famine came,
two sons were born to Joseph
by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On.

How did Egypt feel
about the true God?

Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said,
"It is because God has made me **forget**
all my trouble and all my father's household."

The second son he named Ephraim and said,

"It is because God has made me **fruitful** in the land of my suffering."

Genesis 41:50-52

Irony: naming a child "forget" but calling him that name every day?

Irony: naming a child "fruitful" and calling him that during a seven-year famine?

The famine begins

The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end,
and the seven years of famine began,
just as Joseph had said.

There was **famine in all the other lands**,
but in the whole land of Egypt there was food.

When all Egypt began to feel the famine,
the people cried to Pharaoh for food.

Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians,
"Go to Joseph and do what he tells you."

Genesis 41:53-55

The world comes to Egypt for help

**When the famine had spread over the whole country,
Joseph opened the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians,
for the famine was severe throughout Egypt.**

**And all the countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph,
because the famine was severe in all the world.**

Genesis 41:56-57

Food: originally taken as tax, then sold to those who were taxed

Greed?

**If they didn't make people pay,
they would not have been able to control the consumption of grain.**

The effects of the famine

The famine was not just in Egypt, but had world-wide effects.

**Joseph's family is in great need,
though they had specialty foods (nuts, etc)**

**Joseph apparently does not concern himself with his family --
only his newly adopted country
He has had that door closed to him.**

**There is also a global impact to the spiritual famine
that only Christ can satisfy.**

The future of famine

You will hear of wars and rumors of wars,
but see to it that you are not alarmed.
Such things must happen,
but the end is still to come.
Nation will rise against nation,
and kingdom against kingdom.
There will be great earthquakes,
famines and pestilences in various places,
and fearful events and great signs from heaven.
All these are the beginning of birth pains.

famines are not
the worst of it all

Matthew 24:6-8; Luke 21:11

We are fortunate not to have ever suffered from true famine.

Jesus said:

**“...Do not labor for the food which perishes,
but for the food which endures to everlasting life,
which the Son of Man will give you,
because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”**

John 6:27

Also:

Bread of Life (John 6:25ff)

Living Water (John 4)

Christ is our hope for the future -- satisfying all of our needs.

Joseph's Management Experience

- in Canaan (assumed that was a good manager)
- in Potiphar's household (was a good manager)
- in the king's prison (was a good manager)

Did he have what it took to manage resources “beyond measure?”

Joseph is now in Authority

Joseph shows the 'divine spirit' (Genesis 41:38)

Joseph was a "father" to Pharaoh (Genesis 45:8)

Once again, the top boss has no concern about any details!

When it is said

**that 'Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand,
and put it upon Joseph's hand,'**

**this meant that Joseph himself would now sign
the documents of state and not have to come to Pharaoh
for authorization in any matter.**

Teachers Annual Lesson Commentary 1980

How does Joseph behave in times of Prosperity?

He behaves with integrity as always!

**Now he was over Potiphar and his wife!
Think about how they must have felt!**

Joseph is provided a family

Joseph was given a new name.

Pharaoh chose this,
naming him Zaphenath-Paneah...

Joseph's new name meant, "the god speaks and lives".

Pharaoh must believe in Joseph's God, but is there a national change?

Now he starts his own family

will he show favoritism?

(will his father continue to show it?)

first son: Manasseh -- forget all my trouble

did he fully forget?

perhaps in a way; he pushed it into the future;

he didn't have to think about them

because life was filled with other things

(family, saving the world)

second son: Ephriam -- fruitful

(this is the one blessed first by Jacob)

Joseph is provided a wife

The fact that Joseph's wife was the daughter of a pagan priest really bothered later Jewish interpreters.

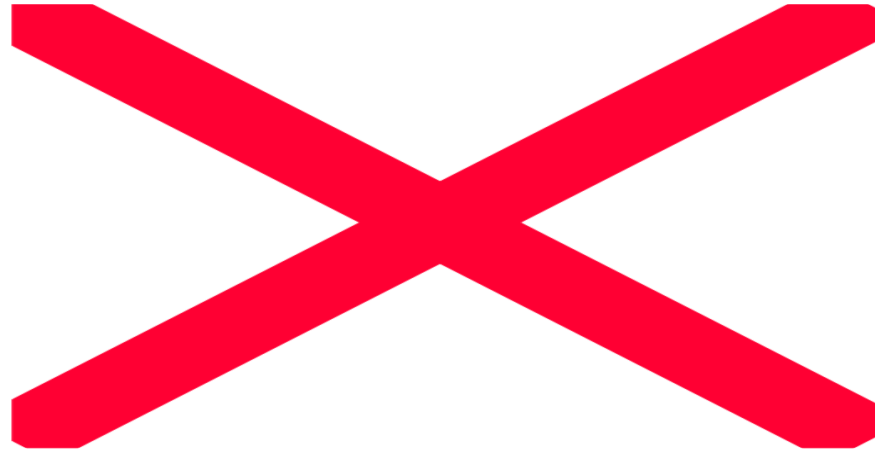
They made up a story about Joseph and Asenath, where she become a worshiper of the LORD.

It is very surprising, and perhaps illuminating, that the Bible does not include any mention of Asenath's conversion away from the worship of Ra.

Genesis is not embarrassed by the fact that the patriarch Joseph's Egyptian wife was the daughter of a pagan or that she was the matriarch of two of the most important tribes of Israel, Ephraim and Manasseh.

Atwood

Name Meaning (and Change) Chart



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The brothers learn that there is food in Egypt 8

When Jacob **learned** that there was grain in Egypt,

he said to his sons,

"Why do you just keep looking at each other?"

He continued,

"I have heard that there is grain in Egypt.

Go down there and buy some for us,

so that we may live and not die."

they have money
and animals

Genesis 42:1-2

They probably learned through travelers (or perhaps caravans)!

The brothers join those going to Egypt for food⁸

Then **ten** of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt.

But Jacob did not send Benjamin,

Joseph's brother,

with the others,

Benjamin is now the favorite!

because he was afraid that harm might come to him.

So Israel's sons were among those who went to buy grain,

for the famine was in the land of Canaan also.

Genesis 42:3-5

There was probably several years difference in age
between Joseph and Benjamin.

Joseph was born before Jacob left Laban,

and Rachel was not pregnant when they left.

Rachel died as they wandered in Canaan.

Think of Joseph, seeing only ten brothers,

perhaps assuming that the ten

had indeed gotten rid of Benjamin, too.

The journey is not easy - for several reasons 8

**They are humbled by their need,
and in fear of being in a foreign country
(Paul Borthwick)**

Had they made this journey before?

They came in strength (how much good did it do?)

They came with hope and expectation

They came as strangers (they thought)

The Egyptians were seen as heathen

(They had been taught about how Abraham and Isaac lied to them)

Jacob chooses not to go

We saw in the story of Abraham that the patriarchs had journeyed to Egypt in times of famine, but this time is different.

The patriarch of the family stayed behind in the tents and sent his sons to bring food back.

Clearly, the wandering Aramean, Jacob, had put his wandering to an end.

When we hear of a father sending sons to perform a task, we generally picture them as young men, but that was not the case in this story.

Joseph was the second youngest son, and he 30 years old at this point in the story.

The brothers were older.

Atwood

Did Jacob consider going himself to direct the operation?

Jacob's strategy as Patriarch

Jacob is very old, perhaps he is blind

Patriarchy means that grown men with families of their own answer their father's command

and make a difficult and arduous journey.

Of course, they probably recognized

that Jacob was proposing something prudent.

They all needed food, so why not travel together?

Ten chieftains with pack animals, money, and servants

would have made an impressive troupe coming to Egypt.

They did not want to appear

as poor beggars coming to Pharaoh's door.

This was to be a business deal, not charity.

Atwood

Think of others who must have crowded Joseph, asking for a handout. How would Joseph have dealt with them?

What Joseph learned from his brothers

The brothers were who he thought they were

His father was still alive

Benjamin had not been killed or sold into slavery, the way he feared.

**Whatever anyone else does or says,
I must be an emerald and keep my color.**

Marcus Aurelius

Don't let anyone tarnish you.

Spectral Beauty



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The brothers meet Joseph without recognition ⁹

Joseph speaks to them through an interpreter.

Now Joseph was the governor of the land,
the one who sold grain to all its people.

So when Joseph's brothers arrived,
they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground.

As soon as Joseph saw his brothers,
he recognized them,
but **he pretended to be a stranger
and spoke harshly to them.**

"Where do you come from?" he asked.

"From the land of Canaan," they replied, "to buy food."

Genesis 42:6-7

The brothers looked pretty much the same --
but Joseph had changed haircut, clothing style, language, etc.

Joseph accuses them of being spies

Joseph puts the brothers on the defensive

Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.

He looks directly into their eyes

Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them,

"You are **spies!**

Joseph has to think fast!

You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

"No, my lord," they answered.

"Your servants have come to buy food.

Had they accused him of spying on them?

We are all the **sons of one man.**

Your servants are honest men, not spies."

Genesis 42:8-11

Joseph was probably truly concerned about spies (famine --> war)

The brothers were worried: spying was a capital offense!

The brothers try to defend themselves

9

They began “gushing” about their family...

"No!" he said to them.

"You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

But they replied,

"Your servants **were twelve brothers**,
the **sons of one man**,
who lives in the land of Canaan.

how would Joseph feel if
the brothers had only
mentioned eleven?

The **youngest** is now with our father,
and **one is no more.**"

The one is Joseph!

Genesis 42:12-13

Why didn't Joseph try to get them to tell
what happened to their other brother?

Joseph's Options

His main goal is to protect Benjamin.

**He could have sent soldiers to take Benjamin,
but this would have resulted in bloodshed. (Atwood)**

**He could have the brothers bring Benjamin
and then he could take him from them.**

**He could have ensured that his father and Benjamin were safe,
then punish/imprison/kill the rest.**

**He could have the brothers bring Benjamin
and test them to see if Benjamin was safe with them,
and then he could bring them all to Egypt.**



He must withhold his identity to keep his options open.

Joseph throws the brothers in prison

Joseph said to them,

"It is just as I told you:

You are spies!

And this is how you will be **tested**:

As surely as Pharaoh lives,

you will not leave this place

unless your youngest brother comes here.

Send one of your number to get your brother;

the rest of you will be kept in prison,

so that your words may be tested

to see if you are telling the truth.

If you are not, then as surely as Pharaoh lives,

you are spies!"

And he put them **all** in custody for three days.

Who is in prison now?

They have a harsh situation to consider

Payback? How long had Joseph been in the cistern?

Genesis 42:14-17

Joseph probably put the brothers in the same prison he had been in.

Thought Question

Name those who were confined or indisposed for three days.

Joseph's brothers

Genesis 42:17

The Egyptians (darkness)

Exodus 10:22-23

Spies (Jericho, after leaving Rahab)

Joshua 2:16

Jonah

Jonah 1:17

Jesus (in the temple)

Luke 2:46

Jesus (burial)

Matthew 12:40

Saul (blind)

Acts 9:9

Honorable mention:

Shechem, Hamor, and their people

Genesis 34:25

Butler and Baker (dream)

Genesis 40:12ff

Joseph gives them a chance to prove themselves

Joseph is the first to use the bad cop / good cop routine!

On the **third** day,

Joseph said to them,

"Do this and you will live,

for **I fear God**: He means their God, not the god of the Egyptians

If you are honest men,

let one of your brothers stay here in prison,

while the rest of you go

and take grain back for your **starving** households.

But you must bring your youngest brother to me,

so that your words may be verified and that you may not **die**."

This they proceeded to do.

starvation or soldiers

Genesis 42:18-20

Joseph has reconsidered -- now instead of one going, only one stays.

The brothers feel their guilt

They remember immediately what they did to Joseph.

They said to one another,

"Surely **we are being punished because of our brother.**

We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life,

but we would not listen;

that's why this distress has come upon us."

distress goes
around and
comes around

Reuben replied,

"Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy?

But you wouldn't listen!

Now we must give an accounting for his blood."

they discussed
this for three
days (not how to
answer Joseph)

Genesis 42:21-22

Was there a prison trustee listening and reporting to Joseph?

The brothers did not talk about being treated unfair:

they knew it was fair

Joseph is tremendously moved by their comments

The brother's focus was on the interpreter

They did not realize that Joseph could understand them,
since he was using an interpreter.

He turned away from them and began to weep,
but then turned back and spoke to them again.

He had Simeon taken from them and **bound before their eyes**.

Genesis 42:23-24

Why did Joseph choose Simeon?

Was it something that he did or said when Joseph was sold?

Was he the bloodthirsty brother?

Simeon was second in command (second oldest)

He and Levi were the ones who wiped out those who raped Dinah.

Reuben thought to save Joseph, but Simeon allowed him to be sold.

Note on leaving Simeon in Egypt

Some of have suggested that Joseph was testing the brothers to see if they would leave a brother behind, but they really had no choice.

Their father and families in Canaan would starve without the grain.

Simeon's own family would starve.

They did the right thing and left him behind.

Atwood

Keeping Simeon was the hook to bring the brothers back to Egypt.

**I long to accomplish a great and noble task,
but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks
as if they were great and noble.**

Helen Keller

We can't all be a Joseph.

Spectral Beauty



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Joseph weeps

The text says that Joseph turned away and shed tears when he heard the brothers discussing their crime against him. This is one of the few times that a man cries in the Bible.

Was Joseph crying over his lost childhood and the separation from his father and brother?

Was he crying because he heard that Reuben had tried to save his life?

Was he crying over the revenge that he was plotting?

We don't know, but the tears humanize Joseph.

No longer is he the great and powerful lord of all Egypt whose revenge will be terrible.

The reader sees that Joseph is a man with a heart and soul who is trying to find the best way to resolve this tense situation.

Craig Atwood

Joseph was the second most powerful man in the world.

Joseph weeps several times

10

Joseph was very emotional, but not wrathful.

How many times did Joseph weep?

Seven:

- 1) Genesis 42:24
- 2) Genesis 43:30
- 3) Genesis 45:2
- 4) Genesis 45:14-15
- 5) Genesis 47:29
- 6) Gen 50:1
- 7) Gen 50:17

- mourning only is mentioned in Gen 50:10

Remember who else wept in the Bible?

Jesus

Joseph begins his plan of mischief

10

This test will show if the brothers are honest or not.

Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain,
to put each man's silver back in his sack,
and to give them **provisions** for their journey.

Joseph gave
them extra!

After this was done for them,
they loaded their grain on their donkeys and left.

Genesis 42:25-26

Think of their relief to be free and allowed to leave!

The brothers realize that they are in trouble 10

Think of how many years the brothers thought of their guilt.

At the place where they stopped for the night

one of them opened his sack to get feed for his donkey,
and he saw his silver in the mouth of his sack.

"My silver has been returned," he said to his brothers.

"Here it is in my sack."

Their hearts sank and they turned to each other **trembling** and said,
"What is this that **God** has done to us?" **punishment?**

Genesis 42:27-28

The brothers believe that somehow God has a hand in all of this.
It is interesting that one of the few times the brothers mention God,
it is when they see the money and panic.

Joseph returns the money

The odd thing that Joseph did was put the brothers' money back in their sacks of grain.

By doing so,

he made the grain a gift to his father.

He knew that it was his duty as a son to provide food for his father and family, but he could not do that openly, yet.

There may have been a rebuke in this as well, since the brothers had sold him for **silver**.

I think Joseph knew that this act of kindness and generosity would seriously raise the anxieties of the brothers because they could be accused of theft when they returned to Egypt.

Craig Atwood

Joseph knew that they would have to come back and report the silver.

The brothers tell their story to Jacob (1)

When they came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan,
they told him all that had happened to them.

They said,

"The man who is lord over the land spoke harshly to us
and treated us as though we were spying on the land.

But we said to him,

'We are honest men; we are not spies.

We were twelve brothers, **sons of one father.**

One is no more,

and the **youngest** is now with our father in Canaan.'

Genesis 42:29-32

The brothers tell their story to Jacob (2)

10

"Then the man who is lord over the land said to us,
'This is how I will know whether you are honest men:
Leave one of your brothers here with me,
and take food for your starving households and go.
But bring your youngest brother to me
so I will know that you are not spies but honest men.
Then I will give your brother back to you,
and **you can trade in the land.**' "

Genesis 42:33-34

Joseph promised good "international" relations
after everything was settled.

Jacob rebukes them

**As they were emptying their sacks,
there in each man's sack was his pouch of silver!
When they and their father saw the money pouches,
they were frightened.**

**Their father Jacob said to them,
"You have deprived me of my children.**

**Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more,
and now you want to take Benjamin.
Everything is against me!"**

Genesis 42:35-36

What happened to "Israel", who struggled with God?

Reuben makes an offer

Then Reuben said to his father,
"You may put **both of my sons to death**
if I do not bring him back to you.

Entrust him to my care,
and I will bring him back."

Genesis 42:37

Reuben asks Jacob to trust him with his son Simeon
(like he was entrusted with Joseph)

What a weak, empty offer!
No grandfather would put his grandsons to death!

Jacob is not convinced

But Jacob said,

"My son will **not** go down there with you;

his brother is dead

and **he is the only one left.**

If harm comes to him on the journey you are taking,

you will bring my gray head down to the grave in sorrow."

Genesis 42:38

How did the other brothers feel about being treated as nothing?

Jacob will not risk the favored son!

But Jacob's sufferings were real.

**Had Joseph known the pain he was causing Jacob,
he might have chosen a different course of action.**

**Joseph may have expected that Jacob himself
would bring Benjamin to Egypt to rescue Simeon,
but Jacob refused to leave Canaan.**

**He was so protective of his youngest son
that he was willing to leave Simeon to die in prison.**

**In the end, though,
hunger did what the hostage could not.**

Atwood

Jacob,

**who had once used hunger to cheat his brother out of his birthright
now faced a terrible decision.**

**He was about to sell his youngest child,
his birthright so to speak,
for a bowl of pottage from Egypt.**

Atwood

**How often we look upon God
as our last and feeblest resource!
We go to him because we have nowhere else to go.
And then we learn that the storms of life have driven us,
not upon the rocks,
but into the desired haven.**

George MacDonald

Spectral Beauty



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The family still is in dire need of food

Now the famine was still severe in the land.

**So when they had eaten all the grain they had brought from Egypt,
their father said to them,**

"Go back and buy us a little more food."

Genesis 43:1-2

Jacob puts into words what they all know

Judah faces the reality -- they must take Benjamin

But Judah said to him,

"The man warned us solemnly,

'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.'

If you will send our brother along with us,

we will go down and buy food for you.

But if you will not send him,

we will not go down,

because the man said to us,

'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.' "

Genesis 43:3-5

What would Joseph have done

if they had showed up without Benjamin?

They thought he would put them in jail or kill them.

Joseph, wanting Benjamin,

would have probably given them another chance

The brothers try to explain

Israel asked,

**"Why did you bring this trouble on me
by telling the man you had another brother?"**

They replied,

"The man questioned us closely about ourselves and our family.

'Is your father still living?' he asked us.

'Do you have another brother?'

We simply answered his questions.

How were we to know he would say,

'Bring your brother down here'?"

Genesis 43:6-7

**The brothers didn't try to "spin" the story
to spare the truth to their father**

Judah offers to sacrifice himself

11

Judah, in a sense, offers his birthright

Then Judah said to Israel his father,

"Send the boy along with me and we will go at once,
so that we and you and our children may live and **not die**.

I myself will guarantee his safety;

you can hold me personally responsible for him.

If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you,
I will bear the blame before you all my life.

As it is,

if we had not delayed,

we could have gone and returned twice."

Genesis 43:8-10

Judah's last line is a rebuke of sorts

Jacob tells them to offer gifts

Then their father Israel said to them,

"If it must be, then do this:

Put some of the best products of the land in your bags

and take them down to the man as a gift —

a little balm and a little honey,

some spices and myrrh,

some pistachio nuts and almonds.

Gifts or bribes?

Take **double** the amount of silver with you,

for you must return the silver

that was put back into the mouths of your sacks.

Perhaps it was a mistake.

Genesis 43:11-13

Jacob finally agrees to send Benjamin

11

Take your brother also and go back to the man at once.
And may God Almighty grant you mercy before the man
so that he will let your **other** brother and Benjamin
come back with you. **Simeon**

As for me, if **I am bereaved, I am bereaved.**"

Genesis 43:14

Jacob was sure that Simeon was gone too; what pessimism!

Jacob appears to have lost his faith in God in the higher sense...
Remember the name change (Israel) – he had quit struggling

The brothers offer their gifts

**So the men took the gifts
and double the amount of silver,
and Benjamin also.**

**They hurried down to Egypt
and presented themselves to Joseph.**

Genesis 43:15

Joseph learns that his brothers have become honest men.

Joseph invites them to a feast

11

What better way to demonstrate to foreigners the might of Egypt than to prepare a feast for them in the middle of a famine?

Craig Atwood

**When Joseph saw Benjamin with them,
he said to the steward of his house,
"Take these men to my house,
slaughter an animal and prepare dinner;
they are to eat with me at noon."**

Genesis 43:16

**Joseph's servant must have thought him to be crazy!
It would have been a hard job, anyway, working for a foreigner.**

The purpose of the feast

The feast allowed Joseph some time to get to know his brothers. It also allowed him time to think of a plan.

**The feast together was necessary to set up the cup incident.
(they had to have been in Joseph's quarters to "steal" it)**

The cup incident was necessary to test the brother's loyalty to Benjamin what will the brothers do to protect Benjamin.

The brothers are worried about becoming slaves¹

The brothers did not want to get separated from the crowd.
They were worried about going to jail or being executed.

The man did as Joseph told him and took the men to Joseph's house.

Now the men were frightened when they were taken to his house.

They thought,

"We were brought here because of the silver
that was put back into our sacks the first time.

He wants to attack us and overpower us

and seize us as **slaves** and take our donkeys."

Genesis 43:17-18

Why would they be sensitive about becoming slaves in a strange land?

The brothers try to explain about the silver 11

They speak at the entrance, trying to stay out in the open.

So they went up to Joseph's steward
and spoke to him at the **entrance** to the house.

"Please, sir," they said,

"we came down here the first time to buy food.

But at the place where we stopped for the night

we opened our sacks and each of us found his silver —

the exact weight — in the mouth of his sack.

So we have brought it back with us.

We have also brought **additional silver** with us to buy food.

We don't know who put our silver in our sacks.”

Genesis 43:19-22

They try to compensate for the “use” of the silver (interest?)

The brothers are comforted about the silver 11

Joseph's steward evidently speaks for him.

Was he in on the whole plan?

Joseph probably kept his reasons to himself.

"It's all right," he said.

"Don't be afraid.

Your God, **the God of your father**,

has given you treasure in your sacks;

I received your silver."

not a lie -- he returned it to them

Then he brought Simeon out to them.

Genesis 43:23

Simeon has been in prison wondering if he would be remembered
(think of the experience of Joseph).

He was probably cleaned up like Joseph was
before being brought in to Pharaoh from prison.

The steward offers hospitality

The steward took the men into Joseph's house,
gave them water to wash their feet
and provided fodder for their donkeys.

They **prepared** their gifts for Joseph's arrival at noon,
because they had heard that they were to eat there.

Genesis 43:24-25

Joseph arrives

The brothers fulfill the prophecy and bow down to him.

When Joseph came home,
they presented to him the gifts they had brought into the house,
and **they bowed down before him to the ground.**

He asked them how they were, and then he said,
"How is your **aged** father you told me about?
Is he still living?"

They replied,
"Your servant our father is still alive and well."
And **they bowed low** to pay him honor.

Genesis 43:26-28

Think of moment!

Joseph sees Benjamin

11

Another moment!

**As he looked about and saw his brother Benjamin,
his own mother's son, he asked,
"Is this your youngest brother,
the one you told me about?"**

And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son."

Genesis 43:29

Joseph breaks down and cries

Deeply moved at the sight of his brother,
Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to **weep**.

He went into his private room and **wept** there.

After he had washed his face,
he came out and,
controlling himself, said,

"Serve the food."

Genesis 43:30-31

The meal is served

The Egyptians knew that Joseph was a foreigner, too?
Did the brothers understand this?

They served him by himself,
the brothers by themselves,
and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves,
because Egyptians could not eat with Hebrews,
for that is detestable to Egyptians.

The men had been **seated** before him **in the order of their ages**,
from the firstborn to the youngest;
and they looked at each other in **astonishment**.

When portions were served to them from Joseph's table,
Benjamin's portion was **five times** as much as anyone else's.

test for
jealousy

So they **feasted** and **drank freely** with him.

remember the famine!

Genesis 43:32-34

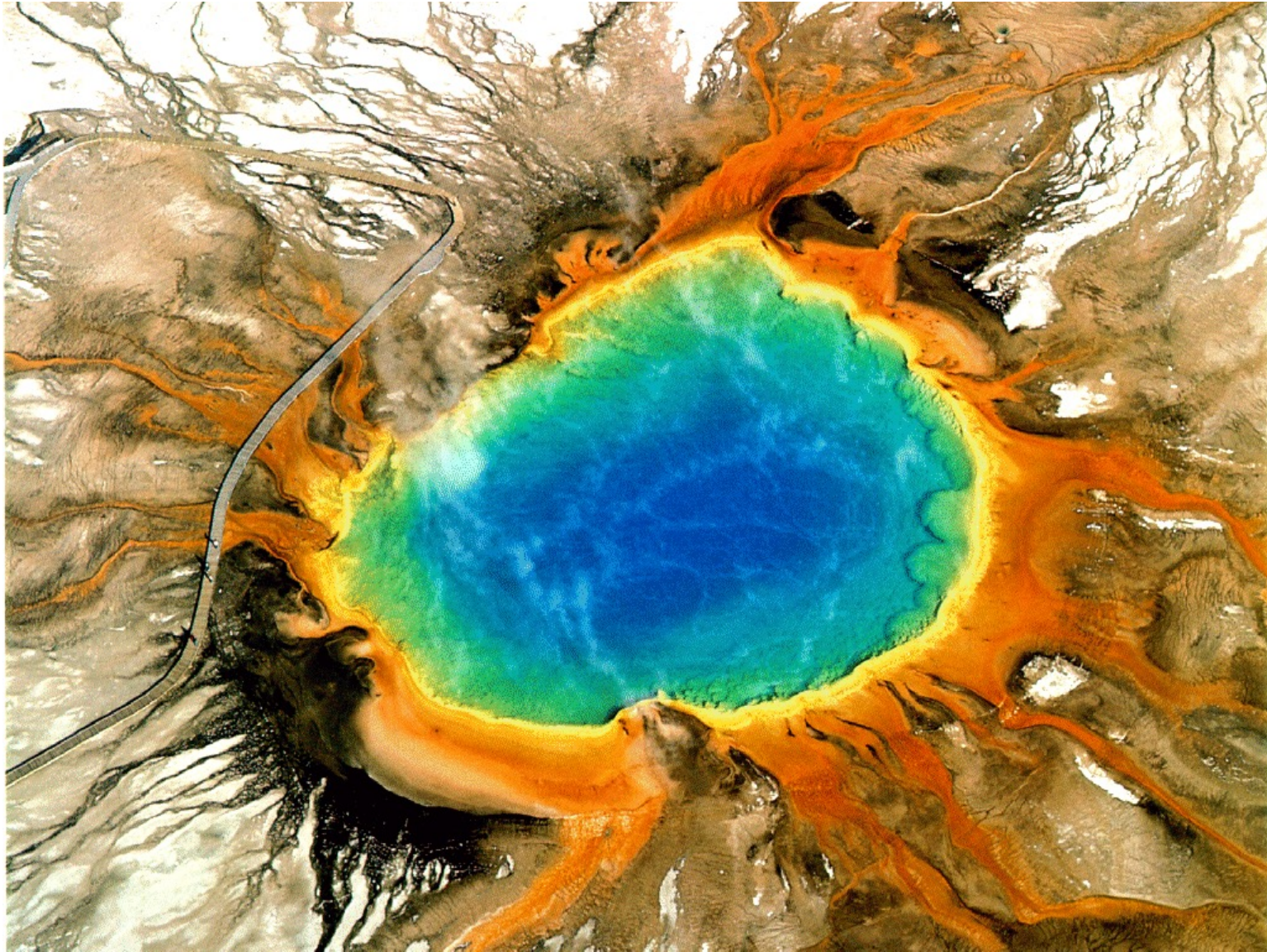
What did Benjamin do with all of his food (camel bag)?

**Buying a few cans of paint at the local hardware store
and mixing them to match the red
we saw streaming across the evening sky
somehow does not give us the same feeling of ecstasy.**

Gerald Schroeder

We can't get the sense of God's glory through our own ideas, either.

Spectral Beauty



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Joseph arrives

12

How long did he wait before they came back? (a year?)

The brothers fulfill the prophecy and bow down to him.
How ironic -- they sold him years before to prevent this very thing!

When Joseph came home,
they presented to him the gifts they had brought into the house,
and **they bowed down before him to the ground.**

He asked them how they were, and then he said,
"How is your **aged** father you told me about?
Is he still living?"

They replied,
"**Your servant** our father is still alive and well."
And **they bowed low** to pay him honor.

the father
"bows" as well

Genesis 43:26-28

Think of the moment!

Another moment!

As he looked about and saw his brother Benjamin,

his own mother's son, he asked,

"Is this your youngest brother,
the one you told me about?"

And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son."

Genesis 43:29

Joseph's attendants must have thought that he was crazy!

Joseph breaks down and cries

Deeply moved at the sight of his brother,
Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to **weep**.

He went into his private room and **wept** there.

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The meal is served

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Did the brothers understand this?

They served him by himself,
the brothers by themselves,
and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves,
because Egyptians could not eat with Hebrews,
for that is detestable to Egyptians.

The men had been **seated** before him **in the order of their ages**,
from the firstborn to the youngest;
and they looked at each other in **astonishment**.

test for
jealousy:
5x is very
obvious!

When portions were served to them from Joseph's table,
Benjamin's portion was **five times** as much as anyone else's.

So they **feasted** and **drank freely** with him.

remember the famine!

did this make them talk more freely?

Genesis 43:32-34

What did Benjamin do with all of his food (camel bag)?

The text says that Egyptians could not eat with Hebrews because that was an abomination to them.

**It is an odd comment,
since at the time Genesis was written,
it was the Jews who were developing religious laws
that prevented them from eating with foreigners.**

**This is the first mention in the Bible of food being used
as a way to divide people ethnically,
but it is blamed on the Egyptians.**

Atwood

The brothers were who he thought they were (identity verified) but they did not recognize him.

His father was still alive

(he had gained no idea of how they were doing in all this time).

They were willing to bow before him to save their families.

Benjamin had not been killed or sold into slavery, the way he feared.

Joseph learns that his brothers have become honest men.

The brothers remember what they did to him, and are full of remorse.

He learned that they had no idea whatsoever of what ultimately happened to him (PDE).

What Clues did Joseph give his brothers?

12

Had they not heard a story of a slave coming to power in Egypt?

He asking about family/father.

He choose Simeon to be the one to remain in jail.

The steward referred to the God of their father.

He was a man who showed hospitality

(did he do this with other people? PDE)

Joseph had to be seated apart from the Egyptians.

The seating order of the brothers at the feast.

Benjamin being given 5 times everyone else.

The order of brothers in opening their sacks.

Joseph causes the plot to thicken

12

Joseph is working another test to see if Benjamin is safe

Now Joseph gave these instructions to the steward of his house:

"**Fill** the men's sacks with **as much food as they can carry**,
and put each man's silver in the mouth of his sack.

Then put my cup,
the **silver** one,

they have been here before!
perhaps they should check their bags this time!

in the mouth of the **youngest** one's sack,
along with the silver for his grain."

And he did as Joseph said.

Genesis 44:1-2

Joseph knows that he is not really letting Benjamin go.

The brothers are overtaken

12

The brothers surely felt relief in getting away (temporarily)

As morning dawned,
the men were sent on their way with their donkeys.

They had not gone far from the city when Joseph said to his **steward**,

"Go after those men at once,
and when you catch up with them, say to them,

what did the
steward think?

'Why have you repaid good with evil?

Isn't this the cup my master drinks from and also uses for **divination**?

This is a wicked thing you have done.' "

Genesis 44:3-5

Joseph has them put on the defensive

The brothers try to prove their innocence

12

The brothers remind their captors that they returned the extra silver

When he caught up with them,
he repeated these words to them.

But **they** said to him,

"Why does my lord say such things?

Far be it from your servants to do anything like that!

We even brought back to you from the land of Canaan

the silver we found inside the mouths of our sacks.

So why would we steal silver or gold from your master's house?

If any of your servants is found to have it,

he will **die**;

and the rest of us will become my lord's **slaves**."

Genesis 44:6-9

The brothers make a bold claim (because they know they are not guilty)

The steward accepts the offer

12

Joseph's steward answers as if he is Joseph

"Very well, then," he said,

"let it be as you say.

Whoever is found to have it will become my **slave**;
the rest of you will be free from blame."

Genesis 44:10

**He assumed your debt.
You assumed his fortune.**

Max Lucado

Spectral Beauty



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The critical moments for Joseph

When he first sees his brothers

When they bow down to him

**he had probably seen the dream as figurative –
just being in charge of them**

but they were literally bowing down to him

When he sees Benjamin

When he breaks down and cries

Joseph sets up the final test

**Joseph could have just announced his identity...
Or he could have put them all into pits and sold them (PDE)...
Or he could have had them all killed on the spot...**

Joseph is working another test to see if Benjamin is safe

**Joseph knows that he is not really letting Benjamin go
(he has him on a string, ready to pull him back).**

The brothers surely felt relief in getting away (temporarily)

Joseph has them put on the defensive

**The brothers remind their captors that they returned the extra silver
(they are honest men!)**

**The brothers make a bold claim
(because they know they are not guilty – at least not of taking the cup)**

The steward accepts the offer

Joseph's steward answers as if he is Joseph

"Very well, then," he said,

"let it be as you say.

Whoever is found to have it will become my **slave**;
the rest of you will be **free** from blame."

Genesis 44:10

The steward searches for the cup

The brothers are confident at first

Each of them quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it.

Then the steward proceeded to search, **going in order again!**
beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest.

And **the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.** **think of the suspense!**

At this, **they tore their clothes.** **their confidence collapsed!**

Then they all loaded their donkeys and returned to the city.

Genesis 44:11-13

The brothers are filled with grief when the cup is found.
They got to think about their punishment while they traveled back.

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Joseph confronts the brothers

The brothers humble themselves before him.

Joseph was still in the house when Judah and his brothers came in, and **they threw themselves to the ground before him.**

Joseph said to them,

more than just simple bowing – this is becoming fully prostrate!

"What is this you have done?

Don't you know that a man like me can find things out by **divination**?"

or by setting it all up!

was he playing the Egyptian ruler?

Genesis 44:14-15

Why would Joseph set things up so carefully to prove that these Hebrews were ungrateful thieves?

The simplest explanation would be that Joseph planned to have them arrested, tried, and convicted for theft.

There would be nothing to stop him.

Craig Atwood

The brothers are speechless

13

The brothers know that they are now all slaves (or worse)

"What can we say to my lord?"

Judah replied.

"What can we say?"

How can we prove our **innocence**?

contrast in time

God has uncovered your servants' **guilt**.

We are now my lord's slaves —

we ourselves **and the one who was found to have the cup.**"

Genesis 44:16

Whose guilt is at issue?

The brothers (for selling Joseph)
they were not guilty of stealing the cup

Did Joseph think they would confess what they had done to him?

They didn't.

Joseph claims only the “thief”

He will “let the others go home”

But Joseph said,

"Far be it from me to do such a thing!

He is not a bad guy!

Only the man who was found to have the cup will become my slave.

The rest of you,

No mention is made of the returned silver!

go back to your father in peace."

Genesis 44:17

The brothers did not want to go back to Jacob without Benjamin –
They would rather say as slaves in Egypt!

Also, they could look after Benjamin better as fellow slaves...

He would give up his father to save Benjamin

Here is the Real Test:

Will the brothers give Benjamin up to save themselves?

(though it would actually save Benjamin)

This is the Moment of Truth!

13

Here is the Real Test:

**Will the brothers give Benjamin up to save themselves?
(though it would actually save Benjamin)**

Jesus offered a similar opportunity for service / sacrifice (wash feet)

**I've often wondered if Jesus had instructed him
to forgo this customary act of hospitality
in order to see if one of the disciples would rise to the occasion
and wash His and the other disciples' feet.**

None did; each was too occupied with thoughts of human greatness.

Lloyd Ogilvie

**Joseph is testing his brothers,
waiting to see who would sacrifice himself
for Benjamin and/or the family.**

Who (if anyone) will step up? (to claim to be the actual thief)

Judah accepts the challenge (in a different way)¹³

He begins by humbling himself before Joseph.

Then Judah went up to him and said:

"Please, my lord, let **your servant** speak a word to **my lord**.

Do not be angry with **your servant**,

though **you are equal to Pharaoh himself**.

Genesis 44:18

Judah begs for Joseph to just wait and listen for a moment.

Judah gives the background of brother Benjamin¹³

He is trying to establish the importance of Benjamin

My lord asked his servants, '
Do you have a father or a brother?'

We told you the truth!

And we answered,

'We have an **aged** father,
and there is a **young** son born to him in his **old** age.

His brother is dead,

assumed

Joseph is not only alive,
but standing in their presence!

and **he is the only one of his mother's sons left,**
and **his father loves him.'**

Much more than us!

Genesis 44:19-20

The brothers feel as though they are expendable.
Judah knows that Jacob loves Benjamin the most!

Perhaps Joseph gains some insight into the burden the brothers bore.

Judah repeats their earlier conversation with Joseph

"Then you said to your servants,

'Bring him down to me so I can see him for myself.'

And we said to my lord,

'The boy cannot leave his father;

if he leaves him,

his father will die.'

Not really?

But you told your servants,

'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you,
you will not see my face again.'

When we went back to your servant my father,
we told him what my lord had said.

Genesis 44:21-24

How concerned is Joseph that his father will die?

Does he really believe that will happen?

Or was saving Benjamin just that more important?

**"Then our father said,
'Go back and buy a little more food.'**

But we said,

'We cannot go down.

Only if our youngest brother is with us will we go.

We cannot see the man's face

unless our youngest brother is with us.'

Genesis 44:25-26

Judah continues the retelling: What Jacob said¹³

**"Your servant my father said to us,
'You know that my wife bore me two sons.
One of them went away from me, and I said,
"He has surely been torn to pieces."
And I have not seen him since.**

**If you take this one from me too and harm comes to him,
you will bring my gray head down to the grave in misery.'**

Genesis 44:27-28

**"So now, if the boy is not with us when I go back
to your servant my father
and if my father,
whose life is closely bound up with the boy's life,
sees that the boy isn't there,
he will die.**

**Your servants will bring the gray head of our father
down to the grave in sorrow.**

Genesis 44:30-31

Your servant **guaranteed** the boy's safety to my father.

I said,

'If I do not bring him back to you,

I will bear the blame before you, my father,

all my life!

Genesis 44:32

This is paramount to giving up all chance of inheritance

Judah offers himself for his brother Benjamin 13

This is the critical moment that Joseph has been waiting for!

"Now then,
please **let your servant remain here as my lord's slave**
in place of the boy,
and let the boy return with his brothers.

How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me?

No!

Do not let me see the misery that would come upon my father."

Genesis 44:33-34

Could Joseph really have taken Benjamin from his father?

Joseph has been looking for a sign of integrity¹³

He is looking for some one to step up, to step into the breach

Judah backs up his promise to protect Benjamin

Judah offers to sacrifice himself to save his brother

Judah becomes the leader,
and earns the right to be the patriarch...
and be in **the lineage of Christ**

Judah had problems, too (read Genesis 38)

Moses stepped into the breach

So he said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his **chosen** one,
stood in the breach before him
to keep his wrath from destroying them.

Ezekiel 22:29-31

Moses was chosen by God

God looked for another to step into the breach ¹³

The people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery;
they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the alien,
denying them justice.

"I looked for a man among them
who would **build up the wall**
and **stand before me in the gap** on behalf of the land
so I would not have to destroy it,
but I found none.

So I will pour out my wrath on them
and consume them with my fiery anger,
bringing down on their own heads all they have done,
declares the Sovereign LORD."

Ezekiel 22:29-31

Why was Jesus descended from Judah and not Joseph?

Joseph was the set-up man, not the patriarch

Joseph set the stage so that Judah could prove himself

Joseph did not become the “chosen” son

though he received the double blessing

Is it a coincidence that the earthly father of Jesus

was also named “Joseph”

this Joseph was also the “straight man” for the presence of Christ

Joseph Reveals Himself (1)

He can't take it any longer!

Then Joseph **could no longer control himself**

before all his attendants,
and he cried out,

"Have everyone leave my presence!"

The help could not understand
what was going on

So there was no one with Joseph

when **he made himself known to his brothers.**

It was family and private

And **he wept so loudly** that the Egyptians heard him,
and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

Embarrassing!

Genesis 45:1-2

Joseph Reveals Himself (2)

Imagine the shock and terror of the brothers!

Joseph said to his brothers,

"I am Joseph! Is my father still living?"

But his brothers were not able to answer him,
because they were **terrified** at his presence.

Genesis 45:3

The brothers were speechless!

Joseph Reveals Himself (3)

Joseph brings them in close.

Then Joseph said to his brothers,
"Come close to me."

When they had done so, he said,
"I am your brother Joseph,
the one you sold into Egypt!

Was this clarification needed?

Genesis 45:4-5a

Joseph brings them in close.

The words in Genesis 45:4 “come closer”

**(the Hebrew verb here, nah-gash,
refers not just to spatial proximity,
but to an intimate closeness).**

**It is a term occasionally used for coming near
for the purpose of embracing or kissing someone.**

**It is not the common Hebrew term used
for merely coming near or walking up close.**

Charles Swindoll

Joseph Reveals Himself (4)

13

Joseph tries to settle them down

And now, **do not be distressed**
and **do not be angry with yourselves** for selling me here,

Joseph interprets everything as Providence

**It is better to have traveled and gotten lost
than to have never have traveled at all.**

George Santayana



We should see the same glory in the story of Joseph.

The Multicolored Story of Joseph

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Joseph sets up the final test

Joseph is working another test to see if Benjamin is safe

Joseph knows that he is not really letting Benjamin go
(he has him on a string, ready to pull him back).

The brothers surely felt relief in getting away (temporarily)

Joseph has them put on the defensive

The brothers remind their captors that they returned the extra silver
(they are honest men!)

The brothers make a bold claim
(because they know they are not guilty – at least not of taking the cup)

The silver cup is found in Benjamin's bag!

They are all taken back to stand before Joseph.

Joseph claims only Benjamin and “lets the others go”,
and he looks for someone to step into the breach.

Judah continues the retelling

Judah tries to give Joseph some background on the situation

"Then our father said,
'Go back and buy a little more food.'

But we said,
'We cannot go down.

Only if our youngest brother is with us will we go.

We cannot see the man's face
unless our youngest brother is with us.'

Genesis 44:25-26

Judah continues the retelling: What Jacob said¹⁴

Judah tries to “hook” into Joseph’s heart

Joseph knows that they are talking about him

Joseph never knew what Jacob thought had happened to him

"Your servant my father said to us,
'You know that my **wife** bore me **two sons**.
One of them went away from me, and I said,
"He has surely been torn to pieces."
And I have not seen him since.

favoritism!
Benjamin is
the “only”
son now.

If you take this one from me too and harm comes to him,
you will bring my gray head down to the grave in misery.'

Genesis 44:27-28

Jacob has been in misery since he “lost” Joseph

"So now, if the boy is not with us when I go back
to your servant my father
and if my father,
whose life is **closely bound up** with the boy's life,
sees that the boy isn't there,
he will die.

bound like
the strands
of a rope!

Your servants will **bring the gray head of our father
down to the grave in sorrow.**

Genesis 44:30-31

Judah doesn't try to blame it on Joseph.

Judah reveals his guarantee

Joseph knew that there was a chance that they had changed because of the regret he had overheard on their first meeting.

Your servant guaranteed the boy's safety to my father.

I said,

'If I do not bring him back to you,

I will bear the blame before you, my father,

all my life!'

Genesis 44:32

This is paramount to giving up all chance of inheritance, and living in a personal exile away from his family.

Judah offers himself for his brother Benjamin 14

This is the critical moment that Joseph has been waiting for!

"Now then,

please **let your servant remain here as my lord's slave**

in place of the boy,

and let the boy return with his brothers.

an exchange
is offered!

How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me?

No!

Do not let me see the **misery** that would come upon my father."

Genesis 44:33-34

Judah cannot bear to watch to watch his father suffer even more

Could Joseph really have taken Benjamin from his father?

He couldn't separate out Benjamin and Jacob from the rest.

He had to assume that Jacob wouldn't die

The offer of sacrificial exchange is critical

14

This is what the Gospel is all about!

Christ gave Himself up for each of us!

Did Judah offer because of his love for Benjamin?

Did he do it because of his love for his Father?

(we don't know - but He has definitely matured)

Christ gave Himself because he loved us!

Joseph has been looking for a sign of integrity¹⁴

He is looking for some one to step up, to step into the breach

Judah backs up his promise to protect Benjamin

Judah offers to sacrifice (trade) himself to save his brother

Judah becomes the leader,

and earns the right to be the patriarch...

and be in **the lineage of Christ**

Judah had problems, too (read Genesis 38)

Moses stepped into the breach

So he said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his **chosen** one,
stood in the breach before him
to keep his wrath from destroying them.

Ezekiel 22:29-31

Moses was chosen by God

But were the Israelites worthy?

God looked for another to step into the breach ¹⁴

The people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery;
they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the alien,
denying them justice.

"I looked for a man among them
who would **build up the wall**
and **stand before me in the gap** on behalf of the land
so I would not have to destroy it,
but I found none.

So I will pour out my wrath on them
and consume them with my fiery anger,
bringing down on their own heads all they have done,
declares the Sovereign LORD."

Ezekiel 22:29-31

Both "breach" excerpts were from Ezekiel and the time of the exile

Why was Jesus descended from Judah and not Joseph?

**Joseph was the set-up man (the enabler), not the patriarch
Joseph set the stage so that Judah could prove himself
Joseph did not become the “chosen” son
though he received the double blessing**

**Is it a coincidence that the earthly father of Jesus
was also named “Joseph”
this Joseph was also the “straight man” for the presence of Christ**

**God so loved the world
that He did not send a committee.**

Milton Jones



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Joseph sets up the final test

15

Joseph is working another test to see if Benjamin is safe

Joseph knows that he is not really letting Benjamin go

The brothers appear to get away, but they are overtaken

The brothers know that they are innocent of theft,
but the silver cup is found in Benjamin's bag!

They are all taken back to stand before Joseph.

Joseph claims only Benjamin and "lets the others go",
and he looks for someone to step into the breach.

If no one steps up,
then he could just keep Benjamin and let the others go.

Could he have kept Benjamin from going back to his father?

Joseph has been looking for a sign of integrity¹⁵

He is looking for some one to step up, to step into the breach

Judah backs up his promise to protect Benjamin

Judah offers to sacrifice (trade) himself to save his brother

Judah becomes the leader,

and earns the right to be the patriarch...

and be in **the lineage of Christ**

Judah had problems, too (read Genesis 38)

**They yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor
and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods;**

**they provoked the LORD to anger by their wicked deeds,
and a plague broke out among them.**

**But Phinehas stood up and intervened,
and the plague was checked.**

**This was credited to him as righteousness
for endless generations to come.**

Psalm 106:28-29

Who will rise up for me against the wicked?

Who will take a stand for me against evildoers?

Unless the LORD had given me help,

I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death.

**When I said, "My foot is slipping,"
your love, O LORD, supported me.**

**The point of recognition that
we cannot do it on our own**

**When anxiety was great within me,
your consolation brought joy to my soul.**

Psalm 94:16-17

Then you will call,
and the LORD will answer;
you will cry for help,
and he will say:
Here am I.

The LORD will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.

Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called **Repairer of Broken Walls**,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

We must be spiritual
maintenance
professionals

Isaiah 58:9, 11-12

The offer of sacrificial exchange is critical

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Jesus gave Himself up in a very similar way to that of Judah

This is what the Gospel is all about!

Christ gave Himself up for each of us!

Did Judah offer because of his love for Benjamin?

Did he do it because of his love for his Father?

(we don't know - but He has definitely matured)

Christ gave Himself because he loved us!

How did Christ Step in the Breach for Us? (1) 15

We should be able to step into the breach for others

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

**Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.**

**And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!**

Philippians 2:5-8

Consider what Christ gave up for us (power, cleanliness, no pain)!

How did Christ Step in the Breach for Us? (2) 15

Ultimately all bow down to Him (parallel to Joseph's dreams?)

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow**,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Philipians 2:9-11

How else did Christ step up for us? (1)

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

We have seen his **glory**,
the **glory** of the One and Only,
who came from the Father,
full of grace and truth.

Glory of the rainbow!

Not personal glory!

John 1:1-2, 14

How else did Christ step up for us? (2)

After three days they found him in the temple courts,
sitting among the teachers,
listening to them and asking them questions.

Everyone who heard him was amazed
at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him,
they were astonished.

His mother said to him,
"Son, why have you treated us like this?
Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked.

"Didn't you know **I had to be in my Father's house?**"

But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

How else did Christ step up for us? (3)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

But John tried to deter him, saying,

"I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

Jesus replied,

"Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this
to fulfill all righteousness."

Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized,

he went up out of the water.

At that moment heaven was opened,

and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove
and lighting on him.

And a voice from heaven said,

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Therefore Jesus said again,
"I tell you the truth,
I am the gate for the sheep.

I am the **gate**;
whoever enters through me will be saved...

Jesus is in control of
the Gate (Breach)

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

"I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:7-11

**Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them,
"We are going up to Jerusalem,
and everything that is written by the prophets
about the Son of Man will be fulfilled.**

He will be handed over to the Gentiles.

**They will mock him,
insult him,
spit on him,
flog him
and kill him.**

Luke 18:31-32

**Jesus did not hide from His fate.
It was not an accident that He was called to save us.**

So Judas came to the grove,
guiding a detachment of soldiers
and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees.

They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

Jesus,
knowing all that was going to happen to him,
went out and asked them,
"Who is it you want?"

John 18:3-4

Other evidence that Jesus did not hide from His fate.

You see,

at just the right time,

when we were still powerless,

Christ died for the ungodly.

Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man,

though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:

While we were still sinners,

Christ died for us.

Romans 5:6-8

PDE: Think of parents who watch their kids and step in at the appropriate moment to keep them from getting hurt.

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

But when this priest had **offered for all time one sacrifice for sins**, he sat down at the right hand of God.

Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by **one sacrifice** he has made **perfect forever** those who are being made holy.

Hebrews 10:11-14

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me.

And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

and among the lampstands was someone

"like a son of man,"

dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet

and with a golden sash around his chest.

**Like nothing ever
seen before...**

His head and hair were white like wool,

as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace,

and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

In his right hand he held seven stars,

and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword.

His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

Revelation 1:12-16

**Too often we make it appear
that sin is alive with color
and holiness is pale gray.**

Jim McGuiggan

How old was Joseph when his family came to Egypt?

39

30 (Gen 41:46) + 7 (years of plenty) + 2 (Gen 45:6)

Spectral Beauty



We should see the same glory in the story of Joseph.

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Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
"Whom shall I send?
And who will go for us?"

And I said,

"Here am I.
Send me!"

Isaiah 6:8

The offer of sacrificial exchange is critical

16

Jesus gave Himself up in a very similar way to that of Judah

This is what the Gospel is all about!

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Did Judah offer because of his love for Benjamin?

Did he do it because of his love for his Father?

(we don't know - but He has definitely matured)

Christ gave Himself because he loved us!

How else did Christ step up for us? (Summary)¹⁶

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1) The Word became flesh | John 1:1-2, 14 |
| 2) In His Father's house | Luke 2:46-50 |
| 3) His baptism | Luke 3:13-17 |
| 4) The Gate and the Good Shepherd | John 10:7-11 |
| 5) Announcing his fate | Luke 18:31-32 |
| 6) Confronting the guard in the garden | John 18:3-4 |
| 7) Christ died for us at the right time | Romans 5:6-8 |
| 8) Offered for all time one sacrifice for sins | Hebrews 10:11-14 |
| 9) The victorious image of the Savior | Revelation 1:12-16 |

Stepping into the breach - Rolling Rock Image 16

This is like what Christ did for us.

**Think of the impending doom of sin as the rolling ball
in Indiana Jones and Raiders of the Lost Ark.**

**Christ pushed us aside and stepped in front of the weight of sin
and took the impact of it in our stead.**

Sacrifice: one chess piece is many times traded for another in hopes that the ones remaining can help close the game.

This occurs historically in war.

Military policies forbid fraternization to avoid relationships that might interfere with the ability to send men into the breach.

Yet it was the presence of a relationship that led Christ to die for us.

PDE

God had to withdraw Himself, tying His hands so to speak, to watch His Son die on the cross for us.

When a man sins,

he tears away from God

and leaves a breach in the relationship between them.

The way to God is like a bridge that has been ripped in two;

a bottomless chasm is left between the purity of God

and the sinfulness of man,

and there is no way for man to cross it by himself.

Stepping into the breach - Bridge Image (2) 16

**But Christ stepped in voluntarily to reach to both sides
and to bridge the gap,
and only those who trust in him completely
will make it safely across.**

**Some will see it as a rotting log over a raging torrent and will say,
'You'll never get me on that rickety old thing!'**

**There will be others who will get half-way across
and become so afraid of the dizzying height that they cannot make it,
like Peter trying to walk on the water.**

And of course there will be some who boldly walk across to salvation.

**Jesus Christ was able to be the bridge
because He was both man and God.**

Thinking of Christ as a Hero

The definition of hero has come to refer to characters that, in the face of danger and adversity or from a position of weakness, display courage and the will for self sacrifice for some greater good.

from Wikipedia

Who is your greatest hero?

Have you ever thought of Christ as a great hero -- the greatest of all?

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Philipians 4:13

Christ gives us the strength to do heroic things as well.

The Parallel to Christ: Similarities / Differences¹⁶

Was Benjamin morally worthy of being saved?

Are we worthy?

Not worthy, but worth something to someone (God)

Was Judah perfect?

No, but Christ was

Judah pleaded and interceded for Benjamin

Christ intercedes for us

Judah offered himself

Christ offered himself

Judah's offer was unexpected

Christ was born in a manger, not as a typical king

Joseph may have had some hope,

but Judah's sacrifice was a surprise

Jesus' sacrifice was planned and prophesied

Judah's act enabled reconciliation

Christ reconciles us with God (Romans 5:10)

The Parallel to Christ: Similarities / Differences¹⁶

**Judah did not have to suffer as Christ did in his sacrifice
(only worry and anxiety)**

God gave His only Son

**Jacob unknowingly gave up a son, resisted losing Benjamin,
might have had to give up Judah**

Rueben offered his sons but did not intend to give them up

People bowed down to Joseph in his dream (and in reality)

All people will bow down to Jesus the Christ

Joseph saved his world from famine (for those who came to him)

Christ saved the world from sin (for those who come to Him)

**Judah – saved those who were isolated from their father
(Benjamin and the other brothers)**

Who was truly isolated?

Joseph (free in his mind) or his brothers (feelings of guilt)?

**Jacob was also isolated from his immediate family for a long time
(~ 20 yrs)**

Judah saved all of his family

**After this encounter,
and having given up Benjamin,
would the brothers have ever come back?**

How could they?

They would have starved.

Judah saved them all.

The original meaning of the word “**redemption**” in the Bible was to buy someone out of **slavery** and set them **free**.

It was like paying a **ransom**.

Joseph had been **sold** by his family,

but he had been **redeemed** and set free by God himself.

In this great moment of **reconciliation**,

Joseph **redeemed** his own brothers.

They had **sold** him,

but they were the ones **enslaved**.

Joseph saw that they were **bound** by guilt and fear and grief.

By saying, I am your brother,

Joseph **freed** his own brothers.

The ordeal was over.

Revenge is never as sweet as the tears and laughter of redemption.

Craig Atwood

**Think about the brothers needing advocate
as they approached Joseph;**

**Joseph was a go-between in a sense between them and Pharaoh.
Judah became an advocate, offering his life.**

Jesus was also an Advocate:

John said:

**My little children, these things I write to you,
so that you may not sin.**

**And if anyone sins,
we have an Advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous.**

**And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins,
and not for ours only but also for the whole world.**

1 John 2:1-2

The Reconciliation Christ Gives (1)

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away
have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

For he himself is our **peace**,
who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier,
the dividing wall of hostility,
by abolishing in his flesh the law
with its commandments and regulations.

His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two,
thus making **peace**,
and in this one body to **reconcile** both of them to God
through the cross,
by which he put to death their hostility.

He came and preached **peace** to you who were far away
and peace to those who were near.

The Reconciliation Christ Gives (2)

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,
and through him to **reconcile** to himself all things,
whether things on earth or things in heaven,
by making **peace** through his blood, shed on the cross.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds
because of your evil behavior.

But now he has **reconciled** you by Christ's physical body
through death to present you holy in his sight,
without blemish and free from accusation

Colossians 1:19-22

Notice how reconciliation is associated with peace.

The Reconciliation Christ Gives (3)

All this is from God,

who **reconciled** us to himself through Christ
and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**:

We must work
for peace.

that God was **reconciling** the world to himself in Christ,
not counting men's sins against them.

And he has committed to us the message of **reconciliation**.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors,
as though God were making his appeal through us.

We must work
for peace.

We implore you on Christ's behalf:

Be **reconciled** to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Jesus taught:

**“Moreover if your brother sins against you,
go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.
If he hears you, you have gained your brother.**

**But if he will not hear,
take with you one or two more,
that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses
every word may be established.’**

**And if he refuses to hear them,
tell it to the church.**

**But if he refuses even to hear the church,
let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.**

Matthew 18:15-17

**We must reconcile -- but does that mean that we are intimate friends?
Was the reconciliation of Jacob’s sons on this order?**

Return to the Multicolored Story of Joseph 16



**I used to say that my crayon box had only two colors in it:
black and white.**

Randy Pausch, The Last Lecture

Spectral Beauty

17



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The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai:

**"Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it,
because its wickedness has come up before me."**

But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish.

Isaiah 6:8

The offer of sacrificial exchange is critical

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Jesus gave Himself up in a very similar way to that of Judah

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Because He loved us!**

**Think about the brothers needing advocate
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**Joseph was a go-between in a sense between them and Pharaoh.
Judah became an advocate, offering his life.**

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so that you may not sin.**

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Jesus Christ the righteous.**

**And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins,
and not for ours only but also for the whole world.**

1 John 2:1-2

We must seek peace with other

17

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.**

This is being like God

Matthew 5:9

**He must turn from evil and do good;
he must seek peace and pursue it.**

A reference to Psalm 34:14

1 Peter 3:11

We must not be looking for a fight!

Return to the Multicolored Story of Joseph

Joseph has been looking for a sign of integrity¹⁷

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Judah becomes the leader,

and earns the right to be the patriarch...

and be in **the lineage of Christ**

Judah had problems, too (read Genesis 38)

Joseph Reveals Himself (1)

He can't take it any longer!
He is torn within himself.

Then Joseph **could no longer control himself**

before all his attendants,
and he cried out,

"Have everyone leave my presence!"

The help could not understand
what was going on

So there was no one with Joseph

when **he made himself known to his brothers.**

It was family and private

And **he wept so loudly** that the Egyptians heard him,
and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

Embarrassing!

Genesis 45:1-2

Joseph Reveals Himself (2)

Imagine the shock and terror of the brothers!

Joseph said to his brothers,

"I am Joseph! Is my father still living?"

But his brothers were not able to answer him,
because they were **terrified** at his presence.

Genesis 45:3

**The brothers were speechless!
It took some time to process this information!**

Joseph Reveals Himself (3)

Joseph brings them in close.

Then Joseph said to his brothers,
"Come close to me."

When they had done so, he said,
"I am your brother Joseph,
the one you sold into Egypt!

Was this clarification needed?

Genesis 45:4-5a

Imagine the looks on their faces!
Priceless!

But what were they going to tell Jacob?

Joseph brings them in close.

The words in Genesis 45:4 “come closer”

**(the Hebrew verb here, nah-gash,
refers not just to spatial proximity,
but to an intimate closeness).**

**It is a term occasionally used for coming near
for the purpose of embracing or kissing someone.**

**It is not the common Hebrew term used
for merely coming near or walking up close.**

Charles Swindoll

Joseph shows the brothers Grace

Joseph fully embraced all the brothers
when he saw a **spark** of good from one.
This is something like God's grace.
They were acting as a team.

They still couldn't appropriate grace.
It was still "too good to be true".

Charles Swindoll

Joseph Reveals Himself (4)

Joseph tries to settle them down

And now, **do not be distressed**

and **do not be angry with yourselves** for selling me here,

because **it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.**

For two years now there has been famine in the land,

and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping.

But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth
and to **save your lives** by a great deliverance.

Genesis 45:5b-7

Joseph makes them out to be heroes: a vital part of the plan!

Joseph interprets everything as Providence.

He was sent out ahead of the brothers as an advance force.

Joseph Explains God's Providence

"So then, it was not you who sent me here,
but **God**.
He made me **father** to Pharaoh,
lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.

Genesis 45:8a-11

He made them feel better, as though they had done the right thing.

**Grace has often been a subject
without ever being a lifestyle.**

Milton Jones

Remember how Joseph showed Grace.

What son of Jacob had the most sons?

Benjamin:	10	Fastest start, but became the smallest tribe
Gad:	7	
Simeon:	6	
Judah:	5	
Reuben:	4	
Issachar:	4	
Asher:	4	
Napthali:	4	
Zebulun:	3	
Levi:	3	
Joseph:	2	
Dan:	1	

Spectral Beauty



We should see the same glory in the story of Joseph.

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Jesus gave Himself up in a very similar way to that of Judah

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**Christ gave Himself up for each of us!
Because He loved us!**

**Christ forgave us all from the cross
(similar to the way Joseph forgave his brothers)**

Joseph Explains God's Providence

"So then, it was not you who sent me here,
but **God**.
He made me **father** to Pharaoh,
lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.

Genesis 45:8a-11

He made them feel better, as though they had done the right thing.

To some extent, the issue is one of time horizon.

If my time horizon is limited to only immediate or near term, then

I would focus on winning the moment (the immediate argument)

If my time horizon is eternal, my perception of winning

is aligned with God's will and appears totally different.

PDE

Telling the story of what the brothers did

is so much easier when you make the simple choice

to see things from God's perspective

versus focusing solely on our perspective.

PDE

Does God ever use our bad choices to His glory?

Do we recognize that He can?

Perhaps that creates in us the broken and contrite spirit we need.

PDE

Joseph decides to bring the family together 18

Now hurry back to my father and say to him,

'This is what your son Joseph says:

God has made me lord of all Egypt.

Come down to me; **don't delay**.

You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me —

you, your children and grandchildren,

your flocks and herds, and all you have.

I will provide for you there,

because five years of famine are still to come.

There is no real
choice:
life or death!

Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you

will become **destitute**.'

Genesis 45:8-11

He's been waiting so long -- he wants them to hurry!

Joseph wants them to hurry!

"You can see for yourselves,
and so can **my brother Benjamin**,
that **it is really I** who am speaking to you.

Tell my father about all the **honor** accorded me in Egypt
and about everything you have seen.

And bring my father down here **quickly**."

He wants his father to see
how wonderful his life is

Genesis 45:12-13

Note that he emphasizes that Benjamin can tell that it is him.
Is this from remembering or just recognizing that all the pieces fit?

Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin
and wept,
and Benjamin embraced him,
weeping.

And **he kissed all his brothers and wept over them.**

Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Genesis 45:14-15

Benjamin embraces Joseph (and weeps) in return.

How long did the brothers talk, catching up?

The word reaches the Egyptians

When the news reached Pharaoh's palace
that Joseph's brothers had come,
Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased.

Pharaoh said to Joseph,

"Tell your brothers,

'Do this:

Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan,
and bring your father and your families back to me.

I will give you the best of the land of Egypt
and you can enjoy the fat of the land.'

even in this famine!

Genesis 45:16-18

Did the Egyptians know that he had this family?

Would Pharaoh have been so hospitable if he knew the full story?

**Noah was a brave man to sail in a wooden boat with two termites.
Anonymous**



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A plan is developed for bringing the family to Egypt

"You are also directed to tell them,

'Do this:

**Take some carts from Egypt for your children and your wives,
and get your father and come.**

**Never mind about your belongings,
because the best of all Egypt will be yours.' "**

Genesis 45:19-20

**Joseph wants them to come as fast as they can --
no time for packing or arranging transportation.**

Joseph gives them all gifts and provisions 19

So the sons of Israel did this.

Joseph gave them carts,
as Pharaoh had commanded,
and he also gave them provisions for their journey.

To each of them he gave new clothing,
but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver
and **five sets of clothes**.

And this is what he sent to his father:

ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt,
and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread
and other provisions for his journey.

Jacob also
receives a very
large gift!

Genesis 45:21-23

Notice that once again Benjamin gets five times more than the others!

Joseph wants them to get along

19

They are probably becoming stressed about how to tell Jacob.

Then he sent his brothers away,
and as they were leaving he said to them,
"Don't quarrel on the way!"

Genesis 45:24

Dan Sain: This applies to us on our journey to our heavenly home.

Jacob is stunned to learn Joseph is alive

19

So they went up out of Egypt
and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan.

They told him,

"Joseph is still alive!

In fact, he is **ruler** of all Egypt."

Double shock:

1

2

Jacob was **stunned**;
he did not believe them.

Genesis 45:25-26

Joseph did not offer to hide the truth
about what the brothers had done from Jacob;
did the brothers confess to their father what they had done?.

Jacob is convinced

Was Jacob swayed by the presence of the carts?

But when they told him everything Joseph had said to them,
and when he saw the **carts** Joseph had sent to carry him back,
the spirit of their father Jacob revived.

And **Israel** said,

Back to the changed name that represents strength!

"I'm convinced!

My son Joseph is still alive.

I will go and see him before I die."

Imagine the growing excitement
in the heart of Jacob!

Genesis 45:24

Jacob has one desire left in life: to see Joseph.

Different types of famine

**The brothers returned with food to counter the famine:
and with news of Joseph
to counter the famine in Jacob's soul**

Jacob had twenty years of emptiness.

The original meaning of the word “**redemption**” in the Bible was to buy someone out of **slavery** and set them **free**.

It was like paying a **ransom**.

Joseph had been **sold** by his family,

but he had been **redeemed** and set free by God himself.

In this great moment of **reconciliation**,

Joseph **redeemed** his own brothers.

They had **sold** him,

but they were the ones **enslaved**.

Joseph saw that they were **bound** by guilt and fear and grief.

By saying, I am your brother,

Joseph **freed** his own brothers.

The ordeal was over.

Revenge is never as sweet as the tears and laughter of redemption.

Craig Atwood

The brothers were grieved at the loss to their family.

What Joseph learned from his brothers

The brothers were who he thought they were (identity verified) but they did not recognize him.

His father was still alive

(he had gained no idea of how they were doing in all this time).

They were willing to bow before him to save their families.

Benjamin had not been killed or sold into slavery, the way he feared.

Joseph learns that his brothers have become honest men.

The brothers remember what they did to him, and are full of remorse.

He learned that they had no idea whatsoever

of what ultimately happened to him (PDE).

He learned what Jacob thought had happened to him.

What Clues did Joseph give his brothers? 19

Had they not heard a story of a slave coming to power in Egypt?

He asking about family/father (not casual interest).

He choose Simeon to be the one to remain in jail.

The steward referred to the God of their father.

He was a man who showed hospitality

(did he do this with other people? PDE)

Joseph had to be seated apart from the Egyptians.

The seating order of the brothers at the feasts (impossible to guess).

Benjamin being given 5 times everyone else.

The order of brothers in opening their sacks.

Return to Joseph instead of immediate death or imprisonment.

What did Jacob know?

Did Jacob ever suspect what really happened to Joseph?

**Did Joseph hide the truth about the brothers
so that his father would not be hurt further?**

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Jacob stops at Beersheba

Jacob seems to have brought his stuff anyway

So Israel set out **with all that was his**,
and when he reached Beersheba,
he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

Genesis 46:1

What else happened in Beersheba?

God appeared to Abraham at Beersheba

19

Beersheba apparently became their home

From there he went up to Beersheba.

That night the LORD appeared to him and said,

"I am the God of your father Abraham.

Do not be afraid,

for I am with you;

I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants
for the sake of my servant Abraham."

Genesis 26:23-24

The covenant was restated

Jacob fled Beersheba to escape Esau's anger ¹⁹

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran.

When he reached a certain place,

he stopped for the night because the sun had set.

Taking one of the stones there,

he put it under his head and lay down to sleep.

He had a dream in which he saw a **stairway** resting on the earth,
with its top reaching to heaven,

and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

There above it stood the LORD, [who restated the covenant promise]

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought...

"How awesome is this place!

This is none other than the house of God;

this is the gate of heaven."

Genesis 26:23-24

Jacob had a dream where God told him he would father a nation

God appears to Jacob

And **God spoke to Israel in a vision** at night and said,

"Jacob! Jacob!"

"Here I am," he replied.

"I am God, the God of your father," he said.

"Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt,
for I will make you into a great nation there.

I will go down to Egypt with you,
and I will surely bring you back again.

This must have been
very comforting

And Joseph's own hand will close your eyes."

Genesis 46:2-4

Jacob must have wondered why he had not heard from God in so long?

Jacob had to believe that Joseph was dead.

Jacob leaves for Egypt

Then Jacob left Beersheba,
and Israel's sons took their father Jacob
and their children and their wives
in the carts that Pharaoh had sent to transport him.

They also **took with them their livestock**
and the possessions they had acquired in Canaan,
and Jacob and all his offspring went to Egypt.

He took with him to Egypt his sons and grandsons
and his daughters and granddaughters —
all his offspring.

Genesis 46:5-7

**There is nothing that makes us love someone so much
as praying for them.**

William Law

Spectral Beauty



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How long was the journey from Canaan to Egypt?

**It appears to be about 150 to 200 miles,
depending on where they came from and the route (PDE).**

This would have taken 2 to 3 weeks of travel.

What did the brothers believe (faith)?

20

They wrestled with the issue:

“How could this ruler of Egypt know so much about our family?”

Think of the stories of American Indians

who created a spirit world to explain

all that which was unexplainable by other means.

If they did not have a strong faith in God,

they could be swayed to believe

that there were other “gods” in control.

PDE

**They could have interpreted the things that happened in Egypt
to be signs of the gods of this foreign land.**

There was much that seemed to be “magic”

that was happening to them.

HSL

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all his offspring.

Genesis 46:5-7

Listing of the sons of Leah

These are the names of the sons of Israel

(Jacob and his descendants)

who went to Egypt:

Reuben the firstborn of Jacob.

The sons of **Reuben**: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron and Carmi. (4)

The sons of **Simeon**: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar (6)
and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman.

The sons of **Levi**: Gershon, Kohath and Merari. (3)

The sons of **Judah**: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez and Zerah (5)
(but Er and Onan had died in the land of Canaan).

The sons of Perez: Hezron and Hamul.

The sons of **Issachar**: Tola, Puah, Jashub and Shimron. (4)

The sons of **Zebulun**: Sered, Elon and Jahleel. (3)

These were the sons Leah bore to Jacob in Paddan Aram,
besides his daughter Dinah.

These sons and daughters of his were **thirty-three** in all.

Genesis 46:8-15

Listing of the sons of Zilpah (Leah's handmaid)²⁰

The sons of **Gad**: Zephon, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi and Areli. (7)

The sons of **Asher**: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi and Beriah. (4)

Their sister was Serah.

The sons of Beriah: Heber and Malkiel.

These were the children born to Jacob by Zilpah, whom Laban had given to his daughter Leah —

sixteen in all.

Genesis 46:16-18

Listing of the sons of Rachel

The sons of Jacob's wife Rachel:

Joseph and Benjamin.

In Egypt, Manasseh and Ephraim were born to **Joseph** (2)
by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On.

The sons of **Benjamin**: Bela, Beker, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi,
Rosh, Muppim, Huppim and Ard. (10)

These were the sons of Rachel who were born to Jacob —
fourteen in all.

Genesis 46:19-22

Listing of the sons of Bilhah (Rachel's handmaid)

The son of **Dan**: Hushim. (1)

The sons of **Naphtali**: Jahziel, Guni, Jezer and Shillem. (4)

These were the sons born to Jacob by Bilhah,
whom Laban had given to his daughter Rachel —
seven in all.

Genesis 46:23-25

All those who went to Egypt with Jacob —
those who were his direct descendants,
not counting his sons' wives —
numbered **sixty-six** persons.

With the two sons who had been born to Joseph in Egypt,
the members of Jacob's family,
which went to Egypt,
were **seventy in all**.

Genesis 46:26-27

It is interesting that such an accurate accounting was kept,
when so few details are given about other things.

The Grand Reunion!

Now Jacob sent **Judah** ahead of him to Joseph
to **get directions** to Goshen.

Judah's responsibility

A man asking for directions!

When they arrived in the region of Goshen,
Joseph had his chariot made ready
and went to Goshen to meet his father Israel.

**As soon as Joseph appeared before him,
he threw his arms around his father
and wept for a long time.**

Genesis 46:28-29

Israel said to Joseph,

"Now I am ready to die,

since I have seen for myself that you are still alive."

Genesis 46:30

Think of the contrast -- ready to die when he sees that Joseph is alive!

Joseph prepares his family to meet Pharaoh (1)²⁰

Then Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household,
"I will go up and speak to Pharaoh and will say to him,
'My brothers and my father's household,
who were living in the land of Canaan,
have come to me.
The men are **shepherds**;
they tend livestock,
and they have brought along their flocks and herds
and **everything they own.**'

Genesis 46:31-32

Joseph tells them to explain their profession,
as well as the fact that they must continue in it
with their own flocks and herds of animals

Joseph prepares his family to meet Pharaoh (2)²⁰

When Pharaoh calls you in and asks,

'What is your occupation?'

you should answer,

'Your servants have tended livestock from our boyhood on,
just as our fathers did.'

Then you will be allowed to settle in the region of Goshen,

for **all shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians.**"

Genesis 46:31-34

Joseph apparently is using the Egyptian's dislike of shepherds to go for good land that will put them at a distance from Pharaoh.

The critical moments for Joseph

When he first sees his brothers

When they bow down to him

When he sees Benjamin

When he breaks down and cries

When he announces his identity

When he embraces Benjamin and kisses the brothers

When he sees his father again

According to Genesis, the Israelites did not assimilate to Egyptian society the way Joseph did.

There is evidence that the Egyptians viewed shepherding as unclean, and they often used other people to keep their flocks. It is a little hard for those of us who follow the Good Shepherd today to understand that shepherds were looked down upon in many ancient cultures, just as cow herders once were. He should deny that he was a wealthy and powerful man who owned large flocks. In this way, Jacob and his household would not be threatening to the Egyptians [HSL: Later they would become threatening].

He negotiates with Pharaoh to allow his family to settle in Goshen where there was pasture for the flocks. Goshen was probably in the northeastern part of the Nile Delta. No one knows for sure. The “best part of the land,” probably meant the best land available.

Craig Atwood

It was better

(and it had more impact)

that Joseph was available at the right time (2 years later)...

If he had been set free,

what would he have done to support himself?

Would he have gone home?

Who would have saved the people of Israel?

More on Providence -- Looking at a Higher Goal²⁰

**If then you were raised with Christ,
seek those things which are above,
where Christ is,
sitting at the right hand of God.**

**Set your mind on things above,
not on things on the earth.**

**For you died,
and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

Colossians 3:1-3

Joseph has the proper mindset, setting his mind on things above

Had Joseph not been taught this history of Abraham?

By faith Abraham,

when called to go to a place

he would later receive as his inheritance,

obeyed and went,

even though he did not know where he was going.

By faith he made his home in the **promised land**

like a stranger in a foreign country;

he lived in tents,

as did Isaac and Jacob,

who were heirs with him of the same promise.

For he was looking forward to the city with foundations,

whose architect and builder is God.

Hebrews 11:8-10

In Egypt they changed from tents to houses...

All these people were still living by faith when they died.

**They did not receive the things promised;
they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.**

And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

**People who say such things
show that they are looking for a country of their own.**

**If they had been thinking of the country they had left,
they would have had opportunity to return.**

**Instead, they were longing for a better country —
a heavenly one.**

**Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God,
for he has prepared a city for them.**

Hebrews 11:13-16

Joseph had more direct feedback on God's Providence

**Judah – saved those who were isolated from their father
(Benjamin and the other brothers)**

Who was truly isolated?

Joseph (free in his mind) or his brothers (feelings of guilt)?

**Jacob was also isolated from his immediate family for a long time
(~ 20 yrs)**

Is isolation the flip side of reconciliation?

**Was Goshen chosen
in order to maintain a sense of isolation from the Egyptians?**

**God demanded their isolation from paganism
and those would involve them in it.**

**The people of Israel were “incubated” in isolation in Egypt.
It is interesting that they never embraced the gods of Egypt.
Following other gods came after they were “free”.**

**The downfall of Judah and Israel are connected to
not driving the pagan people out of Canaan.**

Revenge or Reconciliation?

Should Joseph have assumed Revenge from God?

Should he rejoice in thinking that God would punish the brothers?

Should he have seen his choice as a way to enable that?

**Joseph was able to see the Providence of God,
realizing the “Goodness” that overwhelmed the hurt.**

It is a struggle to keep peace!

20

There was always sibling rivalry...

Manasseh will feed on Ephraim,
and Ephraim on Manasseh;
together they will turn against Judah."

The two sons of Joseph

The tribes warred against each other many times

Isaiah 9:21

For, when we were come into Macedonia,
our flesh had no rest,
but we were troubled on every side;
without were fightings,
within were fears.

2 Corinthians 7:5

Is this like vain worship
where the brothers were trying to be nice in Egypt?

Is there a parallel to us and the church?

**What lies behind us
and what lies before us
are tiny matters compared to
what lies within us.**

Emerson

Spectral Beauty



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Reconciliation: Comparison to the Prodigal Son²¹

Joseph:

Prodigal Son:

Reconciliation: Comparison to the Prodigal Son²¹

Joseph:

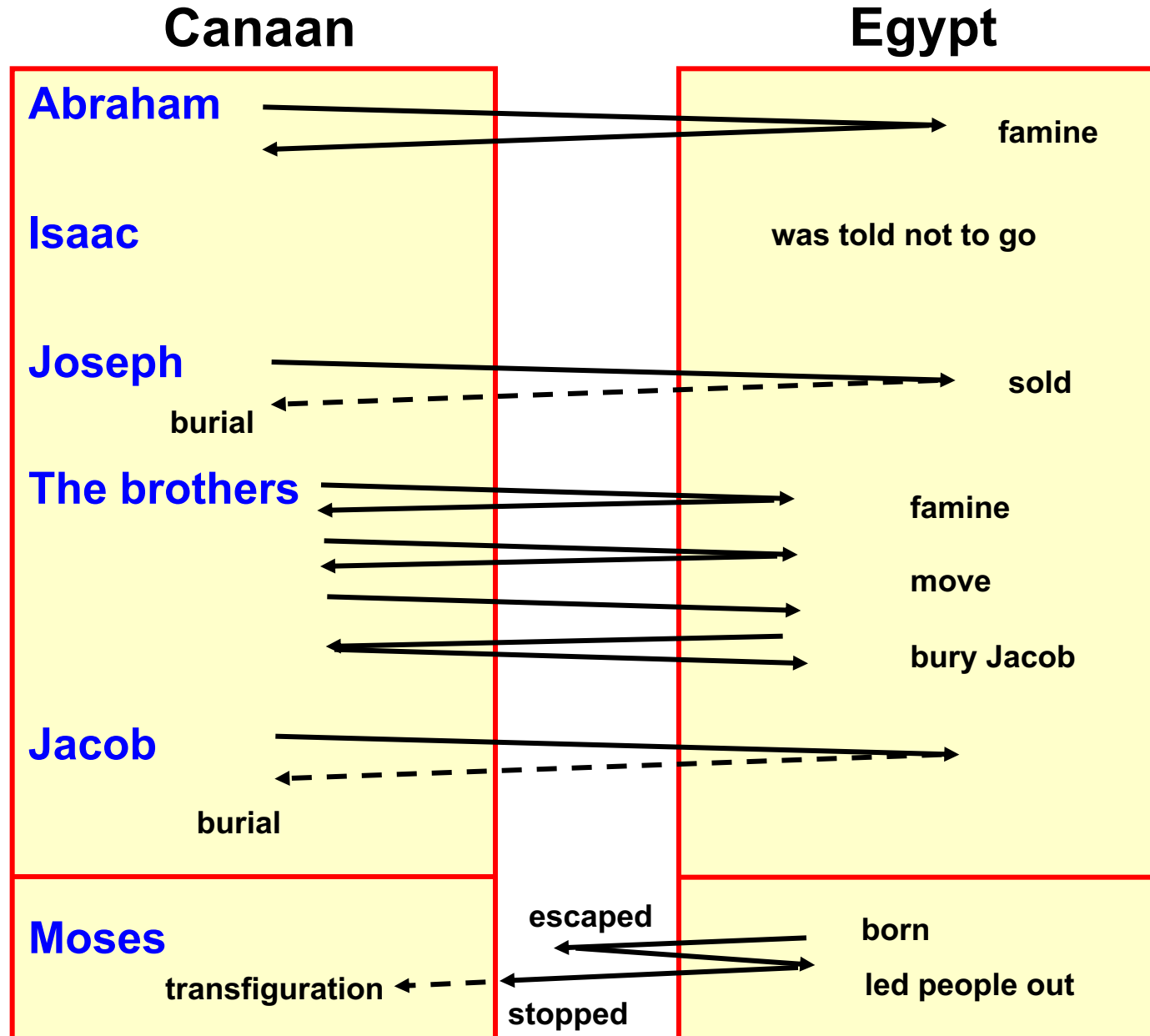
- Sent away (sold by brothers)
- Went from poverty to riches
- Gave away riches
- Saved his family and brought them to him during a famine
- Went from brother to slave (lowest job) to second highest ruler in the land
- Revealed when the time was right
- The other brothers were in need
- Joseph forgives
- Joseph gave the brothers jobs (as shepherds)
- The father didn't know where he was
- The father had given up, but revives
- The family reunites
- Brothers were jealous
- Were the brothers happy to have Joseph back?

Prodigal Son:

- Ran away (with family money)
- Went from riches to poverty
- Took riches
- Returned to his family for salvation during his famine
- Went from brother to servant (lowest job) to ask to be a slave (lowest job) at home
- Chose his own time to return
- The other brother had everything
- The father forgives
- This brother just wanted a job (any kind of menial job)
- The father didn't know where he was
- The father was watchful, and rejoices
- The family reunites
- The other brother was jealous
- The older brother was not happy that his brother returned

Did the families get back to “normal” life? What was normal now?

Travel to and from Egypt



Joseph introduces his family to Pharaoh (1) 21

Joseph went and told Pharaoh,
"My father and brothers,
with their flocks and herds and **everything they own**,
have come from the land of Canaan and are now in Goshen."
He chose **five** of his brothers and presented them before Pharaoh.
Genesis 47:1-2

Why not all of the brothers? Why just five? Which ones?
Were they taking care of the flocks and family?

Joseph introduces his family to Pharaoh (2) 21

Pharaoh asked the brothers,
"What is your occupation?"

"Your servants are shepherds,"
they replied to Pharaoh,
"just as our fathers were."

Who was the spokesman?

They also said to him,
"We have come to live here awhile,
because the famine is severe in Canaan
and your servants' flocks have no pasture.
So now, please let your servants settle in Goshen."

Genesis 47:3-4

The family presents their history of shepherding

Joseph introduces his family to Pharaoh (3) 21

Pharaoh said to Joseph,

"Your father and your brothers have come to you,
and the land of Egypt is before you;
settle your father and your brothers in the **best** part of the land.

Let them live in Goshen.

And if you know of any among them with **special ability**,
put them in charge of my own livestock."

Genesis 47:5-6

Pharaoh decides that they could be put in charge of his livestock.
He makes the same type of decision for them that he did for Joseph.

Joseph introduces his family to Pharaoh (4) 21

So Joseph settled his father and his brothers in Egypt and gave them property in the **best** part of the land, the district of Rameses, as Pharaoh directed.

Joseph also **provided** his father and his brothers and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their children.

Genesis 47:11-12

Joseph not only had to forgive and reconcile with the brothers, he had to provide (long-term) for the ones who betrayed him. He gave them more than just food -- jobs, home, protection.

The famine continues (1)

There was no food, however,
in the whole region because the famine was severe;
both Egypt and Canaan wasted away because of the famine.

Joseph collected all the money that was to be found
in Egypt and Canaan
in payment for the grain they were buying,
and **he brought it to Pharaoh's palace.**

When the money of the people of Egypt and Canaan was gone,
all Egypt came to Joseph and said,
"Give us food.
Why should we die before your eyes?
Our money is used up."

Genesis 47:13-15

When the people ran out of money, they asked for another plan.

The famine continues (2)

"Then bring your livestock," said Joseph.

**"I will sell you food in exchange for your livestock,
since your money is gone."**

**So they brought their livestock to Joseph,
and he gave them food in exchange for their horses,
their sheep and goats, their cattle and donkeys.**

**And he brought them through that year with food
in exchange for all their livestock.**

Genesis 47:16-17

The people next had to give up their livestock.

The famine continues (3)

When that year was over,
they came to him the following year and said,
"We cannot hide from our lord the fact
that since our money is gone and our livestock belongs to you,
there is nothing left for our lord except our bodies and our land.

Why should we perish before your eyes —
we and our land as well?

Buy **us** and our land in exchange for food,
and we with our land will be in **bondage** to Pharaoh.
Give us seed so that we may live and not die,
and that the land may not become desolate."

Genesis 47:18-19

The people finally have to offer themselves and their land.

The famine continues (4)

So Joseph bought all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh.

The Egyptians,

one and all,

sold their fields,

because the famine was too severe for them.

The land became Pharaoh's,

and Joseph reduced the people to servitude,

from one end of Egypt to the other.

However,

he did not buy the land of the priests,

because they received a regular allotment from Pharaoh

and had food enough from the allotment Pharaoh gave them.

That is why they did not sell their land.

Genesis 47:20-22

The priests are treated differently as government employees.

The famine continues (5)

Joseph said to the people,

"Now that I have bought you and your land today for Pharaoh,
here is seed for you so you can plant the ground.

But when the crop comes in, give a fifth of it to Pharaoh.

The other four-fifths you may keep as seed for the fields
and as food for yourselves
and your households
and your children."

"**You have saved our lives**," they said.

"May we find favor in the eyes of our lord;
we will be in **bondage** to Pharaoh."

Genesis 47:23-25

The people gladly accept a 20% tax (and bondage).

The famine continues (6)

**So Joseph established it as a law concerning land in Egypt —
still in force today —
that a fifth of the produce belongs to Pharaoh.**

**It was only the land of the priests that did not become Pharaoh's.
Genesis 47:26**

**Joseph had to work with Egypt's priests;
He did not try to revolutionize the country and convert them to God**

**The law held even after the famine!
They found that it was a good policy in general.**

Joseph reduced the people (of Egypt) to servitude.

How ironic that the people of Israel were later made slaves as well.

How could they deny their bondage in Egypt?

Then you will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free."

They answered him,
"We are Abraham's descendants
and have **never been slaves of anyone.**
How can you say that we shall be set free?"

Jesus replied,
"I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."
John 8:31-34

Satan uses the same approach with us today
in getting us to deny our need for God. PDE

We are slaves to Good or Evil (1)

For we know that our old self was crucified with him
so that the body of sin might be done away with,
that we should no longer be **slaves to sin** —
because anyone who has died has been **freed from sin**.

Now if we died with Christ,
we believe that we will also live with him.

For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead,
he cannot die again;
death no longer has **mastery** over him.

The death he died,
he died to sin once for all;
but the life he lives,
he lives to God.

For sin shall not be your **master**,
because you are not under law,
but under grace.

We are slaves to Good or Evil (2)

Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?

By no means!

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as **slaves**, you are **slaves** to the one whom you obey — whether you are **slaves** to sin, which leads to death, or to [**slaves** to] obedience, which leads to righteousness?

But thanks be to God that, though you used to be **slaves** to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.

You have been set **free** from sin and have become **slaves** to righteousness.

Our “bondage” to righteousness (or Goodness) should be natural and self-imposed because we love Good

Another view of our slavery

What I am saying is that as long as the **heir** is a child,
he is no different from a **slave**,
although he owns the whole estate.

So also, when we were children,
we were in **slavery** under the basic principles of the world.

But when the time had fully come,
God sent his Son,
born of a woman,
born under law,
to redeem those under law,
that we might receive the full rights of **sons**.

So you are no longer a **slave**,
but a **son**;
and since you are a **son**,
God has made you also an **heir**.

Relate back to the Prodigal Son

Galatians 4:1,3-5,7

Goodness is the only investment that never fails.

Thoreau

Spectral Beauty



We should see the same glory in the story of Joseph.

The offer of sacrificial exchange is critical

21

Jesus gave Himself up in a very similar way to that of Judah

This is what the Gospel is all about!

**Christ gave Himself up for each of us!
Because He loved us!**

**Christ forgave us all from the cross
(similar to the way Joseph forgave his brothers)**

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The Israelites Settle In and Grow

Now the Israelites settled in Egypt in the region of Goshen.

They **acquired** property there

did they have to buy their land?

and were fruitful and increased greatly in number.

Genesis 47:27

Jacob wants to go back to Canaan when he dies¹

Jacob lived in Egypt seventeen years,
and the years of his life were a hundred and forty-seven.

When the time drew near for Israel to die,
he called for his son Joseph and said to him,

Jacob was 130 when
he moved to Canaan

"If I have found favor in your eyes,
put your hand under my thigh
and promise that you will show me kindness and faithfulness.

Do not bury me in Egypt,
but when I rest with my fathers,
carry me out of Egypt and bury me where they are buried."

"I will do as you say," he said.

"**Swear** to me," he said.

did Jacob not trust Joseph?
or was this just to make it more formal?

Then Joseph **swore** to him,
and Israel **worshiped** as he leaned on the top of his staff.

Genesis 47:28-31

The key thing for biblical history in chapter 47

is that Jacob made Joseph promise to bury him in Canaan.

One of the most important themes in Genesis is the Promised Land.

Jacob's destiny was not in Egypt,

and he insisted that he be buried with his ancestors.

The wandering Aramean

would find a lasting resting place with his ancestors.

Jacob also used this request

as a way to bring the family back to Canaan,

at least for a while.

Craig Atwood

The people would and again, at a later time, be drawn to Canaan.

Does it really matter where our bones will be?

How about the thousands of other people who died in Egypt?

**Some time later Joseph was told,
"Your father is ill."**

So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim along with him.

**When Jacob was told,
"Your son Joseph has come to you,"
Israel rallied his strength and sat up on the bed.**

Genesis 48:1-2

Jacob said to Joseph,

**"God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan,
and there he blessed me and said to me,**

**'I am going to make you fruitful and will increase your numbers.
I will make you a **community** of peoples,
and I will give this land as an everlasting possession
to your descendants after you.'**

Genesis 48:3-4

"Now then, your two sons born to you in Egypt before I came to you here will be reckoned as mine; Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine, just as Reuben and Simeon are mine.

Jacob's #1 and #2 sons

Any children born to you after them will be yours; in the territory they inherit they will be reckoned under the names of their brothers.

Jacob's grandchildren?

Genesis 48:5-6

**Joseph did receive the double blessing
but he did not become the "Patriarch"**

As I was returning from Paddan,
to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan
while we were still on the way,
a little distance from Ephrath.

a reflection of one of the
major events in his life

So I buried her there beside the road to Ephrath"
(that is, Bethlehem).

Genesis 48:7

This will forever tie Jacob to the promised land

Jacob blesses Ephraim and Manasseh (1)

When Israel saw the sons of Joseph, he asked,
"Who are these?"

"They are the sons God has given me here,"
Joseph said to his father.

Then Israel said,
"Bring them to me so I may bless them."

Now Israel's eyes were failing because of old age,
and he could hardly see.

So Joseph brought his sons close to him,
and his father kissed them and embraced them.

Israel said to Joseph,

**"I never expected to see your face again,
and now God has allowed me to see your children too."**

another reflection of one of
the major events in his life

Genesis 48:8-11

Jacob blesses Ephraim and Manasseh (2)

Then Joseph removed them from Israel's knees
and **bowed down with his face to the ground.**

And Joseph took both of them,
Ephraim on his **right** toward Israel's **left** hand
and Manasseh on his **left** toward Israel's **right** hand,
and brought them close to him.

But Israel reached out his right hand and put it on Ephraim's head,
though he was the younger,
and **crossing his arms,**
he put his left hand on Manasseh's head,
even though Manasseh was the firstborn.

Genesis 48:12-14

Jacob blesses Ephraim and Manasseh (3)

21

Then he blessed Joseph and said,

"May the God before whom my fathers

Abraham and Isaac walked,

the God who has been my **shepherd**

all my life to this day,

the **Angel** who has delivered me from all harm

— may he bless these boys.

May they be called by my name

and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac,

and may they increase greatly

upon the earth."

There seems to have been a lull in his faith for several years

Genesis 48:15-16

Jacob blesses Ephraim and Manasseh (4)

21

Jacob assures Joseph that his two sons,
who had an Egyptian mother,
were part of this covenant.

both Jacob and Joseph found
a wife far from home

To emphasize the inclusion of Joseph's Egyptian-born sons,
Ephraim and Manasseh,
Jacob **adopted** them as his own sons,
equal to Simeon and Reuben.

Craig Atwood

Jacob had to find a wife within the family,
but he approved of Joseph's family.

Jacob blesses Ephraim and Manasseh (5)

21

**When Joseph saw his father
placing his right hand on Ephraim's head
he was displeased;
so he took hold of his father's hand
to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.**

**Did Joseph think that in
addition to being blind,
maybe he was getting
senile?**

**Joseph said to him,
"No, my father,
this one is the firstborn;
put your right hand on his head."**

Genesis 48:17-18

Jacob blesses Ephraim and Manasseh (6)

21

But his father refused and said,

"I know, my son, I know.

**He too will become a people,
and he too will become great.**

**Like Joseph (and
Isaac and Jacob)**

**Nevertheless, his younger brother will be greater than he,
and his descendants will become a group of nations."**

He blessed them that day and said,

"In your name will Israel pronounce this blessing:

'May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.' "

So he put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.

Genesis 48:19-20

Jacob's prophecy comes true

The tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh were always linked together.

Over the centuries,

Ephraim emerged as the stronger tribe.

By the 8th century BC,

**it had become the major tribe of the northern kingdom of Israel,
and the prophets**

used the names Ephraim and Israel almost interchangeably.

Craig Atwood

We must let God work His plan

21

The changing fortunes of Manasseh and Ephraim are symbolized in this story of the blessing.

Jacob placed his right hand on Ephraim, the younger son, rather than on Manasseh.

Joseph tried to intervene and correct the mistake, but Jacob will not let him.

This is yet another story in Genesis where the younger son is blessed.

It is a reminder that **God's work in the world does not always match our expectations of what should happen.**

We, like Joseph, keep **trying to straighten God out** rather than receiving the blessings that God has chosen to give.

Craig Atwood

Jesus is the older (and unique) son.

We want the problem to be solved

without the need for the crucifixion of Christ (or any go-between at all).

Jacob prophesies that they will go back to Canaan

Then Israel said to Joseph,
"I am about to die,
but **God will be with you**
and take you back to the land of your fathers.

Genesis 48:21

Jacob assures them of God's presence.

Jacob gives Joseph a special gift

21

And to you,

as **one who is over your brothers,**

remember the dream!

I give the ridge of land

I took from the Amorites with my sword and my bow."

Genesis 48:21-22

Jacob's blessing was not given to Joseph the Egyptian,

Joseph the ruler of Egypt;

it was to Joseph the son of Israel.

Joseph was blessed

in the name of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Craig Atwood

Chapter 49 is a long and ancient poem
about the twelve tribes of Israel.

Many scholars think that this
is one of the oldest pieces of biblical literature.

save the best for last?

It is interesting that the order of the tribes here is unique in Scripture.

Leah's children come first,
Rachel's last.

It is also a little surprising that this "blessing" by the dying Jacob
includes so much condemnation of the tribes.

This corresponds to historical reality.

The tribe of Reuben was absorbed by the Moabites,
Simeon was absorbed by Judah.

Levi lost its land and became a priestly caste.

lost? or reassigned?

Craig Atwood

The order of the son's blessings

Birth order	Mother	Name	Blessing Order
1	Leah	Reuben	1
2	Leah	Simeon	2
3	Leah	Levi	3
4	Leah	Judah	4
5	Bilhah (R)	Dan	7
6	Bilhah (R)	Naphtali	10
7	Zilpah (L)	Gad	8
8	Zilpah (L)	Asher	9
9	Leah	Issachar	6
10	Leah	Zebulun	5
11	Rachel	Joseph	11
12	Rachel	Benjamin	12

Jacob Blesses Joseph (1)

Jacob begins his dying ritual with a special blessing of Joseph.

**You may wonder why Joseph, of all people,
needed his father's blessing.**

His dreams had come true.

Not only his brothers, but all of Egypt had bowed down to him.

**He had power and wealth beyond his imagination,
and he had been the savior of the entire family.**

Joseph had been blessed many times over,

but he still came to his aged father to seek a blessing.

**He still wanted his father to lay hands on his children
and speak words of hope for the future.**

Craig Atwood

Was there no “blessing will and testament” in case of sudden death?

Jacob Blesses the Sons (2)

For all of his wealth and power,

Joseph was still a son of Israel, a child of the covenant.

**He had been denied his father's presence, guidance, and love
for so many years.**

Now that Jacob was dying,

**Joseph wanted a final blessing for himself and especially for his
children.**

He wanted to belong again.

Craig Atwood

Joseph wanted to be part of a family.

Jacob begins the blessing

Then Jacob called for his sons and said:

"Gather around

so I can tell you what will happen to you in days to come.

"Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob;
listen to your father Israel.

Is knowing our future
always a good thing?

Genesis 49:1-2

Think again of the multi-colored, layered, aspect of this story

Jacob “blesses” Reuben [#1]

"Reuben, you are my **firstborn**,
my might,
the **first sign of my strength**,
excelling in honor,
excelling in power.

Good start...
(what should have been)

Turbulent as the waters,
you will **no longer excel**,
for you went up onto your father's bed,
onto my couch and defiled it.

Bad finish!

Genesis 49:3-4

These “blessings” are not always very positive in nature.

**"Simeon and Levi are brothers—
their swords are weapons of violence.**

**their reprisal for
their sister Dinah**

**Let me not enter their council,
let me not join their assembly,
for they have killed men in their anger
and hamstringed oxen as they pleased.**

**Cursed be their anger, so fierce,
and their fury, so cruel!
I will scatter them in Jacob
and disperse them in Israel.**

Genesis 49:5-7

Positive: 0 -- Negative: 3 -- Neutral: 0

Jacob blesses Judah [#4] (1)

21

**"Judah, your brothers will praise you;
your hand will be on the neck of your enemies;
your father's sons will bow down to you.**

**You are a lion's cub, O Judah;
you return from the prey, my son.
Like a lion he crouches and lies down,
like a lioness — who dares to rouse him?**

**The scepter will not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
until he comes to whom it belongs
and the obedience of the nations is his.**

**David as king, but more particularly,
"he to whom it belongs"
is Christ**

Genesis 49:8-10

Positive: 1 -- Negative: 3 -- Neutral: 0

Joseph dreamed that his brothers would bow down before him.

What other brother was told a similar thing?

Judah, from Jacob's blessing in Genesis 49:8

Jacob blesses Judah [#4] (2)

**He will tether his donkey to a vine,
his colt to the choicest branch;
he will wash his garments in wine,
his robes in the blood of grapes.**

**The color would be
reddish purple, the
color of royalty**

**His eyes will be darker than wine,
his teeth whiter than milk.**

Genesis 49:11-12

Positive: 1 -- Negative: 3 -- Neutral: 0

The truly educated never graduate.

Jan Karon

Spectral Beauty



We should see the same glory in the story of Joseph.

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Jesus gave Himself up in a very similar way to that of Judah

This is what the Gospel is all about!

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Jacob performs the blessing for his family 22

First he blesses Ephraim and Manasseh,
adopting them as his own,
giving the younger the greatest blessing.

Then he blesses Joseph,
and gives him the **special gift** of a parcel of land in Canaan.

Next he begins to bless the his twelve sons --
some blessings are good, and some are not.

Joseph's gift would never actually be used (lived on).

It was more symbolic than useful.

It also gave Joseph another thing to draw him back to Canaan.

Scattering Simeon and Levi [#2 & #3]

**"Simeon and Levi are brothers—
their swords are weapons of violence.**

**Let me not enter their council,
let me not join their assembly,
for they have killed men in their anger
and hamstrung oxen as they pleased.**

**Cursed be their anger, so fierce,
and their fury, so cruel!
I will scatter them in Jacob
and disperse them in Israel.**

Genesis 49:5-7

**Simeon and Levi were blessed together, but only Levi stands out.
This tribe was dispersed,
but given the honor of ministering in the temple**

Jacob blesses Judah [#4] -- washed robes

22

... he will wash his garments in wine,
his robes in the blood of grapes.

Genesis 49:11

And he said,

"These are they who have come out of the great tribulation;
they have washed their robes
and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Therefore,

"they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will spread his tent over them.

Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst...

the spectrum of colors is
more spiritual than physical

relate to the famine
in Joseph's time

Revelation 7:14-16

Jacob blesses Zebulun [#10]

"Zebulun will live by the seashore
and become a **haven** for ships;
his border will extend toward Sidon.

Genesis 49:13

Positive: 1 -- Negative: 3 -- Neutral: 1

Jacob blesses Issachar [#9]

"Issachar is a rawboned donkey
lying down between two saddlebags.

overworked and underfed (PDE)

When he sees how **good** is his resting place
and how **pleasant** is his land,
he will bend his shoulder to the burden
and submit to **forced labor**.

Genesis 49:14-15

Positive: 1 -- Negative: 3-- Neutral: 2

Jacob blesses Dan [#5]

22

"Dan will provide **justice** for his people
as one of the tribes of Israel.

Dan will be a serpent by the roadside,
a viper along the path,
that bites the horse's **heels**
so that its rider tumbles backward.

snake in the grass

Jacob passes on his name
of "heel supplanter"

"I look for your deliverance, O LORD.

Jacob?

Genesis 49:16-18

Positive: 1 -- Negative: 3-- Neutral: 3

Jacob blesses Gad, Asher, & Naphtali [#7, #8, & #6]

**"Gad will be attacked by a band of raiders,
but he will attack them at their heels.**

**Jacob passes on his
name of "heel
supplanter" (again)**

**"Asher's food will be rich;
he will provide delicacies fit for a king.**

**"Naphtali is a doe set free
that bears beautiful fawns.**

Genesis 49:19-21

Positive: 3 -- Negative: 3-- Neutral: 4

Jacob blesses Joseph [#11] (1)

22

**"Joseph is a fruitful vine,
a fruitful vine near a spring,
whose branches climb over a wall.**

**With bitterness archers attacked him;
they shot at him with hostility.**

**But his bow remained steady,
his strong arms stayed limber,
because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob,
because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel,**

Genesis 49:22-24

Positive: 4 -- Negative: 3-- Neutral: 4

Jacob blesses Joseph [#11] (2)

22

because of your father's God, who helps you,
because of the Almighty,
who **blesses** you
with **blessings** of the heavens above,
blessings of the deep that lies below,
blessings of the breast and womb.

Your father's **blessings** are greater
than the **blessings** of the ancient mountains,
than the bounty of the age-old hills.

Let all these rest on the head of Joseph,
on the brow of the prince among his brothers.

Genesis 49:25-26

Positive: 4 -- Negative: 3-- Neutral: 4

**"Benjamin is a ravenous wolf;
in the morning he devours the prey,
in the evening he divides the plunder."**

Genesis 49:27

Positive: 4 -- Negative: 3-- Neutral: 5

Ravenous wolf: was this a reflection on Benjamin's character (of which nothing is really known), or is it a characteristic of the tribe?

In the Book of Judges we learn that the tribe of Benjamin was shockingly violent.

It was also the tribe that produced the first king of Israel, Saul, who turned out to be paranoid and schizophrenic.

Scholars have tried to make some connection between the later stories

of the tribe of Benjamin and Jacob's son in Genesis, but there is not much to go on.

Why did the tribe of Benjamin later suffer such loss (becoming the smallest in Israel)?

Summary of Jacob's blessings

Has the “blessing” been replaced by our “last will and testament”?

**All these are the twelve tribes of Israel,
and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them,
giving each the blessing appropriate to him.**

Genesis 49:28

There was still much tribal strife before and after the kingship.

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Then he gave them these instructions:

"I am about to be gathered to my people.

Bury me with my fathers in the cave

in the field of Ephron the Hittite,

the cave in the field of Machpelah,

near Mamre in Canaan,

which Abraham bought as a burial place

from Ephron the Hittite,

along with the field.

There **Abraham** and his wife **Sarah** were buried,

there **Isaac** and his wife **Rebekah** were buried,

and there I buried **Leah**.

The field and the cave in it were bought from the Hittites."

Genesis 49:29-32

It is interesting that there is no word that reburied Rachel there.

Jacob's Death

He had seen Joseph and his children, and he was ready to die.

One of Jacob's last acts was to worship God, Genesis 47:31.

Charles Swindoll

**When Jacob had finished giving instructions to his sons,
he drew his feet up into the bed,
breathed his last
and was gathered to his people.**

Genesis 49:33

**The phrase "gathered to his people"
gives a hint of the hope of resurrection**

Preparations for Jacob's Burial

**Joseph threw himself upon his father
and wept over him
and kissed him.**

**Then Joseph directed the physicians in his service
to embalm his father Israel.**

**So the physicians embalmed him,
taking a full **forty** days,
for that was the time required for embalming.**

**110 days; nearly 4
months, with a burial
trip to Canaan added in**

And the Egyptians mourned for him **seventy days.**

Genesis 50:1-3

Request is made to take Jacob to Canaan for burial

When the days of mourning had passed,

Joseph said to Pharaoh's **court**,

"If I have found favor in your eyes,

speak to Pharaoh for me.

Tell him,

'My father made me swear an oath and said,

"I am about to die;

Jacob prepared for his burial

bury me in **the tomb I dug for myself** in the land of Canaan."

Now let me go up and bury my father; then I will return.' "

Pharaoh said,

"Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear to do."

Genesis 50:4-6

This Pharaoh actually did let the Israelites leave Egypt.

The trip to Canaan

So Joseph went up to bury his father.

All Pharaoh's officials accompanied him —

the dignitaries of his court and all the dignitaries of Egypt -

**besides all the members of Joseph's household and his brothers
and those belonging to his father's household.**

Only their children and their flocks and herds were left in Goshen.

Chariots and horsemen also went up with him.

It was a very large company.

probably hundreds...

Genesis 50:7-9

Many Egyptians went with them - like a state funeral.

The truly educated never graduate.

Jan Karon

**No man really becomes a fool
until he stops asking questions.**

Charles P. Steinmetz



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The Burial Ceremony of Jacob

When they reached the threshing floor of Atad,
near the Jordan,
they lamented loudly and bitterly;
and there Joseph observed a seven-day period of mourning
for his father.

When the Canaanites who lived there
saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad,
they said,
"The **Egyptians** are holding a solemn ceremony of mourning."

That is why that place near the Jordan is called Abel Mizraim.

Genesis 50:10-11

Jacob's family were perceived as part of the Egyptian people.
Had they taken on the dress of the Egyptians? PDE

So Jacob's sons did as he had commanded them:

**They carried him to the land of Canaan
and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah,
near Mamre,
which Abraham had bought as a burial place
from Ephron the Hittite,
along with the field.**

**After burying his father,
Joseph returned to Egypt,
together with his brothers
and all the others who had gone with him to bury his father.**

Genesis 50:12-14

Jacob wants to pass on the covenant promise ²³

Jacob will be buried with his father,

and before he dies he wants to lay his hand on Joseph's children.

He is giving the children a great inheritance, not in gold and jewels.

He is bringing them into the covenant with God.

He is passing on his own faith in God and his striving with God.

**He is giving to them the promises and placing on them
the duties of faithfulness.**

**Jacob reminds Joseph (and us) that God once appeared to him at Luz
and promised that he would be a great nation.**

**El Shaddai (God Almighty) gave the promise,
which Jacob gave to the future generation.**

**The experience at Luz was not about the past;
it was about the future.**

Craig Atwood

Jacob suffered a low period in his faith, but Joseph didn't.

We must keep looking forward as Joseph did to the ultimate goal.

The Brothers worry about delayed Retribution 23

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead,
they said,

"What if Joseph holds a grudge against us
and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?"

So they sent word to Joseph, saying,

"Your father left these instructions before he died:

'This is what you are to say to Joseph:

I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins
and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.'

Now please forgive the sins of the servants
of the God of your father."

When their message came to him, **Joseph wept.**

They pulled out
the big guns:
Jacob and God

Genesis 50:15-17

Jacob must indeed have known what the brothers did to Joseph!

Once again, the Brothers bow before Joseph 23

His brothers then came
and **threw themselves down** before him.

"We are your **slaves**," they said.

Genesis 50:18

Once again, the brothers fulfill the prophecy of the dream!

There was no doubt in their minds that
the death of their father could mean the sudden removal
of a restraining influence on their brother.

As long as Jacob was there, they felt safe, or at least safer.

Chuck Swindoll

But Joseph said to them,

"Don't be afraid.

Am I in the place of God?

You intended to harm me,

but God intended it for good

to accomplish what is now being done,

the saving of many lives.

So then,

don't be afraid.

I will provide for you and your children."

And he reassured them and spoke **kindly** to them.

Genesis 50:19-21

Joseph recognizes God's Sovereignty and Providence

- **How long does remorse last?**
 - Joseph's brothers
 - David
 - Judas
 - Simon Peter
 - Paul
 - ourselves

- **How long does true grace last?**

**For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may remain for a night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.**

Joseph had to become the Protector and Provider

Joseph not only had to forgive and reconcile with the brothers, he had to provide (long-term) for the ones who betrayed him (jobs, food, etc).

Genesis 50:19-21

Also Genesis 47:11-12

Joseph did not believe in “reconciliation-at-a-distance”.

He wanted the family to truly be one.

**Joseph stayed in Egypt,
along with all his father's family.**

**He lived a hundred and ten years
and saw the third generation of Ephraim's children.**

**Also the children of Makir son of Manasseh
were placed at birth on Joseph's knees.**

Genesis 50:22-23

Joseph's last words

How many of his actual brothers were left when Joseph was about to die?

Then Joseph said to his brothers,

"I am about to die.

Those that remained of the eleven, or his extended family?

But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he **promised on oath** to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

And Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath and said,

"God will surely come to your aid, and then **you must carry my bones up from this place.**"

Genesis 50:24-25

Joseph wants to go back home, too.

So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten.

**And after they embalmed him,
he was placed in a coffin in Egypt.**

Genesis 50:26

Joseph's wish is carried out (1)

**Moses took the bones of Joseph with him
because Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear an oath.**

He had said,

**"God will surely come to your aid,
and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place."**

Exodus 13:19

Joseph did not request a specific burial place.

Joseph's wish is carried out (2)

**And Joseph's bones,
which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt,
were buried at Shechem in the tract of land
that Jacob bought for a hundred pieces of silver
from the sons of Hamor,
the father of Shechem.**

This became the inheritance of Joseph's descendants.

Joshua 24:32

**Joseph was not buried in the cave of Macpelah,
but in the land given him by a special gift from Jacob**

Slides for #24 are the same as for #23

The truly educated never graduate.

Jan Karon

No man really becomes a fool
until he stops asking questions.

Charles P. Steinmetz

**The intelligent learn from their mistakes;
the really intelligent learn from others.**

Bill Ertle

Find laws given by Moses that “fixed” two of the problems in Joseph’s life (caused by things Jacob did).

marrying sisters

having a favorite wife and showing favoritism to her sons

Leviticus 18:18

" 'Do not take your wife's sister as a rival wife and have sexual relations with her while your wife is living.

Deuteronomy 21:15-17

If a man has two wives, and he loves one but not the other, and both bear him sons but the firstborn is the son of the wife he does not love, when he wills his property to his sons, he must not give the rights of the firstborn to the son of the wife he loves in preference to his actual firstborn, the son of the wife he does not love. He must acknowledge the son of his unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double share of all he has. That son is the first sign of his father's strength. The right of the firstborn belongs to him.

For General purposes, God directs men back to the rights of the firstborn.

Later came the limitation to only have one wife. 1 Timothy 3



We should see the same glory in the story of Joseph.

- **How long does remorse last?**
 - Joseph's brothers
 - David
 - Judas
 - Simon Peter
 - Paul
 - ourselves
- **How long does true grace last?**
 - Like insurance grace period of 30 days?

**For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may remain for a night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.**

We have a ministry, or mission, of reconciliation²⁵

**Now all things are of God,
who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,
that is,
that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,
not imputing their trespasses to them,
and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.**

**Now then,
we are ambassadors for Christ,
as though God were pleading through us:
we implore you on Christ's behalf,
be reconciled to God.**

**Joseph became the
ambassador for God,
who interpreted the
dream so that there
could be salvation**

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Jacob and Joseph were ready; so was Paul 25

**I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.**

**Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord,
the righteous Judge,
will give to me on that Day,
and not to me only
but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

2 Timothy 4:7-8

**Paul was ready to stay or go --
he loved his work,
but he looked forward to a better place (Philippians 1:23)**

The Multicolored Story of Joseph

- Introduction
- Background history
- Joseph's early life in Canaan
- The brothers sell Joseph
- The development of Joseph in Egypt
- First contact
- Second contact
- The brothers brought before Joseph
- Family reunion
- Life after Jacob's death
- **Summary**

**The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham
while he was still in Mesopotamia,
before he lived in Haran.**

**'Leave your country and your people,'
God said,
'and go to the land I will show you.'**

"So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran.

After the death of his father,

God sent him to this land where you are now living.

**He gave him no inheritance here,
not even a foot of ground.**

**But God promised him that he and his descendants after him
would possess the land,
even though at that time Abraham had no child.**

Joseph's History in Stephen's speech (2)

God spoke to him in this way:

'Your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves,' God said, 'and afterward they will come out of that country and worship me in this place.'

Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision.

And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth.

Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs.

"Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt.

But God was with him and rescued him from all his troubles.

He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.

Acts 7:6-10

Joseph's History in Stephen's speech (3)

**"Then a famine struck all Egypt and Canaan,
bringing great suffering,
and our fathers could not find food.**

**When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt,
he sent our fathers on their first visit.**

On their second visit,

**Joseph told his brothers who he was,
and Pharaoh learned about Joseph's family.**

**After this, Joseph sent for his father Jacob and his whole family,
seventy-five in all.**

**Then Jacob went down to Egypt,
where he and our fathers died.**

**Their bodies were brought back to Shechem
and placed in the tomb that Abraham had bought
from the sons of Hamor at Shechem
for a certain sum of money.**

Acts 7:11-16

Joseph's History in Stephen's speech (4)

25

**"As the time drew near for God to fulfill his promise to Abraham,
the number of our people in Egypt greatly increased.**

Then another king,

**who knew nothing about Joseph,
became ruler of Egypt.**

**He dealt treacherously with our people
and oppressed our forefathers**

**by forcing them to throw out their newborn babies
so that they would die.**

Acts 7:17-19

We must keep focused to keep our history in mind.

This is one of the purposes of the communion.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for
and certain of what we do not see.

This is what the ancients were commended for.

- By faith Abel offered God a better **sacrifice** than Cain did.
- By faith Enoch... and without faith it is impossible to please God...
- By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to **save** his family...
- By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the **promised land** like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Hebrews 11:1-10

Note the themes of faith, promise, salvation, and blessing.

- By faith Abraham, even though he was past age — and Sarah herself was barren — was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.
- All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.
- By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a **sacrifice**. He who had received the promises was about to **sacrifice** his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."

- By faith Isaac **blessed** Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.
- By faith Jacob, when he was dying, **blessed** each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.
- By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones.
- By faith Moses...

Hebrews 11:1-23

Judah is not mentioned here. Why?

**Seeing all other families disperse as 'brothers' grew up,
it was crucial for the children of Jacob to go to Egypt
for in this way they remained together
long enough to build family strength.**

God isolated them, like putting them in a covered terrarium bowl.

**Note when Joseph arrived,
he saved Egypt;
when his descendents left;
they ruined it!**

see Exodus 10.7

**Spin: The Egyptians claimed that the Israelites
“chose to pursue other opportunities”.**

see Exodus 10.7

The order of the tribes as they march out of Egypt

Group 1: -- the last three sons of Leah

Judah

Issachar

Zebulun

Group 2: -- the first two sons of Leah (Levi is special) and the first son of Leah's handmaid Zilpah

Reuben

Simeon

Gad

**Group 3: -- all of Rachel's children represented
(Joseph through his children)**

Ephriam

Manasseh

Benjamin

Group 4: -- all of the leftovers: all of Bilhah's children and the last of Zilpah's

Dan

Asher

Naphtali

Lessons from the Multicolored Story of Joseph²⁵

The best revenge is a happy life.

For Joseph there was no need for revenge after the long term.

This is actually a long-lasting (life-long) love story.

Was there a “happy ever after”?

**You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.**

Psalm 23:5

**...for the wrath of man
does not produce
the righteousness of God.**

James 1:20

Lessons from the Multicolored Story of Joseph²⁵

One of the most important messages in the Joseph story for us today is that God used Joseph to save the Egyptians from famine even though they were pagan.

In a similar way, God saved “non-believers” through the “chosen” people

**“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.**

**I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,**

Isaiah 42:6

Lessons from the Multicolored Story of Joseph²⁵

**Joseph lost his "life",
for the plan of God,
and "saved" himself and his people.**

Jesus said:

**"If anyone desires to come after Me,
let him deny himself,
and take up his cross daily,
and follow Me.**

**For whoever desires to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."**

Luke 9:23-24

**For General purposes,
God directs men back to the rights of the firstborn.**

Lessons from the Multicolored Story of Joseph²⁵

Compare Joseph to the Great Shepherd

Joseph

Was an actual shepherd

Took care of others

**Struggled with bad shepherds --
his brothers (in it for hire)**

Sold by the bad shepherds

**Freed to save the world from
famine**

Gathered rather than scattered

Jesus

**David (type) was an actual
shepherd**

Took care of others

**Struggled with bad shepherds
(those in it for hire)**

Killed by the bad shepherds

Resurrected to save us all

Gathered rather than scattered

**Can a shepherd truly take care of the sheep
without caring for them?**

(in it just for meat or wool -- or service or tax revenue)

But he won't sacrifice himself for them

Lessons from the Multicolored Story of Joseph²⁵

Joseph went through three phases,

- 1) dreaming he would be great,**
- 2) put in bondage which prevented him from being great,**
- 3) becoming great; the dream comes true.**

Having to deal with Greatness could be a fourth phase.

**Jesus also began in a very lowly place (born in a manger).
He became obedient until death (Philipians 2:5-8)**

**Joseph is one of the most incredible stories
of dealing the right way with Greatness.**

Lessons from the Multicolored Story of Joseph²⁵

**And we know that all things work together for Good
to those who love God
and who are called according to his purpose.**

Romans 8:28

**This passage does not say
that God will necessarily grant all of our wishes.**

Lessons from the Multicolored Story of Joseph²⁵

**We must all bow before Christ,
forsaking any hope of our own glory.**

**Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

**even
Joseph!**

Philipians 2:9-11

**We lose most of ourselves (but not all),
and become part of the infinite nature of God.**

Lessons from the Multicolored Story of Joseph²⁵

But thanks be to God!

He gives us the **victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

1 Corinthians 15:57

God has given me a victory at times, but it wasn't easy on me.

Why doesn't He fix things for us painlessly?

We must need to "feel" the intensity of the struggle.

The paradigm of Good:

It is not the absence of trouble, but love no matter what.

It is about relationships, not events.

God is indeed Good.

Jesus is the way --

He is the way to only one destination,

and yet that destination

is infinitely complex, layered, and beautiful.

**Sacrifice is what the Gospel, God's Truth, is all about!
Jesus gave Himself up in a very similar way to that of Judah.**

**What was the relationship between Joseph and the brothers
(and between Judah and the brothers)?**

**They both saved their brothers --
how close did they come in their relationship ?**

Christ gave Himself up for each of us because He loved us!

How can we not have a close relationship to Him?