

Joseph

“They did not recognize him.”

Week Four // 2026-10-11 // Pastor Joel

What has happened to Joseph?

Summarize our place in his story so far

Context of Genesis

- What is the story we're listening to? What is the story that Moses is telling?
- Moses is writing to *Israelites coming out of Egypt*
 - What were we doing in Egypt?
 - Where are we headed back to?
 - Who are the twelve tribes named after?
- Joseph's narrative comes at the end of Genesis
 - Read Exodus 1:6-8

Genesis 41:1-36 — The Pharaoh's Dreams

- Read Genesis 41:1-16, 25-36
- “After two whole years”! Joseph had been forgotten
- Why is this dream so difficult to interpret?
 - Because the content is a hard message to hear
 - Because interpretation belongs to God
- Who else in Scripture has to deliver difficult messages?
 - What helps their message be heard?

Genesis 41:1-36 — The Pharaoh's Dreams

- What helps Joseph's message be heard by the Pharaoh?
 - Its meaning is clear
 - He gives credit to God (repeatedly)
 - He offers a solution
 - Godly wisdom is good wisdom.



Genesis 41:37-57 — Joseph's Rise

- Out of the pit, to “Vizier”
 - Duties spelled out in tomb of Rekhmire (18th Dynasty, ~1550-1307 BC)
 - “Grand steward of all of Egypt” and all the activities of the nation were under his purview
 - Rekhmire oversaw treasurer, chief justice, police chief, war minister, secretary of agriculture, secretary of the interior, and more
 - A semite or asiatic vizier was not unheard of
- Pharaoh emphatically gives this authority to Joseph

Genesis 41:37-57 — Joseph's Rise

v57 “Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.”

- God put Joseph in a particular place/time for a particular reason
- We call this *vocation*
 - Not just pastors: God *calls* all of us to serve in particular ways
 - How is God calling you? Consider: faces, places, and spaces
(*Callings for Life* by Jeff Leininger)

Genesis 41:37-57 — Joseph's Rise

- Faces

- Who are the people you come in contact with? Who do you see repeatedly? Who do you see daily?

- Places

- Where are you? God puts physical people in physical places. Our calling isn't to save the world but to serve where we are.

- Spaces

- What authority has God given you? What positions or roles within family, work, church, etc.?

Genesis 42 — The Brothers Arrive

- Read 42:1-28
- The dream has been fulfilled!
- The brothers didn't recognize Joseph? Why not?
 - He's not too sneaky "...for I fear God" (v18)
 - Simply: he's not in the same spot
 - Time (13 years!), also Egyptian dress, language, & authority
- Joseph *did* recognize his brothers? Why?
 - Simply: they are in the same "spot"
 - Still lying about the harm they caused their brother, and still guilty of it! (v22)

Genesis 43 — The Brothers Return to Egypt

- Read 43:11-34
- What would the brothers have been thinking about this treatment?
- What was Joseph doing with all of this bizarre treatment?
 - Uncovering sin
 - How does God deal with sin? Law and Gospel
 - Joseph is not just speaking but *enacting* Law and Gospel
 - Leading them to realize their mistake by being confronted with it again and again