

OT-OV

Lesson 60

1. Last week I completed the Doctrine of Jacob and then we began an analysis of the Doctrine of Joseph.
2. I want to review some of that learned and then begin new material on page two.

The Doctrine of Joseph

1. Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob and the first son of his favorite wife Rachel, after her sister Leah had given Jacob six sons and a daughter.
2. Long barren and desirous of children, Rachel named her first son Joseph (Hebrew Yoseph) meaning "May the Lord add to me another son." (Gen 30:24)
3. Joseph was Rachel's only child at the time of the return to Palestine from the Messapotamia. He was his father's favorite son.
4. When Jacob went to meet Esau he put Rachel and Joseph in the safest position in the caravan. Joseph was Jacob's favorite given he was the first born of the wife he loved. Gen 33:1-7
5. Joseph was a shepherd like his brothers. Early on his brothers resented him because Jacob often showed his partiality. Jacob's partiality was demonstrated by his giving to Joseph a long robe of many colors.
 - 5.1 This gift indicated that Jacob intended to make Joseph his principal heir, and further incited Joseph's brothers against him. (Gen 37:4-11)
6. Fuel was added to the flames of hatred by Joseph's sharing with his brothers certain dreams by which the Lord had shown him that he would rule over his brothers and even his father.
7. The jealousy of the brothers led them to take action against him. When Joseph was sent to check on the herding activities of the brothers, he found them at Dothan with the flocks.
 - 7.1 They planned to kill him (Gen 37:18-22), but were deterred by Reuben, the eldest son. When a Midianite caravan appeared on its way from Gilead to Egypt, the brothers conceived the notion of getting rid of Joseph at a profit.

7.2 They sold him to the traders and callously deceived Jacob into believing Joseph had been killed by wild animals; they brought to Jacob the robe, which they had dipped in the blood of a goat.

8. In Egypt the merchants sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of the king, the captain of the guard. The Lord blessed Joseph with success in his work, so that he was promoted to the office of overseer of the house, a typical Egyptian title and function.

9. The wife of Potiphar was attracted to the young official and continually sought to seduce him. (Gen 39:10)

9.1 Though far from home and family, the young Hebrew was true to his ideals and rejected her propositions on the basis that his compliance would be both wickedness and a sin against God. (Gen 39:9)

10. Potiphar accepted his wife's dramatic testimony and Joseph was consigned to a prison for political offenders.

11. Even in prison Joseph again was signally blessed by the Lord; he soon rose to a position of responsibility. In prison he was brought into contact with two officials from the royal court.

11.1 He interpreted two dreams dreamt by the royal butler and royal baker. Gen 40:8-22

12. While the butler was pardoned and the baker executed, Joseph remained in prison for at least two more years. (Gen 41:1)

12.1 When Pharaoh's strange dreams could not be interpreted by the Egyptian experts, the butler remembered Joseph, who then was summoned to the royal court. Joseph informed the Pharaoh his dream predicted a future drought and famine.

12.2 The Nile was famous for its annual flooding, often depositing rich silt which made for excellent crop yields. There were exceptions; ancient texts preserve statements of officials who boast of providing for the needy in such lean years when flooding did not occur.

13. Joseph suggested that provision be made for the bad years by collecting one-fifth of the produce during the years of abundance.

13.1 This proposal met with the approval of the king and his advisers, with the result that Joseph was given an office second only to that of the king.

14. Joseph was given an Egyptian name and was married to Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara, priest of On, the solar religious center better known as Heliopolis.

14.1 During the prosperous years Asenath bore two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, who later took their place as Joseph's representatives among the sons of Jacob (Israel).

15. Joseph made adequate preparation for the years of famine, so that not only all Egypt but also people from neighboring lands came to buy grain from Joseph.

15.1 Here the progress of the earlier prophecies of Joseph's dreams becomes apparent (Gen 42:9), for among those who came to Egypt to purchase grain were Joseph's brothers (Gen 42:5).

Gen 42:5 So Israel's sons were among those who went to buy grain, for the famine was in the land of Canaan also.

Gen 42:6 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.

Gen 42:7 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."

Gen 42:8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.

Gen 42:9 Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

15.2 Joseph recognized them but they did not know him (Gen 42:7-8); consequently he was able to subject them to a series of tests.

15.3 He interrogated them, accused them of being spies, and finally put them in prison for three days.

15.3.1 As proof of their honesty he demanded that they leave one of their number as a hostage and return to Canaan to get their youngest brother, Benjamin, who they said was yet in Canaan.

15.3.2 Gen 42:17-23 graphically describe the workings of conscience in the reasoning of the brothers. Simeon remained in Egypt while the others returned to Palestine.

Gen 42:17 And he put them all in custody for three days.

Gen 42:18 On the third day, Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God:

Gen 42:19 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.

Gen 42:20 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.

Gen 42:21 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."

Gen 42:22 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."

Gen 42:23 They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter.

16. To add to the perplexity of the brothers, Joseph had their grain purchase money returned to them in their grain bags.

17. They discovered this in route to Canaan and brought a report of their adventures to the aged Jacob, who finally was forced by circumstances to accede to the necessity for the brothers to take Benjamin with them when they again went to Egypt for grain.

17.1 Every effort was made to secure the favor of the Pharaoh's agent, so Israel sent his sons to Egypt with his blessing and with confidence in God. (Gen 43:13)

Gen 43:1 Now the famine was still severe in the land.

Gen 43:2 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."

Gen 43:3 But Judah said to him, "The man warned us solemnly, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.'

Gen 43:4 If you will send our brother along with us, we will go down and buy food for you.

Gen 43:5 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.'"

Gen 43:6 Israel asked, "Why did you bring this trouble on me by telling the man you had another brother?"

Gen 43:7 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?'"

Gen 43:8 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.

Gen 43:9 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.

Gen 43:10 As it is, if we had not delayed, we could have gone and returned twice."

Gen 43:11 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.

Gen 43:12 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.

Gen 43:13 Take your brother also and go back to the man at once.

18. Several additional tests lay before the brothers (Gen 43:18).

Gen 43:18 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.

18.1 They were invited to eat with Joseph, though he was served by himself, according to Egyptian custom (Gen 43:32).

Gen 43:32 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.

18.2 The final trial for the brothers lay in a framed accusation of theft, which brought them back to Egypt after they had begun their return to Palestine.

Gen 44:1 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.

Gen 44:2 Then put my cup, the silver one, in the mouth of the youngest one's sack, along with the silver for his grain." And he did as Joseph said ...

Gen 44:11 Each of them quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it.

Gen 44:12 Then the steward proceeded to search, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

18.3 Since the supposedly stolen silver cup was found in the grain sack of Benjamin, the most severe anxiety fell upon them.

19. At last Joseph arranged to disclose his identity to them. This was done with considerable emotion on his part; he wept loudly, so that all the Egyptians heard it (Gen 45:2; compared with 42:24; and Gen 43:30-31).

Gen 44:30 "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,

Gen 44:31 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.

Gen 44:32 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!'

Gen 44:33 "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.

Gen 44:34 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."

Joseph Makes Himself Known

Gen 45:1 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers.

20. The sensitive and understanding character of Joseph is clear from his immediate assurance to his brothers, showing that he had forgiven them and was concerned for their welfare.

20.1 Beyond even this, Joseph saw the hand of God in his career, for God had designed to preserve Israel through him. (Gen 45:7-8)

Gen 45:7 But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

Gen 45:8 "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.

21. Joseph then made arrangements for informing his father of the good turn of events and for moving the entire family to Egypt.

21.1 The titles which Joseph ascribes to himself, "a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler over all the land of Egypt" (Gen 45:8), are quite typical for the Egyptian official of his rank.

21.2 Pharaoh was pleased at the report of the arrival of Joseph's brothers and personally suggested provision for bringing Joseph's family to the best part of Egypt. (Gen 45:16-20)

Gen 45:16 When the news reached Pharaoh's palace that Joseph's brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased.

Gen 45:17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan,

Gen 45:18 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.'

Gen 45:19 "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.

Gen 45:20 Never mind about your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours."

Gen 45:21 So the sons of Israel did this. Joseph gave them carts, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he also gave them provisions for their journey.

22. Transportation was provided in the form of the usual patient donkeys, which carried gifts and supplies and by wagons, which were for the transport of the people.

22.1 Wagons are strange to the Egyptian tomb scenes but perhaps they were a concession to the Asiatic origin of Joseph's family. There is another theory concerning "wagons." Some believe this is evidence of rulership of the Hyksos Kings who at one time ruled Egypt.

22.1.1 The Hyksos were a band of Canaanite and Syriac tribesmen who attacked and overran Egypt in c. 1730 BC. This theory and the date of their rulership is problematic.

22.2 Jacob responded favorably to the invitation and was also directed by God to go to Egypt, where God would make Israel a great nation. (Gen 46:1-4)

Gen 46:1 So Israel set out with all that was his, and when he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

Gen 46:2 And God spoke to Israel in a vision at night and said, "Jacob! Jacob!" "Here I am," he replied.

Gen 46:3 "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.

Gen 46:4 I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again. And Joseph's own hand will close your eyes."

23. Joseph went to Goshen to meet his father (Gen 46:29) and began plans to settle his relatives in that area. Goshen was an area located in the most eastern section of the Delta of the Nile.

Gen 46:29 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.

24. Because of the antipathy between cattlemen and sheep raisers, Joseph advised his family to emphasize their cattle (Gen 46:31-34) when questioned by Pharaoh about their occupation.

Gen 46:31 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.

Gen 46:32 The men are shepherds; they tend livestock, and they have brought along their flocks and herds and everything they own.'

Gen 46:33 When Pharaoh calls you in and asks, 'What is your occupation?'

Gen 46:34 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."

24.1 Pharaoh received them cordially, confirmed their locating in Goshen, and requested that capable men from among them be put in charge of his cattle. (Gen 47:6)

Gen 47:5 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you,
Gen 47:6 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."

24.2 Jacob was presented before the king and in answer to Pharaoh's inquiry stated that he was 130 years old, but contrasted his age with the years of his ancestors, "few and evil have been the days of the years of my life" (Gen 47:9).

Gen 47:7 Then Joseph brought his father Jacob in and presented him before Pharaoh. After Jacob blessed Pharaoh,

Gen 47:8 Pharaoh asked him, "How old are you?"

Gen 47:9 And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty. My years have been few and difficult, and they do not equal the years of the pilgrimage of my fathers."

25. As the famine continued Joseph traded grain for land, so that the throne became the virtual possessor of Egypt, with the exception of the lands owned by the priests. (Gen 47:20-22).

Gen 47:20 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,

Gen 47:21 and Joseph reduced the people to servitude, from one end of Egypt to the other.

Gen 47:22 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.

Gen 47:23 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.

Gen 47:24 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."

Gen 47:25 "You have saved our lives," they said. "May we find favor in the eyes of our lord; we will be in bondage to Pharaoh."

26. The benefactions provided for the priests by the king are well-known from ancient documents.

27. After 17 years of residence in Egypt Jacob became ill. Previously he had extracted a promise from Joseph that he would be buried in the family burial place in Canaan. (Gen 47:28-31)

Gen 47:28 Jacob lived in Egypt seventeen years, and the years of his life were a hundred and forty-seven.

Gen 47:29 When the time drew near for Israel to die, he called for his son Joseph and said to him, "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, Gen 47:30 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.

Gen 47:31 "Swear to me," he said. Then Joseph swore to him, and Israel worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

28. Joseph fulfilled his promise to his father, having him mummified in the Egyptian manner (Gen 49:33-:50:13) and buried in the cave of Machpelah near Hebron.

Gen 49:33 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.

Gen 50:1 Joseph threw himself upon his father and wept over him and kissed him.

Gen 50:2 Then Joseph directed the physicians in his service to embalm his father Israel. So the physicians embalmed him,

Gen 50:3 taking a full forty days, for that was the time required for embalming. And the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

Gen 50:4 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,

Gen 50:5 'My father made me swear an oath and said, "I am about to die; 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.'"

Gen 50:6 Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear to do."

Gen 50:7 So Joseph went to bury his father. All Pharaoh's officials accompanied him-- the dignitaries of his court and all the dignitaries of Egypt--

Gen 50:8 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 ...

Gen 50:13 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.

End Lesson