

The Journey

Series 03: Covenant

Week 19: Joseph – Son of the Promise?

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We Have Been)

Tracing the Deliverer so far...

- Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:15) – Promise of the Deliverer
- Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) – Covenant Given (Land, Nation, Leader)
- Isaac (Genesis 21:12; 26:3-4) – God Repeated Promise
- Jacob (Genesis 28:14-15) – God Repeated Promise

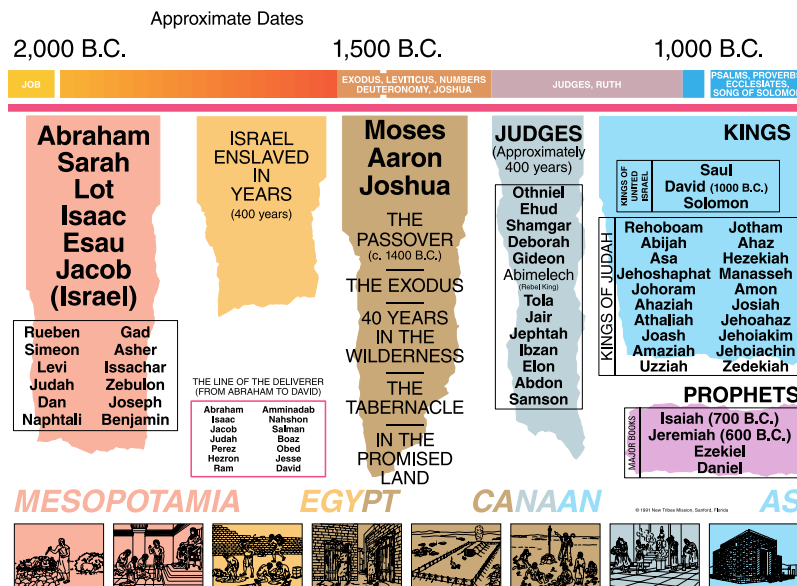
“The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has a plan for the ages involving a Savior who provides forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God. That plan was set in motion when God called Abram and blessed him, and that plan was brought to fulfillment when Jesus died and rose again. Through the seed of Abraham, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob blessed all the nations of the world.” – Got Questions

What’s next? Remember we are following the plan of God, not the story of people.

BIG Idea

God does not change. What He has promised, He will do.

Life is full of unexpected twists and turns, but God remains the same. His actions in difficulty reveal His dependable character. He continues working out His plan in an all-powerful and sovereign manner.



Information (What We Need to Know)

God's Continued Work to Fulfill His Covenant...

- Jacob has 12 sons, but had a special relationship with Joseph
 - ✓ Joseph was favored by Jacob because he was born when he was older
Genesis 37:3 (ESV) Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors.
 - ✓ Joseph demonstrated faith in God's promises
Hebrews 11:22 (ESV) By faith Joseph....
 - ✓ Joseph was hated by his brothers (special coat, tattletale, dreams)
Genesis 37:9 (NLT) Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. "Listen, I have had another dream," he said. "The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!" **10** This time he told the dream to his father as well as to his brothers, but his father scolded him. "What kind of dream is that?" he asked. "Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow to the ground before you?" **11** But while his brothers were jealous of Joseph, his father wondered what the dreams meant.
"God knew exactly what was going to happen to Joseph and to the rest of Jacob's family. Joseph did not know how his dreams would be fulfilled, but God made it clear that Joseph would rule over his family." – Firm Foundations
- Joseph faced very difficult circumstances
 - ✓ He was sold into Egyptian slavery by his brothers (Genesis 37:12-35)
Genesis 37:28 (NLT) ...Joseph's brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt.
 - ✓ He was a slave in Potiphar's house but moved up in responsibility
Genesis 39:1 (ESV) Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him.... **2** The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man... **3** His master saw that the Lord was with him. **4** Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.
 - ✓ He was falsely accused of rape by Potiphar's wife, and thrown into prison
Genesis 39:20 (ESV) And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison. **21** But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. **22** And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison.
"The dreams that God had given to Joseph clearly indicated that he was destined to become a ruler. But now he was in prison, far from his home and relatives. It appeared as if those dreams would never be realized." - Firm Foundations

- **God worked out His plan, even in difficult circumstances**
 - ✓ Through two dreams, God showed Pharaoh there would be a famine in Egypt
Genesis 41:1 (ESV) After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, **2** and behold, there came up out of the Nile seven cows, attractive and plump, and they fed in the reed grass. **3** And behold, seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile. **4** And the ugly, thin cows ate up the seven attractive, plump cows. And Pharaoh awoke.
 - ✓ God gave him dreams, even though Pharaoh/Egyptians didn't worship God
 "They worshiped many different gods (sun, moon, stars, animals, Nile). But even though they were idolaters, God planned to use this heathen king/Egyptian nation to fulfill His purposes for Joseph and his relatives." – Firm Foundations
 - ✓ Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams (Genesis 41:14-16, 25-37)
 - ✓ Joseph was placed in a high position to lead them through the famine
Genesis 41:39 (ESV) Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. **40** You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you." **41** And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

Application (What We Need to Do)

God always does what He plans. No one can hinder Him.

Keep in mind...

This is God's BIG story in bringing redemption to mankind...not the story of Joseph.

How God used Joseph to carry on His covenant with Abraham...

- **Joseph's brothers came to Egypt for food because of famine** (Genesis 42:1-20)
Genesis 42:2 (ESV) And he [Jacob] said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die." **3** So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.
- **Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers** (Genesis 43:1-5, 11-17; 45:1-11)
Genesis 45:3 (ESV) And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. **4** So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. **5** And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

- Jacob's family went to Egypt so God's covenant could be kept (nation)
Genesis 46:1 (ESV) So Israel [Jacob] took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. **2** And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am." **3** Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. **4** I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes."
- Jacob died and was buried in the cave of Machpelah in Canaan (land)
Genesis 50:13 (ESV) ...for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought.... **14** After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.
 "This was the cave purchased by Abraham, the only part of the land of Canaan that Abraham held deed to. This was the burial place of Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, and Leah." – David Guzik
- Joseph's brothers feared, but he assured them that this was God's plan to preserve them (land, nation, leader)
Genesis 50:19 (ESV) But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? **20** As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

In his suffering, Joseph was able to offer forgiveness because he didn't see this as *his own story*, but *God's story*. (Promise of land, nation, and leader)

Romans 8:28 (ESV) And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.