

# Joseph

Week One // 2026-09-20 // Pastor Joel

# What do you know about Joseph?

Who is he? Summarize his story as best you can.

# Class Schedule/Plan

- Rooms 1-4
- Pastor Joel, Pastor Davenport, and Vicar (soon-to-be “Pastor”) Fritz
- 8 Weeks (Off on Reformation Sunday)
- See class schedule print-out
- Often using commentary by Tremper Longmann III

# 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

## “*Toledoth* of Jacob”

- A repeating pattern in Genesis is to talk about “the generations of...” a particular patriarch
- Most of the time, the “toledoth” is referring more to the offspring than the patriarch himself
- Looking a bit at Jacob will give us context for Joseph

# The Toledoth Formula in Genesis

*’elleh tôl’dôt* — “these are the generations of”

| #  | Reference | Subject                          | Introduces                                                |
|----|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 2:4       | <b>The heavens and the earth</b> | Eden, the garden, the fall                                |
| 2  | 5:1       | <b>Adam</b>                      | Seth's line to Noah                                       |
| 3  | 6:9       | <b>Noah</b>                      | The flood                                                 |
| 4  | 10:1      | <b>The sons of Noah</b>          | Table of Nations, Babel                                   |
| 5  | 11:10     | <b>Shem</b>                      | Shem's line to Terah                                      |
| 6  | 11:27     | <b>Terah</b>                     | The Abraham cycle                                         |
| 7  | 25:12     | <b>Ishmael</b>                   | Ishmael's twelve sons                                     |
| 8  | 25:19     | <b>Isaac</b>                     | Jacob and Esau                                            |
| 9  | 36:1, 9   | <b>Esau</b>                      | Esau's wives and sons; the Edomite genealogies and chiefs |
| 10 | 37:2      | <b>Jacob</b>                     | The Joseph narrative                                      |

Esau's account appears twice (36:1 and 36:9) and is collapsed here into a single entry, yielding ten.

## “*Toledoth* of Jacob”

- Jacob was a deceiver — Genesis 27:1-33
  - Dysfunctional family drama
- Jacob was polygamous and loved Rachel over Leah — Genesis 29:14-30
  - More dysfunction
  - God blesses Leah with fertility, Rachel struggles but eventually does conceive Joseph (and Benjamin)
- Jacob is named Israel — Genesis 32:22-32
  - He survives a *theophany*

## *“Toledoth of Jacob”*

Q: Isaac shakes violently when he discovers the deception, and then says of Jacob, "he shall be blessed" (27:33). Why doesn't Isaac take it back? What does that tell us about what a blessing is in Genesis?



# Introduction to Joseph

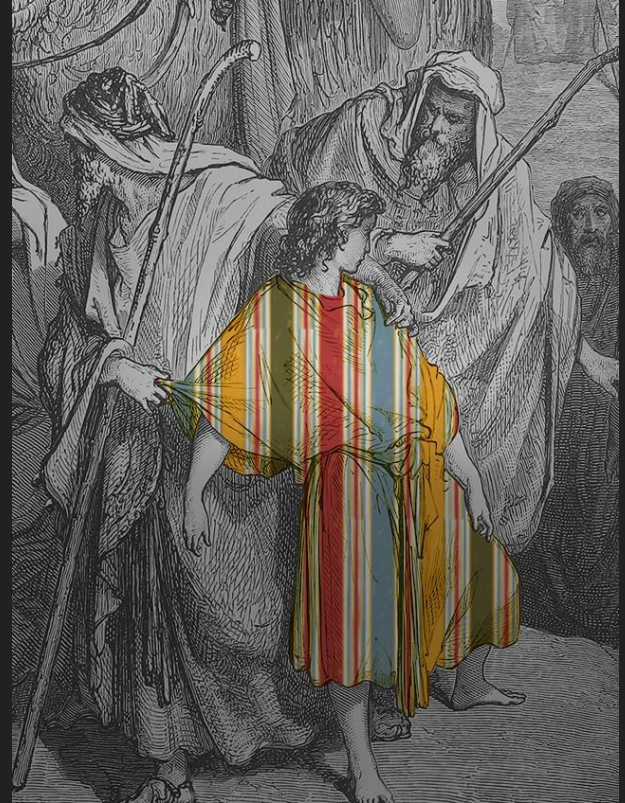
- Read Genesis 37:1-4
- This is the beginning of the longest section of Genesis
  - Notice the emphasis on Joseph
  - Also on Judah (why Judah?)
- Joseph is the second-youngest, with only the full-brother Benjamin after him
- Joseph was a tattletale
  - Fuel to the fire of dysfunction

# Introduction to Joseph

- Joseph was *the favorite*
  - The text doesn't mention parentage here, but rather age.  
Reminiscent of Abraham's son of old age, Isaac.
- Special love for Joseph was made clear with a unique robe
  - "Robe of many colors" ESV
  - "Tunic of many colors" NKJV
  - "Ornate robe" NIV

# Introduction to Joseph

- *Ketonet passim*
- It's a "Hapax legomenon" meaning it occurs once. Hard to translate!
- "Passim" has to do with palms/hands, so it's likely a long-sleeved garment
- Probably a non-field-working garment



# Introduction to Joseph

In conclusion:

- LOTS of dysfunction, favoritism
  - Coinciding with polygamy is not a coincidence!
- God's favoritism is a blessing for all
  - He chooses and redeems for the sake of the WORLD
  - Favor isn't necessarily displayed in ornate robes but in hardship even