



## “The Story of Joseph” (Genesis 37-45) 2014

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Intro: Read 37:1-2a. This is such an interesting opening to this section, because it is the story of Joseph. So why does it begin with “This is the account of **Jacob**?” Read 37:2b-4. It is the account of Jacob (Israel) because it involves the life of his favorite son, and his suffering and loss of that son. It’s quite a story. Just as last week, it will take an alert mind to stay with me on this journey. Let’s begin.

37:5-11 The dream is prophetic, and it refers to Joseph being exalted above his own family, including his mom and dad (see Rev.12:1-5).

Read 37:12-13, then summarize to verse 28, then to verse 36.

Chapter 38 is fascinating to me. It used to be confusing. It is about Judah, the line from which the Messiah came. It is a record of Judah’s wickedness. He marries a Canaanite woman, has two wicked sons that the Lord puts to death because of their wickedness. According to the custom of the day, Judah tells his daughter-in-law Tamar that she can live with him until his youngest son, Shelah, is of age, then Shelah will marry her and continue the family line. Time passes, Shelah grows up, but Judah does not give Tamar to be married. So when Judah is on his way to shear his sheep, Tamar disguises herself as a prostitute, Judah buys her services, and she gets pregnant.

One day the Holy Spirit turned the light on for me as to why chapter 38 is where it is. And in a few minutes, I will share with you what God revealed to me.

Read 39:1-20a. Imagine being Joseph. No doubt he was perplexed about the prophetic dream that one day he would be exalted above his family. What was he doing as a slave in Egypt, and now in prison for doing the right thing (resisting sexual temptation)?

Summarize 39:20b-40:8, then read 40:9-23. Once again, put yourself in Joseph’s sandals. He must have wondered why. He must have been perplexed about his situation.

Read 41:1-14, then summarize to verse 32. Read 41:32-40. Summarize 41:41-57.

Read 42:1-2, summarize to verse 8. Read 42:8-28. Summarize 42:29-43:26. Read 43:26-28. The dream is coming true! Read 43:29-34.

Read 44:1-2, then summarize to verse 14, Read 44:14-17. Summarize 44:18-34, noting how ironic it is that Judah would offer to become a slave in order to free Benjamin. Remember, it was Judah who suggested selling Joseph to the Midianites. And it was Judah's wicked deeds recorded in chapter 38. Probably a good time to let you in on the revelation God gave me regarding chapter 38. While Joseph is suffering, Judah is sinning. Joseph is a type of Christ (Romans 5:8).

Watch what happens as a result of Judah's conviction. Read 45:1-3. Joseph reveals himself. But his brothers are fearful that now he will condemn them. Read 45:4-8a. not only does he not condemn them, he assures them it was God's will to allow him to suffer, even suffering that came about as a result of their rejection of him.

Summarize 45:8b-20, then read 45:21-28. Note chapter 46:29.

## LESSONS

- Our prophetic future
  - Phil.2:9-10 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.
  - Rev.20:4...They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.
- Our present suffering
  - For righteousness sake (I Peter 4:12-16, 19)
  - For the sake of redemption (II Tim.2:10; Gal.4:13; Rom.8:36; I Cor.7:16)
- Joseph as a type of Christ
  - Rejected by his own (John 1:11)
  - Suffering servant
  - Exalted servant
  - Entered public service at age 30 (41:46a)
  - Savior of the world (Gen.41:57)