

# God's Plans for Joseph: Evil for Good

God sovereignly moves and prepares His people to do His work for His glory

## Genesis 42:1–43:15

### Some observations and applications

1. From **42:7–15**: Joseph desired reconciliation with his family, but he knew reconciliation cannot not happen without \_\_\_\_\_  
(and forgiveness)
2. From **42:21**: The brothers realized a hard truth: **whatever a man \_\_\_\_\_, this he will also \_\_\_\_\_** (**Galatians 6:7b**)
3. From **42:37** and **43:9**: Solutions we propose reflect our \_\_\_\_\_,  
and what we \_\_\_\_\_ about the character of God

### Post-teaching questions for discussion about **Genesis 42–43**:

1. What is the difference between judicial forgiveness and relational forgiveness? Is the latter possible without the former?
2. What “wrong” are you holding onto that is keeping relational reconciliation from happening?
3. When hard things come, are you more inclined to think and act like Jacob or like Joseph?

## The chiastic structure of the story of God using Joseph

- A Joseph and his brothers, Jacob and Joseph part ([37:1–36](#))
  - B Interlude: Joseph not present ([38:1–30](#))
    - C Reversal: Joseph guilty, Potiphar's wife innocent ([39:1–23](#))
      - D Joseph hero of Egypt ([40:1–41:57](#))
        - E Two trips to Egypt ([42:1–43:34](#))
          - F Final test ([44:1–34](#))

*Focal point: [45:1–4](#): Joseph reveals himself to his brothers*

- F' Conclusion of test ([45:1–28](#))
          - E' Two tellings of migration to Egypt ([46:1–47:12](#))
            - D' Joseph hero of Egypt ([47:13–27](#))
              - C' Reversal: Ephraim first-born, Manasseh second-born ([47:28–48:22](#))
                - B' Interlude: Joseph nominally present ([49:1–28](#))
                  - A' Joseph and his brothers, Jacob and Joseph part ([49:29–50:26](#))

\* *Chiasmus: The State of the Art*, Gary A. Rendsburg, 2020

## Timeline of Joseph's life in Genesis 37–50

Age	Event	Reference
17	Receives coat; has two dreams	<a href="#">37:2–11</a>
	Sold into slavery	<a href="#">37:12–16</a>
?	Imprisoned	<a href="#">39</a>
28	Interprets royal officials' dreams	<a href="#">40</a>
30	Interprets Pharaoh's dreams	<a href="#">41:1–36</a>
	Appointed as overseer	<a href="#">41:37–57</a>
30–37	Has two sons	<a href="#">41:50–52</a>
39–44	Brothers in Egypt	<a href="#">42:6–47:12</a>
56	Jacob dies	<a href="#">49:29–33</a>
110	Dies in Egypt	<a href="#">50:22–26</a>

## Dreams, interpretation of dreams, and fulfillments in Genesis 37–50

<b>Dreamer</b>	<b>Dream</b>	<b>Interpreter</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Fulfillment</b>
Joseph	Sheaves of grain of brothers bow to Joseph's sheaf (37:7)	Brothers	Them bowing to Joseph (37:8)	The brothers bow to Joseph (42:6; 43:26, 28)
Joseph	Sun, moon, and 11 stars bow to Joseph (37:9)	Jacob	Them bowing to Joseph (37:10)	Jacob and his brothers bow to Joseph (47:31)
Cupbearer	Vine, grapes, Pharaoh's cup (40:9–11)	Joseph	Cupbearer will be restored (40:12–13)	Cupbearer restored (40:21)
Baker	Birds eating bread out of basket on Baker's head (40:16–17)	Joseph	Hanging of the baker (40:18–19)	Baker hanged (40:22)
Pharaoh	7 sleek, fat cows and 7 ugly, thin cows (41:1–4)	Joseph	7 years of great abundance followed by 7 years of famine (41:25–32)	7 years of abundance (41:47–49)
Pharaoh	7 ears of plump, good grain and 7 ears of thin, scorched grain (41:5–7)	Joseph		7 years of famine (41:54–57)