

# *The Book of Genesis*

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# Genesis Chapter 26

## *Like Father Like Son / Digging Wells*

### **Genesis more than history book / It is His-story**

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### **Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### **Outline:**

#### Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

#### Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### **Last Study / Flesh & Spirit**

Last study we saw Jacob and Esau; Esau being a picture of the flesh, and Jacob a picture of the Spirit. But here in chapter 26 we are back to Isaac's story.

**(Genesis 26:1 NKJV)** There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.

**(Genesis 26:2 NKJV)** Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you.

**(Genesis 26:3 NKJV)** "Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.

**(Genesis 26:4 NKJV)** "And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;

**(Genesis 26:5 NKJV)** "because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."

### **Abimelech / Title / Genesis 20**

Abimelech king of the Philistines is probably not the same Abimelech we saw in the story of Abraham and Sarah for he most likely would be dead by this time (about 100 yrs has passed). Abimelech is a title for the king of the Philistines so this is his son. You recall the story back in Genesis 20, Abraham goes down there to this exact location, he fears for his life, so he tells

Sarah to say you are my wife so they don't kill me, so she does, but God intervened so no one touched her. Abimelech rebukes Abraham, but lets him leave.

### **Don't Go / Dry – Barren Times / Get Burned / Paradox**

So here we are, another famine in the land, and God says Isaac do not go down to Egypt, I'll take care of you. Egypt in the Scriptures are a picture/type of the world. The Lord says to us do not go into the world when you are hungry, when the soil of your life seems dry, when it seems like nothing is happening. We all go through dry times, times of famine, but God says stay here, stay where the blessings are promised. Resist the temptation to go down to Egypt, to check out for awhile, for if you are gone from where the blessings flow, then you obviously will miss the blessings when they come. Not only will you miss the blessings, you will get burned, for that is the way it turns out if you are truly a child of God. Isn't that such a paradox, things get hard, things get hot, our lives seem scorched like the earth during a famine, and we think we will go cool off for awhile in a place we know isn't of God, and what happens is we get burned where we thought we were going to get cooled off. Satan is the master at selling bobbles and trinkets.

God says stay in the land, and look at what Isaac does:

**(Genesis 26:6 NKJV) So Isaac dwelt in Gerar.**

### **Bordertown / As Close as Can Get / Check the Boxes**

Gerar is on the border of Egypt; it is as close to Egypt as you can get without being in it. It is a border town. How many people do you know that do that, maybe how often have we done that? They stay, but they get as close to the world as they possibly can - the things we give ourselves to, the places we are entertained, especially during a time of famine. We won't go to Egypt, but we will get as close to it as possible. We go do our Christian thing, but immediately run to the border town to see what is going on. And in our minds as long as we check boxes one, two, and three off we feel we are still doing well.

### **Bellyache / Your Compromise – Your Kids**

Last study we mentioned, if you want a bellyache, then feed both the flesh and the spirit, and the border town will do that. Eventually the border town will bring you down; Isaac will compromise as we will see, like father, like son.

**(Genesis 26:7 NKJV) And the men of the place asked about his wife. And he said, "She is my sister"; for he was afraid to say, "She is my wife," because he thought, "lest the men of the place kill me for Rebekah, because she is beautiful to behold."**

### **Ring Bell / Knows Father Story / Problem with Bordertown**

She is my sister, ring a bell? Isaac says the exact same thing his father said in the exact same location some years prior. Why? Why did he do it? Because he knew his dad's story. May every father be convicted and challenged here tonight in this study. Your son, your daughter too, will remember what you did. Here is the problem of going to the border town, your sons will do what you do, they will go where you go.

### **I can Handle That**

You may say I can handle that, I can see that nudity on the screen, it is still a great movie, it won't effect me. You are deceived, for if you go to the border your son will follow.

### **Sober Every Dad / Biblically – Experientially / What Want for Them? /**

This should sober every father in this room; I understand this Biblically and have watched it experientially. If you think you are so strong and can handle it, think about your son, walk near Gerar and your son will too, walk uprightly and it will greatly impact your son towards the ways of the Lord. What do you want for your son? Where are you leading him? Church, when it fits the schedule. Who is spending the night at your house divorced dads? What's in your refrigerator? Is that girl you are dating a believer? When was the last time your son heard you quote a

Scripture, read the word, pray for him? Fathers be sober, beware, your son will follow you to Gerar.

**(Genesis 26:8 NKJV)** Now it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked through a window, and saw, and there was Isaac, showing endearment to Rebekah his wife.

**(Genesis 26:9 NKJV)** Then Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Quite obviously she is your wife; so how could you say, 'She is my sister'?" And Isaac said to him, "Because I said, 'Lest I die on account of her.'"

### **Eph 5:25**

What does the Word say to us husbands?

*(Ephesians 5:25 NKJV)* Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

### **Die for Them / Ourselves – Desires – Wants – Dreams / If Not stay Single**

We are to die for our wives, we are to die to ourselves, desires, our wants, our dreams, we are to die for our wives. I will ask men who want to get married, are you ready to die to yourselves? If not then stay single.

### **Isaac Type of Christ**

The question is asked I thought Isaac was a type/picture of Jesus, what gives? Yes he is a type, but a type can only take you so far, for there is only one perfection - Jesus Christ, and no type in the flesh can perfectly portray Him.

**(Genesis 26:10 NKJV)** And Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might soon have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt on us."

**(Genesis 26:11 NKJV)** So Abimelech charged all his people, saying, "He who touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."

Abimelech knows his fathers story.

**(Genesis 26:12 NKJV)** Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him.

**(Genesis 26:13 NKJV)** The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous;

### **God of Grace / Sin Exposed – Confessed / Confess and Move On**

Look at the God of grace, Isaac is busted for lying, a poor witness before the Lord, and yet in the same year God blesses him 100 fold. Notice, his blessing came after his sin was exposed, and his confession made. He didn't try to dig the pit any deeper, he confessed it and moved on. God truly is the God of second, third, and 100<sup>th</sup> chances. If you have blown it lately, confess it, and move on:

*(Psalms 103:12 NKJV)* As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

The Christian Bar of Soap:

*(1 John 1:9 NKJV)* If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### **I've Lost track / Confess – Walk – Fellowship – He is Blessing my Soul**

I've lost track of how many mistakes I have made in the ministry, my marriage, my fathering, and I just take these things to heart - Lord I've blown it, forgive me. And then I immediately enter into a time of prayer with Him, a time of reading His word, go for a walk with Him around the neighbourhood, talking with Him, fellowshiping with Him, and by the end of that time, he is blessing me, because He loves me, I'm his son.

**(Genesis 26:14 NKJV)** for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.

**(Genesis 26:15 NKJV)** Now the Philistines had stopped up all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, and they had filled them with earth.  
**(Genesis 26:16 NKJV)** And Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we."

#### **They Envy Him / Throw Dirt / Isaac Just Moves On & Away**

The Philistines saw how blessed he was, and they envied him. They knew he wasn't faultless, they saw his failings, yet they see him prospering. It caused them to envy him, and not in a good way. What do they do, they start digging up dirt, throwing dirt Isaac's way, trying to stop the flow of water. People see us being blessed by the Lord, and they want to see it stopped, they want to see us fail, for they just don't understand God's grace and mercy, and it frustrates them. They may even try to dig some dirt up on you to try to make you look bad. I like what Isaac does, he just departs from them, doesn't get bogged down with them digging up dirt and throwing dirt, he just departs.

**(Genesis 26:17 NKJV)** Then Isaac departed from there and pitched his tent in the Valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.

**(Genesis 26:18 NKJV)** And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called them by the names which his father had called them.

**(Genesis 26:19 NKJV)** Also Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found a well of running water there.

#### **Living Water**

Maybe in your Bible margin, there in verse 19 there will be an asterisk next to "running water", and it will read "living" water. This phrase immediately takes me back to John 4:10:

*(John 4:10 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."*

#### **Found in the Valley**

Take note Bible students, you will often find living water in the valley. See there it says the servant's dug in the valley and found living water.

#### **Don't Despise Times / Place of I Need / Still Valley – Soul Lifted Up**

Don't despise those times in the valley. Those times when things don't seem to be going well, like everything is going wrong - the job, the kids, your ministry. Whatever the case, here is the beauty of the valley, it takes you to that place of I need the living water. I need a fresh touch of the Holy Spirit upon my life. I find so often in my life, when things are going well that I pray for the touch of the Holy Spirit upon my life, but it is times in the valley I don't just ask for it, I wait for it, I say Lord I'm not leaving here until I get it, I actually dig for it, plead for it. It is there God refreshes me and gives me power to continue on, and the confidence also. Yes I am still in the valley, my situation hasn't changed, but God has changed me, and the living water is flowing and I am lifted up in my soul.

**(Genesis 26:20 NKJV)** But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well Esek, because they quarreled with him.

**(Genesis 26:21 NKJV)** Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one also. So he called its name Sitnah.

**(Genesis 26:22 NKJV)** And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."

**(Genesis 26:23 NKJV)** Then he went up from there to Beersheba.

**(Genesis 26:24 NKJV)** And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake."

**(Genesis 26:25 NKJV)** So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well.

### **God Waits Back on Track / Don't Feel Presence – We Moved**

Now God speaks to Isaac again. He first spoke when Isaac left the land and now the first night that he is back God speaks to him again. It is almost like God was waiting for him to get back on track. We find this is true in our own life when we get off track, suddenly we don't hear the voice of God. We don't feel the presence of God in our lives. It isn't that God has moved, but that we have moved from the place of blessing.

### **Presence – Cast out Fear / Psalm 23**

The moment Isaac came back to Beer-sheba God spoke to him. He said do not fear for I am with you. That is always the answer which dispels fear, the presence of God with you. David said in the Twenty-third Psalm:

*(Psalms 23:4 NKJV) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

*(Isaiah 41:10 NKJV) Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'*

What words of strength and comfort.

God establishes His covenant with Isaac now here in chapter 26. Back in verse 4:

*(Genesis 26:4 NKJV) "And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;*

From your seed will come the Messiah, Jesus Christ. So, the LORD affirms the promises that He gave to Abraham and are now passed on to Isaac.

### **Altar First / Tent Second**

Notice, Isaac builds the altar first, and then he pitches his tent:

*(Matthew 6:33 NKJV) "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

### **Desire Wisdom**

People, Christians, lives are crashing and crumbling all around us, because they mess this order up. Ok, ok, I'm going take care of my finances, my house, my stuff, etc, etc, and then I'm going to get into the Word and the things of the Lord with whatever time is left. A man came to one of the great philosophers and said sir I desire wisdom, what must I do to gain it. The philosopher took the man down to the river, took the man by the collar and plunged in under the water, the man wrestled and wrestled to get up, then quite a few seconds later he let him. The man gasping for air, sucking air in, and the philosopher said when you desire wisdom, the way you desired that breath of air, then you will begin to find wisdom.

*(Proverbs 3:13 NKJV) Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding;*

*(Proverbs 3:14 NKJV) For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold.*

*(Proverbs 3:15 NKJV) She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.*

*(Proverbs 3:16 NKJV) Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor.*

*(Proverbs 3:17 NKJV) Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace.*

*(Proverbs 3:18 NKJV) She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.*

In your life, when you desire the things of God, the way you desire your workouts, you time in front of the television, your overtime, your hobbies, then you will find yourself into a whole different realm of the things of God.

**(Genesis 26:26 NKJV)** Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath, one of his friends, and Phichol the commander of his army.

**(Genesis 26:27 NKJV)** And Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have sent me away from you?"

**(Genesis 26:28 NKJV)** But they said, "We have certainly seen that the LORD is with you. So we said, 'Let there now be an oath between us, between you and us; and let us make a covenant with you,

**(Genesis 26:29 NKJV)** 'that you will do us no harm, since we have not touched you, and since we have done nothing to you but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the LORD.'"

**(Genesis 26:30 NKJV)** So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank.

**(Genesis 26:31 NKJV)** Then they arose early in the morning and swore an oath with one another; and Isaac sent them away, and they departed from him in peace.

**(Genesis 26:32 NKJV)** It came to pass the same day that Isaac's servants came and told him about the well which they had dug, and said to him, "We have found water."

**(Genesis 26:33 NKJV)** So he called it Shebah. Therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

### **Get Away – Lord w/You / Equate My Life**

The Philistines tell Isaac get away from us, and now they come to him, why? Verse 28, we see the Lord is with you. My heart's desire is that when people speak of me, whether friend or foe, that they equate my life to my relationship with the Lord.

### **Picture of Meekness**

Isaac is a picture of meekness. He doesn't fight back, he doesn't say alright payback time, you come to me because you see I'm the man, now I'm going to make you shake, make you beg, instead he fixes them dinner. Isaac doesn't fight back after Esau mocks, he doesn't fight back against the Philistines, and he didn't fight back when his father laid him upon the altar:

*(Matthew 5:5 NKJV) Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.*

### **Not Fighting Back / Not My Way**

Isaac gives us that picture of not fighting back, not always having to have things our way. Heed this gang, for it will go along way in your relationships

### **Conflict After Living Water**

Can I point something else out to you, do you notice that from verse 19, when he struck the living water, immediately conflict and struggles came against him:

*(Genesis 26:19 NKJV) Also Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found a well of running water there.*

*Verse 20 - So he called the name of the well Esek, because they quarreled with him. - Esek in the Hebrew language means "quarrel," so it became the well of quarrel.*

*Verse 21 - Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one also. So he called its name Sitnah. - Sitnah means "hatred" or "enmity."*

I'm reminded of Jesus that as soon as He was baptised in the Jordan river and the Spirit descended upon Him like a dove, he was immediately led into the wilderness in Matthew chapter 4.

### **Digging Wells – Strife / Keep Digging / Find Your Rehoboth**

Notice this Christian, sometimes life, ministries are digging wells. You dig, strike water, and then conflict and struggle comes, something just doesn't feel or seem right. Yes we have struck water, things are happening, but something isn't right. So you dig another well, and another, and another, and strife and struggle comes. But here is my point, keep digging, until you strike your "Rehoboth":

*Verse 22 - And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land." - The name of this well means "spaciousness." I've finally gotten far enough away*

**Dig – Then Quit / Enemy Wants you to Quit / Find Your Ministry**

Some people will dig a well or two, struggles come against them, and they quit and ultimately miss out. You keep digging until you find your "Rehoboth". You will know when you are there. But know there will always be struggles against you for the enemy wants to quit and give up. Beloved, God has a ministry for everyone in this room, and I beg you to find it, don't sit on the fence, don't live a life of mediocrity, live that life and that more abundant life serving your Lord, making an impact on the Kingdom of God, and damages upon the gates of hell.

**Digging Prepares You / Prepares Place / People will Throw Dirt**

God will allow the digging to prepare you for the place. He prepares the place for you, but He also prepares you for the place. Don't you quit digging, keep digging until you find your Rehoboth. It is the way of the Lord this digging wells, and he will allow the Philistines to come and throw dirt in your well, but He allows it in a way to prepare you. Satan has already lost your soul, now he must fight you to keep you from winning souls in your family, your community, your workplace, and your ministry.

**Never a Loss / Part of Knowing / I've Dug Wells / This is my Rehoboth**

Every well you dig is never a loss. If you strike water then people are being blessed. If you strike nothing but dirt, then you know this well is empty. Sometimes part of knowing what to be doing and where to be, is finding out where you are not to be. I've dug wells all over; some have struck water and blessed many people, some hit nothing but dirt, some wells people have thrown dirt back over it to close it up, others are still flowing water and blessing people. But as for me, Anne Arundel County is my Rehoboth, it is spacious, 500 thousand people, and I see the need for this type of ministry. I plan on being here until I'm sitting at the table of the "Marriage Supper of the Lamb." I found my Rehoboth after digging many wells, I pray that you find your Rehoboth as well.

**(Genesis 26:34 NKJV) When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite.**

**(Genesis 26:35 NKJV) And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.**

We will pick up here in the next study for context.



# Genesis Chapter 27

## Jacob steals Esau's Blessings

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

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- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Sequel / Practical – God's Word – Parenting – God's Way

Chapter 27 is the sequel to Genesis 25. In chapter 25 Esau sells his birthright for a bowl of beans, and here in chapter 27 he tries to buy his blessing with a bowl of stew. There are lots of practical application for us in this story as we God's Word will always come to pass, we will see good practical parental do's and don'ts, and we will see God's way versus the world's way.

**(Genesis 26:34 NKJV) When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite.**

**(Genesis 26:35 NKJV) And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.**

**(Genesis 27:1 NKJV) Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." And he answered him, "Here I am."**

**(Genesis 27:2 NKJV) Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death.**

**(Genesis 27:3 NKJV) "Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me.**

**(Genesis 27:4 NKJV) "And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die."**

### Isaac all Flesh / Thinks Dying / 137-180

Admittedly, from Isaac, the Spirit is not involved in this at all; it is his soul. His flesh wants some delicious food that his soul might bless Esau. At this point, Isaac was one hundred and thirty-seven years old, he was blind and because his older brother Ishmael had died at that age; he,

perhaps, thought that he was dying. He didn't, he lived for another forty-three years. He was one hundred and eighty when he died, but figuring that he was dying he called Esau in that he might bestow upon him a blessing.

### **Circumvent God's Declaration / Rebekah – Gen 25**

Now, in this, Isaac is deliberately seeking to circumvent the declarations of God. If you recall, the blessing that he gives to Jacob, disguised as Esau, is that his brother will serve him. In that, he is trying to cross what God had declared before the children were born. Remember when Rebekah was having difficulty with her pregnancy and she asked God what was going on. God answered that there were two nations in her womb and that the older would serve the younger. That was God's sovereign declaration before they were even born. Isaac favours Esau and tried to move out of the plan of God. Isaac is acting after the flesh and not innocent in this act at all:

*(Genesis 25:22 NKJV) But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.*

*(Genesis 25:23 NKJV) And the LORD said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."*

**(Genesis 27:5 NKJV) Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it.**

**(Genesis 27:6 NKJV) So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying,**

**(Genesis 27:7 NKJV) 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.'**

**(Genesis 27:8 NKJV) "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you.**

### **Everybody Loves Raymond / Mother Controls / Men be Men**

This is "Everybody Loves Raymond" right here. Jacob is over 40 years we know because Esau married at 40. Some suggest he is 77 years old, and look his mother has to control his life, and try to move the pieces into place according to her scheming. Men, be men, you can not let your mother direct your life. I see men, and woman, who are grown adults and still worry what their mother think. I know men who didn't marry the love of their life because it would upset their mother, she didn't like her. Men, be a man. You can seek godly counsel from them, but don't be afraid to go against their counsel. Men be your own man, don't be a mamma's boy.

**(Genesis 27:9 NKJV) "Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves.**

**(Genesis 27:10 NKJV) "Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death."**

**(Genesis 27:11 NKJV) And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man.**

**(Genesis 27:12 NKJV) "Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing."**

### **Seem a Deceiver / What World Thinks / Your True Character**

Verse 12 – I shall seem to be a deceiver: Jacob you seem to be because you are. The world really doesn't care what they are, they just care about what people think they are. Character, do you really want to know what your true character is? When nobody is around, when nobody is watching, what you do truly reveals your character. What are the things you listen to or look at when nobody is watching. Where are your eyes, what's on the television, what music or talk show draws you in. When nobody is around, that is what will tell you what your character really is.

**(Genesis 27:13 NKJV) But his mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me."**

**(Genesis 27:14 NKJV) And he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved.**

**(Genesis 27:15 NKJV)** Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son.

**(Genesis 27:16 NKJV)** And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck.

**(Genesis 27:17 NKJV)** Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

**(Genesis 27:18 NKJV)** So he went to his father and said, "My father.' And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"

**(Genesis 27:19 NKJV)** Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me."

**(Genesis 27:20 NKJV)** But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the LORD your God brought it to me."

#### **Nobody Honorable – Jacob – Isaac – Esau - Rebekah**

No doubt Isaac was beginning to become a little suspicious at this point. Jacob is not honourable in this. He is deceiving and lying to his father. Isaac is not honourable because he is trying to give the blessing to Esau, when God planned it for Jacob. Esau had already sold his birthright and Isaac knew that. Rebekah is not totally honourable as she set up the whole deception.

#### **Believe Firmly in Promise – God Needs Help / Learned from Abraham**

Here, again, we have an interesting story in which there are people who believe firmly in the purposes that God has declared, have faith in God and his purposes; but, make the mistake of believing that God can not accomplish his purposes apart from the help of man. Hmmm, could they have learned this from Abraham and Sarah, remember parents your children will follow you to Gerar.

#### **Convinced in Purposes – Needs Help / Take Handmaiden**

This is a condition that we often find ourselves in. We are convinced in the purposes of God and believe that God will do what He has said He is going to do; but, sometimes we feel God can't do it without our help. That's the same thing that Abraham and Sarah were involved in when Sarah said, "Take my handmaid, Hagar, and raise up a son by her. Yes, God wants to give you an heir Abraham, I know He does. So, take Hagar and let's help God out." This is the exact situation where Rebekah makes the suggestion that they help God out. He wants you, Jacob, to have the blessing. It is interesting that, here again, it is the woman who tries to help God out.

#### **Don't Worry About God's Purposes / They will be Fulfilled**

This deception is for no other reason then to see that the purposes of God get fulfilled. You don't have to worry about the purposes of God; they're going to stand. What God has determined is going to be.

#### **Can't Stop Them – You May Fail / God Helps those who Help Self**

You cannot stop the purposes of God from being fulfilled. You may fail, but God will raise up someone else (sometimes I think that is what people fear, that they won't be the one). God is going to get his work accomplished and He doesn't need our help. This can be very disappointing when you're wanting to help God out, but we only create problems in our endeavour to help God. Unfortunately, in this story, they felt they had to lie and deceive to help God. They are following that proverb which is not scriptural, "God helps those, who help themselves." Here is a classic example of them trying to help themselves, to help God fulfil His plan and fulfil His purpose. I don't know how God would have done it, but I'm certain He would. God had declared it, His purpose was that the blessing would be upon Jacob and that he should be the descendant from which the line of Christ should fall.

#### **End Doesn't Justify the Means / Romans 3:8**

So, Jacob went in to Isaac. The end does not justify the means. That is a heresy that has been embraced many times by the church. Paul came down on that philosophy.

*(Romans 3:8 NKJV) And why not say, "Let us do evil that good may come"?; as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.*

### **God's Work, God's Way, by God's Word**

We have seen it over and over, people believing God is going to do a work, but He needs help. Christian listen, it is God's Work, God's Way, by God's Word. Any other way, any help by man's reasoning will fail. Whether that is in your family, job, or ministry, it is God's Work, God's Way, by God's Word.

### **Ask Moses**

Just ask Moses, who spends 40 years in the back side of the desert herding stinking dumb sheep after he thought he could deliver the Children of Israel in the arm of the flesh.

### **David / 30K – Parade – on the Cart – Uzzah – David Upset – Obeds House**

How about David when he was bringing the ark home after it had been captured and released by the Philistines. Maybe you remember the story, David gathers 30,000 choice men of Israel for a parade to lead the ark home. They put it on a cart, start the parade, everyone is having a grand time, the ark shifts on the cart, Uzzah puts his hand on the cart to stabilize it and God strikes him dead. Party Over. David is upset, angry at the Lord, how could you allow this. So the ark stays at Obed's house:

*(2 Samuel 6:1 NKJV) Again David gathered all the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand.*

*(2 Samuel 6:2 NKJV) And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim.*

*(2 Samuel 6:3 NKJV) So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.*

*(2 Samuel 6:4 NKJV) And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark.*

*(2 Samuel 6:5 NKJV) Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.*

*(2 Samuel 6:6 NKJV) And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.*

*(2 Samuel 6:7 NKJV) Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.*

*(2 Samuel 6:8 NKJV) And David became angry because of the Lord's outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day.*

*(2 Samuel 6:9 NKJV) David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?"*

*(2 Samuel 6:10 NKJV) So David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David; but David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.*

*(2 Samuel 6:11 NKJV) The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.*

### **Does it Right Way / Priests Shoulders – 6 Steps**

But David goes back for the cart, and look what he does this time, he does it the right way.

Instead of the ark being on a cart, it is carried on the shoulder of the men (priests of Levi), and every six steps they stop, build an altar, and offer sacrifices unto the Lord:

*(2 Samuel 6:12 NKJV) Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness.*

*(2 Samuel 6:13 NKJV) And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep.*

*(2 Samuel 6:14 NKJV) Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod.*

*(2 Samuel 6:15 NKJV) So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.*

### **6 miles / Efficient – Effective / Philistines**

Imagine how long that trip was, of some 6 miles, stopping every six feet, building an altar, offering sacrifices. Today we would say that is not very efficient. Listen, in God's economy, efficiency does not always mean effectiveness. Effectiveness is doing it the right way. The Philistine's carried their gods on carts, but the Ark of God was only to be carried by the priests of Israel:

*(1 Samuel 6:7 NKJV) "Now therefore, make a new cart, take two milk cows which have never been yoked, and hitch the cows to the cart; and take their calves home, away from them.*

*(1 Samuel 6:8 NKJV) "Then take the ark of the LORD and set it on the cart; and put the articles of gold which you are returning to Him as a trespass offering in a chest by its side. Then send it away, and let it go.*

*(1 Samuel 6:11 NKJV) And they set the ark of the LORD on the cart, and the chest with the gold rats and the images of their tumors.*

*(Deuteronomy 31:9 NKJV) So Moses wrote this law and delivered it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.*

*(Joshua 3:2 NKJV) So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp;*

*(Joshua 3:3 NKJV) and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it.*

*(Joshua 3:4 NKJV) "Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before."*

### **God Doesn't Care about Efficiency / Cart – way of World / God's Work, Way, Word.**

God doesn't care about efficiency, but effectiveness. Step by step, do it right, stop and worship me. There will always be a temptation before us to try to do things the world's way, but it is God's Work, God's Way, by God's Word.

**(Genesis 27:21 NKJV) Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not."**

**(Genesis 27:22 NKJV) So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."**

**(Genesis 27:23 NKJV) And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.**

**(Genesis 27:24 NKJV) Then he said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He said, "I am."**

**(Genesis 27:25 NKJV) He said, "Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, so that my soul may bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.**

**(Genesis 27:26 NKJV) Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son."**

**(Genesis 27:27 NKJV) And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: "Surely, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field Which the LORD has blessed.**

### **Isaac Suspicious / Goat Hair – Robe - Smell**

Isaac is still suspicious and wants Jacob to come near so he can feel him. Esau was a very hairy man and Jacob was smooth skinned, but, Rebekah had put the goat's hair on Jacob and so Isaac didn't know it was Jacob. Jacob was wearing his brother's robe and smelled of the field and Isaac's suspicions were put to rest.

### **The Word – Only thing not Failed / But it Feels so Right**

Notice the only thing that didn't fail for Isaac was the word that he heard, but he went by what he felt, and he was deceived. We can not go by our feelings, we must go by the word, our senses will fail us. But she is so sweet, it feels so right, do not be unequally yoked. This just feels so right, do not be deceived fornicators will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

**(Genesis 27:28 NKJV) Therefore may God give you Of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine.**

**(Genesis 27:29 NKJV) Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, And blessed be those who bless you!"**

### **Isaac Tries to Disqualify God's Word – Direct Disobedience**

In this blessing, Isaac is trying to disqualify what God had declared to be his purpose. Isaac is really at fault here and it is a direct disobedience to what God had declared in his endeavour to make Jacob subservient to Esau.

**(Genesis 27:30 NKJV)** Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

That was a close call. Jacob had just left and Esau came in.

**(Genesis 27:31 NKJV)** He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me."

**(Genesis 27:32 NKJV)** And his father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" So he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau."

**(Genesis 27:33 NKJV)** Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, "Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him; and indeed he shall be blessed."

**(Genesis 27:34 NKJV)** When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me; me also, O my father!"

**(Genesis 27:35 NKJV)** But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."

**(Genesis 27:36 NKJV)** And Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

**(Genesis 27:37 NKJV)** Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?"

**Realizes God Involved Here / Affirms / God's purposes shall stand.**

Now, instead of recanting the blessing, Isaac realizes that God is involved in this and he affirms that the blessing shall be given to Jacob. He tried to twist it and he was foiled and he realizes now that God's purposes shall stand.

**Heel Catcher / Genesis 25 / Heb 12**

The word Jacob or "heel-catcher" came to be translated, in time, as "supplanter." The idea of catching a person by the heel, tripping him and then passing him up.

Earlier in the story (Genesis 25) when Esau had come in from the field faint with hunger and had asked Jacob for the "red" pottage that he was cooking; he sold his birthright to Jacob for some stew. The scriptures say that Esau hated his birthright, but, he did care about the blessing. A typical man after the flesh, who wants just the blessings of life. Hebrews says,

*(Hebrews 12:16 NKJV) lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.*

*(Hebrews 12:17 NKJV) For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.*

**Tears not of Repentance / Live now Die Later**

This passage has been mistranslated by many thinking that Esau sought repentance but didn't find it; when in truth, Esau never repented. What he sought with tears was the blessing but he didn't repent and that's why he wasn't blessed.

Esau took that approach to life, live now, die later. I never thought I'd make it to 40, honestly, when I was 20 I thought 40 was forever away. I don't need sunscreen, what's another drink, all the other things and now I am 40, and the effects of all those things linger upon me.

**(Genesis 27:38 NKJV)** And Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me; me also, O my father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

### **Parents Impart Blessing / Proclamation – Revelation / Kids Wander Aimlessly**

Parents it is so important to impart a blessing to our kids. Bless them with a proclamation and a revelation. Proclamation, who they are; revelation, where they are heading. Proclamation, you are a child of God, you are a special treasure, you are a chosen generation, you are my beloved child and I will always love you. Revelation, where you are heading, what is ahead for them, God has great plans for your life. Kids today are wandering aimlessly because parents are not imparting a blessing onto their kids. They are not telling them who they are and where they are going:

*(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

### **Give Them Attention – Affection - Affirmation**

Give you children the attention, the affection, and the affirmation that they need or else they will find it somewhere else. They will find it in the nightclubs, in the schoolyard, or in the cults, if they do not find it at home. Parents your spoken blessing, notice I say spoken blessing, is vital to your kids. Tell them who they are and where they are going.

### **See it Through / Job 1 / Every Morning – 10 Kids**

Parents we must be committed to the blessing, to see it through, to do whatever it takes to see it come to pass. We see it in them, and we must see it through.

*(Job 1:5 KJV) And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.*

Job sacrificed every morning for each of his kids. Imagine that everyday, the work it took to prepare the altar and the sacrifice, and then to make the sacrifice for each of his kids (10 kids total). He did it in intercession, in case they had sinned or thought about sinning against God. We can do that all through their lives, even after they move out. We must continue our blessings upon them, not just in the words we speak, but the deeds we do.

### **We Live in a Culture / Pronounce a Blessing**

We live in a culture where kids have no clue who they are. Pronounce a blessing upon them, give direction on their life.

**(Genesis 27:39 NKJV) Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above.**

**(Genesis 27:40 NKJV) By your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck."**

### **Esau Father of Edomites / Herod the Great / Anti-Christ**

Esau later moved to Edom and became the father of the Edomites, who during the period of the history of Israel were subservient to Israel. The last Edomite, that we know of in history, was Herod the Great. He was the king over Israel, appointed by the Roman Government, at the time of Jesus Christ. Herod was the last known descendant of Esau. So Esau did have dominion over the Children of Israel. Herod was determined to destroy the Christ Child when news came of the birth of the Messiah. That is why God hates Esau, for he is the spirit of the Anti-Christ:

*(Romans 9:13 NKJV) As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."*

God bases his statement on His foreknowledge. And interestingly, descendants of Esau are still alive today, and history tells us that they settled in Rome Italy. We know that the anti-christ will come from the revived Roman Empire. Will the anti-christ be a descendant of Esau, we will find out soon.

**(Genesis 27:41 NKJV) So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob."**

He figured his father would soon die, but actually Isaac lived another forty-three years.

**(Genesis 27:42 NKJV)** And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you.

**(Genesis 27:43 NKJV)** "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran.

**(Genesis 27:44 NKJV)** "And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away,

**(Genesis 27:45 NKJV)** "until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?"

**(Genesis 27:46 NKJV)** And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

#### **Deception Cost Rebekah / 500miles 7 20 years / She dies**

This deception cost Rebekah her relationship with her son, Jacob. He had to flee from the wrath of Esau. He moved to the area of Haran, which was about five hundred miles away and was there for twenty years before he returned. By the time he returned, Rebekah was already dead. As a result of setting up this deception, Rebekah lost the son she loved because she never saw him again.

#### **Mothers Don't Pry – It will Cost You**

Mothers be careful not to pry, don't try to fix everything in your child's life. Learn to pray for them, not to pry for them.



# Genesis Chapter 28

## Jacob's Ladder

### **Genesis more than history book / It is His-story**

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

**Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### **Outline:**

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### **Rebekah / Manipulate / Jacob's Starts his Journey / Meets the Lord**

Rebekah will never see Jacob again, she tries to manipulate and pull the strings, but it will be 23 years until his return home, and in that meantime she will die without ever seeing him again.

Trying to make things happen in your own energy can cause a big mess, and bring tremendous heartache. Remember that parents as you try to pull the strings in your kids life. Now Isaac will begin his life on his own, and we will see it is there that he will meet the Lord.

Here is the outline of Jacob's life:

- The Saving of Jacob – Genesis 28
- The Subduing of Jacob – Genesis 29-32
- The Separating of Jacob – Genesis 33-34
- The Sanctifying of Jacob – Genesis 35

**(Genesis 27:46 NKJV) And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"**

**(Genesis 28:1 NKJV) Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.**

**(Genesis 28:2 NKJV) "Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother.**

### **Pagan Wives / Different Values**

Isaac is saying look son I got to live with your mother, please don't make my life miserable. Esau had already taken pagan wives from the Caanites and Rebekah worried the same might happen to Jacob. These woman that Esau had taken, they don't understand our life, our values, the God we follow, these girls are not on the same page as us. It will break every Christian parent's heart when their children become unequally yoked. Did these girls draw Esau closer to the Lord, or pull him further away?

### **Jacob finds own Bride / Philp 2**

Interestingly, Isaac's dad (Abraham) sends a servant to find a bride for his son. But here Isaac tells Jacob go find your bride on your own:

*(Philippians 2:12 NKJV) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;*

*(Philippians 2:13 NKJV) for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

### **God Works Differently in Each Life**

Isaac it is time to start working out your own salvation, we are saved by grace, but everybody's walk is different. We all have different ministries, different gifts, different callings, and God will work through us all differently. There is no one set way that God will work. How he worked in your sister/brother's life, will be different on how He works in your life. So don't get wrapped up watching God's work in someone else's life, an dtry to figure out how that is going to work in your life, no God will work in you uniquely, "work out YOUR salvation".

### **77yrs Old**

Isaac says go find your wife Jacob. He is somewhere between 40 and 77 here, its time to get out of the house is what else Isaac is saying. I go in every now and then to Wayne's room with a tape measure while he is laying on his bed and start measuring his room. I remind him all the time that the Army is hiring. Time for the kids to work out their salvation....

**(Genesis 28:3 NKJV) "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples;**

**(Genesis 28:4 NKJV) And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land In which you are a stranger, Which God gave to Abraham."**

### **Isaac Submits / Abrahamic Covenant**

Isaac submits to God's word in Genesis 25, that Jacob is to receive the blessing. So Isaac blesses him again. Notice, again the confirmation of the Abrahamic Covenant, the land is passed to Jacob, whose name will be changed to Israel. This covenant is perpetual, and still stands today.

**(Genesis 28:5 NKJV) So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Padan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.**

**(Genesis 28:6 NKJV) Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan Aram to take himself a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan,"**

**(Genesis 28:7 NKJV) and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan Aram.**

**(Genesis 28:8 NKJV) Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac.**

**(Genesis 28:9 NKJV) So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.**

### **Esau Goes Deeper / What's It Matter / Never Too Late to Repent / Buys the Lie**

Esau goes deeper into the folly of his flesh. First he goes to marry the Caanite woman, now he goes to Ishmael for a wife. We see his mind is carnally motivated. Youth, singles, there is a

dangerous picture here. There is a thought that once we blow it, then we might as well continue down that path. We say what is the use, I've gone this far, I've gone too far, what's it matter now, Satan cast those lies and deceiving thoughts into your mind. Ahh what's it matter, I've already blown it, I've lost my virginity, I've smoked that marijuana, I have already blown it, it will never be the same, that area is soiled, what's the use. Esau, he hears Isaac say don't marry outside the family, and what does he do, he runs off and do it. It's never too late to repent, it's never too late to repent. What we see here is a continual spiral downward for Esau. He could have said alright I blew it with the birthright, I blew it with taking Caanite wives, but now I see God's work, by God's way, by God's word - I see God's way for marriage, I can change my marriage; but instead he buys into the lie, what does it matter now. Don't buy that lie. Don't buy that lie or your life will continue that downward spiral. It will continue until you say "no more". God can not change your heart until you change your mind, you must say – no more.

### **Polygamy / Newspaper**

Now the question is asked, what is up about polygamy in the Bible? What is up with it, is it right or is it wrong. Here is another reason to love the Bible, it reports the facts of what happened, like a newspaper it records accounts of what happened and how they happened; it doesn't try to hide the failings of people, even God's people (Abraham and Jacob had multiple wives). It doesn't try to paint a picture in a different light than what it was. Just as a newspaper reports a story of a shooting, it is reporting the event, but not approving the action. The Bible tells it like it is, and just because it is in the Bible doesn't mean that God approves of it.

### **God's Design**

Jesus makes it clear that marriage has always been designed between one man and one woman (which equals 2, not 3 or 4), for life:

*(Matthew 19:4 NKJV) And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'*

*(Matthew 19:5 NKJV) "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"*

*(Matthew 19:6 NKJV) "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."*

**(Genesis 28:10 NKJV) Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran.**

### **Jacob Running / Safari - Cooker**

Jacob is running for his life, Esau wants to kill him (Gen 27:41). Picture it, it is safari hunter verse Betty Crocker boy. Jacob is outmatched, he is no fight against Esau. God will put you in no win situations, so you have no where else to go, but to Him.

**(Genesis 28:11 NKJV) So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.**

It has been said a clean conscience makes a soft pillow. How fitting Jacob sleeps with rock pillows. A liar, cheater, schemer, and God says I love him. He says to you today, I love you.

*(Romans 9:13 NKJV) As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."*

**(Genesis 28:12 NKJV) Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.**

### **Jacobs ladder / John 1**

This is known as "Jacob's Ladder"; Jesus refers to this in John:

*(John 1:49 NKJV) Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"*

*(John 1:50 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."*

*(John 1:51 NKJV) And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."*

**(Genesis 28:13 NKJV)** And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

**(Genesis 28:14 NKJV)** "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

**(Genesis 28:15 NKJV)** "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

### **All Earth Blessed / Messiah**

All the earth will be blessed through the Messiah, who is to come from Jacob. Abraham was promised that through his seed all the earth would be blessed. This is "seed" singular as of one and not of many, for it is a reference to the Messiah. Now the promise is repeated to Jacob and will later be repeated to David.

### **Vow of God**

Notice the four things that God vows to Jacob in Verse 15:

- Presence - *I am with you.*
- Protection - *and will keep you wherever you go*
- Preservation - *and will bring you back to this land*
- Promise - *for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you*

### **The Ladder / The Bridge / Jesus / God Loves Jacob**

Back in John 1 Jesus is saying I am the ladder, stick around Nathaniel and you will see. You will see that I am the ladder that bridges the span, the gap between heaven and earth, between God and man. Notice that God appears to Jacob not while he was working, but while he was resting. What we see here is that it is all grace, Jacob the liar and schemer, God shows it is all grace.

**(Genesis 28:16 NKJV)** Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."

### **Jacob Didn't Know It / What can Separate Us**

Not was in this place (past tense), but is in this place (present tense), yet he knew it (past tense) not. He didn't know it, because he knew who he was and where he was, a schemer in a rocky place. We may feel I'm in a rocky place, my marriage, my job; I've blown it again and again, yet God is in this place. What can separate us from the love of the Lord:

*(Romans 8:35 NKJV) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

*(Romans 8:36 NKJV) As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."*

*(Romans 8:37 NKJV) Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

*(Romans 8:38 NKJV) For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,*

*(Romans 8:39 NKJV) nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

### **No Condemnation / The Ladder took all Condemnation**

Nothing can separate us because of verse 1:

*(Romans 8:1 NKJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

Beloved there is no condemnation because Jesus, the ladder, took all our condemnation in the cross that Friday on that hill in Palestine.

### **God Brings us to Places like This**

The night before Jacob had no consciousness of God. His heart was filled with fear and uncertainty about the future. He was tired and lonely and had no thought of God until after this dream and he realized that God was in this place. Many times we find ourselves in a place of anxiety, pressure, trouble and not knowing what the future holds for us. We know what is behind us but not what is in front of us. We can't go back, but we're afraid to go on. In that point of anxiety and concern we're not aware of God's presence. We're not aware of the Plan of God in our life. We can't see His hand on us in these circumstances. It seems that we're desolate and that God has left us. Not so! Just as the LORD revealed himself to Jacob, that He was in that place; surely, the LORD is with us. He has said that He would never leave us or forsake us.

Next time you think you God is nowhere, just move the "h" over, God is now here.

**(Genesis 28:17 NKJV)** And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

**(Genesis 28:18 NKJV)** Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.

**(Genesis 28:19 NKJV)** And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

### **Fantastic Revelation / Bethuel / The GATE**

Jacob has this fantastic revelation, and he was in awe (that's what the word means there). He pours oil over the stone and calls it Bethuel, which means house of God. Jacob seen the ladder, he seen the way to heaven, the gate to heaven. So too do we, Jesus is the ladder to the Father.

**(Genesis 28:20 NKJV)** Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,

**(Genesis 28:21 NKJV)** "so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God.

**(Genesis 28:22 NKJV)** "And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

**(Genesis 29:1 NKJV)** So Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the East.

### **Not Bargaining / Since**

Jacob sounds like he is bargaining, but the word for vow there is promise, so Jacob is making a promise. And that word for "if" also means "since". Inverse 21 the word "so" is not there, and the word "then" and "shall" are not there. In a literal translation it says there in verse 21: I come back to my fathers house (cause God promised him he would – and does in Gen 31:13), the Lord my God.

### **Jacob Converted / Happy Feet**

Jacob the schemer has been converted. Verse 29:1 the word for journey according to "Strong's Hebrew Dictionary" is "euphemism", literally means happy feet, walking ten feet off the ground. Remember what it was like that day you got saved.

### **3 Characteristics**

We see 3 characteristics of conversion here of Jacob:

1.) **Seen in his Worship:** He builds an altar and worships the Lord. Worship, whatever way that is, will naturally flow from you.

2.) **Seen in his Work:** I will give you a tithe. Faith without works is dead, it is faith that works, trusting in the promises of God

### **Loosens Grip on Earth / Can Send it Ahead**

Tithes loosens your grip on the earthly things. You can send it ahead:

*(Matthew 6:19 NKJV) "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;*

*(Matthew 6:20 NKJV) "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

*(Matthew 6:21 NKJV) "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

### **Command / Test Me**

But most importantly, it is commanded by the Lord, in fact it is the rare place God will say test me this:

*(Malachi 3:8 NKJV) "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.....*

*(Malachi 3:10 NKJV) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.*

To not teach on tithing would be to rob the people. Some teachers are afraid to teach on this matter because they don't want to upset people, but it is the person who ends up getting robbed because they miss the spiritual enrichment that comes with tithing.

### **Jesus Confirms it**

Jesus confirms it in the New Testament while talking to the Pharisees, He says yes this you should have done. Jesus said on the Sermon on the Mount that He did not come to destroy the law or the Prophets:

*(Matthew 23:23 NKJV) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.*

*(Matthew 5:17 NKJV) "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.*

*(Matthew 5:18 NKJV) "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

### **Seek Yours not You**

As a Pastor I can say what Paul said:

*(2 Corinthians 12:14 NKJV) Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.*

*(2 Corinthians 12:15 NKJV) And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.*

### **He Doesn't Need It / It is For Our Sake / Cattle on Hills**

God is not seeking yours, but you. Realize this, God doesn't need our money, He is God. The giving of money is for our sake, for our enrichment. Yes giving money, makes us rich – only in God's economy. I use to say I'm sorry Lord I missed my prayer time, as I spiritually matured, prayer was for me, it attached me to the Father, it empowered me. God's power is not dependent on my prayer, my power is. So too with tithing, it isn't to enrich God, but to enrich me spiritually.

God owns the cattle on the thousand hills, He is fine without us:

*(Psalms 50:7 NKJV) "Hear, O My people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you; I am God, your God!*

*(Psalms 50:8 NKJV) I will not rebuke you for your sacrifices Or your burnt offerings, Which are continually before Me.*

*(Psalms 50:9 NKJV) I will not take a bull from your house, Nor goats out of your folds.*

*(Psalms 50:10 NKJV) For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills.*

*(Psalms 50:11 NKJV) I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine.*

*(Psalms 50:12 NKJV) "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.*

*(Psalms 50:13 NKJV) Will I eat the flesh of bulls, Or drink the blood of goats?*

*(Psalms 50:14 NKJV) Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High.*

*(Psalms 50:15 NKJV) Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."*

### **Provides the Church for Us**

It was in the Old Testament God's way of providing for His ministers, the people are blessed by having a place to worship and teachers to teach them:

*(Numbers 18:21 NKJV) "Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting.*

**Lost Job / Can't Afford**

People lose their job or are struggling financially, the first thing I ask them, have you been faithful with your tithe, if so, God will be faithful to you. People say they can not afford to tithe, I say you can't afford not to tithe.

**Money where Mouth Is**

Tithing is putting your money where your mouth is. Do you trust Him? You trusted Him with your eternal life, will you trust Him with your earthly life. I can speak from personal experience, test Him in this area, and watch Him show His glory.

**Jacob Greedy / Letting Go – Trusting God**

Notice Jacob, he steals to get the blessings and the stuff, he was a greedy man, but after meeting the Lord at Bethuel, he is letting go of what he trusted in, and trusting the Lord will do what He says He will, the four things that God vows to Jacob in Verse 15:

- Presence - *I am with you.*
- Protection - *and will keep you wherever you go*
- Preservation - *and will bring you back to this land*
- Promise - *for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you*

3.) **Seen in his Walk**: Jacob has seen God, heard from God, he is no longer shuffling his feet, he starting a new walk, a new journey. He has a new thing going on, his thing is God.

# Genesis Chapter 29

## Jacob begins his Journey

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

#### Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

#### Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Rebekah / Manipulate / Jacob's Starts his Journey / Meets the Lord

Rebekah will never see Jacob again, she tries to manipulate and pull the strings, but it will be 23 years until his return home, and in that meantime she will die without ever seeing him again. Trying to make things happen in your own energy can cause a big mess, and bring tremendous heartache. Remember that parents as you try to pull the strings in your kids life. Now Isaac will begin his life on his own, and we will see it is there that he will meet the Lord.

Here is the outline of Jacob's life:

- The Saving of Jacob – Genesis 28
- The Subduing of Jacob – Genesis 29-32
- The Separating of Jacob – Genesis 33-34
- The Sanctifying of Jacob – Genesis 35

### Communion / Acts 2:42

In Acts we see the foundation for the Church, and part of it is the Breaking of Bread –

Communion:

*(Acts 2:42 NKJV) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

### Where God has Taken / Nothing Common / Keep Main thing / Everything Pale

We come back here to communion as a church, and we spend time reflecting on where the Lord has taken from, and where He is taking us. We don't make communion a ritual, we don't make it something common, we keep it what it is, a special time of reflecting on all the Lord has done for



us, through His precious blood. We do it like this so we can keep the main thing the main thing. So everything else will prayerfully pale in comparison once we leave here tonight, that we reflect on how the Lord has called us out of darkness into His marvelous Light, that we who were not His people are now His special people:

*(1 Peter 2:9 NKJV) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

*(1 Peter 2:10 NKJV) who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

### **All have a Story / Reflect Back God Guiding /**

We all have a story of where God has taken us from, what He has done in our lives. For those that are older we can look back and reflect on how God guided us along the way, many times, if not most of the time, not realizing that it was Him leading us.

### **Jacob Begins his Journey**

Jacob had such a life, and here in verse 1 of chapter 29, Jacob begins his journey with the Lord:

**(Genesis 29:1 NKJV) So Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the East.**

### **Began Arm of Flesh / Interruptions of Spirit / Comes to End of Self – Governed by God**

So Jacob's journey begins his journey with the Lord. His journey began in the arm of the flesh and will continue in the flesh with interruptions of the Spirit of God calling out to him, trying to break through to him. Eventually God will break him, but not until Jacob comes to the end of himself, and cries out to the Lord, and asks the Lord, "what is your name". It will be there that the Lord will change his name from Jacob, heelcatcher, schemer, to his new name, Israel – governed by God.

### **Saved – Savior / Salvation Free / Lord – King of your Life**

You can be saved, you can call Him Savior, salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life – and that is when you will call Him – Lord, King of your Life.

### **Where are You / Still Self – Or New Nature**

Where are you on your journey? Are you still that self-made man, or have you come to the end of yourself and received that new name, that new nature from God?

### **You Know if Have / Blessing to Reflect Back – Where He has Taken Us**

You know if you have, and for those that have been touched by the Lord, it is always a blessing to stop, reflect back on our journey. To look back on where the Lord has taken us, and what the Lord has taken us out of.

### **Jacob the Liar / God's 1<sup>st</sup> Appearance – No Rebuke**

Jacob, the liar, the schemer, the sneak, the thief, tricked his dad and stole his brothers blessing, yet when the Lord first appears to him, first speaks to him, not a word of rebuke, but a promise of a blessing. It is the Lord's kindness that leads us to repentance:

*(Romans 2:4 NKJV) Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*

### **God Starts His Work / 20 years to Break Him**

God will start His work in Jacob; Jacob will take some breaking, it will be 20 years before that wrestling match with God, where God will break him of his self-sufficiency (Genesis 32).

### **End of Jacobs Life – Jacob Look in Hindsight / Jehovah Ra**

At the end of his life he will talk about how the Lord led him all these years, he will look in hindsight and see how God led him all the way. He uses the phrase, Jehovah Ra, the Lord is my Shepherd:

*(Genesis 48:15 NIV) Then he blessed Joseph and said, "May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,*

### **Your Translation / Shepherd – Wandering Sheep**

Maybe your translation says, the God who has fed me all my life long to this day; but in the original language it is much deeper and richer than just being fed. The phrase Jacob uses is Jehovah Ra, the Lord shepherded him. A shepherd does more than feed the sheep, he guides them, protects them, if a sheep was wayward, constantly wandering away from the flock, the shepherd would break his leg so the sheep was helpless, then carry that sheep around his neck until it was healed, but something wonderful would happen along the way, all that time next to the Shepherd's body would cause the sheep to become connected to the Shepherd. From that point on the sheep would always walk right by the side of the Shepherd. That is what God will do to Jacob, and that is what God will do to us if need be, because He loves us that much.

### **Jacob Realizes / No Happen Chance / Genesis 28**

Jacob will realize at the end of his life that no pathways that he walked on were by happen chance or mistake; the Good Shepherd had guided him all along. He happened upon a certain place, Jacob looks back and sees that nothing in his life was by chance, he was led by the Shepherd Jesus Christ, who revealed Himself to Jacob. God didn't say I will be with you, He said verse 15, I am with you. At that time it appeared to Jacob that it was happen chance, but in hindsight he sees it was a Divine appointment:

*(Genesis 28:11 NKJV) So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.*

*(Genesis 28:12 NKJV) Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.*

*(Genesis 28:13 NKJV) And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.*

*(Genesis 28:14 NKJV) "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*

*(Genesis 28:15 NKJV) "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."*

*(Genesis 28:16 NKJV) Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."*

### **God got him Alone - Nowhere to Go / Alone in the Crowd**

God got him alone, in the midst of all that was going on, running from Esau, couldn't return home, didn't know the future, God got him alone. God has a way of getting us alone, even in the midst of a crowd. Sometimes in the midst of a crowd of people, with all the talking and movement, and all that is going on, I can feel all-alone. You have that sense that God has separated you to speak to you. This is where Jacob was.

### **What's Your Name / Similar Expression**

At the end of those 20 years, on that day he wrestled with God, and God will say what is your name. It is very similar to the expression that Isaac used when he said to Jacob, you know you smell like Esau, you feel like Esau, but you don't sound like Esau, are you indeed Esau, tell me what is your name, and Jacob will lie to him:

*(Genesis 32:26 NKJV) And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"*

*(Genesis 32:27 NKJV) So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob."*

*(Genesis 32:28 NKJV) And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."*

### **Owens Up to His Name/ Light of His Presence**

Jacob will come to the place in his life where he will own up to his name before God Almighty, my name is Jacob, supplanter, heel-catcher, schemer, conniver. Sometimes God takes us to those places of alone, because it is in those places that we reevaluate ourselves, we weigh ourselves in light of His presence. God draws us into the Light, so we own up to who we really are, sinners who need a Savior.

### **Eph 5 / John 3**

Ephesians Says:

*(Ephesians 5:13 NIV) But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,*

Jesus says that worldly people will not come to Him, because His light exposes their sin, and they don't want them drawn into the light:

*(John 3:19 NIV) This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.*

*(John 3:20 NIV) Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.*

*(John 3:21 NIV) But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."*

### **We See - We can Handle / We Have a Savoir / Embrace - Comfort - Security**

When we come into the light and see whom we really are, we can handle that because we have a Savior. We embrace the Light; find comfort and security in the Light:

*(Psalms 89:13 NIV) Your arm is endued with power; your hand is strong, your right hand exalted.*

*(Psalms 89:14 NIV) Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.*

*(Psalms 89:15 NIV) Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, **who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.***

*(Psalms 89:16 NIV) They rejoice in your name all day long; they exult in your righteousness.*

*(Psalms 89:17 NIV) For you are their glory and strength, and by your favor you exalt our horn.*

*(Psalms 89:18 NIV) Indeed, our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.*

### **Less Sin - More Repentance / Understand Depravity / More Apparent**

I find the more I go on with Christ the less I sin, but the more I repent. I find the longer I go on with Christ the more I understand my depravity and I deserve hell, nothing, and the more I appreciate the blood of Jesus Christ, who is sufficient to wash us from all of our sins. The more we draw closer to Him and come into His presence, the more apparent it is what He has provided for us eternally and that all the glory belong to Him. Those times alone with Him are important as we are drawn to that place.

### **Not Enough to Know / See God Himself / Start his Journey**

Jacob had known about the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, but that is not enough. Jacob was being drawn to that place where he would see God for himself. Part of knowing God, is knowing ourselves, for we need to see a need for repentance, for a Savior. Jacob will start his journey with God, and God will continue to break him of his self-sufficiency, and Jacob will come to the point of the end of himself. He will look back on his life and see how God was with Him, leading him, guiding him, shining His light into the inner recesses of his heart to show him who he really is. Jacob has met the Lord, he saw the ladder, the span between heaven and earth – the Lord, now he is going to start his journey that will lead him to knowing his Lord.

### **Quite the Life / Leaning on his Staff - Reminder**

Jacob will have quite the life as we will read, and he will stand on a hill leaning against his staff, the staff always being a reminder of that day he wrestled with God, and asked him what is your name, and Jacob owns up to who he really was:

*(Hebrews 11:21 NIV) By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, **and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.***

### **Curls up his Legs**

And then Jacob after he blesses his kids, he curls his legs up, and blasts off:

*(Genesis 49:33 NIV) 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.*

### **From Rock Pillows - to Curling up his Legs**

He lays his head on a rock and sees the span to heaven, the Bridge Jesus Christ, now he lays in his bed, and he breaths his last knowing, I will see the fulfillment of that ladder in the promised Seed, the Messiah, that we know His name as Jesus Christ.

### **Good to Look Back**

It is good to look back over this journey, to see God's has always been with us, although most of times we did not know it.

In Acts we see the foundation for the Church, and part of it is the Breaking of Bread –

Communion:

*(Acts 2:42 NKJV) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

We come back here to communion as a church, and we spend time reflecting on where the Lord has taken from, and where He is taking us. We don't make communion a ritual, we don't make it something common, we keep it what it is, a special time of reflecting on all the Lord has done for us, through His precious blood. We do it like this so we can keep the main thing the main thing. So everything else will prayerfully pale in comparison once we leave here tonight, that we reflect on how the Lord has called us out of darkness into His marvelous Light, that we who were not His people are now His people:

*(1 Peter 2:9 NKJV) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

*(1 Peter 2:10 NKJV) who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

### **God's Willingness**

We remember where we were when He called us, where He has taken us, and where we will be when we draw our feet up, and breath our last. We need to come back to that place, look at our journey; Lord where you have taken me, what you have spared me, how you have Shepherded me, you are my Jehovah Ra, my Shepherd. It is all because of you, it is all because of the Cross, that you were willing to leave your world and come into mine, that you would take on my sin and my shame, that you would be willing to be spit upon and whipped, all so that you might call me 'son', daughter.

### **My Journey Without Him**

I often find myself wondering where my life, this journey, would be if He did not enter into my world, if he never shown me the ladder/span between me and Him. I shutter to think about it, because I remember what it was like before I knew Him. I remember the emptiness; I remember the futile temporary fixes. It is good to come back to the cross, spend some time there, reflecting back on the journey, it has a way of putting everything back into perspective, into their proper light. It is a place of mercy and grace, it is a place of love. If you ever question God's love, come to the cross. Someday we will see Him face to face, until then He says do this in remembrance of Me.

# Genesis Chapter 29

## ***Jacob Meets Rachel / Laban Tricks Jacob***

### **Genesis more than history book / It is His-story**

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### **Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### **Outline:**

#### Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

#### Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### **Jacob Gets Saved / Worshipper – Works – Walk / Saved – not Subdued**

In chapter 28 we saw Jacob get saved as he slept that night in Bethuel and he saw the ladder, the span between heaven and earth, and as we know from John 1 that that was Jesus Christ Himself, the span between heaven and earth, God and man. We saw Jacob's conversion carry-over into his life as he became a worshipper of God, building an altar there to the Lord. We saw it in his works as this shrewd business man now says to all I earn I will give ten percent to you Lord. And then we saw it in his walk, for he had a new thing going on in his life, his thing was God. The translation literally means he had happy feet, he wasn't just trudging through the dry desert any more, but had a spring in his step. So Jacob is saved, but not subdued, God has a lot of work to do in Jacob's life as he starts the transformation process, the renewing of his mind. Keep that in mind next time you see a new Christian blowing it, remember Jacob.

Here is the outline of Jacob's life:

- The Saving of Jacob – Genesis 28
- The Subduing of Jacob – Genesis 29-32
- The Separating of Jacob – Genesis 33-34
- The Sanctifying of Jacob – Genesis 35

**(Genesis 29:1 NKJV) So Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the East.**

**(Genesis 29:2 NKJV)** And he looked, and saw a well in the field; and behold, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks. A large stone was on the well's mouth.

**(Genesis 29:3 NKJV)** Now all the flocks would be gathered there; and they would roll the stone from the well's mouth, water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place on the well's mouth.

**(Genesis 29:4 NKJV)** And Jacob said to them, "My brethren, where are you from?" And they said, "We are from Haran."

**(Genesis 29:5 NKJV)** Then he said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" And they said, "We know him."

#### **Uncle Laban / Jacobs Match**

Laban is Rebekah (Jacob's mother) brother, so he Uncle Laban to Jacob. Laban is a real character, and Jacob the schemer and conniver has met his match, for Laban has years more experience on Jacob. He makes Jacob look like the farm league player.

**(Genesis 29:6 NKJV)** So he said to them, "Is he well?" And they said, "He is well. And look, his daughter Rachel is coming with the sheep."

**(Genesis 29:7 NKJV)** Then he said, "Look, it is still high day; it is not time for the cattle to be gathered together. Water the sheep, and go and feed them."

**(Genesis 29:8 NKJV)** But they said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together, and they have rolled the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep."

#### **Typical Man Eliminate Competition / Rachel Real Looker**

Here is Jacob being a typical single man here, he is trying to eliminate all of competition, he is trying to get some undivided one-on-one time. Rachel was a real looker we are told in verse 17, I think the other guys didn't want to start watering until Rachael showed up so they could enjoy her beauty:

*(Genesis 29:17 NKJV) Leah's eyes were delicate, but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance.*

#### **Jacobs 1 Liners**

I wonder if Jacob used any one-liners:

- Did it hurt when you fell from Heaven?
- The word says "Give drink to those who are thirsty, and feed the hungry." How about dinner?
- Is it a sin that you stole my heart?
- Do you believe in Divine appointment?
- Excuse me, I believe one of your ribs belongs to me.

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**(Genesis 29:9 NKJV)** Now while he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess.

**(Genesis 29:10 NKJV)** And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

#### **Macho Man / Betty Crocker Boy / Never Again / 5-10-15**

Macho, macho man, I want to be a macho man. So here is the Betty Crocker boy, the guy who got his tent set-up with wireless internet, he sips coffee at Starbucks reading the Babylon Street Journal, but all of a sudden he is a Gold's Gym man - I'll roll it away, I don't need any help. I bet when Rachel looked away Jacob was grabbing his back, ohhhh my back. I am also sure, that Jacob being a typical man, never rolled the stone away by himself again. Once he got Rachel it would be ohh its too heavy, lets wait for the others to help, I'll get it in the morning, or worse.....Rachel, grab a side. Single men, again, don't do anything today for that girl that you

won't be willing to do 5-10-15 years from now, for they will take that as you are not as in love with them as you first were.

**(Genesis 29:11 NKJV) Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice and wept.**

#### **Was Doing so Well / High Maintenance**

Then he wept, ohh Jacob you were doing so well. Single men it might have worked for Jacob, but I would not recommend this action for you if you are trying to impress the girl. I wonder what Rachel thought when he started to blubber; I'd be like, "high maintenance" here.

**(Genesis 29:12 NKJV) And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's relative and that he was Rebekah's son. So she ran and told her father.**

**(Genesis 29:13 NKJV) Then it came to pass, when Laban heard the report about Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. So he told Laban all these things.**

#### **Remembers the Servant of Abraham**

Now Laban is not being Mr. Family Man here, he is a schemer and conniver. Remember back when Abraham's servant came to get a bride for Isaac, Rebekah (Laban's Sister) the servant came bearing expensive gifts. Laban knows Abraham's family is rich, and Laban is thinking Lexus when he sees Jacob.

**(Genesis 29:14 NKJV) And Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh." And he stayed with him for a month.**

**(Genesis 29:15 NKJV) Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what should your wages be?"**

**(Genesis 29:16 NKJV) Now Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.**

**(Genesis 29:17 NKJV) Leah's eyes were delicate, but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance.**

#### **Delicate Eyes – Generous Translation / Rachel Beautiful & Shapely**

Now saying that Leah's eyes were delicate is a generous translation. It means that Leah would make your eyes water when you looked at her. Compare that to her younger sister, was beautiful in form and appearance; form means she was very shapely.

**(Genesis 29:18 NKJV) Now Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter."**

**(Genesis 29:19 NKJV) And Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me."**

**(Genesis 29:20 NKJV) So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her.**

#### **Work 7 Years / 1 Peter / 7 Years – Quarter Million**

Jacob will work seven years for her. In 1 Peter 3:7 it says to honour your wife, the word honour means to put a value on her, consider her of worth. Jacob considers Rachael of such worth he was willing to work 7 years for her. So the average income today is 30-40 thousand dollars, so Jacob is paying about a cool quarter-million for her:

*(1 Peter 3:7 NKJV) Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*

#### **Value of Your Wife? / No Weekends off – 2520 / But only Few Days**

Men what value would you put on your wife? Imagine this, they didn't get weekends off, they worked 7 days a week, so that is about 2520 days he would wake up and work for his bride, and the Scripture says it only seemed like a few days to Jacob, talk about worth, value.

## **Singles / Love is Patient**

But also, note this singles and youth, this love was patient:

*(1 Corinthians 13:4 NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

*(1 Corinthians 13:5 NIV) It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

*(1 Corinthians 13:6 NIV) Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.*

*(1 Corinthians 13:7 NIV) It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

*(1 Corinthians 13:8 NIV) Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.*

## **Love versus Lust**

Love is patient, lust is impatient, Love gives, Lust takes, Love waits, Lust wants. Young ladies, guys too, know the difference.....he doesn't love you, he lust you if he is not willing to wait. I can say this with the Scriptures backing me, you may say he wants me because he loves me; but the word says he wants you because he loves himself, and wants to satisfy himself. Love waits, Lust takes. Love will lead closer to the Lord, Lust will take you away from the Lord, and if he truly loves you and has you in mind, he will not lead you into sinning against your Lord.

## **To Know His Heart – Say No**

You know woman, do you really want to see what is in his heart, say no, and say no again and again, and you will see what is really in his heart. A man who loves you will repent, a man who is just after yours and not you, eventually he will turn on you, and you will see the yuck that is truly in him.

## **Jacob work 2520 / Ladies Don't Sell Short**

Jacob, he will wake everyday and go tend to dumb helpless sheep. 2520 days, days he is tired, days he is sick, days with no vacation, he will work for she is worth the work, and she is worth the wait. Ladies how much is he willing to sacrifice for you, how long will he wait for you, don't sell yourself out, don't settle for anything less than God's best for you.

**(Genesis 29:21 NKJV) Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her."**

**(Genesis 29:22 NKJV) And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast.**

**(Genesis 29:23 NKJV) Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her.**

**(Genesis 29:24 NKJV) And Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid.**

**(Genesis 29:25 NKJV) So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah. And he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?"**

## **Evening Wedding / Ahhh My Eyes**

Here we have an evening wedding, the bride's face would be veiled in those days, and right after the pronouncement, off to the tent they go. The marriage is consummated, and then the morning comes and you can hear the scream from the mountains to the valley, ahhhhhh my eyes, my eyes.

**(Genesis 29:26 NKJV) And Laban said, "It must not be done so in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn."**

## **First Born Honored / Jacob is Silent**

Laban says hey Jacob the first-born is to be honoured first. Jacob it is no different here than where you came from, you should know that. Notice, Jacob has no response. What he had done seven years ago to his brother and his father has now happened to him. What so ever a man sows that shall he reap:

*(Galatians 6:7 NKJV) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*



**(Genesis 29:27 NKJV) "Fulfill her week, and we will give you this one also for the service which you will serve with me still another seven years."**

**(Genesis 29:28 NKJV) Then Jacob did so and fulfilled her week. So he gave him his daughter Rachel as wife also.**

### **Fulfill Honeymoon / Give Rachel**

*Fulfill her week* - meaning the 7 day honeymoon period. They would have a wedding feast for 7 days, and the bride would always stay in the room and the groom would go out to the wedding feast, say hello, etc, grab food and drink and take them back to the room. So Laban says fulfill her week (Leah's) these 7 days, and I will give you Rachel if you agree to serve me for 7 more years.

### **How Leah Felt / Con – not Loved – 7 days Rachel – total 14 years – ½ million**

I wonder how Leah felt about this whole thing, she goes along with the con, she marries a man she knows does not love her, and now she knows that in 7 days Jacob will marry Rachel. She must have figured it out, Jacob loves Rachel so much that he is willing to work 7 more years for her, that is 14 years total, and a half-million for her. My heart really breaks for her.

### **Leah's all Around Us**

You know what church, there are Leah's all around us, some of us are Leah's; outcasts, unloved, overlooked, and outsiders because of their looks or attributes. People with hearts that want to love and be loved. Paul says there is no Jew or Greek, slave nor free, no beautiful or delicate eyed:

*(Galatians 3:28 NKJV) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

### **Looks Opens Doors / Whole Life Unnoticed**

We live in a world, now more so than ever, that looks open doors. Looks get you special favour, special treatment. On the other side of that are people who go through their whole life lonely and depressed because everywhere they go, they go unnoticed.

### **Youth / Look no Control Over / Who we Love**

It can be such a cruel world, especially in the case of youth. You youth look for the Leah's around you; invite them to join you for lunch, say hello in the halls to them, ask them how their weekend was. When you speak to them look them in the eyes. Leah was unloved because of something she had no control over, but we have total control over whom we love.

### **Something Special of Leah – Inward Beauty**

And guess what, there was something special about Leah, there was something about her inward beauty that eventually would bind Jacob's heart to her. When Jacob would die, he would say bury me next to Leah, not Rachel the one whom he worked 14 years to get (Rachel buried in Bethlehem Gen 35:19):

*(Genesis 49:29 NKJV) Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,*

*(Genesis 49:30 NKJV) "in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place.*

*(Genesis 49:31 NKJV) "There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.*

### **Go Deep to hit the Well**

You have to go deep to hit the well. You singles, look deep within when you are looking.

**(Genesis 29:29 NKJV) And Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as a maid.**

**(Genesis 29:30 NKJV) Then Jacob also went in to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served with Laban still another seven years.**

## **Polygamy**

Again, the Bible just tells it like it is, covers it like a newspaper, polygamy is not how God planned it for man. From the beginning, one man and one woman:

*(Matthew 19:4 NKJV) And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'*

*(Matthew 19:5 NKJV) "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"*

*(Matthew 19:6 NKJV) "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."*

## **2 Masters**

You see you cannot serve two masters, you just can't, you will end up loving one and hating the other:

*(Matthew 6:24 NKJV) "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."*

## **Where Treasures Are**

True love is giving one person your undivided attention. Obviously that is why adultery destroys marriages, and be wise and know that the special friend of the opposite sex that you share lunch with or coffee at work or ball field, be careful, for where your treasure is, there your heart will be:

*(Matthew 6:21 NKJV) "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

## **Satan's Lie – You meet my Needs**

Let me also dispel a lie of Satan, you met that married person and tell you they don't get what they need at home, things don't bind at home like they do with you, understand this, the reason that the binding and needs are not being met at home is because that person is giving their treasure to you and not to their spouse. You are taking treasures away from the marriage, you are adding and abetting in a robbery because you are taking a treasure way that was meant for their spouse. You are a robber, you are robbing their marriage, which makes you a thief, not the special friend you thought you are.

## **If You Really Care**

If you are a friend, and really care, then send them home - with their treasures. When you are lonely, especially in the matters of the heart, you want to believe Satan's lie, because you want to be wanted. That is why you need to stand on the Word, for the Word will withstand your feelings..

The word will not deceive you, but your feelings can:

*(Psalms 119:11 NKJV) Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!*

*(Psalms 119:12 NKJV) Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes!*

# Genesis Chapter 30

## *Jacob and His Wives / Jacob and His Work*

### **Genesis more than history book / It is His-story**

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### **Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

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*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### **Outline:**

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- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
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- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### **Jacob Gets Saved / Worshipper – Works – Walk / Saved – not Subdued**

In chapter 29 we see Jacob meets his match as his uncle Laban tricks him. He ends up working seven years for Leah instead of Rachel. The same switch he pulled on his father Isaac was pulled on him. So Jacob because of his love for Rachel agrees to work seven more years for Rachel. God is working on Jacob, breaking him little by little, until that wrestling match he will have with the Lord 20 years after his conversion experience. Here in chapter 30 we will see Jacob and his wives and concubine, he will be a busy man. And then we will see Jacob at the workplace, and how God blessed his work and used it as a witness.

Here is the outline of Jacob's life:

- The Saving of Jacob – Genesis 28
- The Subduing of Jacob – Genesis 29-32
- The Separating of Jacob – Genesis 33-34
- The Sanctifying of Jacob – Genesis 35

**(Genesis 29:31 NKJV) When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.**

**(Genesis 29:32 NKJV) So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said, "The LORD has surely looked on my affliction. Now therefore, my husband will love me."**

**Leah's Mistake / Children won't Fix Marriage / Communication – Death / Promised Child**

Leah makes the mistake that so many woman make, if I have a child with him, then he will love me. Many woman, men too, think that having a child together will fix their marriage problems, heal their marriage; it doesn't work that way, it just doesn't. Marriage problems are corrected and healed through the ministry of the Word, through communication, through dying to self, but not through a child. That is quite a burden to put on a child; there is only one promised child that will heal the broken hearted and set straight a man and woman's path, and that is the Christ Child.

**(Genesis 29:33 NKJV)** Then she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon.

**(Genesis 29:34 NKJV)** She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi.

**(Genesis 29:35 NKJV)** And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now I will praise the LORD." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

### **She Was Hoping – Not Happening**

Child one did make Jacob love Leah, nor did child two, three or four. She was hoping, but it wasn't happening.

### **Lock them In / Doesn't Mean God's Will / Stop in Flesh – Start in Spirit**

Young girls, young men too, let me make this point, having a child with that young man will not make him yours for life. Many young men and woman think that if they can impregnate, or become pregnant, then that will lock them in together for life. It doesn't work that way. They think they are being noble by saying, "I want to do the right thing, lets get married". Having a child together doesn't mean that it is God's will that you are to be married. Having that child is God's will, because life begins at conception. But sex before marriage is sin, and having a child is not God saying I condone what you are doing. We here will say stop in flesh, start in the spirit, and lets see what time will reveal. As we said last study, say no, and say it again and again, and you will find out what is truly in that person's heart, and yours for that matter.

### **Singles – Stay Pure / Statistics 50% - 80%**

Youth, singles, trust in the Lord, as hard and as lonely as it may get. Stay pure, don't give yourself away sexually just to keep him/her or get him/her, and don't think that having a child will make that person yours for life. The statistics say that one in two marriages (50%) end in divorce; the statistics also say that eight out of ten marriages (80%) that did not have sex before marriages will not see divorce.

### **Stuck Raising Alone / Middle School Pregnancy / Balt Billboard / Youth Group**

Single woman, youth, pretty much what that statistics says is that you will end up raising that child alone. Physically, spiritually, and financially. Here is a mind-numbing story; I was talking to a principle at one of the local middle-schools, and he said one of the girls is pregnant, so she is getting special treatment at school obviously, Special meals, special understanding when it comes to tardiness and absentees, gets to leave class early to avoid rough housing in the halls. So now he says the other middle-school girls are talking amongst themselves of how they want to be pregnant so they can get the same special privileges. These kids are so blinded to what lies ahead for the next 18+ years. Diapers, morning sickness, weekends home, they are blinded and deceived by the evil one. I like the billboard in Baltimore city, it has a young girl with a full belly, and it says the average cost to raise a child is 16 thousand dollars a year, how much is your allowance? Deception, parents invest in your kids, anyone here with a free Friday night please come help us with our Youth Group, they need to have those relationships with godly men and woman so we can guide them through this spiritual battle that has been launched against them by the evil one.

**(Genesis 30:1 NKJV)** Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die!"

### **Envied Sister / Friday Nights**

This is probably the first time Rachel envied her sister. Rachel had all the dates, had all the wells opened for her, never spent a Friday night home alone watching television, but now she envies her sister, and it goes right into her heart.

### **Curse that Culture / Heads Turn**

In that culture to be barren was a curse, so she goes from heads turning to look at her, to heads turning to talk about her. Leah now is the one who is saying I will praise the Lord. I may not be the most gifted in this area, but I am abundantly blessed in other areas.

### **Be Content / Have – Have Not / Husbands – House - Job**

*(Philippians 4:11 NKJV) Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:*

*(Philippians 4:12 NKJV) I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

*(Philippians 4:13 NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

being content, brings peace upon the heart. But Rachel isn't she a picture of us. It is no longer what the Lord has given her, a husband that came out of nowhere, loved her enough to work over 5000 days worth a half-million for her, to give me child or I die. I am no longer satisfied with what I have; I am now focused on what I don't have. It is no longer thanks for the house, but I want a bigger house. It is no longer thanks for the job, but I want a new boss, more money, and a higher position. It is no longer thanks for the spouse, but I want these things fixed in them, for they are bugging me.

**(Genesis 30:1 NKJV) Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die!"**

**(Genesis 30:2 NKJV) And Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"**

### **Contentment in the Lord**

Jacob say's I am not god, why do you ask me of these things. Woman, men too, your contentment and fulfilment must be in the Lord, not your spouse. Your spouse will never be able to meet all your needs.

### **Very thing Killed Her / Crave – Kills / That Person – Job / Free-Will**

Also, it is interesting to see, the very thing that Rachel said give me or I die, did kill her. We will see in Genesis 35:16-18 that Rachel does die in childbearing. The very thing that you want, that you crave, may be the very thing that kills you. I must have that person as my spouse or I die, and you get that person and five years later your life is a nightmare, I must have that job or promotion and five years later your marriage is over, or your kids are off in sin, because you were never there. Be careful when you say I must have this or I got to have that; I have found the best thing to do is talk things over with the Lord, seek what His word says about it and how it lines up with His word, and then just leave things up to the Lord. God will not violate your freewill, and if your force it, you may just get it.

**(Genesis 30:3 NKJV) So she said, "Here is my maid Bilhah; go in to her, and she will bear a child on my knees, that I also may have children by her."**

**(Genesis 30:4 NKJV) Then she gave him Bilhah her maid as wife, and Jacob went in to her.**

### **Practice of Day / Woman Have Come Long Way**

This practice of giving a concubine/servant if the master's wife was barren was acceptable in that culture. What freedom and blessing we have today. Woman could you imagine being such a possession that you could not chose your intimacy, and then to boot have to carry a child for nine months only to give it up to another woman to call her own. Woman, you have come a long way, and it is all because of Jesus Christ. Everywhere Jesus Christ has gone, woman have been elevated.

### **Jacob is Busy**

Well, now we will see Jacob is going to be a busy man. And I love the honesty of the Scriptures, God just records the facts, even when they don't cast the best light unto His people.

**(Genesis 30:5 NKJV)** And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.

**(Genesis 30:6 NKJV)** Then Rachel said, "God has judged my case; and He has also heard my voice and given me a son." Therefore she called his name Dan.

**(Genesis 30:7 NKJV)** And Rachel's maid Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.

**(Genesis 30:8 NKJV)** Then Rachel said, "With great wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister, and indeed I have prevailed." So she called his name Naphtali.

**(Genesis 30:9 NKJV)** When Leah saw that she had stopped bearing, she took Zilpah her maid and gave her to Jacob as wife.

**(Genesis 30:10 NKJV)** And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son.

**(Genesis 30:11 NKJV)** Then Leah said, "A troop comes!" So she called his name Gad.

**(Genesis 30:12 NKJV)** And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son.

**(Genesis 30:13 NKJV)** Then Leah said, "I am happy, for the daughters will call me blessed." So she called his name Asher.

No rest for Jacob.

**(Genesis 30:14 NKJV)** Now Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."

**(Genesis 30:15 NKJV)** But she said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" And Rachel said, "Therefore he will lie with you tonight for your son's mandrakes."

### **Interesting Statement – Married First / Forgets where Came From**

What an interesting statement by Leah, you have taken away my husband, meaning I was married to him first; Leah here is leaving out the part that she was unwanted, outcast, alone, but now she has all these kids because of the old switch-a-roo she went along with. She forgets where she came from.

### **See This all the Time / Christians Forget / No Grace**

You know where I see this all the time? I see it with Christians who are saved, but before they were saved they lived a life of immorality. They did things that would make you blush, but God in His wonderful grace and mercy reached down and saved them. But now it is a few years later, and they forget how gracious God was, and they look at people doing the very same thing they did, and they judge them, they have no love or compassion for them. I have been challenged, or better put, judged on the grace we show here. They think we show too much grace, they think those people are going to soil the church and bring a ruin our little club. I tell them the first person who would have to leave than is me, but I remember where they came from, and where they are right now, because I was there myself. We won't wink at sin in this church, but nor will we always be looking at their sins and failings

**(Genesis 30:16 NKJV)** When Jacob came out of the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have surely hired you with my son's mandrakes." And he lay with her that night.

### **Love Apples / Good Gift from Above**

These mandrakes, you will still find them in that region today. They called them "love apples", they look like little tomatoes; they believed it was an aphrodisiac, and the root of the plant helped with fertility. Now some people will use this passage for and against Christians using fertility doctors, I say:

*(James 1:17 NKJV) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

### **Danger – Desperation / Foolish Things / Watch the Marketing of Fear**

But what we see here, we see desperation in Rachel, she is grasping for something, anything, to get what she wants. Be careful, no matter what it is in life, desperation will make you do foolish, sometimes dangerous things. You have to calm yourself and seek and speak to the Lord. There are dangerous things out there on the market that can hurt you physically, spiritually, or financially. 20/20 had a special on this week about the high risks women are taking in the area of fertility. Are you lonely, call 1-800? Are you balding, call 1-800? Overweight, having trouble with intimacy? Be careful, don't let desperation creep in, it causes fear, and fear will rob you of a sound mind:

*(2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV) For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

**(Genesis 30:17 NKJV) And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.**

### **Manipulation Backfires / Book of Ester**

Rachel manipulates to get a mandrake, and Leah ends up pregnant. Be careful about manipulating because it so often backfires. Trust in the Lord:

*(Proverbs 3:5 NKJV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;*

*(Proverbs 3:6 NKJV) In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*

It reminds me of Haman in the Book of Ester and his conspiracy to have all the Jews killed, especially Mordecai, but in the end it all backfires on him, and he ends up swinging from the gallows. Read it next chance you get, read next time you are thinking about trying to manipulate a situation for your favor. Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

**(Genesis 30:18 NKJV) Leah said, "God has given me my wages, because I have given my maid to my husband." So she called his name Issachar.**

**(Genesis 30:19 NKJV) Then Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son.**

**(Genesis 30:20 NKJV) And Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun.**

### **Leah Still Trying / Why Jacob Keeps Going / Sex for Love - Love for Sex /**

Leah is still trying to get Jacob. The question has to be asked, if Jacob doesn't love her, then why does he keep going into her? Young woman, know this, and don't be fooled. Women will use sex to get love. Men will use love to get sex. A man will play the romantic; have the long conversation acting like he cares, send flowers and cards, he will use love to get sex. Too many young and older ladies are deceived by this, and then left heart broken.

**(Genesis 30:21 NKJV) Afterward she bore a daughter, and called her name Dinah.**

**(Genesis 30:22 NKJV) Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.**

**(Genesis 30:23 NKJV) And she conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my reproach."**

**(Genesis 30:24 NKJV) So she called his name Joseph, and said, "The LORD shall add to me another son."**

### **Rachel Finally / Joseph – Adding / Next one Kills Her**

Finally Rachel has her own, and she names him Joseph, which means "adding". Now that she has one, she got to have another. If you are not satisfied where you are at, you will not be satisfied when you move down the line; for Rachel, the next child will kill her.

**(Genesis 30:25 NKJV) And it came to pass, when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my country."**

**(Genesis 30:26 NKJV) "Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me go; for you know my service which I have done for you."**

#### **Time To Move On**

Jacob has all these kids, he has fulfilled his commitment of working another seven years to get Rachel, and now he feels it is time to move on.

**(Genesis 30:27 NKJV) And Laban said to him, "Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake."**

#### **Laban Sees God's Favor / Our #1 Goal**

Laban is not even a believer (next chapter he is searching for his idols) yet he sees that God because of Jacob blesses him. He saw his herds, flocks, and grandkids all increase because of Jacob. Christian this should be our number one goal at work; not more money, nor a higher position, but that your boss recognizes you as his best worker, and it is because you are a Christian. You want full-time ministry, work hard at work. Make that your number one goal, and the other stuff will just naturally follow.

#### **Boss is a Jerk / Don't Have Boss Wandering**

You may say yeah that sounds great, but you don't know my boss, he is such a jerk, I have a hard time working hard for him because I disrespect him so much. You want to talk about a dirty rotten boss, lets talk about Laban. Laban we will read changed Jacobs's wages ten times, withheld returns that were truly Jacob's, but Jacob still worked hard for him, and God blesses him for it. Christian, don't have your boss wondering if you are going to make it into work, where you are at since he can't find you, if you are going to finish the job, and do it right. Have your boss say; I don't ever need to check on you, for I know you will get it done.

#### **God Left the School**

A friend of mine planted a church. His wife left the public school she was teaching at so she can minister to the woman at the church. Well some workers at a local car dealership have kids in that school, now they are not born-again, but they said when she left, it was like God left the school. What a witness.

#### **Work - Ministry**

I have found that the people who don't work hard at work, they also don't work hard in the ministry. They don't, because it is their heart.

**(Genesis 30:28 NKJV) Then he said, "Name me your wages, and I will give it."**

**(Genesis 30:29 NKJV) So Jacob said to him, "You know how I have served you and how your livestock has been with me."**

**(Genesis 30:30 NKJV) "For what you had before I came was little, and it has increased to a great amount; the LORD has blessed you since my coming. And now, when shall I also provide for my own house?"**

**(Genesis 30:31 NKJV) So he said, "What shall I give you?" And Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this thing for me, I will again feed and keep your flocks:**

**(Genesis 30:32 NKJV) "Let me pass through all your flock today, removing from there all the speckled and spotted sheep, and all the brown ones among the lambs, and the spotted and speckled among the goats; and these shall be my wages."**

**(Genesis 30:33 NKJV) "So my righteousness will answer for me in time to come, when the subject of my wages comes before you: every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the lambs, will be considered stolen, if it is with me."**

#### **Jacob takes Lesser of Deal**

Sheep and goats are primarily solid colors, so Jacob is taking the lesser of the deal, the much less.



**(Genesis 30:34 NKJV)** And Laban said, "Oh, that it were according to your word!"

#### **Laban Jumps on It**

Laban the conniver and conman knows a great deal when he sees it and jumps on it. But watch what the sneak does still, even after getting such a great deal.

**(Genesis 30:35 NKJV)** So he removed that day the male goats that were speckled and spotted, all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had some white in it, and all the brown ones among the lambs, and gave them into the hand of his sons.

**(Genesis 30:36 NKJV)** Then he put three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks.

#### **Laban the Master / Starts Zero / Remember when they Mistreat You**

As I said, Jacob has met the master, and this trickster and schemer literally steals every spotted and speckled animal from Jacob, and then hides them three days away. So Jacob starts with zero, but again, God is with him. Remember that at work when they mistreat you, God knows, His eyes are upon you.

**(Genesis 30:37 NKJV)** Now Jacob took for himself rods of green poplar and of the almond and chestnut trees, peeled white strips in them, and exposed the white which was in the rods.

**(Genesis 30:38 NKJV)** And the rods which he had peeled, he set before the flocks in the gutters, in the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink, so that they should conceive when they came to drink.

**(Genesis 30:39 NKJV)** So the flocks conceived before the rods, and the flocks brought forth streaked, speckled, and spotted.

**(Genesis 30:40 NKJV)** Then Jacob separated the lambs, and made the flocks face toward the streaked and all the brown in the flock of Laban; but he put his own flocks by themselves and did not put them with Laban's flock.

**(Genesis 30:41 NKJV)** And it came to pass, whenever the stronger livestock conceived, that Jacob placed the rods before the eyes of the livestock in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods.

**(Genesis 30:42 NKJV)** But when the flocks were feeble, he did not put them in; so the feeble were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's.

**(Genesis 30:43 NKJV)** Thus the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

#### **Old Wives Tale / God Told Jacob in Dream**

Some say this is an old wives tale of that day, other say that it is "prenatal suggestion", that you can actually change the DNA. None of that is true for the best interpretation of the Bible is the Bible, and we have the what it is in Genesis 31:9-12:

*(Genesis 31:9 NKJV) "So God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me.*

*(Genesis 31:10 NKJV) "And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted.*

*(Genesis 31:11 NKJV) "Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.'*

*(Genesis 31:12 NKJV) "And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.*

God told him what to select in a dream, and then God performed it for him. Keep that in mind at work. Work hard for the Lord, and will bless it and bless you.

#### **Christians Don't Consider this Enough / God Wants to Lead Us at Work**

I don't think we as Christians consider this enough. We pray for His leading in our families, we pray for His leading in our ministries, but for the most part we just go to work. We pray to get the job, and then pretty much after that we are done praying about work. God wants to lead us at work just as much as He wants us to do well in the ministry and in the home. He does so,

because it is a great witness of Him.. I challenge you to pray at work before you begin a task, to pray throughout the day to do well for you employer, and I believe you will see a great change at work.

### **5 days to 2 / Learn Something new**

I know there have been times in my life where God has completed a five day task in three. I know there have been times when I felt the Lord tell me to go figure something out that is over and above my normal requirements, and then the next day, sometimes the next hour, the boss came and said do you know.....

### **Part of Curse / Great Witness**

Work is part of the curse, so there will be those days, but God is always with you at work, and He wants to see you be a great employee, because it is a great witness for Him:

*(Genesis 30:27 NKJV) And Laban said to him, "Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake."*

# Genesis Chapter 31

## Jacob Leaves Laban

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

#### Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

#### Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Recap Jacob's Life

In chapter 29 we see Jacob meets his match as his uncle Laban tricks him. He ends up working seven years for Leah instead of Rachel. The same switch he pulled on his father Isaac was pulled on him. So Jacob because of his love for Rachel agrees to work seven more years for Rachel. God is working on Jacob, breaking him little by little, until that wrestling match he will have with the Lord 20 years after his conversion experience. In chapter 30 we will see Jacob and his wives and concubine, and all his kids. Now chapter 31, we will see God moving Jacob on, leading and guiding his life.

Here is the outline of Jacob's life:

- The Saving of Jacob – Genesis 28
- The Subduing of Jacob – Genesis 29-32
- The Separating of Jacob – Genesis 33-34
- The Sanctifying of Jacob – Genesis 35

### Saved – But Carnal

Jacob is saved, but he is not yet subdued. We see he still has his carnal nature, a self-made man, trying to put things together and help the Lord out. You can be saved, born-again, yet still be controlled by your flesh:

*(1 Corinthians 3:1 NKJV) And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.*

*(1 Corinthians 3:2 NKJV) I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;*

*(1 Corinthians 3:3 NKJV) for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?*

**(Genesis 31:1 NKJV) Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has acquired all this wealth."**

**(Genesis 31:2 NKJV) And Jacob saw the countenance of Laban, and indeed it was not favorable toward him as before.**

#### **Laban Sees – Still Worships Idols / Stick Around & Bless Me**

Laban, Jacob's uncle, he is a real conniver and schemer himself. Jacob is overmatched by his uncle. So Laban, full of the flesh, although he sees that he is blessed by Jacob because of his relationship with the Lord, Laban is still an idol worshipper. Hey stick around Jacob, make me happy, bless me, but it surely doesn't go both ways.

#### **So Too for Us / Will Use Us / Especially Woman – Qualities Men Want**

So too it can be in our lives. People will see our blessing, they will recognize it has to do with our relationship with the Lord, they may even benefit from it themselves, but they still will not turn to the Lord. But, there are those who will have no problem trying to manipulate and use us for their gain. I especially say this to our young ladies; there are guys out there that want to date and marry woman like you because you are so wonderful, you are wholesome, and pure, you haven't given yourself away to so many partners, because you are so pure compared to the so many other woman. You are that perfect wife, you have the qualities that every man desires, but for these men it is none of the qualities they possess.

#### **Early 20's / Still Continue in their Ways / Laban's Out There / Real Players**

I remember in my early 20's, being single, and how many unbelieving single men wanted me to fix them up with my female Christian friends. I would be like are you kidding me, I'd never let you get near them. You see their plan was to marry a nice girl, but date the bad girls. They wanted to have their nice Christian girl they could trust, but still hit the bars after the softball game and see what might shake loose for them. Single woman there are Laban's out there, they are players, and they are masters at it. They will make you feel like the center of the universe, but they are playing you for their personal satisfaction, they will use you, they will be attracted to you because of your wholesomeness and purity, but they won't want to be the same. Ladies, stick to what the Word says, no matter how good he makes you feel, no matter how lonely you get, do not be unequally yoked, it will end in heartbreak, it always does.

#### **Same in Business / Application – Pray about Business**

It is the same in the business world, people want to do business with us because they know they can trust us, and they know they can take certain liberties with us, and we will give them grace, in other words allow us to rip us off. What is the application here, pray about who you do business with. Yes pray about the little things, the things that seem so common. I try to do business with as many Christian business as possible, but sometimes they are just too expensive, or not available. So we will do business with unbelievers. So what I am saying is, pray about who you do business with, God may lay it on your heart, not give you a peace about them, and you can find someone else.

#### **God Interested in Every Detail / Little to Big / Positive to Negative / Lord of All**

You see, God is interested in every detail of your life, wants to use every situation for you, and sometimes those you encounter. Satan will lie to you, try to aid in that attitude that God doesn't really care about where you get your tires changed, but He does, He really does. God cares about every little area of your life. You know why, little things can turn into big things. In a positive way someone may get saved, or get a special word of encouragement from you; but secondly that little thing may turn into a big thing in a negative way, and it could hurt you financially which will impact your family, or it may consume your time, which will distract you from your prayer time, study time, or church time. It can cause anxiety or fear in your life which will

take you away from having a sound mind. God truly cares about every little thing, that is why He is Lord of All.

**(Genesis 31:3 NKJV) Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you."**

### **Time to Go**

God speaks to Jacob, time to go, and we see it is the fulfilling of Genesis 28:21, the day Jacob got saved:

*(Genesis 28:21 NKJV) "so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God."*

**(Genesis 31:4 NKJV) So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field, to his flock, (Genesis 31:5 NKJV) and said to them, "I see your father's countenance, that it is not favorable toward me as before; but the God of my father has been with me.**

**(Genesis 31:6 NKJV) "And you know that with all my might I have served your father.**

**(Genesis 31:7 NKJV) "Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me.**

### **Describes Laban – Describes Self / We see Flaw Mile Away**

Jacob describes Laban to a tee, but what he doesn't realize is that Laban is a mirror, reflecting whom Jacob is himself; a liar, schemer, and conniver. I can relate to this, there are some people I can see their flaws coming a mile away, their flaw shows up 5 minutes before they do. I know why now, because it is easy to quickly pick up on the things I am. Many times I thought it was my keen spiritual discernment, but I often saw it was because I just saw myself. The more flawed you are, the easier it is to pick up other peoples flaws.

### **Long to Be**

I use to get upset when I got fooled by people, but now it doesn't bother me as much, for I long to be:

*(1 Peter 4:8 NKJV) And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."*

*(1 Corinthians 13:4 NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

*(1 Corinthians 13:5 NIV) It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

*(1 Corinthians 13:6 NIV) Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.*

*(1 Corinthians 13:7 NIV) It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

### **See No Wrong / Believe the Best / Pray Discernment / Less Flawed You Are**

I want to see no wrong in people, I want to believe the best about them, and I'll trust God will give me the spiritual discernment when needed. Jacob points out every flaw of Laban, and he was right on all of them, but they were also his flaws too. Do we point out people's flaws, next time you do, just ask yourself, do I see these so clearly because they mine too. The less flawed you are, the less you will see and point out in other.

### **Not Hurt Financially / Best Worker / Jacob Tithed**

*Verse 7 - but God did not allow him to hurt me:* The context of this in reference to providing for Jacob and his family, not physically. I believe as much as Uncle Laban ripped off Jacob, God protected him financially, and provided for he and his family because of two things:

- 1.) Because Jacob worked hard, even when he was mistreated, and he was Laban's best worker: (Genesis 30:27)
- 2.) Because Jacob tithed (Genesis 28:22). If you can't make ends meet, the first question I must ask, are you taking care of first things first, tithing. God challenges us, test me on this, tithe and see if I won't open the windows of heaven for you:

*(Malachi 3:10 NKJV) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.*

**(Genesis 31:8 NKJV)** "If he said thus: 'The speckled shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore speckled. And if he said thus: 'The streaked shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked.

**(Genesis 31:9 NKJV)** "So God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me.

**(Genesis 31:10 NKJV)** "And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted.

**(Genesis 31:11 NKJV)** "Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.'

**(Genesis 31:12 NKJV)** "And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.

### **Told in Dream / I'll Help God Out**

In this dream God told him all the speckled were his. So then we see back in Genesis 30 Jacob putting sticks in the mud, and peeling the bark off, and all that stuff is Jacob in the flesh. Jacob heard from the Lord, pick the speckled and spotted, I'll give them to you, so Jacob does but he thinks I'll have to give the Lord a hand - I heard this stuff might help.

### **Parents - Gerar**

Parents, as we said before, your children will follow you to Gerar, they will follow your ways and examples. Jacob's grandparents, Abraham and Sarah figured God needed help so here take Hagar, and the world still feels the consequences of that fleshly decision. God said I will protect you Abraham, but Abraham says hey Sarah tell them you are my sister. Isaac and Rebekah do the same.

**(Genesis 31:13 NKJV)** 'I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.'

**(Genesis 31:14 NKJV)** Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, "Is there still any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house?

**(Genesis 31:15 NKJV)** "Are we not considered strangers by him? For he has sold us, and also completely consumed our money.

**(Genesis 31:16 NKJV)** "For all these riches which God has taken from our father are really ours and our children's; now then, whatever God has said to you, do it."

### **Family Meeting / Picture Submission**

Here husbands is a great application and example for us. When things are not going well in the family, call a family meeting and discuss them with your wife (kids too if appropriate). Here is the perfect picture of how submission works. Jacob calls his wives to discuss the situation, they give their input, and Jacob the leader of the family makes the final plan for the family. Everyone knows what the plan is, and what their role is, and everyone got to give their input so the best decision could be made. When the plan is executed, it is executed together, with one goal in mind, success.

### **God Working a Move for You / 3 Things – Soured – Sweetened - Confirmation**

Is God wanting you to make a move in your life, here we see some indicators that happened to Jacob:

- First, we see the situation around him soured.
- Secondly, the Word of the Lord within him sweetened.
- Thirdly, there was confirmation by the family.

### **Not Impulsive / 6 more Years**

A situation just gets worse and worse, it may be God saying time to move on. But I note to you, Jacob worked 6 more years after he paid his debt for Rachel, so we see don't make impulsive reactionary moves, be careful not to jump to quick.

#### **Word said Go back / Word was Sweet / Hebrews 4:12**

The Word said go back, and the Word just seemed so right, it was sweet to Him. You know that feeling, the Word of the Lord comes to you, and it just feels right, there is a peace, and then day after day it doesn't go away, rather it just gets sweeter and sweeter, you know this is from the Lord. So you have to stay in the Word, for God gives you spiritual discernment in the matter: *(Hebrews 4:12 NKJV) For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

#### **Confirmation / Proverbs**

There was confirmation by the family, they said it sounds good to me. For us, not just your spouse and kids, but that also means the church family. There is wisdom in the multitude of counsel:

*(Proverbs 11:14 NKJV) Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.*

*(Proverbs 15:22 NKJV) Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.*

**(Genesis 31:17 NKJV) Then Jacob rose and set his sons and his wives on camels.**

**(Genesis 31:18 NKJV) And he carried away all his livestock and all his possessions which he had gained, his acquired livestock which he had gained in Padan Aram, to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan.**

**(Genesis 31:19 NKJV) Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel had stolen the household idols that were her father's.**

#### **Idol Worshipper**

So Laban is an idol worshipper, although he recognizes Jacob's God, he still sought after other gods.

**(Genesis 31:20 NKJV) And Jacob stole away, unknown to Laban the Syrian, in that he did not tell him that he intended to flee.**

**(Genesis 31:21 NKJV) So he fled with all that he had. He arose and crossed the river, and headed toward the mountains of Gilead.**

**(Genesis 31:22 NKJV) And Laban was told on the third day that Jacob had fled.**

**(Genesis 31:23 NKJV) Then he took his brethren with him and pursued him for seven days' journey, and he overtook him in the mountains of Gilead.**

**(Genesis 31:24 NKJV) But God had come to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said to him, "Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad."**

**(Genesis 31:25 NKJV) So Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mountains, and Laban with his brethren pitched in the mountains of Gilead.**

**(Genesis 31:26 NKJV) And Laban said to Jacob: "What have you done, that you have stolen away unknown to me, and carried away my daughters like captives taken with the sword?"**

**(Genesis 31:27 NKJV) "Why did you flee away secretly, and steal away from me, and not tell me; for I might have sent you away with joy and songs, with timbrel and harp?"**

**(Genesis 31:28 NKJV) "And you did not allow me to kiss my sons and my daughters. Now you have done foolishly in so doing.**

**(Genesis 31:29 NKJV) "It is in my power to do you harm, but the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad.'**

**(Genesis 31:30 NKJV) "And now you have surely gone because you greatly long for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?"**

**(Genesis 31:31 NKJV) Then Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I said, 'Perhaps you would take your daughters from me by force.'**

**Jacob Heard – Didn't Trust God / Did it Secretly / Spiritual Directness – or Open Interpret**

Now Jacob heard from the Lord, but he didn't trust God enough to tell Laban of his plans. Look at verse 27, you did it secretly. Spiritual directness folks, tell it like it is, and then any charge laid against you has to be a lie. Jacob left without a word, after 20 years, without a word. Jacob leaves the situation open for interpretation.

#### **Talk it Out / Could be Misunderstanding**

Now no one likes confrontations, but listen beloved, if you have a problem with a family member, a friend, a church member then talk with them. Give the situation some time and see what you really have, don't jump to react, but if it comes down to it, then go to the person and say this is what is going on, that is why I am leaving. It could save your relationship, it could all be a big misunderstanding.

#### **Some Could be Avoided in Church / Talk – Allows Correction**

In the church there are so many misunderstandings and people leave. I think many of them could be avoided if people would just talk. Sometimes it does come down to it is best to move on to meet the needs spiritually for the person and or family. In either case, there will be no misunderstanding, and any person who is open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, will then be open for the working of the Holy Spirit to show them things that may need to be corrected in their lives.

**(Genesis 31:32 NKJV) "With whomever you find your gods, do not let him live. In the presence of our brethren, identify what I have of yours and take it with you." For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.**

#### **How Big Your God / Not Simple People / A Philosophy**

How big is your god if he can be stolen or kidnapped. Now these people were intelligent in the days of Jacob, they were not simple minded. We picture them worshipping idols and lighting incense. Maybe they did that, but understand the big picture, the image they worshipped represented a philosophy to them. It was more about them worshipping the philosophy than the little carved image.

#### **Main Gods of Day**

- Astoreh – the god of sex and fertility. Today it is called Playboy, The OC, Desperate Housewives. No different today.
- Mammon – the god of possessions. Today it is called MasterCard, big fat paychecks. It is no different today.
- Molech – the god of pleasure. Today it is called Bud Light, the great outdoors. It is no different today.
- Baal – the god of the intellect and philosophy. Today it is called education, open-minded, higher learning. No different today.

#### **Don't Carve Idols – But Philosophy / Call out to Bud Light**

Today people don't light candles and bow down before a carved image, but they do worship, center their attention on the philosophy behind it. I challenge people, when hard times come, call out to your god, and see if he will answer you. Bud Light, Bud Light.....Laban's God could be stolen, and so can all the gods of today. They are powerless and weak.

**(Genesis 31:33 NKJV) And Laban went into Jacob's tent, into Leah's tent, and into the two maids' tents, but he did not find them. Then he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's tent.**

**(Genesis 31:34 NKJV) Now Rachel had taken the household idols, put them in the camel's saddle, and sat on them. And Laban searched all about the tent but did not find them.**

**(Genesis 31:35 NKJV) And she said to her father, "Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise before you, for the manner of women is with me." And he searched but did not find the household idols.**



**(Genesis 31:36 NKJV)** Then Jacob was angry and rebuked Laban, and Jacob answered and said to Laban: "What is my trespass? What is my sin, that you have so hotly pursued me?"

**(Genesis 31:37 NKJV)** "Although you have searched all my things, what part of your household things have you found? Set it here before my brethren and your brethren, that they may judge between us both!"

**(Genesis 31:38 NKJV)** "These twenty years I have been with you; your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried their young, and I have not eaten the rams of your flock.

**(Genesis 31:39 NKJV)** "That which was torn by beasts I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it. You required it from my hand, whether stolen by day or stolen by night.

**(Genesis 31:40 NKJV)** "There I was! In the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night, and my sleep departed from my eyes.

**(Genesis 31:41 NKJV)** "Thus I have been in your house twenty years; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.

**(Genesis 31:42 NKJV)** "Unless the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the labor of my hands, and rebuked you last night."

### **20 Years – Let him Have it / Didn't Have the Full Story**

After 20 years of service, Jacob is letting him have it. In verse 36 he is furious that Laban chased him, in verse 37-39 he is falsely accused, and in verse 41 he mentions how he was cheated. Now he seems to have the right to be mad, but notice something, he was not completely right, for he did not have the full story. He did not know that Rachel had stolen Laban's idols. Next time you are burning up, be reminded of this story, that you may not have the full story.

**(Genesis 31:43 NKJV)** And Laban answered and said to Jacob, "These daughters are my daughters, and these children are my children, and this flock is my flock; all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day to these my daughters or to their children whom they have borne?"

**(Genesis 31:44 NKJV)** "Now therefore, come, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be a witness between you and me."

**(Genesis 31:45 NKJV)** So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar.

**(Genesis 31:46 NKJV)** Then Jacob said to his brethren, "Gather stones." And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there on the heap.

**(Genesis 31:47 NKJV)** Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed.

**(Genesis 31:48 NKJV)** And Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me this day." Therefore its name was called Galeed,

**(Genesis 31:49 NKJV)** also Mizpah, because he said, "May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from another."

### **Mizpah**

Mizpah is often used on jewelry, "the Lord watch between us", it sounds romantic, but in actuality it isn't a term for endearing love. It is really, "you are a dirty rat". I can't watch your every step, but God can, and if you try to cross me may God get you. So probably not a good Christmas present this year.

**(Genesis 31:50 NKJV)** "If you afflict my daughters, or if you take other wives besides my daughters, although no man is with us; see, God is witness between you and me!"

**(Genesis 31:51 NKJV)** Then Laban said to Jacob, "Here is this heap and here is this pillar, which I have placed between you and me.

**(Genesis 31:52 NKJV)** "This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not pass beyond this heap to you, and you will not pass beyond this heap and this pillar to me, for harm.

**(Genesis 31:53 NKJV)** "The God of Abraham, the God of Nahor, and the God of their father judge between us." And Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac.

**(Genesis 31:54 NKJV) Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain, and called his brethren to eat bread. And they ate bread and stayed all night on the mountain.**

**(Genesis 31:55 NKJV) And early in the morning Laban arose, and kissed his sons and daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned to his place.**

#### **Laban Gone / Jacob Continues**

They part way, and we are never to hear from Laban again, but we will watch Jacob continue on his way, as God leads him, and works on him.

# Genesis Chapter 32

## Jacob Broken / Wrestles with God

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Recap / 20yrs – 4 woman – 12 kids / Problem – Unfinished Business

It is 20 years later, 2 wives, 2 concubines, 11 sons and 1 daughter later; and God stirs Jacob's heart, it is time to return to the land that was promised to you, your father Isaac, and his father Abraham. But there is a problem, and that is the unfinished business between him and his brother Esau, the one whom he had ripped off, stolen his blessing from Isaac. The last word he had heard about Esau was that when dad dies, then Jacob dies.

### Matt 5

In Matthew 5 Jesus tells us to leave our gift at the altar, and be reconciled to the one we have offended, then come back to the altar to continue with our worship and adoration of the Lord.

*(Matthew 5:23 NKJV) "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,*

*(Matthew 5:24 NKJV) "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."*

### Must be right with Brother / Vertical - Horizontal

The point for us is that we cannot be right with the Lord, if we are not right with our brother. Our relationship with the Lord is on two planes; vertical, our relationship with the Father, and horizontal, our relationship with man:

*(Matthew 22:36 NKJV) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"*

*(Matthew 22:37 NKJV) Jesus said to him, " "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."*

*(Matthew 22:38 NKJV) "This is the first and great commandment."*

*(Matthew 22:39 NKJV) "And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

*(Matthew 22:40 NKJV) "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

Here is the outline of Jacob's life:

- The Saving of Jacob – Genesis 28
- The Subduing of Jacob – Genesis 29-32
- The Separating of Jacob – Genesis 33-34
- The Sanctifying of Jacob – Genesis 35

**(Genesis 32:1 NKJV) So Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.**

**(Genesis 32:2 NKJV) When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's camp." And he called the name of that place Mahanaim.**

### **The Host / God Comforts / Heb 1**

Jacob has a host of his family with him, but when he lifted his eyes he sees another host about him, a host of angels. God always wants us to see His hand in every situation in our life, especially in those times of fear and uncertainty. Do you realize that? God's angel or angels are with us on all of our journeys:

*(Hebrews 1:13 NKJV) But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?*

*(Hebrews 1:14 NKJV) Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*

### **Angels Sent / Father Filter / Don't Realize Protection**

Angels are sent to us, stand with us, and go before us. Nothing can happen to us unless it first goes through the filter of the Father. I believe when we get to heaven, meet our angels, we will blown away by how many times they keep us out of harms way, and we did not even realize it.

### **Principalities**

We wrestle not against the flesh, but principalities and powers:

*(Ephesians 6:12 NKJV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

### **Drama Team / See the Spiritual Realm**

I remember several years ago being part of this drama team that did the most powerful drama of the Gospel. One Pastor said if he only had 9 minutes to present the gospel to someone, this would be it. Every time we performed it, someone gave their life to the Lord, it was so powerful. I remember the first time we were to do it, it was a Sunday morning and in those two services over 1,000 people would see it, some for the need of salvation, others to be reminded of the price and victory of their Lord and Savior. Well that morning, after a couple months of rehearsal, I was up, prayed, dressed, and said to myself nothing can stop this now, and then it came across my mind, except your car not starting, which had never happened before. You guessed it, I go to start the car, and it won't start, then God gave me a vision of a sword stuck thorough the engine. I prayed to the Father, and I believe He or a ministering angel pulled the sword out. I made it to church, and the car died there, I ended up having to buy another car. Like Jacob, God wants to show us the spiritual realm, to let us know what we are up against, but also who is with us, and going before us.

### **Parents / Father Filter / Suffocating / Usurping Angels / Dogs-heights-outside**

I say this to parents, God has angels around your children, and nothing can happen to them unless it goes through the Father filter and He allows it. I see many parents suffocating their kids, so fearful something is going to happen to them that they don't let the kid live. What they are doing is they are usurping the authority of the angels God has placed over that child. Some parents say ohh he/she doesn't like dogs, no the parent doesn't like dogs; she/he doesn't like heights, no the parent doesn't, he/she doesn't like to play outside, no the parent is afraid to let them out of their sight. Parents use wisdom, but back off, let your kid live, entrust them to God's ministering agents. Nothing accidental can happen to them unless the Father allows it.

**(Genesis 32:3 NKJV)** Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.

**(Genesis 32:4 NKJV)** And he commanded them, saying, "Speak thus to my lord Esau, 'Thus your servant Jacob says: "I have dwelt with Laban and stayed there until now.

**(Genesis 32:5 NKJV)** "I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight.'" "

### **Esau in Edom**

Esau is in Edom, not the Promised Land, for he never had any desire for the things of the Lord. Thus the descendants of Esau are called Edomites because they lived in the area of Edom.

### **Peace Offering**

So here we see Jacob sending a Peace offering, Jacob makes a peace plan.

**(Genesis 32:6 NKJV)** Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

**(Genesis 32:7 NKJV)** So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people that were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies.

### **400 Men / Plot Thickens / Esau Ahead - Laban Behind / Mizpah**

Esau coming with 400 men, the plot thickens. Jacob has Esau before him, and Laban behind him, there is no returning to Laban for that was settled in Genesis 31:51-52. Mizpah, the Lord watch over you when I can't, for I don't trust you. The line was drawn, the word was said do not cross over this line, past this pillar, for if you do there will be trouble. As we saw last chapter Laban's sons would like nothing more than to take care of Jacob, for good:

*(Genesis 31:51 NKJV) Then Laban said to Jacob, "Here is this heap and here is this pillar, which I have placed between you and me.*

*(Genesis 31:52 NKJV) "This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not pass beyond this heap to you, and you will not pass beyond this heap and this pillar to me, for harm.*

**(Genesis 32:8 NKJV)** And he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the other company which is left will escape."

### **Jacob Plans / Splits Company**

So we see Jacob, he starts his planning, I need to set this up here, and that up there; so he splits his company hoping he will still have half of them left when it is all over.

### **Peace – Panic - Prayer**

But we do see Jacob has grown over the years of God working in him; Jacob request peace, reacts with a panic, but he then turns to prayer

**(Genesis 32:9 NKJV)** Then Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you':

**(Genesis 32:10 NKJV)** "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.

**(Genesis 32:11 NKJV)** "Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children.

**(Genesis 32:12 NKJV)** "For You said, 'I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

### **Prays the Word / George Mueller – Argue – Convince / No Man – Govt - Pgm**

In this prayer we see Jacob praying God's Word. George Mueller, that great man of faith, said that when you pray, argue with the Lord, be convincing, ohh not to convince Him, but to convince you. When you pray the promise, argue the case, your faith soars as you say yes and amen. As you say that is right Lord you have promised that, told me that, therefore it will come to pass

because you word faith not. Remember no man, government, or program can stop the work or plans of God in your life, only you can by your wilful disobedience to Him and His Word.  
*(Hebrews 11:6 NKJV) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

### **Peace – Panic – Plans – Pray / Didn't Pray 1<sup>st</sup> / Pray – no Panic / Look for Peace of God**

Jacob offers peace, then he panics, then he plans, then he prays. Notice that he did not pray first, isn't that so much like us. Prayer should not be our last resort but our first option. Pray, then plan, and you will see there will be no panic, for we will have the peace of God in our lives. Jacob was looking for the peace of Esau in his life, when he should have been looking for the peace of God.

### **Why Do? / Because we Succeed / We Sell Ourselves Short**

You know why we do this, because we so often succeed in the flesh. We plan and succeed and we become self-sufficient, we say it ended well, so it must have been a good plan. I wonder how much better it would have turned out had we prayed first. Christians I believe we so often sell ourselves short of tremendous by handling things ourselves.

**(Genesis 32:13 NKJV) So he lodged there that same night, and took what came to his hand as a present for Esau his brother:**

We see Jacob that when he finishes praying he resumes plotting.

**(Genesis 32:14 NKJV) two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams,**

**(Genesis 32:15 NKJV) thirty milk camels with their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals.**

**(Genesis 32:16 NKJV) Then he delivered them to the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass over before me, and put some distance between successive drives."**

**(Genesis 32:17 NKJV) And he commanded the first one, saying, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose are these in front of you?'"**

**(Genesis 32:18 NKJV) "then you shall say, 'They are your servant Jacob's. It is a present sent to my lord Esau; and behold, he also is behind us.'"**

**(Genesis 32:19 NKJV) So he commanded the second, the third, and all who followed the drives, saying, "In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him;**

**(Genesis 32:20 NKJV) "and also say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob is behind us.' " For he said, "I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me."**

### **Sends Bribe / Entice Carnal Nature**

Jacob tries to send a bribe ahead. He tries to entice the carnal nature of Esau. He uses carnality to reach carnality. It is sad when Christians do that. The ends will never justify the means. Christians never use the flesh to reach the flesh, never lower yourself in hopes of reaching them or changing them. Jacob tries to appease Esau's carnality, and here is the danger of that, verse 21:

**(Genesis 32:21 NKJV) So the present went on over before him, but he himself lodged that night in the camp.**

**(Genesis 32:22 NKJV) And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok.**

**(Genesis 32:23 NKJV) He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had.**

### **Jacob takes Burden Back / Will his Plan Work / Mind Racing**

Jacob takes the burden back. He planned, prayed, then plotted and now he can't sleep his mind is wandering if his fleshly plan will work. Rather than I called upon the Lord, He promised me through His Word, that settles it, there is nothing more I can do. Jacob will have a rough night of sleep ahead of him we will see.

### **20 Years Ago / Converted – Now Broken / Happy Feet - Limping**

Jacob sends the family ahead so he will be alone. It was 20 years ago Jacob had a restless night of sleep, and it was on that night that he was converted there at Bethuel. Now, this night, he is going to be broken, set apart from the old Jacob the liar and schemer. Tonight he will become Israel, the one who is governed by God. It is interesting that when he left Bethuel he left with happy feet, a spring in his step, but here he will leave with a limp.

**(Genesis 32:24 NKJV) Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.**

### **The God Man**

The Man, was the God Man, Jesus Christ. The Man was the one that Jacob saw at the top of the ladder:

*(Genesis 28:12 NKJV) Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.*

*(Genesis 28:13 NKJV) And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants."*

**(Genesis 32:25 NKJV) Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.**

### **Pops Hip / God Knew / God Purposely Hurts him**

God pops Jacob's hip out. God knew what it would take to break him, He knew exactly what Jacob needed. God knows exactly what we need, what it is for our best interest. Here we will see that God purposely hurts him. Yes, see it, the God of Love personally hurts him, personally inflicts pain upon Jacob

### **Ran Esau / Ran Laban / Last Resource Run / Can't Run**

Jacob had escaped Esau the first time by running, he tried to escape Laban by sneaking away, but here God removes that option, pops out his hip and Jacob has exhausted his last resource, his last fail-safe option. Jacob always knew, he could run. Jacob cannot run, he cannot be reliant on his planning and plotting now, he must become reliant on the Lord.

### **Sometimes God Allows Pain / Slow Down – Get Attention / How Could He?**

Sometimes pain in our lives does come from God, he allows it into our life. Sometimes He will do this to slow us down, to get our attention, to break us of something that needs to be rid of in our lives. To bring us closer to Him; how could a God of love allow this, do this to us, verse 26:

**(Genesis 32:26 NKJV) And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"**

### **Bless Me / Never Asked Before**

Jacob says you can not leave me until you bless me. Jacob begs for a blessing; notice, something he had never asked for before, let alone begged for. Hosea 12:3-4 is the commentary on this event:

*(Hosea 12:3 NKJV) He took his brother by the heel in the womb, And in his strength he struggled with God.*

*(Hosea 12:4 NKJV) Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; He wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him in Bethel, And there He spoke to us;*

### **Jacob Crying – Begging**

Jacob is surely not the one in control here, like he has God in a back breaker and Jacob is saying bless me or I'll make it hurt more, there is no tapping out. Jacob is crying, begging, and pleading. Jacob had to be broken, and God breaks him here.

**(Genesis 32:27 NKJV) So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob."**

### **Owning Up to Name / Isaac Asked / Jacob Finally Admits**

The Lord is having Jacob own up to his name, Jacob what is your name? Sound familiar, his father Isaac said what is your name, you feel like Esau, you smell like Esau, but you don't sound like him, what is your name, and Jacob said it is your son Esau. God is making Jacob own up to his name, which means heel catcher, more literally translated to be schemer and conniver. Jacob here finally admits to who he really is; I am Jacob, a schemer and conniver.

**(Genesis 32:28 NKJV) And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."**

### **Jacob Comes Clean / Now God can Work**

He comes clean and God says new name, Israel, which means, "Governed by God". When you see yourself for who you really are, see it in your heart and not just your head, then God says now I can work with you, I can make you who I want you to be.

**(Genesis 32:29 NKJV) Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.**

**(Genesis 32:30 NKJV) And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."**

### **What Your Name / Show Me More / Live to the Knowledge /**

Jacob asks God His name, but God says you know. You know, and now you will live according to your knowledge. That is a word for us, we know who we have had a personal encounter with, and it cannot continually be show me more, show me more, but God says live today according to the knowledge you have, walk in my way. God said to Jacob's grandfather Abraham:

*(Genesis 17:1 NKJV) When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless."*

**(Genesis 32:31 NKJV) Just as he crossed over Peniel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.**

### **Limped – but touched by God**

So he limped, for he was broken by God, or if you have experienced such a moment, you don't see so much the brokenness, but that you were touched by God.

**(Genesis 32:32 NKJV) Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which is on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob's hip in the muscle that shrank.**

### **Shank Today**

Still to this day the Jewish people do not eat the shank of an animal. To them it means that is the place that Jacob was touched by God. I wish today the Jewish people would read this story, and they themselves say I want to experience what Jacob did, I want to see you God, I want you to touch me. I wish Christians would do the same, I wish we all would say I want to see you Lord, I want to be touched by you, even if I have to wrestle through the night, it would be worth it to see you and be touched by you.



### **The Morning with Kids / Walk Never be the Same**

I wonder what the morning must have been like as Jacob came limping to his family. The kids would ask, daddy what happened to you, are you all right, and Jacob would say I am fine, for last night I met with God, face to face, and my walk will never be the same.

### **Need this Staff / Constant Reminder / Children would Know**

Every step I take, I will need to lean on this staff, and it will be a constant reminder to me that I will need to lean on the Lord, I will need to be governed by God. As the years would pass the children would see and know that the key to their fathers life was leaning upon the Lord. Parent your Christian kids will remember, it will be your legacy, of how you were governed by God, or not governed by God. It won't be how big your portfolio was, how high on the corporate ladder you climbed, they will remember how much you were governed by God.

*(Hebrews 11:21 NKJV) By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, **leaning on the top of his staff.***

### **Leaned on Lord / Cleaver – Intelligent – Charisma / Self-Made / They will Fail – Draw Me**

Jacob leaned on the Lord, not his cleverness, his intelligence, nor his charisma, but the Lord. Jacob had all these traits, any major corporation would love to have him, but God said Jacob you are too self-made, too self-sufficient, I am going to have to break you so you will lean upon me. You see your intelligence, charisma, they are so puny in comparison to me, so I will have to let you fall, fail, and break so you will abandon those things, so you will draw from Me, from My strength, from My wisdom, My power. You will be Israel, governed by God.

### **Maybe You are Hurting / God Concerned Eternal State – Than Present Comfort**

Maybe you are hurting tonight and want God to take the pain away. Listen Christian, God is more concerned about your eternal state than your present comfort. God will inflict, break you, in order to develop you and strengthen you into the man or woman that is governed by God.

### **Sometimes Only Suffering / Get in Pin Position**

Sometimes it is only suffering that will work out the things of ourselves, and work in the things of god. We can know things in our heads but they have yet to take root in our heart. It is always best that when God shows up in His wrestling suit to immediately get in the pin position, but sometimes we just can't see it, until He inflicts that pain upon us, gets our attention, slows us down.

### **We Suffer not Alone**

When we do suffer, we are not alone in our suffering, Christ also suffered;

*(1 Peter 4:1 NKJV) Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,*

*(1 Peter 4:2 NKJV) that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.*

### **Jesus Passionate about Us / Broken for You**

Jesus said I am so passionately in love with you, care so deeply about you, that I too was broken, not for me, but for you. When times are tough, times are hard, go back to the communion table and take the broken bread and see the body that was broken for you, partake of the cup, the heart that bursts for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.

# Genesis Chapter 33

## Jacob Meets and then Separates from Esau

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

#### Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

#### Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Recap / 20yrs – 4 woman – 12 kids / Problem – Unfinished Business / Wrestles - Lean

It is 20 years later, 2 wives, 2 concubines, 11 sons and 1 daughter later; and God stirs Jacob's heart, it is time to return to the land that was promised to you, your father Isaac, and his father Abraham. But there is a problem, and that is the unfinished business between him and his brother Esau, the one whom he had ripped off, stolen his blessing from Isaac. The last word he had heard about Esau was that when dad dies, then Jacob dies. Last chapter we saw Jacob broken as he wrestled with the Lord that night. Jacob will now have to lean on God the rest of his life, he will have a limp the rest of his life. Jacob still has some growing to do as we will see tonight, but we have watched him get saved, broken, and this study we will see him separating.

Here is the outline of Jacob's life:

- The Saving of Jacob – Genesis 28
- The Subduing of Jacob – Genesis 29-32
- The Separating of Jacob – Genesis 33-34
- The Sanctifying of Jacob – Genesis 35

**(Genesis 33:1 NKJV) Now Jacob lifted his eyes and looked, and there, Esau was coming, and with him were four hundred men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two maidservants.**

**(Genesis 33:2 NKJV) And he put the maidservants and their children in front, Leah and her children behind, and Rachel and Joseph last.**

Rachel was last, we see Jacob's favouritism here towards Rachel.

**(Genesis 33:3 NKJV) Then he crossed over before them and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.**

#### **Customary for Kings**

Jacob here playing the peacemaker; bowing seven times before a person was customary in those days as a person would bow seven times before a king.

**(Genesis 33:4 NKJV) But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.**

**(Genesis 33:5 NKJV) And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant."**

#### **Esau Peaceful / Proverbs 16**

Interesting reaction of Esau here; twenty years ago he wanted to kill Jacob, but here we see Esau running to Jacob, kissing his neck, and crying. Esau was so softened here, so gentle and kind to Jacob. Did God visit him in a dream, maybe but the word doesn't say so. What I am reminded of is:

*(Proverbs 16:7 NKJV) When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.*

**(Genesis 33:6 NKJV) Then the maidservants came near, they and their children, and bowed down.**

**(Genesis 33:7 NKJV) And Leah also came near with her children, and they bowed down. Afterward Joseph and Rachel came near, and they bowed down.**

**(Genesis 33:8 NKJV) Then Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company which I met?" And he said, "These are to find favor in the sight of my lord."**

#### **Grace Before Man / God the Game Show Host / He is Looking to Bless / Free Lunches**

Jacob is trying to find grace before man, so he sends all these things ahead. He has the mindset that if I do this this and that, then maybe I will get a favourable reaction from Esau. You know for the longest time that was my relationship with the Lord. I thought I could earn His favor, His grace. If I do this this and that, then He will be pleased with me and want to bless me. I literally was making God out to be some Game Show Host. Precious people we don't have to make deals with God to something from Him. Now God doesn't wink at sin, but that is for our protection. But He does want to bless us, His grace is unmerited, unearned favour. So often we think it is something we have to do before we can receive something from Him. I have to go to church, I have to pray, I have to read, etc before He will bless me, it is not so, He loves us because we are His kids and He really wants to bless us. We have been conditioned that there are no free lunches, but truly there are with the Lord:

*(John 6:35 NKJV) And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."*

Grace - God's Riches at Christ Expense. Look what Esau says:

**(Genesis 33:9 NKJV) But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself."**

#### **Esau Picture of Flesh – Says Don't Need It / How Much more God Says that**

Esau is a picture of the flesh, and he says keep it, I don't need it. How much more does that apply to our Heavenly Father: God says for us to boldly come before the throne of grace, come and expect a blessing from Him He is saying to us:

*(Hebrews 4:16 NKJV) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

#### **When Blow It / Satan's Lie / Ask Forgiveness – Dust Off – Move On / Son - Daughter**

When we have blown it, come to Him. Don't fall for that lie of Satan that God won't receive you. This is so hard for us, but God says come. When we blow it, ask for forgiveness, then dust yourself off and say let's put this behind us Lord and move on. Come to Him as a son, as a daughter, and say Father I need you, and claim the promise - boldly come.

### **Freedom Biblical Christianity / Religions based on Performance**

This is the freedom of Biblical Christianity; all other religions are based on your performance, and places it on your responsibility. That is why someone will strap explosives on themselves and pull the cord, or cut themselves, or knock on 10,000 doors, pray 3 times a day, fast for the month, because they can never rest, because there is no grace offered.

### **Not responsibility but Grace / Grace Makes us Respond**

Christian it is not responsibility but grace, and it is that grace that makes us respond. Our hearts want more of Him, therefore we want to read, we want to pray, we want to fellowship, we want to tell others, we are willing to sacrifice; for it is not I have to, but I get to. God you are so good to me.

**(Genesis 33:10 NKJV)** And Jacob said, "No, please, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me.

**(Genesis 33:11 NKJV)** "Please, take my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." So he urged him, and he took it.

So Esau finally takes it.

**(Genesis 33:12 NKJV)** Then Esau said, "Let us take our journey; let us go, and I will go before you."

**(Genesis 33:13 NKJV)** But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are weak, and the flocks and herds which are nursing are with me. And if the men should drive them hard one day, all the flock will die.

**(Genesis 33:14 NKJV)** "Please let my lord go on ahead before his servant. I will lead on slowly at a pace which the livestock that go before me, and the children, are able to endure, until I come to my lord in Seir."

Seir is in Edom, it is not in the Promised Land.

**(Genesis 33:15 NKJV)** And Esau said, "Now let me leave with you some of the people who are with me." But he said, "What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord."

**(Genesis 33:16 NKJV)** So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir.

### **They Reconcile / Look at Esau's Actions – Stuff – Kiss – Help / Great Guy**

So here we see a beautiful ending to this story, Jacob and Esau are reconciled. But consider this, Esau doesn't want Jacob's stuff, he kisses him, and he wants to help him return home; Esau here is just really a nice guy, a kind, friendly, a really great guy. Yet in Hebrews we read God's view of him:

*(Hebrews 12:16 NKJV) lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.*

*(Hebrews 12:17 NKJV) For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.*

### **Picture of Flesh – Doomed / The Nice People Around Us / Esau no Desire of Things God**

Esau is a Biblical picture of the flesh, God points him out as a picture of the flesh, a doomed and damned man. We have Esau's all around us, neighbours, friends, family, they are so nice, so friendly, a class act, and in many many cases they are nicer and treat us better than other Christians do. But the fact is they are still separated from the Father because of their sin, their sin has not been dealt with. As nice as Esau was, we see him heading back to Seir in Edom, he doesn't go to the Promised land because he has no desire for the things of the Lord.

### **Verse 9 – Verse 11 / God Looking to Bless – Humble People / In the Church**

Back to our point on grace. Notice that in verse 9 Esau says I have enough, but in verse 11 Jacob speaking of his riches says that God has been gracious to me. People, God is looking for people to bless, for people who know it is all because He has been gracious. People who know it is all from Him, and nothing to do with me. I'm not talking name-it claim-it, but recognition of the God of All Grace. Lets apply that especially here in the church, God moves so powerfully in Churches that recognize that it is all Him. It is a death sentence to a Church when a Pastor thinks it is something to do with him, when a worship team's stops worshipping and starts performing. God moves where He receives all the glory.

### **Why is God Like This / Everything is Flawed**

Why is God like that? Why will He not share His glory? Is He a glory hog? No God will not share His glory with any man because if people look to anyone other than God they will be hurt, they will be disappointed, they could even be destroyed. Every government, political system, person, or program is flawed because man is flawed by sin. Everything is flawed except God, and therefore that is where man will find his all-in-all.

**(Genesis 33:17 NKJV) And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, built himself a house, and made booths for his livestock. Therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.**

### **Unequally Yoked**

Now here is the separation. The Spirit reveals to Jacob what Paul has told us, do not be unequally yoked:

*(2 Corinthians 6:14 NKJV) Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

*(2 Corinthians 6:15 NKJV) And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?*

*(2 Corinthians 6:16 NKJV) And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."*

*(2 Corinthians 6:17 NKJV) Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."*

*(2 Corinthians 6:18 NKJV) "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."*

### **Marriage – Business / Marriage – Manual – Plans / Jacob Separates**

We are not to be unequally yoked in marriage, in business partnership. If you put a yoke on an oxen and a horse you are going to have problems. Believer marry an unbeliever and your life will be filled with pain. Go into business partnership with an unbeliever and your business will experience problems. A close friend of mine from Bible College entered into a business partnership and his partner robbed him blind – I couldn't understand how a college graduate could question God's wisdom. Singles, don't do it, no matter how lonely you get, don't do it. Even if they are as nice as Esau, a polished and gem of a person, don't do it. They are not working from the same manual, they have a different plan for life than you do. Esau was a doomed and damned man, and Jacob separates himself from him.

**(Genesis 33:18 NKJV) Then Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan Aram; and he pitched his tent before the city.**

**(Genesis 33:19 NKJV) And he bought the parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money.**

**(Genesis 33:20 NKJV) Then he erected an altar there and called it El Eloe Israel.**

### **In Promise Land / Shechem Evil Place / Major Trade**

Shechem is technically in the Promised Land, but it was an evil place, it was a carnal place. Notice that he pitches his tent before the city, reminds us of Lot. Shechem was an ancient and important fortified city, situated between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim at the intersection of the major trade routes through central Palestine, this reflects so much of Lot in Sodom.

### **Back in Land / Not Totally Obedient**

Jacob has, now, come back into the land; but, is still not totally obedient for God had said to return to the land and to his family.

*(Genesis 31:3 KJV) And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.*

### **Isaac in Hebron**

His family is some eighty miles away. We will see in Genesis 35 that his father Isaac is Hebron. Hebron is about 20 miles south of Jerusalem. Shechem to Hebron is about 80 miles.

*(Genesis 35:27 NKJV) Then Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had dwelt.*

*(Genesis 35:28 NKJV) Now the days of Isaac were one hundred and eighty years.*

*(Genesis 35:29 NKJV) So Isaac breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people, being old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.*

### **Jacob Builds Altar / To Obey better**

Jacob builds an altar, he makes a statement, but he really isn't where he should be. The Lord says to us that obedience is better than sacrifice:

*(1 Samuel 15:22 NKJV) Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.*

His disobedience became costly.

# *Genesis Chapter 34*

## *Defilement of Dinah*

**(Genesis 34:1 NKJV)** Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.

**(Genesis 34:2 NKJV)** And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her.

### **Young Girls / Curiosity / Looks Entertaining / Don't Go**

Oh you young girls, heed this passage. Dinah sees and hears what is going on in this place, and she goes and checks it out. The resultant is that she is defiled, violated. There are places that we as children of God need not go to. Don't let your curiosity; the trinkets and bobbles draw you to places you should not be. Shechem was an evil carnal place, and it was not where someone from the family of Israel (governed by God) was to be. So many things look so entertaining, they draw our appetite of the flesh, and we think we can go without any consequences, but this is what Satan wants to do through them, defile and violate you. Don't go to Shechem, don't go see the daughters of the land. That goes for you to guys.

**(Genesis 34:3 NKJV)** His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the young woman and spoke kindly to the young woman.

**(Genesis 34:4 NKJV)** So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this young woman as a wife."

**(Genesis 34:5 NKJV)** And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter. Now his sons were with his livestock in the field; so Jacob held his peace until they came.

### **Jacob Outnumbered**

Jacob probably outnumbered so he keeps quiet until the boys come back from the field.

**(Genesis 34:6 NKJV)** Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him.

### **Father to Father Talk / Doesn't Think it is Wrong - Unregenerate People**

Father to father talk. Notice on father does not think anything wrong has happened. Unregenerate people can do the most horrible things to you, and they just continue on in everyday life not even thinking they have hurt you.

**(Genesis 34:7 NKJV)** And the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it; and the men were grieved and very angry, because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, a thing which ought not to be done.

### **Brothers Enraged**

The brothers become enraged because of the defilement of their sister.

**(Genesis 34:8 NKJV)** But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him as a wife.

**(Genesis 34:9 NKJV)** "And make marriages with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters to yourselves.

**(Genesis 34:10 NKJV)** "So you shall dwell with us, and the land shall be before you. Dwell and trade in it, and acquire possessions for yourselves in it."

**(Genesis 34:11 NKJV)** Then Shechem said to her father and her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give.

**(Genesis 34:12 NKJV)** "Ask me ever so much dowry and gift, and I will give according to what you say to me; but give me the young woman as a wife."

### **Notice Different Value - the World / How Much for a Rape / Good for Business**

Again notice how the world puts a different value on the things that are sacred to us. How many goats and chickens equal one rape they are asking. Besides merging our families will be great for business and the local economy.

### **The Scheming Begins**

So now Jacob's boys start their scheming for revenge:

**(Genesis 34:13 NKJV)** But the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father, and spoke deceitfully, because he had defiled Dinah their sister.

**(Genesis 34:14 NKJV)** And they said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a reproach to us.

**(Genesis 34:15 NKJV)** "But on this condition we will consent to you: If you will become as we are, if every male of you is circumcised,

**(Genesis 34:16 NKJV)** "then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to us; and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people.

**(Genesis 34:17 NKJV)** "But if you will not heed us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and be gone."

**(Genesis 34:18 NKJV)** And their words pleased Hamor and Shechem, Hamor's son.

**(Genesis 34:19 NKJV)** So the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob's daughter. He was more honorable than all the household of his father.

### **Buy Into It / Circumcision - Cutting Away the Flesh / Good for the Flesh**

Now Shechem has to get everybody else to buy into it. Amazingly other grown men are going to say ok, circumcision, sounds great. Circumcision was an example of the cutting away of the flesh, but in this case since it had no spiritual meaning, it was the things of the flesh that would talk them into it. Hey it is going to be good for business, and we will get their woman too.

**(Genesis 34:20 NKJV)** And Hamor and Shechem his son came to the gate of their city, and spoke with the men of their city, saying:

**(Genesis 34:21 NKJV)** "These men are at peace with us. Therefore let them dwell in the land and trade in it. For indeed the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters to us as wives, and let us give them our daughters.

**(Genesis 34:22 NKJV)** "Only on this condition will the men consent to dwell with us, to be one people: if every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised.

**(Genesis 34:23 NKJV)** "Will not their livestock, their property, and every animal of theirs be ours? Only let us consent to them, and they will dwell with us."

### **Prosperity will be Ours / Worth the Pain / OT vs Family**

Notice all this will be ours, livestock, property, and their woman. Prosperity will be ours. It's worth a little pain to get that much prosperity. People do that still today, so I'll sacrifice all these hours at work, won't see my family, but it will be worth it for all the prosperity to come.

**(Genesis 34:24 NKJV)** And all who went out of the gate of his city heeded Hamor and Shechem his son; every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

**(Genesis 34:25 NKJV)** Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came boldly upon the city and killed all the males.

### **Took only 2**

As they recover the attack came. It only took 2 men to kill them all.

**(Genesis 34:26 NKJV)** And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went out.

**(Genesis 34:27 NKJV)** The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and plundered the city, because their sister had been defiled.



**(Genesis 34:28 NKJV)** They took their sheep, their oxen, and their donkeys, what was in the city and what was in the field,  
**(Genesis 34:29 NKJV)** and all their wealth. All their little ones and their wives they took captive; and they plundered even all that was in the houses.

#### **The Plunder**

The rest of the family comes and takes the spoils.

**(Genesis 34:30 NKJV)** Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and since I am few in number, they will gather themselves together against me and kill me. I shall be destroyed, my household and I."  
**(Genesis 34:31 NKJV)** But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a harlot?"

#### **Jacob Upset / One Step / Rationalize It / Moving from Center of God's Will**

Jacob is upset with his sons, but Jacob has to consider this, he was the one who placed his tent facing this evil city. Often that one step of disobedience compounds into a major issue. We step out of God's will and start to do our own thing and even though we may rationalize it, it is disobedience to God's will for us. Incomplete obedience, that failure to submit your life to the will and plan of God, can lead to all kind of problems and to disasters such as happened to Jacob. You will find yourself in situations and wonder how you got there; but, it all began with moving away from the center of God's will.

#### **No Place for God's Kids / Always Ends up in Trouble**

There are places where you and I, as a child of God have no business being. If you go into those places, you are stepping out of the purpose and plan of God for your life and you can find yourself enmeshed in all kinds of tragic situations just because you're where God doesn't want you to be. Look at all the trouble that Samson brought upon himself every time he ventured into the land of the Philistines, which was the camp of the enemy. He always ended up in trouble and it finally ended with his death.

#### **Think You are Strong Enough / Clubbing**

You may think you're strong enough to go and that you just go to watch and not participate. You want to see what they do." We have no business being in those type of places and this kind of rationale doesn't work. The moment you step into the enemy's territory and out of the will of God, you're opening the door and you can be sure you're going to be facing some major problem. Just a note, you young Christians that think you can go to bars and nightclubs and it is not going to effect you, you are being greatly deceived, either by Satan, your flesh, or your friends. I know of no bars that have helped Christians grow deeper in their knowledge and love for their Lord.

#### **You Strong - Kids Not / Parents Don't be Shocked / Evil Places - Immorality Flaunted**

You may think you are strong enough, but you might just be setting your kids up. Jacob allowed his kids to check out the things in Shechem, he was the one who allowed his daughter to visit the daughters of Shechem. Parents don't be shocked when you find out defilement has taken place, or when you hear terrible things have happened to your children, because it could be because you allowed your kids to go places that you knew in your heart were evil, where you knew immorality was flaunted, and the things of God were not respected.

#### **Parents take Stance / Teach Them to Go Against Flow / Daily Battle no Rest / Joshua 24 - Me and My House**

Mom and dad take a stance, encourage and teach your kids to be different. Lead them and teach them how to go against the flow. Stand against the "that is just our culture" attitude, against the "that's where all the kids go". This battle is daily, there is no rest for us. We must be aware of what they are watching, where they are going, who they are hanging with, Shechem is just outside our doors. Teach them to go against the flow, it doesn't matter if everybody is going there:

*(Joshua 24:15 NKJV) "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

### **Legalism / Pastor - Chaplain Experience / Be Firm /**

You may say I am being legalistic, overbearing, what about that grace I just spoke of. Listen I am talking from experience of Pastoring this church, and I am telling you from being a police chaplain; There are Dinah's in our family who are wondering what the daughters of Shechem are up to, and they go, and they get sucked in. We have to be firm for our kids, because the school and community is not going to look out for them.

### **Teen Places - Just Make a Buck**

There are places in the county that are promoted as "places for teens", but I can tell you they are places that adults see a great place to make a buck, and they have no care if the kids are entering into immoral and damages things. I can tell you from talking to the kids that there is drugs and alcohol there. The management there turns a blind eye because they get 5 dollars a kid at the door, and they don't care where the kids go once the parents drive away.

### **Stand in the Gap**

Yea we look like the bad guy when we say no you are not going there, but if you don't stand in the gap for them, who will:

*(Ezekiel 22:29 NKJV) "The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger."*

*(Ezekiel 22:30 NKJV) "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one."*

### **Be Bad Guy / Give Alternative / Sacrifice / That's a Bondservant**

Be the bad guy, but provide an alternative for them. It may mean you don't get that night off, but that is the life of a bondservant, and that is what you are.

# Genesis Chapter 35

## *Reaffirming the Covenant: The Person, the People, and the Place*

### **Genesis more than history book / It is His-story**

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### **Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### **Outline:**

#### Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

#### Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Here is the outline of Jacob's life:

- The Saving of Jacob – Genesis 28
- The Subduing of Jacob – Genesis 29-32
- The Separating of Jacob – Genesis 33-34
- The Sanctifying of Jacob – Genesis 35

### **Recap**

Well this study we finish off our study on the life of Jacob. It has been interesting to watch him get saved that day at Bethel when he was on the run after ripping off the blessing from Esau and his father Isaac. Then we saw him spend 20 years with Laban, get 2 wives and 2 concubines, 12 kids, and grow in prosperity. Then he left Laban, meets Esau again after 20 years and what Jacob feared as a deadly reunion, turns out to be a warm reunion; the reunion didn't happen until God first subdued him, broke him as they wrestled that day at Peniel. Jacob will walk the rest of his life with a limp, and will need a staff to lean on, and his name will be changed to Israel, governed by God. Israel separates from Esau, but he stops short of where God called him to be, there in Hebron where his kindred was, instead he goes to Succoth and then Shechem, and the consequences of his disobedience was tremendous as his daughter Dinah is raped there in Shechem. The family is in disarray, the family is falling apart and God speaks to him to go back to Bethel where it all began. Even in all his scheming, all his conniving, all his failing, God calls him back to his first love, and reaffirms His covenant with Jacob, that he is set apart, sanctified, that through him kings will come, and one of those kings, will be the King of kings, Jesus Christ.

**(Genesis 35:1 NKJV) Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."**

### **Glad for these Words – Arise & Go / We Promise / But He Says – Arise & Go**

I'm glad to hear these words of the Lord to Jacob, they minister to me – Arise and Go. We all have been to Succoth and Shechem, after our conversion that is. How many times we have been there when we promised and vowed to Him that we would never go back there again. But then, there we are again, and what does He say to us? His words of love to His precious children – Arise and go to Bethel. Ohh what a picture of grace, what a picture of love. He is so worthy of praise, so worthy of our all in all, for He is so good to us. His mercy, grace and love abound to us:

*(Psalms 103:8 NKJV) The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.*

*(Psalms 106:1 NKJV) Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.*

*(Lamentations 3:22 NKJV) Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.*

*(Lamentations 3:23 NKJV) They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

### **Church Ephesus**

The Lord speaking to the Church in Ephesus He said:

*(Revelation 2:4 NIV) Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.*

### **Times to go back / Putting Everything Aside / First Saved**

There are times for all of us to go back to that place. I think for many it just putting everything aside, the business of life, the works of ministry, the squeezing it all together, and just go back and sit with Him, fellowship with Him, back to the basic, back to the day we got saved. When I got saved things were simple, I love you Lord, I love just being saved and nothing else matters. This Word is fresh fruit to my soul, I love talking about you and telling people about you. Maybe that's you, your walk has become work, cut those things loose and just go back to Bethel.

### **Jacob Back to Bethel / Luz to House of God**

God calls Jacob back to Bethel, where Jacob saw the ladder, and saw the connection between god and man, heaven and earth - Jesus Christ (John 1). That place was called Luz, but Jacob changed it to "House of God". God says come on back to where we began, Arise and Go.

**(Genesis 35:2 NKJV) And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments.**

**(Genesis 35:3 NKJV) "Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone."**

**(Genesis 35:4 NKJV) So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hands, and the earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem.**

### **Picked Up Trinkets Along the Way**

They had picked up all these trinkets of the heathen nations around them, beginning back in Padan Aram when Rachel stole her father Laban's idols. Now Jacob says we are going to the House of God, these things have got to go.

### **Doesn't say I'm Done with You / Jacob Responds**

God doesn't start verse 1 off with that is it, I'm done with you, I'm going to work this thing out with someone else, you had your chance Jacob, instead God says Arise and Go. God meets Jacob even in his disobedience and says Arise. Jacob responds to God's goodness:

*(Romans 2:4 NIV) Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?*

## **We Respond**

When we experience His goodness and mercy, it is no longer I got to, but I get to, I'm going to, for Lord you are so good to me, how can't I respond to such love and grace.

## **God Invites Whole Family – All their Problems**

Notice the Lord invites Jacob and his whole family to Bethel. He invites them with all their problems, all their stinkyness, even their terrible reputation (Genesis 34:30):

*(Genesis 34:30 KJV) And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.*

God says come Jacob, come with all your problems. God says that to us today, got problems in your family, bring them all to me.

## **Buries at the Tree / Picture of the Cross / Bring it All to the Cross**

*Verse 4 - and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem:* Jacob buries them under the tree there at Shechem. The tree is a picture of the cross, and God says bring all your failings, all the things you idolize, all the things that put you in bondage, all the things that take you away from the Lord, and bring them to the cross. Confess them, bury them, and move on from them, and move on to fellowship with the Him.

## **Give God a Christmas Gift / Posters – Magazines – Links – CD's**

Hey Christian you want to give a Christmas gift to God this year, go through your house and gather all those things that draw you away from the Lord and bury them at the bottom of the dumpster. Is it those posters in the garage, those magazine in the chest, those Favorite links on the internet, those CD's that feed your flesh, take them to the tree and bury them. Merry Christmas Lord, amazingly, that is a gift to Him, because He wants to see His children doing well.

## **May Need Piece of Paper / Looks Different on Paper**

You may need to get that piece of paper out and write them down, and then throw them in the fireplace, or run them through the shredder. It is interesting what your sin looks like on a piece of paper, in front of you. Maybe it is gossip, bitterness, lust, hatred, put it on a piece of paper and have it look you right in the eye and that sin looks a whole lot different to you. Take it to the tree, bury them there, and move on to the House of God.

## **Not Just Penalty – But Power**

Remember Christian, Jesus did not just go to the cross for the penalty of sin, but also to give us power over sin:

*(2 Peter 1:2 NKJV) Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,*

*(2 Peter 1:3 NKJV) as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*

*(2 Peter 1:4 NKJV) by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

*(2 Peter 1:5 NKJV) But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,*

## **Moral Excellence**

Virtue means "moral excellence", and that is you saying these things have got to go, excellence is the mark I am going for.

## **Don't Sell Them**

Just a note, those trinkets that Jacob buried were worth money in that evil and immoral town of Shechem. Jacob could have sold them and had a treat like Starbucks for the road, but notice that Jacob buries them there. Good example for us, when you clean up the music library, that magazine rack, that wardrobe, don't sell it to someone else so they can be sucked into those things, bury them at the bottom of the dumpster.

**(Genesis 35:5 NKJV) And they journeyed, and the terror of God was upon the cities that were all around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.**

**(Genesis 35:6 NKJV) So Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him.**

#### **God's Protection / Get Moving / No Man – Gov't - Pgm**

We see God's protection upon them. God said to them go to Bethel, so if God said that to them, then they will make it there. If God has told you to do something, then get moving and do it, don't worry about the people around you and what they may say or try to do to stop you. No man, government, or program can stop the plans that God has for your life, only you can by you sin of disobedience.

**(Genesis 35:7 NKJV) And he built an altar there and called the place El Bethel, because there God appeared to him when he fled from the face of his brother.**

#### **El Bethel / Not looking for Place – But God**

Now he calls the place "El Bethel". So it isn't just the house of God, it is now the God of the house of God. We see a mark of growth for Jacob. Jacob isn't just looking for the place, he is now looking for the God of that place.

#### **Not Church / Calvary Chapel & Word / They are Doors**

I think that is important for many Christians. It isn't the church, it is the God of that church. I see too often people are so into their church, they put more emphasis on the church than the God of the church. The same is for the Bible, so again be careful those in Calvary Chapel's; it is not the Bible, it is the God of the Bible. The Bible, the Church, they are doors to bring you before the Lord. The Bible is opened so we can have a dialog with Him. It is not to read about Him, but to meet Him. When you open your Bible, start with establishing in your mind that you are opening this Word to meet with Him. It is the same with Church, yes we come to fellowship with each other, but we come to church to meet with Him. They are doors we go through to come meet and fellowship with Him. We need to be reminded of these things, and when we remember them, they will take on a whole new meaning to us. If not, then it will be easy to be drawn away from church, and to be drawn away from the Word.

**(Genesis 35:8 NKJV) Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried below Bethel under the terebinth tree. So the name of it was called Allon Bachuth.**

#### **Jacob's Nanny / Special Bond / Sad Times in Good Places**

Deborah was Jacob's Nanny, she was Rebekah's his mother's nurse/servant. Deborah and Jacob had a special bond I am sure. You know Believer, sad times do happen even when we are in the House of God, even when we are where we are suppose to be.

**(Genesis 35:9 NKJV) Then God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Padan Aram, and blessed him.**

**(Genesis 35:10 NKJV) And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name." So He called his name Israel.**

#### **God Reaffirms the Name / You are Still my Man / God Reminds Us**

God reaffirms to Jacob that you are still my man. You use to be a schemer and a conniver, but I have given you a new name, you are/will be governed by God. I love it when God does that to me, when I am feeling down, worthless, a master at failing, and the Lord comes and speaks to me through His Word, a message of a Teacher, in my prayer time, and He reminds me that I am still His boy, and that He has plans for me. He is a good God.

**(Genesis 35:11 NKJV) Also God said to him: "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.**

**(Genesis 35:12 NKJV) "The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land."**

## **Replay of Genesis 17 with Abraham**

Does this sound familiar, it should, it is a replay for Jacob's grandfather Abraham:

*(Genesis 17:1 NKJV) When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.*

*(Genesis 17:2 NKJV) "And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."*

*(Genesis 17:3 NKJV) Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying:*

*(Genesis 17:4 NKJV) "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.*

*(Genesis 17:5 NKJV) "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.*

*(Genesis 17:6 NKJV) "I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.*

*(Genesis 17:7 NKJV) "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.*

*(Genesis 17:8 NKJV) "Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."*

## **El Shaddai / Might & Nurture**

And so as the Lord appeared to Abraham, so does He appear to Jacob and told him that He was the Almighty God or El Shaddai. This is the first mention of "El Shaddai", "Almighty God" in the Bible. "El" comes from the word that means "the strong arm". It is a word for masculine might. It gives the picture of a mighty God saying I will see you through, I will uphold you. The word "shad" is breast in Hebrew and is the place of life and nourishment for the babe. So, God is telling Abraham that He is the place of his life and nourishment and that Abraham is dependent upon Him.

## **Be Fruitful – Great Nation – King of kings / The Land**

God tells him to be fruitful and multiply, that he will be a great nation, that kings shall come from him (and we know the promise to the lineage is that the King of kings shall come through them), and then God tells him that the Land will be his descendants forever.

**(Genesis 35:12 NKJV) "The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land."**

## **A Word on the Land / America – Prez Bush**

A word on the land, notice the "land which I gave"; it is God's land, for He owns the world so He owns that piece of land we know as the Promised Land which comprises Israel and then some today. He gave it to Abraham, then He gave it to Isaac, and then He gave it to Jacob – Israel. God renews the covenant with Jacob. Now I do love America's support for Israel, the way they bless and protect Israel, stand beside them when no one else does, and stand up for them. But I do worry for our country when we start meddling with whose land it is, when we start trying to broker peace for Israel by dictating to them to give up some of the Land to the Palestinians. President Bush needs to remember that the land belongs to God, and He gave it to Israel and his descendants. It would be wise for him not to try to force the nation Israel's hand into giving pieces of it away. Let the leaders of Israel decide what they will give up or not give up, but keep America out of giving it away, and keep focus on blessing them, for God will bless those that bless them:

*(Genesis 12:3 NKJV) I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

**(Genesis 35:13 NKJV) Then God went up from him in the place where He talked with him.**

**(Genesis 35:14 NKJV) So Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He talked with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured a drink offering on it, and he poured oil on it.**

## **Symbols of Jesus & Spirit**

The drink offering was wine. So here we see the symbols of the blood of Christ and the Holy Spirit. We see the trinity here of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. There is power in the blood, and there is power in the Spirit:

*(Zechariah 4:6 NKJV) So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.*

**(Genesis 35:15 NKJV)** And Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke with him, Bethel.

**(Genesis 35:16 NKJV)** Then they journeyed from Bethel. And when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath, Rachel labored in childbirth, and she had hard labor.

**(Genesis 35:17 NKJV)** Now it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said to her, "Do not fear; you will have this son also."

**(Genesis 35:18 NKJV)** And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin.

**(Genesis 35:19 NKJV)** So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).

### **Why Leave Bethel / Be in House of God**

Ephrath is Bethlehem. But the question has to be asked, Jacob why would you leave the House of God? Why would he take a pregnant wife on such a journey. When he was only a little distance away from the House of God his beloved wife dies. You know Christian when hardship comes in our lives, we want to be in the House of God for it is there that we can be comforted by the wine and the oil, the blood and the Spirit.

### **People Leave / People Drift / Death in Family**

I know the Lord calls people on, and we miss them, but know God is working in their life. But I hate it when I see people leave fellowship, drift away to nowhere, and in many cases, there is a death in the family (in a spiritual sense), as they quit fellowshiping with the Lord, they forget the wine and the oil, they dry up and die. Christian stay where the wine and the oil has been poured out.

**(Genesis 35:20 NKJV)** And Jacob set a pillar on her grave, which is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day.

### **Rachel Dies in her Desire**

I remind you back to that day when Rachel was jealous of her sister Leah and her 4 kids and she grabs Jacob and says give me children or I die:

*(Genesis 30:1 NKJV) Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die!"*

*(Genesis 30:2 NKJV) And Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"*

### **Christian Careful what you Crave**

You know Christian the very thing you crave or desire may be the very thing that kills you. High School girls just got to have that boy, singles just got to be married, just got to have that job, just got to have that home, those very things may be the very thing that leads you down the wrong path, away from God, into destruction or ruin.

### **Be Content**

We must be as Paul said to be, learn to be content in all things:

*(Philippians 4:11 NKJV) Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:*

*(Philippians 4:12 NKJV) I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

*(Philippians 4:13 NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

**(Genesis 35:21 NKJV)** Then Israel journeyed and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.

**(Genesis 35:22 NKJV)** And it happened, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine; and Israel heard about it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:



### **Jacob Silent / Idols – Dinah – Slaughter Shechem - Concubine**

You know sometimes silence is golden, and sometimes silence is just plain ole wrong. We have seen the silence of Jacob over his lifetime, and his family pays for it. Jacob was silent when:

- Rachel stole the idols from Laban. It is many years later before he says out they go.
- Jacob was silent when Dinah went to Shechem, we don't read of him forbidden her to go to such an evil place.
- We see him silent when his sons are scheming the evil plane against the men of Shechem, and then silent from stopping them from doing it.
- And here he is silent again when his son Ruben does such a horrible thing like this, sleeping with his own fathers concubine. In chapter 49 he will rebuke their deeds, but is silent here.

### **His Silence Began in Padan Aram / Abraham – Spiritual Directness**

I suggest to you that his silence all the way back in Padan Aram, when Rachel stole the idols was a pattern he never broke, a stance he would never take. His father Abraham gave us the best example with Lot, Abraham exercised "spiritual directness" he went to Lot and said the situation is not good, there is too many of us and not enough land, we need to do something. We need this in our families, our friendships, and in the church.

### **Tell Our Kids / Be Direct with Family – Church - Friends**

We need to tell our kids, this is wrong, I don't care how much of a fight it costs us, for silence can lead our families the way of Jacob's. Our friendships in the church and elsewhere, too many friendships are ended because people are silent, and things get misunderstood and people leave each other upset. Talk, silence isn't always golden.

**(Genesis 35:23 NKJV) the sons of Leah were Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun;**

**(Genesis 35:24 NKJV) the sons of Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin;**

**(Genesis 35:25 NKJV) the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's maidservant, were Dan and Naphtali;**

**(Genesis 35:26 NKJV) and the sons of Zilpah, Leah's maidservant, were Gad and Asher.**

**These were the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Padan Aram.**

The 12 sons of Israel, which make up the 12 tribes of Israel that will be important for us to know as we study the history of Israel, and End Times Prophecy.

**(Genesis 35:27 NKJV) Then Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had dwelt.**

**(Genesis 35:28 NKJV) Now the days of Isaac were one hundred and eighty years.**

**(Genesis 35:29 NKJV) So Isaac breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people, being old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.**

So here we see the death of Isaac. We see Jacob and Esau together to bury their father.

# Genesis Chapter 36

## The Lineage of Esau

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

#### Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

#### Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Lineage of Esau / Drops Off

Chapter 36 is the lineage of Esau. The Bible gives us this lineage here in 36 and then it drops off, like all other linkages in the Bible, except the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob for from that Lineage will come the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

### Kidding Me / All Scripture Given

You may say you have to be kidding me, study the genealogy of Esau; but remember all

Scripture is inspired of God:

*(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,*

*(2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

### Read Your Bible - Key to Revival / God has a Word for Us Here

Read your Bible, it is the key, and it will produce revival in your heart, and we need a revival in our heart every day, therefore we need to be in this Word morning-to-morning, day-to-day. God has a word for us on every page of this Bible, in every chapter - even in the genealogies. Inspired means "God breathed". God has breathed life into every word written to us, God has laid these words here for our benefits, our blessing, our revival.

### Could have been Me / Doomed - Empty - Barren / If not for Him

For me, I look at this lineage of Esau and see a life that could have been. A life that was doomed and empty, and not even realizing it, had it not been for His grace, mercy, and love reaching down from heaven to touch me. Before He could reach down, He had to come down, that is a

God of love, that He would come for me, a sinful man. He touched me, He opened my heart to the things of God, He showed me the vanity of this world, and how it is just a vapour.

### **Esau Picture of Flesh / Demands Satisfaction - Now**

Esau is a picture of the flesh in the Scripture; and illustration of the fleshly appetite, the carnal nature. The flesh, that part of a person that demands satisfaction, and demands it now. I want, what I want, and I want it now. Whether it is some sin or some subtle deal, the flesh rises up and says give it to me - NOW!

### **Sold Birthright / Gave up Spiritual Leadership / No Desire Spiritual Things**

Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of beans. That birthright, which gave a double portion to the eldest son upon the death of the father; but more so, when the father died the eldest son was to assume the spiritual leadership of his father's family. Esau had no desire for the spiritual things of God, he only had his focus on the current things of the world. God called him a doomed man: *(Hebrews 12:16 NKJV) lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.*

*(Hebrews 12:17 NKJV) For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.*

We see his life, and offspring's of his life:

**(Genesis 36:1 NKJV) Now this is the genealogy of Esau, who is Edom.**

### **Lived Outside Promised Land / Where Flesh wants to Dwell**

Esau lived in Edom, which is outside the Promised Land. That is where the flesh always wants to dwell, outside the things and promises of God.

**(Genesis 36:2 NKJV) Esau took his wives from the daughters of Canaan: Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite; Aholibamah the daughter of Anah, the daughter of Zibeon the Hivite;**

**(Genesis 36:3 NKJV) and Basemath, Ishmael's daughter, sister of Nebajoth.**

### **Genesis 26 & 28**

We saw these marriages as we have studied through. Esau took 3 wives.

*(Genesis 26:34 NKJV) When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives **Judith** the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and **Basemath** the daughter of Elon the Hittite.*

*(Genesis 26:35 NKJV) And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.*

*(Genesis 28:6 NKJV) Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan Aram to take himself a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan,"*

*(Genesis 28:7 NKJV) and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan Aram.*

*(Genesis 28:8 NKJV) Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac.*

*(Genesis 28:9 NKJV) So Esau went to Ishmael and took **Mahalath** the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.*

### **Unequally Yoked / Duet 7:3 - 2 Corinthians**

God and his family (Genesis 26:35) did not want him taking the daughters of the Canaanites.

God will reaffirm that to the Children of Israel, and Paul reaffirms it to the Church:

*(Deuteronomy 7:1 NKJV) "When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites **and the Canaanites** and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you,*

*(Deuteronomy 7:2 NKJV) "and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.*

*(Deuteronomy 7:3 NKJV) "Nor shall you make marriages with them. **You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son.***

*(Deuteronomy 7:4 NKJV) "For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.*

*(Deuteronomy 7:5 NKJV) "But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.*

*(Deuteronomy 7:6 NKJV) "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth."*

*(2 Corinthians 6:14 NKJV) **Do not be unequally yoked together** with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

*(2 Corinthians 6:15 NKJV) And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?*

*(2 Corinthians 6:16 NKJV) And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."*

*(2 Corinthians 6:17 NKJV) Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."*

*(2 Corinthians 6:18 NKJV) "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."*

### **Flesh Does it My Way / Sinatra**

But we see the flesh, Esau, has to do it his way. The flesh always sings the Frank Sinatra song - I did it my way.

### **Changes their Name / Tension in Home**

Strangely, we see Esau changed all their names. He brings these Canaanite woman home and his godly parents Isaac and Rebekah do not like it at all, and the tension begins. No different today if/when we see our kids hanging out with unbelievers, we know the potential is for them to go down hard, and so the battle begins for who they hang out with, and eventually marry.

### **3 wives - 3 name Changes**

So Esau marries two Canaanite woman, and then He remembers that Uncle Ishmael has daughters and goes marries one of them, and changes her name. So three wives, three name changes.....very strange. The flesh makes you do strange things.

### **They Become**

So Esau brings them home, Isaac and Rebekah are not pleased, so He changes their names:

- Adah becomes Basemath
- Aholibamah becomes Judith
- Basemath becomes Mahalath

It could be vice-versa for I am not sure which name was first; we can trace the name change based on whom their fathers were. We can track the name change of the father of Aholibamah from *Beer* to Adah for verse 24 deciphers that for us; Beer means spring or well, and we see that he was the founder of "hot springs", so he changed his name to get credit for it, kinda of like when someone discovers a star or new disease, they name it after them so they get credit for it.

### **Aholibamah - Tent / Temple Prostitute - Sexual Religions / Serve at Temple /**

So Esau marries these gals and he his parents are not happy so we see him changing their name:

Aholibamah means tent in the high place. She then was a temple prostitute. Near each temple was a tent that is where the woman would go serve their god. The pagan religions are very steeped in sexual immorality and drug use - of course they are because the flesh enjoys those things, so man makes religions based on their perception of god, which is based on their wants and desires. So temple prostitutes would serve at the tent, men would pay for the services and the money would go into the temple treasury. They would use the sex to get more converts.

### **Priestess Dressed up Name / Judith - Girl next Door / Meet Mom & Dad**

Aholibamah was a priestess, which was a dressed up name for a prostitute, and to be one she would have to be beautiful and seductive. Her name is changed to Judith - isn't that a nice girl next door name. Imagine a man bringing the future wife home to meet the parents, mom, dad, this temple prostitute, or better, this is Judith the girl next door.

### **Adah to Basemath / Basemath to Mahalath**

What is weird is that he changes the name of Adah to Basemath, and then he ends up getting a Basemath, so he can't have two with the same name so he changes the real Basemath to Mahalath. Esau is full of the full of the flesh, so I wonder if he was thinking about the second

when he married the first and then changed her name to meet his thoughts. Strange, strange, strange.

#### **Why Change Name / More Palatable / Adultery - Fornication - Sodomy - Drunkard**

Why change their names, because that is what the flesh does. The flesh changes the name for sin (for marrying these was rebellion to parents), so he changes their name to something that is more palatable, for that is what the flesh does. We no longer call it adultery, we call it an affair, for adultery is too harsh and sounds legalistic. Fornication is a fling, or he's a stud, living together. Sodomy is now gay, an alternative lifestyle, significant other. Drunkardness is now a disease. The flesh wants to dress these things up and make them more acceptable.

#### **Alcoholism - Sin Problem - Not Disease / Bottle - Approve - Advertise - Acceptable / 100%**

Drunkardness, he's an alcoholic, he has a drinking problem, he has a disease, it is no longer a sin problem, but that person is now a victim of a disease. Now if that be the case, alcoholism is the only disease in the history of mankind that can be bottled and sold for profit, pushed on the billboards and television commercials, and has gained government approval and is socially acceptable. It is also the only disease that you have 100% guarantee assuredly that if you don't crack that seal you will never have that disease. It is not a disease like cancer or leukaemia, it is exactly what God calls it, sin.

#### **Culture Changes the Name - More Acceptable / God Opened Our Eyes**

Our culture changes the name to make it acceptable, more palatable, for that is what the flesh does, that is what Esau did. But thank God for He opened our eyes up to that deception, and gave us a way out through His Son.

*(Ephesians 1:17 NKJV) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,*

*(Ephesians 1:18 NKJV) **the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;** that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*

**(Genesis 36:4 NKJV) Now Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau, and Basemath bore Reuel.**

**(Genesis 36:5 NKJV) And Aholibamah bore Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah. These were the sons of Esau who were born to him in the land of Canaan.**

#### **Flesh Expands - Reproduces / Sowing - Reaping**

Read through this genealogy and you will see the obvious, the flesh expands and reproduces. Esau has offsprings. The works of our flesh will reproduce:

*(Galatians 6:7 NKJV) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*

#### **Sow - Crop will Come / Imagine If we Had Continued / Sowing Sin Greatly Reduced**

Sow the seed and the crop will come up. Imagine if we continued in that life of sowing bad seed, where would we be at today. I think I might be dead, I really do, drunk driving or something like that. I wonder what number marriage I would be on. We still sin, but our sowing bad seed is greatly reduced because of Him, He opened the eyes of our understanding.

**(Genesis 36:6 NKJV) Then Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, and all the persons of his household, his cattle and all his animals, and all his goods which he had gained in the land of Canaan, and went to a country away from the presence of his brother Jacob.**

**(Genesis 36:7 NKJV) For their possessions were too great for them to dwell together, and the land where they were strangers could not support them because of their livestock.**

#### **Leaves Promises - Get More Stuff / Flesh Refuses to Wait on Lord / Spends Lifetime Filling**

Esau leaves the Promised Land of his father; that is what the flesh does, it leaves the Promises of God for more fleshly stuff. The flesh wants it now, and refuses to wait on the Lord and the good things He promises His children if they obediently wait. The flesh will spend a lifetime trying to fill up with possessions.

*(Matthew 16:26 NKJV) "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

### **God Gives us Contentment / It was Bondage / Never Knew-Trust God take Care of Me**

We as born-again, regenerated, God has given us contentment in Him. We are not driving to go chase after those things. I remember it, it was bondage and slavery. I never had rest in my finances because I never knew that God would be there to take care of me.

*(Matthew 6:33 NKJV) "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*

### **Now I can Rest / Not a Slave / God will Provide**

Now I can rest and say this is what I have, so this is what you want me to have. I don't trust in my bank account, I can trust in God. September 11<sup>th</sup> proved that to anyone in the stock market. We are not a slave to the chase of possessions, all we have to do is stay in the Promised Land and know that God will provide.

**(Genesis 36:8 NKJV) So Esau dwelt in Mount Seir. Esau is Edom.**

**(Genesis 36:9 NKJV) And this is the genealogy of Esau the father of the Edomites in Mount Seir.**

### **Father of Edomites - King Herod / Sinful Lifestyle Kill the Messiah / John 3:19**

Just one note, Esau is the father of the Edomites and King Herod. King Herod will be the one who kills all the babies in Judah at the time of the birth of Jesus. This is the legacy of the lineage of Esau, what will be ours? Ever notice when someone is living a lifestyle of sin how they have to try to kill anything that represents Him. Ahh those people are a bunch of hypocrites, I'm not going to church. Oh my co-worker said they were Christian but I saw them get angry, they're a phoney. You're judging me, you're legalistic, and those things because they love their sin:

*(John 3:19 NKJV) "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."*

*(John 3:20 NKJV) "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."*

*(John 3:21 NKJV) "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*

### **We have Freedom / We Run to Light / We want Kingdom Come / Flesh grows to be Herod**

What freedom we have from the flesh, we run to the light; we are no longer slaves to those things. We say I know I am a sinner, and I thank you for ending my Savoir. I want your Kingdom to come, I want your will to be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Set up your Kingdom within my heart. Abide in me, and I in you. The flesh grows to be a King Herod, kill the Messiah so that my kingdom will never depart from me.

**(Genesis 36:10 NKJV) These were the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz the son of Adah the wife of Esau, and Reuel the son of Basemath the wife of Esau.**

**(Genesis 36:11 NKJV) And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.**

**(Genesis 36:12 NKJV) Now Timna was the concubine of Eliphaz, Esau's son, and she bore Amalek to Eliphaz. These were the sons of Adah, Esau's wife.**

**(Genesis 36:13 NKJV) These were the sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife.**

**(Genesis 36:14 NKJV) These were the sons of Aholibamah, Esau's wife, the daughter of Anah, the daughter of Zibeon. And she bore to Esau: Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah.**

**(Genesis 36:15 NKJV) These were the chiefs of the sons of Esau. The sons of Eliphaz, the firstborn son of Esau, were Chief Teman, Chief Omar, Chief Zepho, Chief Kenaz,**

**(Genesis 36:16 NKJV) Chief Korah, Chief Gatam, and Chief Amalek. These were the chiefs of Eliphaz in the land of Edom. They were the sons of Adah.**

### **Amalekiters / Pickoff the Wanders / Don't Drift / Christian Go for It**

*Chief Amalek* - The Amalikites were perpetual problems to Israel. See Deuteronomy 25; when the Children of Israel were wandering the wilderness, they would attack the people at the rear. They were the people who were tired, weary. The rear of the pack is a dangerous place to be church. The way back of the pack, the furthest from the tabernacle. You know, praying when you get around to it, reading when you get around to it, making church when you get around to it, be careful for that will drop you to the back, and Satan, the flesh will pick you off.

Hey Christian, go for it. Don't hang back in this Christian walk, go for it.

#### **Notice - These were the Chiefs**

Notice in these next verses the repeated phrase, "*These were the chiefs*". The Flesh loves to be in control, chiefs in your life.

**(Genesis 36:17 NKJV)** These were the sons of Reuel, Esau's son: Chief Nahath, Chief Zerah, Chief Shammah, and Chief Mizzah. These were the chiefs of Reuel in the land of Edom. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife.

**(Genesis 36:18 NKJV)** And these were the sons of Aholibamah, Esau's wife: Chief Jeush, Chief Jaalam, and Chief Korah. These were the chiefs who descended from Aholibamah, Esau's wife, the daughter of Anah.

**(Genesis 36:19 NKJV)** These were the sons of Esau, who is Edom, and these were their chiefs.

**(Genesis 36:20 NKJV)** These were the sons of Seir the Horite who inhabited the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,

**(Genesis 36:21 NKJV)** Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. These were the chiefs of the Horites, the sons of Seir, in the land of Edom.

**(Genesis 36:22 NKJV)** And the sons of Lotan were Hori and Hemam. Lotan's sister was Timna.

**(Genesis 36:23 NKJV)** These were the sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.

**(Genesis 36:24 NKJV)** These were the sons of Zibeon: both Ajah and Anah. This was the Anah who found the water in the wilderness as he pastured the donkeys of his father Zibeon.

**(Genesis 36:25 NKJV)** These were the children of Anah: Dishon and Aholibamah the daughter of Anah.

**(Genesis 36:26 NKJV)** These were the sons of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.

**(Genesis 36:27 NKJV)** These were the sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.

**(Genesis 36:28 NKJV)** These were the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.

**(Genesis 36:29 NKJV)** These were the chiefs of the Horites: Chief Lotan, Chief Shobal, Chief Zibeon, Chief Anah,

**(Genesis 36:30 NKJV)** Chief Dishon, Chief Ezer, and Chief Dishan. These were the chiefs of the Horites, according to their chiefs in the land of Seir.

#### **Notice Reigned in His Place**

Notice in these next several verses that the descendants of Esau became kings, long before Israel ever had kings. Notice the phrase, "reigned in his place".

**(Genesis 36:31 NKJV)** Now these were the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king reigned over the children of Israel:

**(Genesis 36:32 NKJV)** Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom, and the name of his city was Dinhabah.

**(Genesis 36:33 NKJV)** And when Bela died, Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his place.

**(Genesis 36:34 NKJV)** When Jobab died, Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his place.

(Genesis 36:35 NKJV) And when Husham died, Hadad the son of Bedad, who attacked Midian in the field of Moab, reigned in his place. And the name of his city was Avith.  
 (Genesis 36:36 NKJV) When Hadad died, Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his place.  
 (Genesis 36:37 NKJV) And when Samlah died, Saul of Rehoboth-by-the-River reigned in his place.  
 (Genesis 36:38 NKJV) When Saul died, Baal-Hanan the son of Achbor reigned in his place.  
 (Genesis 36:39 NKJV) And when Baal-Hanan the son of Achbor died, Hadar reigned in his place; and the name of his city was Pau. His wife's name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab.  
 (Genesis 36:40 NKJV) And these were the names of the chiefs of Esau, according to their families and their places, by their names: Chief Timnah, Chief Alvah, Chief Jetheth,  
 (Genesis 36:41 NKJV) Chief Aholibamah, Chief Elah, Chief Pinon,  
 (Genesis 36:42 NKJV) Chief Kenaz, Chief Teman, Chief Mibzar,  
 (Genesis 36:43 NKJV) Chief Magdiel, and Chief Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom, according to their dwelling places in the land of their possession. Esau was the father of the Edomites.

**Family Reproduces - Wealthy - Powerful - Known in Land - Kings / Edom a Desert Today**  
 From this genealogy we see that Esau's family produced kings. Esau's family was wealthy, they were powerful, they were known in the land. Known in the land of Edom; been to Edom lately, it is a desert, it is deserted, it is dry and barren, and lifeless. All those things that seem so great, the possessions, the power, the kings, and today nothing.

**God gives us the Genealogy - To see it Fades / They had Kingdom - Power - Glory / Nothing**

God puts these words before us, this genealogy, so we can see that the works of the flesh all end in nothing. In the end the flesh ends up with nothing, the flesh fades and withers. Esau's lineage had the kingdom, the power, and the glory. The three things man in his flesh want, yet in the end, ends with nothing.

**Only 1 Place for Kingdom - Power - Glory**

For there is only one place to find the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory.....Forever and Ever:

*(Matthew 6:9 NKJV) "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.*

*(Matthew 6:10 NKJV) Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.*

*(Matthew 6:11 NKJV) Give us this day our daily bread.*

*(Matthew 6:12 NKJV) And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.*

*(Matthew 6:13 NKJV) And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. **For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

**That is what Given to Us - Kingdom - Power - Glory / The Life that Could have Been**

That is what He has given us, we get the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, that will last forever and ever, because it is in Him, and we are in Him and He is in us. The Life of Esau, what could have been.

**Enjoy Communion**

Take Communion, enjoy it for what it is, it is a victory celebration. Praise to the King.



# Genesis Chapter 37

## Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors - Genesis 37:1-4

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

#### Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

#### Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

### Only 1 Chapter for Creation / Evolution Counter / Nothing more to Say - I Am

What is more interesting to me is that only 1 chapter was given for the creation of man and the universe. I personally would have loved 25% of this book to be about Creation, so then I would be loaded with all kind of ammo to defeat the Theory of Evolution. But God's priorities are different than mine, and of course God's ways are better than mine, higher than mine. He just says. "In the beginning". He doesn't try to explain or defend His existence; that's how it was when Moses met Him on the Mount that day, who shall I say sent me, and God replies, tell them "I Am, that I Am." Nothing more to say, I Am, that settles it.

### 25% on Creation - Man still Doubt / Something Better - the Prophetic Word

You see God could have spent 25% on Creation, but man with his higher learner would question, attack, and twist all of that just like they do that 1 chapter. God gives man 1 chapter, and He starts with "in the beginning God". And, God says I will give you something that only God can give, I will predict the future, and if you are truly honest with yourself, and you are truly seeking me, you will know that "I Am, that I Am".

*(2 Peter 1:19 NKJV) And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;*  
*(2 Peter 1:20 NKJV) knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,*  
*(2 Peter 1:21 NKJV) for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

### **Reason Man Wont - John 3:19**

The reason man won't believe, John 3:19:

*(John 3:19 NKJV) "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, **and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.***

*(John 3:20 NKJV) "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*

*(John 3:21 NKJV) "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*

### **Prove Existence - Still Sin Issue / Study Joseph Fascinating - Picture of Jesus / No Sin Record**

You see you can prove God's existence all day, but that won't deal with the sin issue, it won't bring man back from prison to paradise. Only the Messiah, the Savior can do that, and that is why the study of Joseph is so fascinating, for we will see in so many ways Joseph is a picture of Jesus Christ. This is called Biblical typology, and we have pictures of people and things that represent the spiritual realm, Joseph is a picture of Jesus. Joseph is only one of two major characters in the Bible that there is no recorded mention of their sin. Daniel is the other one; now this doesn't mean they were sinless, for all have sinned:

*(Romans 3:23 NKJV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

### **Joseph not Line of Messiah**

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

### **Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good**

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good (Romans 8:28).

### **Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well**

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, let's go for it, let's cut the lines, put the sails up, and let's live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, let's go for it, let's not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

*(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

*(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

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### **Brings Report**

Now Joseph brings a report to Jacob of his brothers doing wrong. We do not know what they were doing but whatever it was it was bad enough that Joseph needs to report it to dad. Many

commentators call Joseph a little brat, tattletale, and all the trouble he gets into is because he was.

### **Dwelling in Harmony / Busy Father's Business / Tending the Flock / Picture of Jesus**

But in verse 1 we see that he is dwelling with his father, at harmony with his father, busy about his father's business tending the flocks, looking to please the Father. A picture of Jesus:

#### Looking to Please the Father:

*(John 8:29 NKJV) "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, **for I always do those things that please Him.**"*

#### In Harmony with the Father:

*(John 5:19 NKJV) Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, **but what He sees the Father** do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.*

*(John 5:20 NKJV) "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.*

#### About the Father's Business:

*(Luke 2:48 NKJV) So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."*

*(Luke 2:49 NKJV) And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? **Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?**"*

### **Hated for Relationship with Father**

We will see that Joseph's brothers don't hate him because he tells on them, but because of his relationship with his father.

### **A Key to Life Here - Be about the Father's Business / Things Roll Off**

You know a key to a happy life, fulfilled life here on this side of heaven, is to be about the Father's business. Be focused on the Father's business and you will see how the little things don't even bother you, if you even notice them at all. Be focused about the Father's business as Jesus was, and you will have life and that more abundant (John 10:10).

**(Genesis 37:3 NKJV) Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors.**

**(Genesis 37:4 NKJV) But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.**

### **People Wishing / Have - Don't - Live - or Be / Materially & Spiritually**

Many people wish that they had something else, or they wish they lived somewhere else, and others wish they were someone else. They ask why don't I have that, live there, or be who that person is. There is something in us that makes us want to have what other people have, and not only in the material realm, but the spiritual realm also.

### **Legend - Envy**

Legend has a story, and it was a man who wanted to go to seclusion so he might spend all his time in intercessory prayer and worship of the Lord. Well Satan sends some henchmen to go disrupt him. They try to lure him with lust, anger, loneliness and the likes, but to no avail. So Satan says watch, and he goes and perches on the man's shoulder and whispers in his ear, your brother has just been made Bishop of Alexandria. Immediately the man's face turns to a frown, and turmoil and struggle enters into his heart, joy was lost.

### **Envy Pull Down Strongest / Joseph's Brothers filled with Envy**

Interesting story, that how envy can bring down the strongest. Satan knows that, and he will use that against us. Envy, wanting what we don't have. Acts 7:9 tells us that is just what happened to Joseph's brothers, they had envy towards Joseph.

*(Acts 7:9 NKJV) "And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him*

### **Robe had Sleeves / Common Worker Robe / Bosses Sleeves / Briefcase**

*Verse 3 - Also he made him a tunic of many colors:* A more correct translation for colors is "pieces". This robe had sleeves you see, and that made it special, and that made the one who wore special. The common man, the workingman, their robe was sleeveless so that the sleeves would not get in the way of working (carpentry, farming, digging). But a person who had sleeves, they would be like the boss on the job, it was a symbol of authority. It was written that the sleeves served as a briefcase also, and they would carry the papers and drawing, etc.

### **Brother hate Symbol of Superiority / Plotting Begins / Innocent Victim**

So the brothers don't like Joseph having any symbol of superiority over them, he was the second youngest; he had no superiority over them. So we see envy coming upon them, and they plot to Joseph's demise. Joseph is an innocent victim here, but we can still learn a great lesson from his coat.

### **Recap - Pit - Slave - Robe Dipped - Jacob Deceived**

You remember what is going to happen, they will throw him in a pit and leave him to die, but then they decided to sell him as a slave to a caravan passing by, make a buck or two. So they took that robe, dipped it in animal blood, then take it to Jacob and saw we found this robe, Joseph must have been attacked by wild beast.

### **Potiphar - New Robe - Seduced - Integrity - Prison**

You know the story, he ends up at Potiphar's house, the number 2 guy. So he gets a new robe to wear as servant in this home (as it was in those days), we know that because it ends up in Potiphar's wife's hand as she tries to seduce him. Joseph's integrity gets him in trouble, and into the prison he goes, the robe was the evidence against him.

### **The Coats - The Places of Prominence / Work - Captain - Person**

This coat, these coats, these places of prominence, got Joseph in much trouble in his life. You know, we say I want that position at work, I should be captain of the football team, why am I still sitting at this desk and work and not in the managers seat, how come I didn't get the big contract. How come they get all the attention at school. We look around and ask how come I am not being noticed or acknowledged, elevated, rewarded.

### **The Tendency - WHY / Think we Know - So Sure / People wanted the Coat / For Position**

Whether it is at work, at school, in the church, there can the tendency of asking why him, why her, instead of me. You know we think we know what we want, so sure of it, and then struggle when we are not there. Lots of people (All Joseph's brothers) wanted Joseph's coat, not to wear for comfort, but to wear for that position, but Joseph wore it, and it brought many problems upon his life.

### **Positions with Pressures - No Idea of / Space - College - Lost It / Lake Charles**

You know there are positions and places that have pressures and circumstances that we have no idea of, problems and pains that we have no idea will come with that position. I remember several years ago, I quit my job from the Space Center launching rockets, a great job - the pinnacle of aviation (I worked my way up from mechanic to Program Analyst), to go to Bible College. Friends and family thought I had lost it. Well I get back from Bible College and go into unemployment for 9 months, which to many was confirmation that I made a foolish mistake. Then I get a temporary job, so no stability, then I finally get a full-time job with a major corporation. It was great, I started a Home Fellowship, I was having sweet fellowship with the Lord in the morning, I was studying the Word, listening to Bible Study tapes, it was great. But get this within 30 days they want to make me a Lead; a Lead over 10 people and 2 aircraft, wow.....

### **Prayed - Analyzed / Prove Critics / Didn't Ruin my Life**

So I prayed, I analysed, hey, I that means I can witness to presidents and Commanders, the extra money would be nice, but I know deep in my heart one of my motives: It prove all the critics

wrong, it would show them hey quitting and going to Bible college wasn't a life ruining mistake, I did recover and got back on top.

### **Like Lot - the Progression / Not Consumed Father's Business / Stress & Trouble**

Like Lot pitching his tent towards Sodom, a progression of things began. You know what happened first, my mind was no longer consumed with my Father's business. Rather than thinking on the next Bible Study, rather than waking in the morning and going time for the Word, time to hear from Him; I remember the mornings come, and my mind would immediately race to what I had to do to impress the boss, to build my reputation in this new place, to how much work had to be done. My Word time suffered, my mental health suffered because the stress of the job. Each plane was worth 100 million dollars and I was responsible to get it done on time and on cost. Financially they pulled a switch on me and I only get 40 dollars a week for the stress. On top of that I was often the scapegoat when things went bad, the program was often close to being terminated.

### **Gave Up Fellowship / Gave Up Easy Work**

I gave up that sweet fellowship with the Lord, a mind that was free to just go to work, do what came easy to me, thus allowing me to think upon all day, for 40 a week, all so I can so friends and family would see, hey I wasn't a fool to quit the Space Center for Bible College.

### **God so Gracious**

God as always was and is so gracious to me, and even though I pitched my tent facing Sodom if you would, then went and dwelt in the city and became a leader in the city, He still called me righteous.

*(2 Peter 2:7 NKJV) and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked*

*(2 Peter 2:8 NKJV) (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds);*

### **Those Big Sleeves / Cost me Trouble / 14-14-14**

Those big sleeves, that robe of many colors wasn't all that I thought it would be, it cost me trouble, it cost me that sweet time for fellowshiping with the Lord. 14 months, and 14 days and 14 hours, I had to ride it out, not that I was counting.

### **Be Careful Things we Want / May Cost Freedom / Give Thanks He didn't Want It**

Be careful about those things we want or think we need, or worthy of; it may cost you your freedom. Look, if you don't get that job, promotion, position, that guy, that gal, that home, then give thanks and know that the Lord did not want it for you:

*(Psalms 34:8 NKJV) Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!*

*(Psalms 34:9 NKJV) Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him.*

*(Psalms 34:10 NKJV) The young lions lack and suffer hunger; **But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.***

### **Learn to be Content / More Comes Praise Him / Be careful Big Sleeves though**

Learn to be content in what the Lord has given you, and if He gives you more, praise Him, but be careful of desiring those big sleeves, who knows how much trouble may come with them:

*(Philippians 4:11 NKJV) Not that I speak in regard to need, **for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:***

*(Philippians 4:12 NKJV) I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

### **Big Sleeves - God or Enemy**

But also, it is important to say here, Christian you can't always say, well if you don't want this for me Lord than block it or take it away. God allows these "big sleeve" opportunities so we will put things aside, come back to Him, spend time with Him, and seek His will for our lives. Sometimes these "big sleeve" opportunities come right from the enemy as he desires to draw you away, take away your joy, and diminish the sweet time of fellowship and freedom you have with the Lord. If Satan can't make you bad, he'll make you busy.

### **Next Time**

But next time that "big sleeve" opportunity comes, remember this story of Joseph, and may it make you consider is it worth:

- How much trouble that may come with it,
- How will it effect my time with the Lord,
- How will it effect my freedom in Christ
- How will effect my relationship with my family,
- How will this draw me closer to the Lord, (or will it draw me away from the Lord).

### **Amazing**

You know it is amazing to me now after my experience, after my failing, how guarded I am about those big sleeve opportunities, at work, in ministry, at play, in relationships, it amazes me how content I have learned to be. But it came the hard way.

# Genesis 37:5-11

## Joseph the Dreamer

### **Genesis more than history book / It is His-story**

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### **Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### **Outline:**

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
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- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
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- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### **Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers**

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Now Joseph brings a report to Jacob of his brothers doing wrong. We do not know what they were doing but whatever it was it was bad enough that Joseph needs to report it to dad. Many commentators call Joseph a little brat, tattletale, and all the trouble he gets into is because he was.

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But in verse 1 we see that he is dwelling with his father, at harmony with his father, busy about his father's business tending the flocks, looking to please the Father. A picture of Jesus:

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### **Hated for Relationship with Father**

We will see that Joseph's brothers don't hate him because he tells on them, but because of his relationship with his father.

### **A Key to Life Here - Be about the Father's Business / Things Roll Off**

You know a key to a happy life, fulfilled life here on this side of heaven, is to be about the Father's business. Be focused on the Father's business and you will see how the little things don't even bother you, if you even notice them at all. Be focused about the Father's business as Jesus was, and you will have life and that more abundant (John 10:10).

**(Genesis 37:5 NKJV) Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.**



**(Genesis 37:6 NKJV)** So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed:  
**(Genesis 37:7 NKJV)** "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."  
**(Genesis 37:8 NKJV)** And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

#### **Sheaves / Ruling Over Them / Opposite Culture**

Sheaves are wheat. So Joseph is telling his brothers that the meaning of the dream is him ruling over them, and they would bow down to him. This is totally opposite of the culture of the day for birth order determined who was to be head over the other. This doesn't sit well with his brothers, especially since Joseph is wearing the robe, with the sleeves, and is favored by his father.

**(Genesis 37:9 NKJV)** Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

**(Genesis 37:10 NKJV)** So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

**(Genesis 37:11 NKJV)** And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Dream / Mom & Dad Too**

In this second dream not only are Joseph's 11 brothers bowing down to him, but also his mother and father (the sun and the moon).

#### **Dreams of God – Come True Later**

The dreams of Joseph are no doubt of God, because we see them come true later on in the story; but, in the meantime, his brothers are going to do all they can do to thwart the purposes of God.

#### **Why Tell the Dream / Like Jesus – Tells it Like it Is / Joseph is Caring**

Now why did Joseph tell these dreams to his brothers and parents? He already knew the brothers despised him, and his father would not take pleasure in such a thought, but he did anyway. Why, because Joseph, like Jesus, told things as they were, and then would let the chips fall where they may. From reading the whole story of Joseph, we can see that he is a sensitive caring person, deeply interested in the welfare of others (as we will see in the coming chapters).

#### **Flattery / Christians Susceptible to This – Love / Damaging to Them / Burning Home**

So Joseph tells it like it is. You know one of the worse things you can do to a person is flatter them, when you know the flattery is not the reality. Christians are extremely susceptible to this because we want to be nice people, we want to love one another, we are told to love one another. It can be damaging to flatter someone, for we could be keeping a word they really need to hear from them. We really flatter because we want people to like us. But that is not love. If you were sleeping on the couch of a burning home, it would not be love to not wake you because I did not want to disturb your rest. Likewise if I saw you involved in something that was going to hurt you spiritually or physically, true love would come and say brother we need to talk..

#### **Can be Embarrassing / Shaving Cream / Do it in Love**

Sometimes it can initially be embarrassing, but a person who wants to do right, or not be embarrassed themselves will be thankful. If I had shaving cream in my ear, please tell me, I'll be embarrassed, but I'll be thankful. Of course when you come, do it in love and gentleness. Some will use this as an opportunity to rip someone, and then feel justified in saying it was for their own good – pray to know the difference

#### **Jesus did It / Saved us from Destruction / John 8:32**

That is what Jesus does, He told us like it was, that we were sinners, we were going on a path of destruction, but He spoke the words of truth to us:

*(John 8:32 NKJV) "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

### **Verse 9 – Important to Rev 12 / People make this the Church**

Verse 9 is important to us to help us unlock the meaning of Revelation 12.

*Verse 9 - Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.* In the Book of Revelations, chapter twelve, where we have listed some symbolic personages: the woman clothed with the sun and the moon and the twelve stars; many interpret this woman as the church and they see the church going through the tribulation.

This is a stretching of biblical symbolism:

*(Revelation 12:1 NKJV) Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.*

*(Revelation 12:2 NKJV) Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.*

### **1<sup>st</sup> Mention – Expo Constancy / So Sun-Moon is Jacob / Same in Rev / Church no Wrath**

To interpret a symbol, you need to go back to where it is used in scripture and see how it is used there. There is in Hermeneutics the Law of First Use and also the Law of Expositional Constancy. Whatever the use in one area of scripture is also the use in another area of scripture. The Expositional Constancy is extremely important in the understanding of the Parable. Here, the sun, the moon and the eleven stars refer to Jacob and his wife and sons or the nation of Israel. If these symbols refer to the nation of Israel in Genesis, then it is wrong to try to interpret the woman with the sun, the moon, and the twelve stars in Revelation as anything but Israel. Misinterpretation of this, then puts the Church going through the Tribulation Period, which is contrary to the Scriptures, for God will not judge the righteous with the wicked, and the Tribulation Period (the Day of the Lord) is God's wrath on a Christ rejecting world. Again I refer you back to Lot being pulled out of Sodom before God reigned fire down upon it – Abraham said surely God you will not judge the righteous with the wicked – and God did not.

### **Verse 11 / Jacob Ponders the Dream / Like Mary**

*Verse 11 - And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.* - So Jacob speaks quickly, rebukes Joseph, but then goes off and says to himself, I'll keep this tucked away, I won't dismiss it, I'll wait and see. Mary did the same when :

*(Luke 2:16 NKJV) And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.*

*(Luke 2:17 NKJV) Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.*

*(Luke 2:18 NKJV) And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.*

*(Luke 2:19 NKJV) But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.*

### **Jacob Saw Something in Joseph / Saw Call of God – Though against all he Knew**

Jacob saw something in Joseph that he knew was special, different from the other boys. I believe Jacob saw the call of God upon Joseph's life, and though he couldn't understand it because it went against all he was used to, he wouldn't dismiss it as foolishness, so he waited. Good word to us parents, let's not kill our kids dreams, let us seek the Lord also and see what might become of their dreams.

### **Joseph – Save a World – People – Lineage / Not Easy – to Stand On / God Does the Same**

Joseph will be used to save a world, to preserve a nation, to preserve the lineage of the Messiah. It would not be easy on him, he will go through great turmoil in his life to bring all the pieces in line. God gives him a dream to stand on during the hard times. God does that for us. He gives us a dream, a vision, a word in our heart, or a Scripture.

### **God gave Jacob Dream / Gen 28 / Joseph ask to hear the Story Again**

It is interesting, because God gave his father Jacob (Israel) a dream also. Jacob would see the angels ascending and descending, and it would change his life. I can imagine Joseph sitting at his father's feet saying tell me the story again dad, tell me the dream that changed your life:

*(Genesis 28:11 NKJV) So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.*

(Genesis 28:12 NKJV) *Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.*  
 (Genesis 28:13 NKJV) *And behold, **the LORD stood above it** and said: "**I am the LORD God** of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie **I will** give to you and your descendants.*  
 (Genesis 28:14 NKJV) *"Also your descendants **shall be** as the dust of the earth; **you shall** spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth **shall be** blessed.*  
 (Genesis 28:15 NKJV) *"Behold, **I am with you** and **will keep you** wherever you go, **and will bring you back** to this land; for **I will not leave you** until **I have done** what I have spoken to you."*

### **Jacobs Ladder / John 1**

This is known as "Jacob's Ladder"; Jesus refers to this in John:

(John 1:49 NKJV) *Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"*  
 (John 1:50 NKJV) *Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."*  
 (John 1:51 NKJV) *And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."*

### **Jacob's Hard Times / Stand on this Dream / I Will**

When the hard times came in Jacob's life, how many times would he go back to, stand on that dream he had, that promise, those words from the Lord. God saying I am your God, I will give you this land, and many descendants, and I will bring you back to this Land

### **Joseph Would gain Strength from Jacob's Dream / How we Effect People**

How Joseph must have gained strength in his time of struggle as he remembered also God's words given to his father, and how God was true to His word. You know, you never know, how just everyday words, conversations will effect a person.

### **God not done with Older Men**

Older men and woman, don't think that God is done with you, invest in the youth that are in your life:

(Proverbs 20:29 KJV) *The glory of young men is their strength: **and the beauty of old men is the grey head.***  
 (Psalms 92:12 NKJV) *The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.*  
 (Psalms 92:13 NKJV) *Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God.*  
 (Psalms 92:14 NKJV) ***They shall still bear fruit in old age;** They shall be fresh and flourishing,*

### **My Granddaddy / Imagine Joseph / Dream Changed Life – Not Easy / Joseph's Life Relates**

I remember my granddaddy, he was quite the storyteller, I use to love to hear his stories. Could you imagine being Joseph and hearing the stories of Jacob? Yes son that dream changed my life, and my life wouldn't be easy. I worked 7 years for your mother Rachel, but your uncle Laban tricked me, then I had to work 7 more years, but she was worth it. Amazing to see how Joseph's life relates to his father Jacob. Joseph would have 7 years of prosperity, and then 7 years of famine, he was tricked by his family members, but they both had a dream, a vision from the Lord given to them to stand on during the hard times.

### **Joseph only 17 / World Desensitized / Lost vision for Youth / Joseph Stood / Joel 2**

Joseph was only 17, only 17 when the Lord gave him this dream. Our world is so desensitized to something like this. Today we want to go to college, get a job, a home, get married, have kids, ad all kinds of other things and goals; yet somehow we have lost the vision of seeing young men and woman, receiving a vision from the Lord. A vision that will make them stand above all that is in this world. Joseph would stand on this vision from the Lord, even when everything in the world would say it was wrong. These are the words spoken for the Last Days concerning our youth:

(Acts 2:16 NKJV) *"But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*  
 (Acts 2:17 NKJV) *'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.*  
 (Acts 2:18 NKJV) *And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.*

### **Not Just for Youth / We Need Fresh Vision – Sow Supernaturally – Vibrancy – the Word**

But this is not just for the youth, maybe you are 30-40-80-90. Are you willing to say to the Lord, I need a fresh vision, a dream, that you would sow something supernatural in my heart that would give me a passion for you, a vibrancy to my relationship with you Lord, that you would make your word come alive in my heart.

### **Desperately Need / Another Bible Study – Church Again / Word – Prayer / Keep Fire**

How desperately each and everyone of need that in our lives. How I pray that this time we spend together at this church doesn't turn into "just another Bible Study", "it's just Church". How I pray that every time we meet you come expecting to meet the Lord, every time you open this Word you expect to hear from the Lord, in prayer the same. How each and everyone of us need a vision and dream from the Lord, to keep the fire burning, something to stand on during hard times, something to keep us focused when things are going great.

### **Focused / Anchored / the Blessed Hope**

That God would give us something that keeps us focused on the things above, an anchor to our souls, a blessed hope:

*(Colossians 1:5 NKJV) because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,*

*(Colossians 1:6 NKJV) which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;*

### **A Fresh Vision / See the Impact You can Make / Daily Life**

That you would have a fresh vision from the Lord and see how much of an impact you can make in the world around you, how much of an impact we can make on one life that God puts in our path. Again, nothing God gives you is common or ordinary for He is no ordinary God, and He does not give us an ordinary Life, He gives us that abundant and full life. Young or old, do you realize how you may encourage someone and be used by the Lord. Seek God for a fresh new vision, daily if needed, and watch what He will do in and through you.

### **Teddy Stoddard Story**

There is a story from many years ago of an elementary school teacher. Her name was Mrs. Thompson. And as she stood in front of her 5th grade class on the very first day of school, she told the children a lie. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same. But that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he didn't play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. And Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise:

- Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners...he is a joy to be around."
- His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle."
- His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken."
- Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was one quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist.

Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to." After the children left she cried for at least an hour.

On that very day, she quit teaching reading, and writing, and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one her "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer - the letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, M.D.

The story doesn't end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he'd met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit in the place at the wedding that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom. Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. And she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together.

They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference." Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

### **Without People Like You**

Without people like you, the Teddy Stoddards of this world get left behind.

*(Acts 2:16 NKJV) "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

*(Acts 2:17 NKJV) 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.*

*(Acts 2:18 NKJV) And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.*

# Genesis 37:12-36

## *Joseph sold into Slavery*

### **Genesis more than history book / It is His-story**

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### **Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### **Outline:**

#### Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

#### Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### **Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers**

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

### **Joseph not Line of Messiah**

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

### **Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good**

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good *(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

### **Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well**

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, lets go for it, lets cut the lines, put the sails up, and lets live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot

at this down here, lets go for it, lets not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

*(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

### **Recap Last Study**

We saw Joseph have a dream, a vision from God, and we know it will not only change his life, but the course of mankind as Joseph will be used by God to preserve a world, a people (nation Israel), and the lineage of the Messiah.

### **How We Need - Youth w/Vision / See Above this World / City Whose Builder is God**

How we need today youth with a vision, youth who see above the carnality and stuff of this world to a city whose builder and maker is God. Not just that Jesus is a part of life, but Jesus is Life:

*(Hebrews 11:9 NKJV) By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;*

*(Hebrews 11:10 NKJV) **for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.***

*(Revelation 21:2 NKJV) Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

*(Revelation 21:3 NKJV) And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

### **Perspective / Bricklayers**

Perspective is so important for all of us. I'm reminded of the story of a man coming to a construction site and asking a bricklayer what he was doing. The bricklayer answers rather annoyed, I am laying bricks what does it look like I am doing. The man went on to ask another bricklayer what he was doing and he answers, I am building a cathedral. One man saw the drudgery of brick-by-brick, the other one saw past the bricks to the finished project, the purposes of the bricks.

### **Our Life so Daily**

Our life can be like that, get like that. Brick after brick, life can be so daily. But we forget it is brick upon brick that lays the foundation, and then raises the building. Whether it is with our kids and the endless laundry or constant correcting. Or what seems like so I read another chapter, or taught Sunday school again, we have to remember that we are not laying bricks but building a cathedral.

### **Joseph's Life - Reminder**

Joseph's life, what a beautiful study, what a wonderful and powerful reminder for us that it is possible, and that we should be going for it. And, we will see a wonderful and powerful picture of Jesus Christ.

**(Genesis 37:12 NKJV) Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.**

**(Genesis 37:13 NKJV) And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." So he said to him, "Here I am."**

Joseph's life to be changed forever because of his dreams.

### **Shechem / Rape & Mass Murder / Wicked & Perverse City**

Shechem, you have to be kidding me, why are they going back to the place that Dinah was raped, and Levi and Simeon were mass murders. Shechem was a wicked, carnal, perverse place, and Jacob's sons are going there to do business, and who knows what else.

### **Go Check on Brothers - Here am I / Picture Jesus & World / People Need Help**

Jacob says son, will you go and check on your brothers, and Joseph answers, here am I. Joseph is a picture of Jesus Christ, and we have seen Shechem is a picture of the world, and so here we see the Father sending the Son. Here is a sneak preview of the relationship between God the Father and the Son, for the people are in Shechem, they are in a dangerous place, and they need to be helped out, and Jesus would say "here I Am". God sent Jesus to a place of danger, a place where He knew he would be bruised, yet Jesus willingly went, knowingly knew what would lay before Him. He is not only the "Great I Am", but the God who would also say, "Here I am", send me. Sent for me, sent for you, at whatever the price.

### **Jesus when Baptised - Prophetic**

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River that day, he was making the prophetic statement, I will die, I will be buried, but I will rise again:

*(Matthew 3:13 NKJV) Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.*

*(Matthew 3:14 NKJV) And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"*

*(Matthew 3:15 NKJV) But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.*

*(Matthew 3:16 NKJV) When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.*

*(Matthew 3:17 NKJV) And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

### **My Son - Well Pleased / Submit all the way to Cross**

God said this is my Son whom I am well pleased, for He will submit all the way to the cross at Calvary.

**(Genesis 37:14 NKJV) Then he said to him, "Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me." So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem.**

### **Hebron - Fellowship**

What does Hebron mean, it means "fellowship". We see the Father sending the Son out of fellowship, into the world. The day would come when the Father would turn His back on the Son, turn from fellowship, as Jesus would take on the sins of the world:

*(Matthew 27:46 KJV) And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

### **Most Crushing thing for Jesus - Separation**

The most crushing thing for Jesus that day on the cross was not the nails, but for the first time ever, He was separated from the Father, He was not fellowshiping with the Father, because He had taken on sin;

*(2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

### **How Much Love / Why 25% / Not Creation - Creator / Leave Throne - Be Separated**

How much love does the Father have for you, that He would send His only begotten? How much love does Jesus have for you that He would take the separation from the Father. Every step of the way we see Jesus in the life of Joseph. Why is 25 percent of this book about Joseph, and only 1 chapter about creation. Because God wants us not to be so concerned about creation, as He wants us to know the Creator. A Creator that would leave the throne, continual fellowship with the Father, and take on our sin, our shame, our separation from God because of our sin.

**(Genesis 37:15 NKJV) Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?"**

**(Genesis 37:16 NKJV) So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks."**



**(Genesis 37:17 NKJV)** And the man said, "They have departed from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' " **So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.**  
**(Genesis 37:18 NKJV)** Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him.

### **Dothan - Major Highway**

Dothan was another fifteen miles up the road toward Megeddo, along the route which was later to become one of the major highways which went down to Egypt from the area of Syria.

### **Conspire to Kill - Ruthless / Chp 42 Joseph Pleas**

Even before he got near, his brothers conspired to kill him. They are really treacherous and there is not much to be admired in them. We know from chapter 42 that Joseph pleaded with them, but their hearts were wicked and cold against the plea of Joseph:

*(Genesis 42:21 NKJV) Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul **when he pleaded with us**, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."*

I believe Joseph's plea was not just for himself, but the sake of his brothers knowing all that would come upon them for doing so. Jesus did not plea for Himself, His plea was for the people:  
*(Matthew 23:37 NKJV) "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! **How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!**"*

*(Matthew 23:38 NKJV) "See! Your house is left to you desolate;"*

*(Matthew 26:62 NKJV) And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?"*

*(Matthew 26:63 NKJV) **But Jesus kept silent.** And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"*

### **They will Respect Joseph / Respect Jesus**

How familiar does this story sound, Jacob thought surely they will respect my son, they will receive my son. Just like the story Jesus told about the vineyard:

*(Matthew 21:33 NKJV) "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.*

*(Matthew 21:34 NKJV) "Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit.*

*(Matthew 21:35 NKJV) "And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.*

*(Matthew 21:36 NKJV) "Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them.*

*(Matthew 21:37 NKJV) "Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, '**They will respect my son.**'"*

*(Matthew 21:38 NKJV) "But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, '**This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.**'"*

*(Matthew 21:39 NKJV) "So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.*

**(Genesis 37:19 NKJV)** Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming!

**(Genesis 37:20 NKJV)** "Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!"

**(Genesis 37:21 NKJV)** But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him."

**(Genesis 37:22 NKJV)** And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him"; that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.

### **Reuben - Pontius / Scourge satisfy Thirst**

Notice how the story so much goes along the way of Jesus. Pontius Pilate didn't want to kill him, so he thought maybe a scourging will satisfy the peoples appetite for death. Then Jesus could be released.

**(Genesis 37:23 NKJV)** So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him.

**(Genesis 37:24 NKJV)** Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.

### **Jesus Stripped**

Jesus was stripped of His robe:

*(Matthew 27:27 NKJV)* Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him.

*(Matthew 27:28 NKJV)* **And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.**

*(Matthew 27:29 NKJV)* When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

### **Jesus in the Tomb**

Joseph thrown into a pit, Jesus was placed in the tomb:

*(Matthew 27:58 NKJV)* This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.

*(Matthew 27:59 NKJV)* When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

*(Matthew 27:60 NKJV)* **and laid it in his new tomb** which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

**(Genesis 37:25 NKJV)** And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt.

### **Spices - Balm - Myrrh**

Notice what they are carrying, spices, balm, and myrrh:

*(John 19:38 NKJV)* After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus.

*(John 19:39 NKJV)* And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of **myrrh** and **aloes**, about a hundred pounds.

*(John 19:40 NKJV)* Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the **spices**, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

**(Genesis 37:26 NKJV)** So Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?

**(Genesis 37:27 NKJV)** "Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh." And his brothers listened.

### **Flesh Justifies Sin / Intimate - Poison Tongue -**

They say lets sell him rather than kill him, so his blood won't be upon us. Doesn't matter what the Ishmaelites might do to him, but at least we won't be guilty of his blood. The flesh, our carnal reasoning, can always find a way to take our sins and justify them, reliving us of guilt and shame. Well we are being intimate because we love each other, or we are married in the eyes of God. Or, the person who just spew poison out of their mouth totally ripping and attacking another brother, and then they say, you needed to hear that for your own good - that wasn't anything to do with helping or correcting a brother, it was everything to do with them attacking another brother.

**(Genesis 37:28 NKJV)** Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

### **30 Pieces**

Jesus betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. Why isn't it 30 pieces of silver here, because Joseph is a picture, a type, he is not Jesus:

*(Matthew 26:15 NKJV)* and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" **And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.**

*(Matthew 26:16 NKJV)* So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

**(Genesis 37:29 NKJV)** Then Reuben returned to the pit, and indeed Joseph was not in the pit; and he tore his clothes.

**(Genesis 37:30 NKJV)** And he returned to his brothers and said, "The lad is no more; and I, where shall I go?"

**(Genesis 37:31 NKJV)** So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood.

**(Genesis 37:32 NKJV)** Then they sent the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?"

### **Lie about Pit / Soldiers lie of Tomb**

The brothers lie about the pit, just as the Roman soldiers were paid off to lie about the tomb:

*(Matthew 27:64 NKJV)* "Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

*(Matthew 27:65 NKJV)* Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how."

*(Matthew 27:66 NKJV)* **So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.**

*(Matthew 28:11 NKJV)* Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.

*(Matthew 28:12 NKJV)* When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

*(Matthew 28:13 NKJV)* saying, "**Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'**"

*(Matthew 28:14 NKJV)* "And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."

*(Matthew 28:15 NKJV)* So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

### **Soldiers Killed / Everyone Knew Death Penalty / Nice BMW**

You know what is amazing about the soldiers lying is that in that time, if a prisoner escaped the soldier guarding them would be killed. If they had a seal (governors or emperor seal) on something (such as the tomb), if the seal was ever broken, then every soldier on duty would be killed. So the Jewish religious leaders have the soldiers lie about the disciples coming and stealing the body of Jesus away (to dispel the resurrection). Any person of that day would have known that is a death sentence to the soldiers, so if it really happened, then why aren't they dead. I wonder if people noticed they not only aren't they dead, but they are driving new BMW's.

### **People Blindly Follow / Not Researching - Digging / Davinci Code - Never Read Bible**

You know so it is today, people blindly follow a lie, never researching, never digging for the answers for themselves. People will follow evolution without asking the appropriate questions. People are reading the DaVinci Code book, and they haven't even read the Bible yet. Of course you can believe the Davinci code if you have no clue what the Bible says.

**(Genesis 37:33 NKJV)** And he recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces."

**(Genesis 37:34 NKJV)** Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days.

**(Genesis 37:35 NKJV)** And all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and he said, "For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning." Thus his father wept for him.

### **Daughters Plural**

It talks about Jacob's daughters in the plural, so, even though Dinah is the only one named; it seems that he had other daughters

### **Sowing & Reaping / Jacob deceives with a Goat**

We have that law of God of sowing and reaping. Jacob, earlier, had killed a little goat to deceive his father. He put the fur on his wrists, fixed the meat to taste like venison and gave it to his father to deceive him in order that he might get the blessing. He used a goat to deceive his father Isaac and now, his sons are using a goat to deceive him. They killed a goat and put the blood on the tunic of Joseph. Jacob is reaping what he sowed many years ago.

### **Forgiven - Forgotten / Repercussions Follow**

You won't escape your sin. Yes your sin is forgiven and forgotten by the Father, but the repercussions of that sin will follow you. It is Law:

*(Galatians 6:7 NKJV) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*

*(Galatians 6:8 NKJV) For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

### **Youth - It's no Big Deal / 37 Years Later**

Youth, don't believe that lie, "ohh its no big deal", you will reap the consequences at some point. It may not happen immediately, it might take months, or years, but the consequences of sin will find you, in the case of Jacob it was almost 37 years. He tricked His dad, goes on the run for 20 years, and Joseph is 17 years old here. Sowing and reaping, it is law.

### **(Genesis 37:36 NKJV) Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.**

And now a little footnote at the end of the chapter concerning Joseph. "And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard

### **Genesis 37 Wrap-up**

*(John 12:21 NKJV) Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."*

### **Desire of Human Heart / Study to See Jesus**

That is the desire of every person's heart, that is how God designed us. Unfortunately some will not have them reign over them. Seeing Jesus, that is the purpose of the Scriptures, to see Jesus. When you study your Bible, look for Jesus, for all Scriptures point to Jesus.

### **25% / Picture of Creator / Not what we Create - but Creator / When People Interpret Us**

25% of Genesis is about Joseph, not 25% on creation. Chapter after chapter through this Bible God gives us a picture of the Creator, Jesus Christ. As so that is God's interest in us. Not just what we create (for that has its place most definitely) but more so when people look at us, bump into us, speak to us, walk with us, interpret us, that they would see Jesus.

### **God - be Like Joseph / A Picture - Illustration / Living Epistle**

God would say to us today, I want you to be like Joseph, a picture, and illustration of Jesus. That people will see my Son when they meet you, experience My Son, that you would be a type of Jesus Christ in your world, that they will read you and see Jesus

*(2 Corinthians 3:2 NKJV) You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;*

*(2 Corinthians 3:3 NKJV) clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.*

### **Know Him - Make Him Known**

God desire is that we know Him, and make Him known.

### **Look at Marriages / Youth w/Vision / In the Word - Bible Study**

When people look and see marriages sticking it out, working it out, don't checking out like the rest of the world, they say - something different. When they see youth having a vision for something beyond this world they say - something different. Why spend you evenings at a Bible Study - something different.

### **Life is Simple / Know Him - Make Him Known**

Life is simple for the Believer, to know Him, and to make Him known.

### **May we all Be Joseph's**

May we all be Josephs, may we all be pictures of Jesus Christ to this lost and dying world, to our lost and dying family members, co-workers, fellow students..

# Genesis Chapter 38

## The Story of Judah and Tamar

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Interlude to Joseph / Seldom Read / Contrasts

A little interlude here of the story of Joseph. Joseph is the major character for the rest of the book of Genesis and we will pick back up on him in Genesis 39. But here in Genesis 38 is the story of his older brother Judah. It is a seldom-read chapter, it is a rather sordid story and greatly contrasts the life of Joseph. We see Judah's life was sad and sordid, Joseph's life as we will see is sparkling and spectacular. God often gives us contrasts in the Scriptures that allow us to clearly see the beauty and the sparkle of one person or principle more clearly. We will see how rare and precious Joseph was for the days that he lived in.

### Never Wastes His Word

God never wastes His Word, and He never wastes His warning. The fact that it is in this book, and we are reading it now is all that we need to be assured that we need to be reading this chapter, today, for our lives, or for someone we will be encountering in the near future. He who has an ear, let him hear.....

**(Genesis 38:1 NKJV) It came to pass at that time that Judah departed from his brothers, and visited a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah.**

**(Genesis 38:2 NKJV) And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua, and he married her and went in to her.**

**(Genesis 38:3 NKJV) So she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er.**

**(Genesis 38:4 NKJV) She conceived again and bore a son, and she called his name Onan.**

**(Genesis 38:5 NKJV) And she conceived yet again and bore a son, and called his name Shelah. He was at Chezib when she bore him.**

### **Pagan Pal / Canaanite Wife – Gen 28**

So here this young man Hirah, an Adullamite, he's a pagan pal to Judah, he is someone who is outside the believing community of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Judah goes for a Canaanite woman even though back in Genesis 28 Jacob's parents (Rebecca and Isaac) told Jacob don't take a woman from Canaanite, and they sent him to his uncle Laban's to find a wife (which turned out to be Rachel and Leah):

*(Genesis 28:1 NKJV) Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan."*

*(Genesis 28:2 NKJV) "Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother."*

*(Genesis 28:3 NKJV) "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples;"*

### **Jacob pass Wisdom to Kids / Maybe Guilt / Leaves his Covering**

Judah knows this, Jacob would pass the wisdom of the father's down to his kids, but Judah ignores it. I believe what is happening here is Judah is checking out for a while. Maybe it was the guilt of what he did to Joseph, maybe it was who he really was, but for whatever reason we see him checking out. He departs from his brothers, his family, his father and from any accountability and wisdom, and he heads to the world for relief from the struggles of life.

### **Hanging Out in wrong Place**

So here he is hanging out with the unsaved buddy, and he hooks up with an unsaved woman, and takes her as wife.

### **Warning / Notice Progression**

Again here in the Scriptures is a story put here for us as a warning for us to protect us from doing the same. Noticed the progression, now we may not jump into sin but a slow progression starts and we end up in a place we shouldn't be. Here's Judah's progression, he leaves his family, which means he leaves his accountability, we see him start hanging out with an unbeliever, a person of unlike faith and then we find him being joined to an unbeliever, someone outside the faith and the belief of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – the God of Israel. By the end of this chapter we'll see him being joined to a prostitute.

### **Youth – Careful who Hang out With / Gradually Lead You / Psalm 1**

You youth and young adults be careful who you hang out with for their influence can take you places that you will wish you never went to. You may say well there are not that many Christians to hang out with, so I really have no choice. Well the choices were even less for Judah, and what happened to Judah will happen to you. In most cases it will happen so gradually you won't even realize it. Hey I'm going to go down to see a buddy, he's always making me laugh, I could use a good laugh. Hey it's just for one beer. This is Psalm 1:

*(Psalms 1:1 NKJV) Blessed is the man **Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;***

*(Psalms 1:2 NKJV) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.*

*(Psalms 1:3 NKJV) He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.*

*(Psalms 1:4 NKJV) The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.*

*(Psalms 1:5 NKJV) Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.*

*(Psalms 1:6 NKJV) For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.*

### **Walk – Stand - Sit**

Notice the progression, first he is walking the ungodly, then he is stopped and standing with the sinner, then he is sitting amongst them. It is a gradual progression, but the ending is same.

I noticed yesterday when I was at the high school that the troubled kids hung out with the troubled kids, and the kids who have it together and have a direction in life hang out with each other.

**(Genesis 38:6 NKJV)** Then Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar.

### **Day of Arranged Marriages / Knew better than Dad – Er too Stupid**

This was in the day of arranged marriages where the parents picked out the mate for their children. And here we see Judah who knew better than his dad, hey I can take a Canaanite woman for myself I'll be fine. But I'll pick a wife from my son because he's too stupid to decide what's right for himself.

### **Personal Principle**

Let me share a personal principle with you. I will not do anything that I don't want my son to do even if I have the liberties to do it myself. I think too many R-rated movies have gone way over the line and fast approaching are the PG-13 movies. I don't watch any R-rated movies so I will never have to say to my son or have a discussion with him on which one are ok, and which ones are not, I watch this type but not that type. I just don't watch them, and hope when I am not around nor will he. Same with alcohol, not in the privacy of my home, nor with pizza, nor a glass of wine at dinner with Mommy. Personally I don't because the stakes are too high and I want to have a zero alcohol policy so as to never influence him. These are silent witnesses that I hope will imbed in his mind. I can't ask him to not do something that I do.

### **It Doesn't work for Anyone**

As for Judah's son we will see his arranged marriage doesn't work out for all involved.

**(Genesis 38:7 NKJV)** But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD killed him.

Why? We don't know, it must have been something terrible for God to kill him.

**(Genesis 38:8 NKJV)** And Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and marry her, and raise up an heir to your brother."

### **Leverite Marriage**

This is called the "Leverite marriage" it later became part of the Levitical Law written by Moses to the Children of Israel.

*(Deuteronomy 25:5 NKJV) "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her."*

*(Deuteronomy 25:6 NKJV) "And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel."*

*(Deuteronomy 25:7 NKJV) "But if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.'"*

*(Deuteronomy 25:8 NKJV) "Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But if he stands firm and says, 'I do not want to take her,'"*

*(Deuteronomy 25:9 NKJV) "then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.'"*

*(Deuteronomy 25:10 NKJV) "And his name shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal removed.'"*

### **Next Brother / Carry on Lineage**

In that culture, it was a common practice that if a man married and he died before he had any children, his next oldest brother had to take his wife and marry her and raise up children in the name of the dead brother. The firstborn would be named after the dead brother and considered to be his family

### **Younger Brother would Say**

I could easily see that the younger brothers would weigh in on who their older brothers were marrying.



We will see this again in the Book of Ruth. In the Book of Ruth, after Naomi's husband and sons had died, she came back to Israel with her daughter-in-law Ruth. Ruth gleaned in the field of Boaz and at the end of the Harvest season, she was instructed, by Naomi, to go at night and see the place where Boaz lay and lay down and cover her feet with his blanket. Boaz was a near kinsmen. Elimelech and his two sons are dead and his family name will perish unless someone follows the law and raises up a child to keep the family name going. Ruth is actually asking Boaz to fulfill the law concerning the dead brother to raise up a child after his name. Boaz was an older man, old enough to be Ruth's father; but, he was attracted to her. However, there was another brother who was next in line, as far as order of kin, and he would have the first opportunity. He could not fulfill the law as he was already married, so, he passed on the shoe to Boaz and Boaz married Ruth.

**(Genesis 38:9 NKJV) But Onan knew that the heir would not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in to his brother's wife, that he emitted on the ground, lest he should give an heir to his brother.**

**(Genesis 38:10 NKJV) And the thing which he did displeased the LORD; therefore He killed him also.**

#### **Onan – not his Child**

Onan knew the child born would not be considered his own, therefore he spilled his seed on the ground so Tamar would not become pregnant with child.

#### **Not proof Text / Rejecting & Disrespecting /**

This verse isn't proof text against masturbation or against birth control. The verb tense is a continual ongoing activity; so he would have continual relations with her (likely for his personal satisfaction), but not fulfill what his responsibility was, for her to have child. Onan was rejecting his father's direction, and he was disrespecting his dead brother. The displeasure of God was not the emitting of the seed on the ground, but his failure to fulfill the obligation of raising up an heir for the dead brother

#### **What about Birth Control / Stay in Context / Stay Silent / Heb 1**

What about birth control you may ask. Well, all you singles, obey the word and stay pure is God's word for you today. But for married couples, man has debated this issue for centuries and like in verse 7 we don't know what Er did, therefore we have to remain silent about that, and I believe the same goes here. We cannot build a case off of this one verse against birth control, because we do not have enough information. A great rule in studying the Scripture is when the Bible is silent it is best to we remain silent. I can see nowhere in the Scripture where God says birth control is wrong. So I remain silent and say to you what was spoken to us in the book of Hebrews, Jesus speaks to man today, therefore seek Him and His leading for you in that area of your life:

*(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) **has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;***

I stay away from giving my personal opinion because I do not have to live with my personal opinion, the other person does if they apply it.

#### **Be Fruitful**

Now the word does say be fruitful and multiply:

*(Genesis 1:28 NKJV) Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

#### **Another one for the Kingdom / Only Creation for Eternity**

Every time a Christian couple tell me they are with child, I say Praise the Lord, another one for the Kingdom. You know every day man creates rockets that fly to space, computers that travel

the speed of light, houses, and other stuff, but all of that will burn, the only thing the man can create the last forever is a child.

### **How many Kids?**

Question may be asked then how many children are enough, again I take you back the Hebrews chapter 1:

*(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;*

### **Rest after 6**

I may add to that, even God after six days rested.

### **Masturbation**

How about masturbation, is it wrong? Let me just say this Jesus says if a man lust in his heart he is guilty of adultery. Jesus is making a point of how powerful the human mind is, and just how much it is a reflection of what is in our heart.

*(Matthew 5:28 NKJV) "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

### **Take Thoughts to Captivity**

It is important that we take every thought into captivity, that we do not let anything, especially our mind have power over our bodies. Young men you must be in control of your lust. Getting married will not take care of your lust problem.

*(1 Corinthians 6:12 NKJV) All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.*

*(2 Corinthians 10:3 NKJV) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.*

*(2 Corinthians 10:4 NKJV) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,*

*(2 Corinthians 10:5 NKJV) casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

**(Genesis 38:11 NKJV) Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house till my son Shelah is grown." For he said, "Lest he also die like his brothers." And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house.**

### **Black Widow**

At this point Judah thinks he has a black widows situation going on here and there ain't no way he's allowing his last son to marry Tamar. So he comes up with this story to appease her, but he has no plan of ever giving his last son to her

**(Genesis 38:12 NKJV) Now in the process of time the daughter of Shua, Judah's wife, died; and Judah was comforted, and went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.**

### **Wife Dies – Back Pagan Pal**

Judah's wife dies, and we see Judah grieving again and where does he go? He goes with us pagan pal. The time to shear the sheep was a party time, it was like a harvest time, it was a time where they knew money would be flowing in as soon as they took their goods to the market.

**(Genesis 38:13 NKJV) And it was told Tamar, saying, "Look, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep."**

**(Genesis 38:14 NKJV) So she took off her widow's garments, covered herself with a veil and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place which was on the way to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given to him as a wife.**

**(Genesis 38:15 NKJV) When Judah saw her, he thought she was a harlot, because she had covered her face.**

### **She Figures it Out**

Tamar figures it out she knows Judah is holding back from her so she plots her own plan.

### **Temple Prostitute**

The word for harlot here is prostitute. She dressed up like a Temple prostitute. Usually pagan worship was associated around the procreated capacities of man. They revered the marvelous power of the creating of life through a sexual union. It was a major part of the Canaanites religious belief and worship. Every Canaanite woman had to devote herself, for a period of time, as a prostitute to raise funds for the Temple. It was an accepted practice among these people. So, Tamar put on the attire of a temple prostitute and veiled herself so Judah couldn't recognize her.

**(Genesis 38:16 NKJV)** Then he turned to her by the way, and said, "Please let me come in to you"; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. So she said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?"

**(Genesis 38:17 NKJV)** And he said, "I will send a young goat from the flock." So she said, "Will you give me a pledge till you send it?"

**(Genesis 38:18 NKJV)** Then he said, "What pledge shall I give you?" So she said, "Your signet and cord, and your staff that is in your hand." Then he gave them to her, and went in to her, and she conceived by him.

### **To the World for Comfort / No Money in Hand**

Judah's mourning so he goes to the world again for comfort and relief. One note here, this buying a prostitute wasn't part of his plan. He doesn't have the money to pay her we see, if that was his plan he would have had money in hand. Judah thought is to go have a couple beers with his friends, but he ends up in a place he shouldn't be and ends up doing something that he will regret. Again Psalm 1.

### **Ring – Bracelet - Staff**

The signet was the ring stamp that you could put into the wax and sign with to prove that the merchandise was yours. So the Signet ring actually identified who you were, the bracelet represents wealth for not everyone could afford to wear bracelets, and the staff, at least in Judah's case represented his livelihood, for he was a Shepherd.

### **Turn yourself Over to Immorality / Ruin Life**

Turn yourself over to immorality, prostitution, drug use, gambling, or any of that sleazy stuff and you will see that the cost is high. It will ruin your name, take your wealth, and in many cases take away your livelihood.

### **Risks it All for a Moment**

Judah gives all to her for a moment of pleasure, he gives it all up, he risks it all for one moment of pleasure. Beloved learn the contrasts between Joseph and Judah.

**(Genesis 38:19 NKJV)** So she arose and went away, and laid aside her veil and put on the garments of her widowhood.

**(Genesis 38:20 NKJV)** And Judah sent the young goat by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive his pledge from the woman's hand, but he did not find her.

**(Genesis 38:21 NKJV)** Then he asked the men of that place, saying, "Where is the harlot who was openly by the roadside?" And they said, "There was no harlot in this place."

**(Genesis 38:22 NKJV)** So he returned to Judah and said, "I cannot find her. Also, the men of the place said there was no harlot in this place."

**(Genesis 38:23 NKJV)** Then Judah said, "Let her take them for herself, lest we be shamed; for I sent this young goat and you have not found her."

Too late for life is changed up forever.

**(Genesis 38:24 NKJV)** And it came to pass, about three months after, that Judah was told, saying, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has played the harlot; furthermore she is with child by harlotry." So Judah said, "Bring her out and let her be burned!"

#### **Sin in Others Lives / We Justify It**

Judah can believe it, my daughter-in-law has been involved in immorality. She deserves death. Isn't it amazing how horrible our sin looks when other people are doing it. We justify our sin in our mind, we say it is because we are in love, we say this is different, it's only temporary.

#### **Whole Chapter Devoted / See Contrasts – Joseph will Run**

God devotes this whole chapter, one chapter out of 50, to tell us the story. God gives us a warning of the life of Judah. We see the contrast between Judah and Joseph, Joseph himself will have a moment of passion, there in Potiphurs house, but he will give us what a man after God does in these situations – Turn and burn.

**(Genesis 38:25 NKJV)** When she was brought out, she sent to her father-in-law, saying, "By the man to whom these belong, I am with child." And she said, "Please determine whose these are; the signet and cord, and staff."

**(Genesis 38:26 NKJV)** So Judah acknowledged them and said, "She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son." And he never knew her again.

#### **Sad Statement / World Looks On / Need More Christians Living it Out**

What a sad statement, Judah is from the lineage of Jacob, and Tamar is more righteous than he is. How sad it is when the world looks on at us and there are those times where they are more righteous than us. The world looks on and says if you're all right with God, then so too must I. The world doesn't need more evangelism, the world needs to see more Christians living it out, walking in obedience.

#### **Judah drifts**

Judah drifts off the scene, what a way to leave this man.

**(Genesis 38:27 NKJV)** Now it came to pass, at the time for giving birth, that behold, twins were in her womb.

**(Genesis 38:28 NKJV)** And so it was, when she was giving birth, that the one put out his hand; and the midwife took a scarlet thread and bound it on his hand, saying, "This one came out first."

**(Genesis 38:29 NKJV)** Then it happened, as he drew back his hand, that his brother came out unexpectedly; and she said, "How did you break through? This breach be upon you!" Therefore his name was called Perez.

**(Genesis 38:30 NKJV)** Afterward his brother came out who had the scarlet thread on his hand. And his name was called Zerah.

#### **4 Woman / Linked to Messiah / Amazing Grace / God rather Cleanse - Trophy**

Four women named in Matthew's Gospel. All of them outside of the Jewish race, for, even Bathsheba was a Hittite. All of them had shady experiences in their past. It speaks of the "grace" of God. We may not have the most honorable past and we may be ashamed of it as we look back; yet, God does not disqualify us or kick us out. He would rather wash us, cleanse us, forgive us and then use us as trophies to His grace:

*(Matthew 1:1 NKJV) The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:*

*(Matthew 1:2 NKJV) Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.*

*(Matthew 1:3 NKJV) Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.*

#### **Family Past**

Do not think that your past will ever keep you away from God. Tamar is proof and a powerful picture of God's redemptive grace. This woman did questionable things, yet she will be

connected to the Messiah. We see God's grace, it is unmerited, unearned, favor, for the infinitely ill deserving. That is you and I.

# Genesis Chapter 39

## Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

### Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

### Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

*(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

*(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*

### Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, let's go for it, let's cut the lines, put the sails up, and let's live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, let's go for it, let's not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

*(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

### **Recap Last Study / Backdrop of Black / Temptation**

We have seen that God gave Joseph a heavenly vision that someday he will rule over his family; that vision got him in a lot of trouble with his brothers. Those brothers waited for the opportune time and threw him in a pit, and then sold him off to a passing caravan. In chapter 38 we saw the story of Judah, and his failings in the area of fleshly lust; it is a wonderful backdrop, a backdrop of blackness, in order for us to see how bright of a light Joseph is. In this chapter we will see temptation come his way, and we will watch how the man of God is to react.

**(Genesis 39:1 NKJV) Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.**

**(Genesis 39:2 NKJV) The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.**

**(Genesis 39:3 NKJV) And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.**

**(Genesis 39:4 NKJV) So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.**

**(Genesis 39:5 NKJV) So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field.**

### **Joseph Successful / Slave – no BMW / Gets What – Wants Gets**

*(Genesis 39:2 NKJV) The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man;* Joseph was successful, God says he was right here in this verse. See I need for God to say Joseph was successful because that is not the way my mind thinks. For my thought process how can you say that being a slave is something to be categorized in the successful file, but God does. We notice he does not own a BMW, or 60-inch flat screen TV, he was successful and he was a slave. A prosperous, successful person, is not someone who gets what he wants, but wants what he gets. Lord this is where you have me today; therefore let me be successful at it today. Go ahead and send your résumé to do what you feel is necessary for your family, but be successful where you are at until God opens that next door for you

### **Contentment – Great Gain**

The Scriptures say, godliness with contentment is great gain. Contentment doesn't come from great gains, but contentment comes from being godly, and that comes from being in Christ Jesus, and living a life sold out for Him, anything else will leave you desiring more:

*(1 Timothy 6:6 NKJV) **Now godliness with contentment is great gain.***

*(1 Timothy 6:7 NKJV) For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*

*(1 Timothy 6:8 NKJV) And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.*

*(1 Timothy 6:9 NKJV) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.*

*(1 Timothy 6:10 NKJV) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

*(1 Timothy 6:11 NKJV) But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.*

### **Blessed at Work**

Now I believe God wants to bless us in our jobs (whatever/regardless it is we do) because it brings Him glory. In the New Testament we are told:

*(Colossians 3:22 NKJV) Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.*

*(Colossians 3:23 NKJV) And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,*

*(Colossians 3:24 NKJV) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

### **Bloom where Planted / Be all There / Joseph Path – no Complain**

Beloved, bloom wherever you are planted. Wherever you are, be all there, don't be somewhere else, don't be wishing you were somewhere else, day dreaming of being somewhere else, or waiting to be somewhere else; be all you are, wherever you are, and God will bless you where you are at, and move you when He deems it necessary and beneficial for you. We see Joseph going from working hard for his father, to working hard for Potiphar as a slave, then to working hard while he is in prison. What we won't notice is Joseph complaining, we just read of him working, and working hard. Good example for us.

### **Ministry Application / Don't wait until Tomorrow**

This is application for Ministry also, don't be waiting for tomorrow's Ministry, be active in Ministry today, any kind of ministry you can. Use what talents you have today, don't wait for tomorrow's talents to come. Bloom where you are planted, and let God take care of tomorrow's ministries for you.

### **Potiphar saw Lord w/Joseph / Companies should Want**

*(Genesis 39:3 NKJV) And his master saw that the LORD was with him - Potiphar saw that the Lord was with Joseph, and Potiphar recognized that he was being blessed because of Joseph's relationship with the Lord. Christian, companies and businesses should be looking for Christians and saying I want Christians to work for me. I want Christians because the Christians I have now are my best workers. Why don't they do this? It's a said statement for the church today.*

### **Companies Blessed – God Providing**

*(Genesis 39:5 NKJV) ..... that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field.-* I believe many companies and businesses are blessed by God because they are providing the livelihood for God's children. And those children are themselves being faithful with their finances to support the works of God in such thing as missions, tithing their church, and blessing the family of God.

**(Genesis 39:6 NKJV) Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.**

### **This be Work Goal / Youth the Same / God looking Youth with Heavenly Vision**

Let this be you were work goal, that your boss will reach a point with you that he doesn't even feel he/she has to look after your work to see if it is done and done right. You youth, the same for you, with your parents, be a Joseph and let your parents not have to look into the things they have entrusted you to do. Whether that be homework, chores around the house, where you are going, who you are with, be a Joseph's and let your parents not have to look after you to see the you are doing what they expect you to do. Remember, God is looking for youth today to whom He may give a dream to, in part a vision to, you kids have it, I see it in you, continue on and holds steadfast to the path you are on, do not waiver, I see Joseph in you.

### **Handsome – Built / Looks and World / Never Develop**

*(Genesis 39:6 NKJV) .....Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. -* Joseph was a handsome young man. It also says that he was handsome in the form, so it means that he was a well built. Joseph was a buff young man. You know looks aren't always the blessing the world



makes them out to be. Madison Avenue promotes beauty; it's looks, looks, and looks. They never base cover girls on who has the best personality or sweetest heart. For some people looks are a curse to them, it opens doors for them that should not have opened, it puts them in relationships that destroy their lives, and for some people their looks keep them from developing as a person because they get the world handed to them on a silver platter. If you think looks will answer all your problems, you are greatly mistaken; they may just be the beginning of worse problems. It's a lie, cellulite reduction, breast implants, Rogaine; it's all a lie of the world, godliness with contentment is great gain:

*(1 Timothy 6:6 NKJV) Now godliness with contentment is great gain.*

**(Genesis 39:7 NKJV) And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."**

### **Truly a Temptation**

Note this, this was truly a temptation before Joseph. Potiphar was a powerful man, and powerful men in those times married beautiful women. This was a trial for Joseph he was young and virile, and I am sure he could not help but notice her beautiful looks. The Egyptian women were the first to wear makeup, be daily, and to wear perfume. This was truly a trial for Joseph, yet we will see that he holds true to the calling of the Lord

### **Fall when Discouraged / Sold – Ripped off – Cast Off - Forsaken / Holds to Heavenly Vision**

You know when many Christians fall in this area? It is when they are discouraged, bummed out. Here is Joseph all alone, sold out by his brothers, ripped off, and cast off. He couldn't easily have said what is the use, nobody cares about me, my God has forsaken me, what have I done, how unfair I have been treated. How easily he could have said I need to check out, get some relief from all my struggles, but no Joseph is a man of integrity, a rock, I will not and I cannot. Joseph holds on to the heavenly vision God had given him.

**(Genesis 39:8 NKJV) But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand.**

**(Genesis 39:9 NKJV) "There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"**

### **Fear of Lord – Reverence / No Church / No MP3**

Look at Joseph how interesting; he says your husband has given me everything except you. But notice he doesn't say I can't do this to your husband, I can't do this to you, no he says I can't do this to my God. It is the fear of the Lord, the love of the Lord, the recognition of the Holy God, the reverence and respect of God that keeps him from entering into this sin. I might add that Joseph doesn't have an OT to read, an MP3 library of great teachers, he doesn't have a church youth group, nor a Pastor, yet he holds fast to the things God has placed in his heart.

### **God Sees / Satan Cheers**

Joseph knows that God sees. You singles dating, apply this, it's not just the two of you on the couch, in the car, be reminded of this story you are not alone, God is right there with you. Satan is there too, cheering you on, saying go for it, it's yours, this is true love, you're such a stud, you are accepted and loved, if you don't you'll lose him. Satan is there to cheer you on, know that.

### **Potential Mate / Satan Waits ' Desperate Housewives**

Singles, considering a potential mate, look for that mate (like Joseph) who fears the Lord, that the fear of the Lord is greater than their love for you. We live in a "Desperate Housewives" society, adultery is being glamorised, more and more acceptable, actually expected to happen these days, after all till death do you part is a long time with the same person is the mindset. Satan will wait for that opportune time, for when you're arguing, a bad week with the kids, you may be having ill feelings towards your spouse, they may be reading and seeing things that they shouldn't be, and all those emotions are so easily influenced. The fear of the Lord must

supersede all things. It will be the fear of sinning against the Holy God that will deliver you/them from each and every one of those situations in your life.

### **Great Wickedness**

*Verse 9 - How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"* – great wickedness, we live in the day where this is no longer a great wickedness. But sexual sin is destroying America, robbing lives, and that is why God hates sin for what it does to people. Consider this, the freedom of sexual fulfillment:

- 12 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases each year.
- Two thirds of them are people under the age of 25.
- 3 million of them are under the age of 18, that's 30,000 new cases each day.
- 1 in 4 young girls will be sexually abused before they graduate high school.
- 1 in 10 boys will be sexually abused before they graduate high school.
- 34 million abortions in the last 20 years in the United States of America.
- There were 2 million abortions last year.
- Every 30 minutes, 23 girls under the age of 19 have an abortion.
- 65% of the High School Seniors who attend church say they have been sexually active in some way in their lifetime.
- Adult bookstores outnumber McDonald's now 3 to 1.
- 70% of the pornography in America ends up in the hands of youth.

### **Not so Fun / TV absence / Fun for Season / Great Wickedness**

This sexual freedom, the statistics don't make it sound so fun. Notice these things hardly ever get mentioned on those sexually laden TV shows they only portray the fun part. Yes sin is fun for a season, but like fall turns into winter, so will the season of fun turn into sorrow. Do not be deceived whatever a man sows, that shall he reap. It is a great wickedness against God. We need so desperately today young men and young women who have the heavenly vision just as Joseph did. We need more Joseph's in our day.

**(Genesis 39:10 NKJV) So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.**

### **Day-by-Day / Satan Persistent**

Notice they're a by day! Satan is persistent he will not quit, Christian you cannot let your guard down because he will be there the day that you do.

### **Joseph doesn't Witness / You'll get sucked In**

Notice Joseph doesn't try to witness to her or try to counsel her on why this is wrong to do. Young guys and gals leave the witnessing to someone else, you'll only get sucked in, you may have good intentions but where your treasures are, there your heart will follow. You will find yourself being sucked in, developing a relationship with someone who isn't looking for spiritual fulfillment, but fleshly pleasures:

*(Matthew 6:21 NKJV) "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

### **Same in Marriage / Avoid Potential Problems – Possible Temptations**

It is the same principle in the marriage relationship. Married men and married women you do not need to be ministering to someone of the opposite sex. Stay away from potential problems or possible temptations. Don't do it, remember this story. God will send someone else rather than risk you blowing your witness, and ruining your family and ministry.

### **Hero in History**

I love Joseph, Joseph goes down as a hero in history, and history continually reads his story of a man of God. Beloved, go down in history as a hero.

**(Genesis 39:11 NKJV) But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside,**

### **No Inside – to Outside / A Ministry Principle**

Satan could not get him from the inside, so he waits for that opportune time to get him from the outside. This is why our Ministry principle here is that men and women will not be left alone together; but there will always be accountability. We do not allow ministers to drive woman home alone, or to have mixed gender counselling behind closed doors (if it is needed it is out in the open, if behind closed door than another person is there). It is a great safety feature for all involved. We believe this keeps us away from all appearances of evil, and keeps people from laying false accusations against the ministry:

*(1 Thessalonians 5:22 NKJV) Abstain from every form of evil.*

**(Genesis 39:12 NKJV) that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.**

### **Big Sleeves**

There's those big sleeves again, be careful those big sleeve opportunities they can bring much problems. Joseph is innocent, but we can still look at this story and heed its warning for us, is the big sleeve opportunity really worth it? How will this promotion, new job, new home, new ministry effect me and my family. Big Sleeve opportunities, pray them through, don't just jump on them, make sure the Lord is in it.

### **Flees Youthful Lust**

Look at this young man, he flees youthful lust.

*(2 Timothy 2:22 NKJV) **Flee also youthful lusts**; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

### **Don't Give Me Hormones Raging**

Don't give me a story that the hormones are raging; Joseph (only 17) shows it is possible to resist the temptation, to put the body in check and to have dominion over his fleshly desires. Youth you can do it, God always will provide you a way out:

*(1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

### **Where Flee To**

Christian where are you to flee to when temptation comes? Look at the rest of verse 22 there in second Timothy:

*(2 Timothy 2:22 NKJV) Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace **with those who call on the Lord** out of a pure heart.*

### **Share with Close One**

See you are to leave the place of temptation and run to your brothers and sisters in the Lord. Run to that brother and sister (remember guys with guys and girls with girls) where you can find refuge, safety, where you can find someone who understands you and what you are going through.

*(James 5:15 NKJV) And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*

*(James 5:16 NKJV) **Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another**, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

*(James 5:17 NKJV) Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.*

*(James 5:18 NKJV) And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*

*(James 5:19 NKJV) Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,*

*(James 5:20 NKJV) let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

### **Not Public Profession**

I do not believe this verse means to stand up and confess all your sins before the church. I believe this verse means we are to have that one brother or sister in our lives who we can go to, and share our heart, pour out our heart, and they will listen and they will not judge us, they will not give us a sermon, they will not shove Scriptures Down our throats, rather they will be there to receive us, to pray with us, and to keep us accountable in the things that we struggle with, and the temptations that come before us.

**(Genesis 39:13 NKJV) And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside,**

**(Genesis 39:14 NKJV) that she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, "See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice.**

**(Genesis 39:15 NKJV) "And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside."**

**(Genesis 39:16 NKJV) So she kept his garment with her until his master came home.**

**(Genesis 39:17 NKJV) Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, "The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me;**

**(Genesis 39:18 NKJV) "so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside."**

**(Genesis 39:19 NKJV) So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, "Your servant did to me after this manner," that his anger was aroused.**

#### **She Rehearses / Sin Rallies – Sin Distances**

Notice as she rehearses the story to the other men she tries to rally support for her cause? She includes the other workers (who most likely were jealous of Joseph and his big sleeves- why should he get the robe and not be?). So she works this to her advantage, she says the Hebrew mocks us (plural), your boss who you hate, look what he has done to me. But when she retells the story to her husband it is just her, he mocked me, and she makes sure that she points out to her husband that he was the one who brought Joseph into the home. She places the ultimate blame on him, her husband, she lays the guilt trip on him. This is what people do with sin, they try to distance themselves from it by rallying people to their side, and then placing guilt on someone else.

**(Genesis 39:20 NKJV) Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.**

#### **Automatic Death Penalty**

It's a shame for Joseph to be accused, he is probably the only moral person there in the whole Kingdom, any other man would have taken advantage of the situation and the opportunity. But this is interesting for in Egypt at that time Joseph's action would have been automatically the death penalty against him, and yet he only ends up in prison. We see God's protection over him. So Joseph goes from the pit, to a palace, then back to a pit, but before it's all over he will be back in a palace.

**(Genesis 39:21 NKJV) But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.**

**(Genesis 39:22 NKJV) And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing.**

**(Genesis 39:23 NKJV) The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.**

#### **Prison for Doing Right / Do it Because He is Holy**

Joseph is thrown in prison for doing what is right, what is good; bad things do happen even when you are obedient, but God is in control we must trust that. But even still, even if you don't end up

saving the world, you still do it because God said to; He is a Holy God, and that is why we do what is right, to please our Lord.

### **Rises to Top / God loves Using people Like Joseph / Write History**

Wherever Joseph goes he rises to the top. God loves using men and women like Joseph. Those that are upright, righteous, a man or woman after God's own heart and everything that he or she does from their work to their play, it's only one way for that person, and it is the way of Jesus Christ. You may not like the situation; you may wonder what God is doing, but you will never know, you may be writing history.

### **Christian Cut it off Now / Chat Room – Coffee Break / Be a Joseph**

Christian if you were playing around today, you are engaged in some inappropriate behavior, you have to run now, cut it off, burn it, and disconnect it. Whether it is a coworker, fellow student, a chat room, or coffee room, cut it off – be a Joseph.

### **God not Messing Around / Revelation**

God does not mess around in the area of sexual immorality. When he wrote to the seven churches in the book of Revelation he specifically addressed to them and point out to them His disgust over the sexual immorality that had entered into those churches and the individuals:

*(Revelation 2:12 NKJV) "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:....."*

*(Revelation 2:14 NKJV) "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, **and to commit sexual immorality.**"*

*(Revelation 2:18 NKJV) "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:*

*(Revelation 2:20 NKJV) "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My **servants to commit sexual immorality** and eat things sacrificed to idols.*

### **Settle it Right Now / Never too Late to Repent**

Christian you need to settle right now that it is over. Whatever it is, it is not too late to end it, it is never too late to repent. We see that in that letter to the seven churches for God still says to them to repent before I have to deal with you and deal with you harshly:

*(Revelation 2:16 NKJV) "Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.*

*(Revelation 2:26 NKJV) "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations;*

### **Joseph Picture of Christ / His Blood Empowers Us – Cleanses Us**

Joseph is the picture of Jesus Christ, of how to handle such situations - run. Jesus showed us at the cross that we have the power over these things, we are free from these things, it is by His blood that He enables us to have victory over these things:

*(John 8:36 NKJV) "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*

*(Romans 6:6 NKJV) knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

*(Romans 6:7 NKJV) For he who has died has been freed from sin.*

*(Romans 6:8 NKJV) Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,*

*(Acts 3:19 NKJV) "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,*

*(Philippians 4:13 NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

# Genesis Chapter 40

## Joseph, the Butler, and the Baker

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

#### Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

#### Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

### Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

### Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

*(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

*(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*

### **Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well**

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, let's go for it, let's cut the lines, put the sails up, and let's live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, let's go for it, let's not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

*(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

**(Genesis 39:20 NKJV) Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.**

**(Genesis 39:21 NKJV) But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.**

**(Genesis 39:22 NKJV) And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing.**

**(Genesis 39:23 NKJV) The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.**

### **Chp 39 / Hiss / Stays True / Vision**

We left off chapter 39 with Joseph's demonstration of a man after God's own heart. Potiphar's wife said come over to my house, and Joseph could hear the hiss of Satan in her voice. Joseph, just a young man only 17 years old, yet a man who would say no to the temptation before him and stay true to call of God upon his life. That calling included a heavenly vision that someday he would rule over his brothers and yes even his father and mother.

### **Vision - Trouble / Series of Events - Sold - Slave - Prison**

This vision got him in trouble with his brothers, and it started a series of events for him. Joseph was sold off to a passing caravan, and then sold to an Egyptian ruler, and then he flees youthful lust for he says how could I do this great wickedness against God, and now he ends up in a prison in Egypt.

### **We are like Joseph / Be Strengthened / The Remarkable Joseph**

We are not that far off from Joseph, we have a heavenly calling, and may we be strengthened to endure for the little while that is left before Jesus' return, may we be as remarkable as Joseph was in everything that we do:

*(1 Peter 2:9 NKJV) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

*(1 Peter 2:10 NKJV) who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

*(1 Peter 2:11 NKJV) Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,*

*(1 Peter 2:12 NKJV) having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

### **Bad things do Happen / God Allows - Protects**

Christian, bad things do happen to God's people. But as we saw, God's hand was upon Joseph, and God's hand will be upon us. Nothing can happen to us unless God allows it. In Joseph's case, the penalty for adultery or raping a high official of Egypt was the death sentence. Yet we see Joseph is not sentenced to death but to prison, God's protecting hand was upon him in the midst of all this unfairness.

### **The Question / Not of this World / Not Exempt**

Right away the question has to be asked, you call that protection? Why didn't God protect him from the false accusations? Why did God allow him to be in the situation the start with? Listen Christian, we're in this world but we are not of this world. Christians are not exempt from the pain, suffering, and unfairness of this fallen world:

*(John 17:14 NKJV) "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

*(John 17:15 NKJV) "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.*

*(John 17:16 NKJV) "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

### **Abstained - Taxes - Tongue - Work**

I abstained, yet she got that guy. I was honest doing my taxes, yet the neighbor got the new car and went on vacation. I bit my tongue, yet people still took his side, he comes out smelling like a rose. I worked hard, yet he got the promotion. I worked hard, yet I still got laid off.

### **Choosing to do Right - Wonderful / Because He is Holy - Set Apart / Ultimately Wonderful**

Choosing to do what is right doesn't mean that everything will initially turn out wonderful. We choose a do what is right because He is holy, and these are the standard that He sets for the people that He sets apart. We have been bought with a price; living with that mindset, sets us apart from the world, and sets us above the world into the eternal perspective. Choose to do what is right and ultimately everything turns out wonderfully, because you've honored the Lord and any time the Lord is honored in and through you, you know He is pleased.

*(Colossians 3:2 NKJV) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

*(1 Corinthians 6:19 NKJV) Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

*(1 Corinthians 6:20 NKJV) For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

### **God uses Events / Not Exempt / Do well to Exempt**

God will use the events, situations, of a fallen world to move his people around so He can use His people for kingdom purposes. Again Christians we are not exempt from the pain, suffering and unfairness of a fallen world. God says my ways are above your ways. I can't understand these things, but I do well to accept these things.

*(Isaiah 55:8 NKJV) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.*

*(Isaiah 55:9 NKJV) "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.*

### **You say I don't Like That / Situation won't Change / Use the Trial - Conformed Image**

You may say I don't like that, it is not of my choosing, it doesn't seem fair. Christian you would do well to accept this, because whether you accept it or not won't change the circumstances or the situation. The best thing we can do is say Lord you have me here so let me hear why you have me here. Christian whatever you do, do not let a trial go to waste. If you're going through a trial today you might as well come out of it with something. Be conformed into his image. I refer you back to our study in 1 John 1:4, the making of wine, God is always doing something whether we can see it or not.

### **Written for Us / Be All There**

These things were written for our understanding. And we see Joseph's the wherever he is, he is all there. Christian wherever God has you, be all there, even when you're someplace that you do not want to be.

*(Romans 15:4 NKJV) For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

### **God uses Every Situation - Do we Believe That / Psalm 105 - God sends Man Before**

I believe God will use every situation in our lives to bring glory and honor to God. Our problem is we don't believe that, and without faith it is impossible to please God. In Psalm 105:16 we are given more insight into the life of Joseph. God called for famine in the land but he sent a man before him - Joseph. .



*(Psalms 105:16 NKJV) Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread.*

*(Psalms 105:17 NKJV) He sent a man before them; Joseph; who was sold as a slave.*

*(Psalms 105:18 NKJV) They hurt his feet with fetters, **He was laid in irons.***

*(Psalms 105:19 NKJV) Until the time that his word came to pass, **The word of the LORD tested him.***

*(Psalms 105:20 NKJV) The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free.*

*(Psalms 105:21 NKJV) He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions,*

### **Time between Call - Use / Fusing Metals / Iron in his Soul / the Metal Smith**

There is a big difference from when God gives the call, to when God uses the man, there is a time of God preparing the man. Maybe the margin in your Bible has in parenthesis there in verse 18 (some translate the original Hebrew into) – *his soul came into iron*. This word "tested" here (verse 19) means to fuse the metal together by putting it into the fire.. God worked Joseph, like a metal smith works his steel; he heats the metal to bring the impurities to the surface, and once at the surface he scoops off the impurities, and he continues the process until he can see the reflection of his face in the metal. It is with that iron, that steel that a structure can be built that will hold the load, and withstand the elements that are around it. Sheds are built with cheap steel, skyscrapers are built with the highest grade steel.

### **God Sent Joseph / Not Prisoner of Brothers - Potiphar**

The truth here is that God sent Joseph beforehand so as to save a world, a people (Israel), and preserve the lineage of the Messiah. Joseph wasn't his brothers' prisoner, or Potiphar's prisoner; he was God's prisoner. Just as Paul was, just as Moses was, just as Daniel was, God equipped the man. Consider that next time, or this time, you are in a trial.

**(Genesis 40:1 NKJV) It came to pass after these things that the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt.**

**(Genesis 40:2 NKJV) And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief butler and the chief baker.**

**(Genesis 40:3 NKJV) So he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison, the place where Joseph was confined.**

### **Maybe a Plot**

What they were thrown in prison for we do not know, maybe a plot was uncovered to kill the King and they threw both of them into prison until they could sort out the plot.

**(Genesis 40:4 NKJV) And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them; so they were in custody for a while.**

### **Joseph Serves / Serve while you Suffer / God Flows**

Joseph serves them, again a picture of Jesus Christ. Christians a great relief when you are suffering is to go and minister to someone and to serve them. You see as God flows through you, bringing comfort, healing, and encouragement to that person you are ministering to, that same comfort healing and encouragement is working in you as it passes through you onto that person. It is a wonderful dynamic.

**(Genesis 40:5 NKJV) Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, had a dream, both of them, each man's dream in one night and each man's dream with its own interpretation.**

**(Genesis 40:6 NKJV) And Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and saw that they were sad.**

**(Genesis 40:7 NKJV) So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in the custody of his lord's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?"**

**(Genesis 40:8 NKJV) And they said to him, "We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it." So Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please."**

### **Interpretations Belong to God**

Joseph says do not interpretations belong to God?

### **Ministry Key / Turn People to True Source / Marriage - Financial / All Things Possible**

Here is a Ministry key; Joseph turns these men to the source of all things. When people are struggling point them to the Lord. When people come to me with marriage problems, financial problems, family problems, whatever it is, I lead them into the arms of Jesus Christ for it is there and there only that they will find the answers that they need. I bring them before the Lord in prayer, I take them to the word, and I know that all things will be possible for through God all things are possible, no matter how bleak and desperate the situation may seem:

*(Matthew 19:26 NKJV) But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

### **World Mocks This / Take 2 Scriptures**

I don't know if the world accepts these things today, in fact they so often mock the seeking of God. One of the pastors said at a recent conference that he was listening to a radio program and the caller called in with a problem and she said, "I called the pastor to seek counsel", and then the host interrupted her and said let me guess, he said to take 2 Scriptures and call him in the morning" and then they all laughed.

### **World won't Stand / Apply Man's Wisdom / Band-Aid**

The world won't stand for these things today that God is the one who we should take all of our problems and questions to. Man wants to apply his wisdom and understanding to the situation, and as we see man comes up short, and at best a temporary Band-Aid that eventually will fall off.

### **Be Careful Ourselves - Fix Things / Biggest Problem - Eyes off Jesus / Turn them to Jesus**

We need to be careful ourselves because we hate to see people hurt and we want to fix their problems for them. It's good to help people and their problems, but many times their problem isn't the biggest problem. The biggest problem is that they have no relationship with the Lord, or they have taken their eyes off the Lord. First and foremost we must always bring them back to putting their eyes on Jesus Christ, and then we can go from there, we can minister to them and try to help them through their problem.

### **Joseph points - then Helps**

Joseph says do not interpretations belong to God; he brings them to the Lord's first and then he helps them and ministers to them.

### **Tell Me / Don't tell Me / You Will get Hurt - Don't Stop Ministering / Love- Vulnerable / You become Like Him**

*Verse 8 - Tell them to me, please.* – Joseph says tell me your dreams. I like that, Joseph doesn't say dreams, last time I interpret a dream it cost me, I ended up in the pit, then I was sold to a caravan, then I ended up in Potiphar's house and his wife wouldn't leave me alone, and now here I am. Dreams, don't tell me your dreams, get away from me with your dreams. Beloved you will get hurt by people you love, you will minister to people and they will turn on you, and it will hurt, they can bring you that point of saying I will never minister again, I will not put myself into the place where I am vulnerable to be hurt again. Christian don't let those times of being hurt keep you from ministering again, pour yourself out, be vulnerable, because you know what? You are being just like your Lord. Oh what He has done for us, He made himself vulnerable, God himself became vulnerable for it is only love that can place you in place of being vulnerable. Be thankful that you are vulnerable, that your heart is tender enough that it can be hurt, because that means the love of Christ is in you. You keep ministering even when you have been hurt, and God will be there to catch every tear that is dropped. God keep all your works as a memorial before him, and He'll say well done thy good and faithful servant.

### **We Can't Chose our Service**

Beloved, truly to be a disciple of Christ, we cannot pick and choose when, where, or who we serve. Like Jesus, for God so loved the world.....Our ministry is to the world, and anyone God puts in our path then qualifies to be loved and ministered by us. Remember that, and watch your ministry be blessed, because God will show you things that you would never have seen or experienced had you not left yourself open, for the world.

### **Oswald Chambers Devotional**

Oswald Chambers has a wonderful word about serving, and being poured out for others (February 5-6 Devotion):

#### *Are You Ready To Be Poured Out As an Offering?*

"If I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all" (Philippians 2:17).

Are you willing to sacrifice yourself for the work of another believer—to pour out your life sacrificially for the ministry and faith of others? Or do you say, "I am not willing to be poured out right now, and I don't want God to tell me how to serve Him. I want to choose the place of my own sacrifice. And I want to have certain people watching me and saying, 'Well done.'"

It is one thing to follow God's way of service if you are regarded as a hero, but quite another thing if the road marked out for you by God requires becoming a "doormat" under other people's feet. God's purpose may be to teach you to say, "I know how to be abased ..." (Philippians 4:12). Are you ready to be sacrificed like that? Are you ready to be less than a mere drop in the bucket—to be so totally insignificant that no one remembers you even if they think of those you served? Are you willing to give and be poured out until you are used up and exhausted—not seeking to be ministered to, but to minister? Some saints cannot do menial work while maintaining a saintly attitude, because they feel such service is beneath their dignity.

#### *Are You Ready To Be Poured Out As an Offering?*

"I am already being poured out as a drink offering ..." (2 Timothy 4:6).

Are you ready to be poured out as an offering? It is an act of your will, not your emotions. Tell God you are ready to be offered as a sacrifice for Him. Then accept the consequences as they come, without any complaints, in spite of what God may send your way. God sends you through a crisis in private, where no other person can help you. From the outside your life may appear to be the same, but the difference is taking place in your will. Once you have experienced the crisis in your will, you will take no thought of the cost when it begins to affect you externally. If you don't deal with God on the level of your will first, the result will be only to arouse sympathy for yourself.

"Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar" (Psalm 118:27). You must be willing to be placed on the altar and go through the fire; willing to experience what the altar represents—burning, purification, and separation for only one purpose—the elimination of every desire and affection not grounded in or directed toward God. But you don't eliminate it, God does. You "bind the sacrifice ... to the horns of the altar" and see to it that you don't wallow in self-pity once the fire begins. After you have gone through the fire, there will be nothing that will be able to trouble or depress you. When another crisis arises, you will realize that things cannot touch you as they used to do. What fire lies ahead in your life?

Tell God you are ready to be poured out as an offering, and God will prove Himself to be all you ever dreamed He would be.

**(Genesis 40:9 NKJV) Then the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "Behold, in my dream a vine was before me, (Genesis 40:10 NKJV) "and in the vine were three branches; it was as though it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and its clusters brought forth ripe grapes. (Genesis 40:11 NKJV) "Then Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand." (Genesis 40:12 NKJV) And Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days. (Genesis 40:13 NKJV) "Now within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand according to the former manner, when you were his butler.**

**Good News - 3 Days / Cupbearer**

Hey good news in three days you will be restored and you'll be serving the King again. This position of a Butler was the position we also know as the "cupbearer". The cupbearer was very close to the king because he would taste all the food before the king would eat it, and if the cupbearer didn't die, then it was safe for the king to eat. So the king and his cup bearer would develop a close relationship because anybody that stands in the way of possible death for you, you would be come close to over time

### **Remember Me / Finally Hope – But Not**

So Joseph says good news three days you be back in the Kings Court, and when you get there remember me. How elated Joseph must have been, this guy is going before the King every day, surely it is soon that I too will be released. Not so as we will see.

**(Genesis 40:14 NKJV) "But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house.**

**(Genesis 40:15 NKJV) "For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon."**

### **Doesn't Slam Back / Keep Door Open for Reconciliation**

Notice he doesn't slammed his brothers or Potiphar's wife. We would do well to heed this when we are burned by other people. Keep quiet, because when you slam back, word will get back to them, and reconciliation will be that much harder if possible at all. That person will hear of your detest for them and it could keep them from seeking to reconcile with you. Always, always, leave the door open for reconciliation. Part of the way of doing that is by dying to yourselves and keeping quiet.

**(Genesis 40:16 NKJV) When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, "I also was in my dream, and there were three white baskets on my head.**

**(Genesis 40:17 NKJV) "In the uppermost basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on my head."**

**(Genesis 40:18 NKJV) So Joseph answered and said, "This is the interpretation of it: The three baskets are three days.**

**(Genesis 40:19 NKJV) "Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat your flesh from you."**

### **Bad News / House in Order / Judgement to Come**

Bad news for you friend, in three days your head will have a noose around your head and you will be hanging from the tree. Joseph again tells it like it is, Joseph doesn't seek to please man. Joseph blessed this man by letting him know he only had 3 days to live; he gave the man opportunity to get his house in order. To tell his family goodbye, I love you, that they too may be prepared. Good example for us, people need to hear that there is a judgement to come so they can be prepared.

**(Genesis 40:20 NKJV) Now it came to pass on the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants.**

**(Genesis 40:21 NKJV) Then he restored the chief butler to his butlership again, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.**

**(Genesis 40:22 NKJV) But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them.**

### **Everything Happens / Joseph's Dream**

So everything happens just as Joseph said it would, all the dreams came true. I'm sure Joseph was wandering when his dream would come true. When he will see his family again and that they will come and bowed down before him. Not yet, God was not done preparing the man.

### **Interesting Picture**

Joseph that picture of Jesus Christ; Joseph was numbered with the transgressors. He was a blessing to the butler, and he was judgement for the baker. The Lord Jesus was crucified between two thieves. One was judged and the other was blessed. The butler was received into the kingdom, on the third day. The baker was condemned on the third day. So to it is for the thieves next to Jesus on the cross, and for every man; what happened on the third day will either bless or condemn that person. For those that believe Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, then they will be received into the kingdom, but those who do not believe that He is, that He rose again on the third day, they will be condemned to everlasting punishment. The celebration comes on the third day, or sorrows begin on the third day.

### **Lead Captivity Free**

Joseph went into the prison and brought good news. Jesus before He ascended, He first descended to lead the captives free:

*(Ephesians 4:8 NKJV) Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."  
(Ephesians 4:9 NKJV) (Now this, "He ascended"; what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?*

*(Ephesians 4:10 NKJV) He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)*

### **Communion Elements**

Here we also see the 2 elements of communion present; the bread and the cup. The bread and the cup will represent life or death, it all depends what a person will do with them, for they represent the Body of Christ.

**(Genesis 40:23 NKJV) Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.**

### **Butler back in his Kingdom / Life as Usual / Forgot Encouragement / 2 more years**

The chief Butler is in the kingdom just as Joseph promised he would be, but the Butler forgot him. The Butler went back to his life is usual, he went back to work, probably had a family and went back to them, life is good for him, yet he totally forgot Joseph the one who gave him words of encouragement during one of his darkest hours. It will be two years before he remembers Joseph. Many of us can be like the butler; hey thanks for being their Lord in the hard times, thanks for the strengthening, the encouragement, to know someone cares, but life is good again, and I have some things to take care of, catch back up on, take a rest.

### **Do this in Remembrance of Me**

This would be a great time to just sit know with the Lord, and break the bread, take the cup, and do it in remembrance of Him. Remember His goodness; remember that we are free because He went to the pit for us:

*(Luke 22:19 NKJV) And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."*

*(Luke 22:20 NKJV) Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."*

*(1 Corinthians 11:23 NKJV) For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

*(1 Corinthians 11:24 NKJV) and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."*

*(1 Corinthians 11:25 NKJV) In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

*(1 Corinthians 11:26 NKJV) For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*

*(1 Corinthians 11:27 NKJV) Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.*

*(1 Corinthians 11:28 NKJV) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*

*(1 Corinthians 11:29 NKJV) For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.*

*(1 Corinthians 11:30 NKJV) For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.*

*(1 Corinthians 11:31 NKJV) For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.*

*(1 Corinthians 11:32 NKJV) But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.*

*(1 Corinthians 11:33 NKJV) Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.*

*(1 Corinthians 11:34 NKJV) But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.*

# Genesis Chapter 41

## Joseph & Pharaoh's Dream

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

**Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

### Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

### Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

*(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

*(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*

### **Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well**

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, lets go for it, lets cut the lines, put the sails up, and lets live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, lets go for it, lets not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

*(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

### **Recap**

We saw in chapter 39 Potiphar's wife grabbing hold of Joseph, but Joseph flees, and she fabricates the a story of lies to have him thrown in prison. And then in chapter 40 Joseph interprets the dreams of the butler and the baker. The baker is set free, Joseph says remember me when you stand before the king again, but he doesn't, and Joseph sits for 2 more years, waiting for the fulfillment of his dreams.

**(Genesis 41:1 NKJV) Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream; and behold, he stood by the river.**

### **Full Years / Remember Those who Hurt / Life Flying By / Years – Months - Days**

*Verse 1 - at the end of two full years* - Notice that they were full years. Beloved, remember those around you who are hurting, suffering, in the pits. For most of us life is just flying by, as we are going to work, taking the kids to sports, looking back on Christmas and looking forward to vacation in Ocean City. When things are good, life is just flying by. But for those who are hurting, the years are full; the year is counted by months, which are counted by days, down to the minute, down to the second. Nothing is flying by, nothing to look back on, nothing to look forward to; just getting by that day; they are full years when you are hurting.

### **Remember Them – Lift them Up / Dinner – Coffee / Done Unto Me**

Remember those that are hurting, lift them up for a day, refresh them for a moment, call them to have dinner, take them out for a coffee. For when you have done it to the least of these, you have done it unto Me:

*(Matthew 25:34 NKJV) "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

*(Matthew 25:35 NKJV) 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;*

*(Matthew 25:36 NKJV) 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'*

*(Matthew 25:37 NKJV) "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?*

*(Matthew 25:38 NKJV) 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?*

*(Matthew 25:39 NKJV) 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'*

*(Matthew 25:40 NKJV) "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

### **My Full Years / Marty & Susan**

I remember my full years, lots of well-meaning Christians with their godly interpretation of what was going on in my life; they had plenty of Scriptures to quote to me, lots of Christian-eze. But I'll never forget Marty and Susan and there 5-year old daughter Hannah. He said Ray come over the house for dinner after church today, and I remember sitting in the backyard picking oranges, peeling them and eating them, having fellowship with Marty, talking, and just enjoying conversation. I remember taking a boat ride down the river. I remember taking the boat to shore and then just walking through the water up to our ankles. I remember Marty saying Hannah (who was only five at the time), lets pray for Ray right now right, Ray needs a job lets lift him up to the



Lord. I remember holding hands, just the three of us, praying right with the water up to our ankles and the sun beating down upon us. Then we went back in eat supper together. It was a wonderful day for me in the midst of my "full" years.

### **Can't Remember Anybody's Verses or Interpretations**

It's funny how well I remember that, and that was like eight years ago. I remember it so vividly still today as if it was only yesterday. But you know what's funny? I don't remember any of those Scriptures quoted to me, and not one of those godly interpretations passed on to me. Beloved, remember those who are hurting, for I can tell you that they will remember that you remembered.

### **Came to Pass / Joseph's Life Changes / Book of Mark - Immediately**

*Verse 1- Then it came to pass* - Then it came to pass and everything changes for Joseph. I love the book of Mark; it's one of my favorite books in the whole Bible. Some 36 times (NKJV) the word immediately is used in that Book:

*(Mark 1:18 NKJV) They **immediately** left their nets and followed Him.*

*(Mark 5:31 NKJV) So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and **immediately** the fever left her. And she served them.*

*(Mark 1:42 NKJV) As soon as He had spoken, **immediately** the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.*

*(Mark 2:12 NKJV) **Immediately** he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"*

*(Mark 5:29 NKJV) **Immediately** the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.*

*(Mark 5:42 NKJV) **Immediately** the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement.*

*(Mark 10:52 NKJV) Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And **immediately** he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.*

### **The Christian Life – Immediately / Dark to Bright**

That's the way it is for Christians, things can seem so bleak, dark, desperate, then all of a sudden, immediately, it changes in a moment, in a day.

### **Singles Hold On – Youth – Marriages – Parents / Wait for Your Immediately**

Singles hold to your immediately, youth stay strong and stay pure, marriages your immediately will come, parents same for you. But you will never reach your immediately if you quit or try to take a shortcut. When God brings the immediately into your life, it will be worth it and you'll be glad that you waited for your immediately.

### **Maybe tonight Your Immediate / One More day / Looking Long Term Discourages**

I do pray that maybe tonight will be your immediately, but if it is not, can you make it one more day? That's all God will ever ask you, can you make it one more day? Then tomorrow God will ask you again can you make it one more day? God does ask you can you make it three more months, three more years, He just asks if you can you make it today, for today is all we are promised. I really believe that, and know in my hearts from experience, that we can all make it one more day if we just look at it as one more day. It is when we look at it in months and years that we get discouraged, quit, and give up.

**(Genesis 41:2 NKJV) Suddenly there came up out of the river seven cows, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow.**

**(Genesis 41:3 NKJV) Then behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ugly and gaunt, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the river.**

**(Genesis 41:4 NKJV) And the ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven fine looking and fat cows. So Pharaoh awoke.**

**(Genesis 41:5 NKJV)** He slept and dreamed a second time; and suddenly seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, plump and good.

**(Genesis 41:6 NKJV)** Then behold, seven thin heads, blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them.

**(Genesis 41:7 NKJV)** And the seven thin heads devoured the seven plump and full heads. So Pharaoh awoke, and indeed, it was a dream.

### **7 Cows – 7 Heads**

So here is Pharaoh's dream, seven healthy cows being eaten up by seven sickly cows. Then he dreams again in the seven healthy heads of grains of wheat are devoured by seven the thin heads of grains of wheat.

**(Genesis 41:8 NKJV)** Now it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them for Pharaoh.

### **Pharaoh goes to World / Band-Aid**

So Pharaoh goes to his magicians there in Egypt, again what a picture of the world, for the world is always seeking answers from the world, and the best that the world will ever be able to offer is a temporary fix, a Band-aid. Oh it may get us through that moment, that day, that week, that month, but eventually it's just temporarily and it will fade and we'll be back where we started.

### **Magicians only Interpret Satan's Dreams**

Now these men that Pharaoh was calling were pretty powerful themselves. Later on when Moses demands the release of the children of Israel from Pharaoh, he took his rod and threw it down and the rod turned into a serpent. The Pharaohs magicians did the same thing. Then Moses serpent ate up all their serpents. These guys had some pretty powerful demonic stuff going for them, but, "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4). These magicians of Egypt were really into the magical arts of the occult. They were into Satanism, and the spirit realm and were probably able to interpret dreams that came from the satanic realm; but, this dream came from God and they were unable to cross a spiritual barrier here and so, could not interpret the dream of the Pharaoh.

**(Genesis 41:9 NKJV)** Then the chief butler spoke to Pharaoh, saying: "I remember my faults this day.

**(Genesis 41:10 NKJV)** "When Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, both me and the chief baker,

**(Genesis 41:11 NKJV)** "we each had a dream in one night, he and I. Each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his own dream.

**(Genesis 41:12 NKJV)** "Now there was a young Hebrew man with us there, a servant of the captain of the guard. And we told him, and he interpreted our dreams for us; to each man he interpreted according to his own dream.

**(Genesis 41:13 NKJV)** "And it came to pass, just as he interpreted for us, so it happened. He restored me to my office, and he hanged him."

### **Butler Remembers / God Preparing – Preventing / Famine Ordained Now**

Oh now I remember he says. Take us back to Psalm 105; God was preparing the man, Joseph. And I believe just as God was preparing the man, he was preventing the man. Yes I know it's hard for us to accept that, but Joseph couldn't be released two years ago because God ordained the famine in the land, and he also ordained the timing for this famine. The famine is now, not two years ago:

*(Psalms 105:16 NKJV)* Moreover **He called for a famine in the land**; He destroyed all the provision of bread.

*(Psalms 105:17 NKJV)* **He sent a man before them**; Joseph; who was sold as a slave.

*(Psalms 105:18 NKJV)* They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons.

*(Psalms 105:19 NKJV)* Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him.

*(Psalms 105:20 NKJV)* The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free.

*(Psalms 105:21 NKJV)* He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions,

### **God doesn't adjust His Plans to Our Availability**

It is important for us to see this, that God doesn't adjust His plans to our availability. He adjusts our availability to His plans. Jesus Christ was accused of many things by His enemies, but He was never accused by His enemies for being in a hurry.

### **If Joseph Released – Back Home**

Had Joseph been released two years ago, he would have most likely gone back to his father. There would have been no reason to stay in Egypt, and there was nothing but bad memories in Egypt. God had to keep him in prison, so he would be available for the time of the famine that was ordained by God. God prepared Joseph; Joseph was the one chosen by God to save a world, preserve a people (Israel) and preserve the lineage of the Messiah.

### **Hard for Us – Next time Remember / Plans - Availability**

I know how hard this may sound. Next time you're going through a struggle, next time you're wondering why things are happening at this pace, why this has not come to pass it yet, remember this story God does not adjust His plans to our availability, He just our availability to His plans.

### **God behind the Scenes Working**

God is behind the scene working out His plan all the way along, even as God is behind the scene in your life if you are a child of God. He is working out details and plans of which you know nothing about; but, one day when you see the fruit you will say, "Wow". You'll see how God has been working even when you weren't aware of it. God is controlling the circumstances of our lives

**(Genesis 41:14 NKJV) Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh.**

**(Genesis 41:15 NKJV) And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that you can understand a dream, to interpret it."**

**(Genesis 41:16 NKJV) So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."**

### **Joseph Points to God / Me – I take Opportunity to get Credit / Joseph Lets Chips Fall**

As we saw in the last chapter Joseph points man pass himself right on to the Lord. We see Joseph's character here, a humble man, and a man who trusts in the Lord. At this point if it was me I would be like this is my time to show my stuff, this is my time to get some credit, so I can get out of this pit and back on to the my life. But Joseph he points to the Lord, he gives glory to the Lord, and he lets the chips fall where they may. I get out of this prison great, I don't get out of this prison so be it.

### **Joseph Never glorifies God for Personal Gain / Always because God Worthy of Glory**

Joseph did not, and never had, and never we'll glorify God for personal gain. He glorifies God, for one reason, God is worthy of glory.

*(1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJV) Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

### **My Evangelizing / Share for God's Glory / Won't Get Discouraged**

When I first started evangelizing, I was mainly motivated to share the gospel so the people might get saved. That's a good motivation, God's pleased with that obviously, and that is part of the reason that we share the gospel. However, what I see from the verse we just read expanded my understanding of evangelism and ministry. We are to share the gospel so God receives glory. That has to be first in our minds, or eventually at some point we will quit sharing the gospel. You see I can share the gospel 1000 times, but every time I get rejected, I can become discouraged, so much to the point that I say what's the use I quit.

### **No One Stand Before God - You didn't Tell Me / I sent My Servant / You Rejected**

But if I share the gospel because I want God to receive glory, then I can continue on forever, even if not person responds. What do I mean? You see no one will be able to stand before God and say you never told me, how can you judge me for something that I know nothing about. God will say I sent my servant to you, on such a such date, and he told you about my love, he told you about my sacrifice, I reached out to you but you rejected me. No one can say that God is not love, and that God is unjust, for they have heard the good news, and that brings glory to God.

#### **Same with Counsel / Decision must be Made / Accountable to the Word / No Neutral**

It is true with the word that we share, the counsel that we give. I have words of hope and love and anyone who rejects the counsel, that is based on the word of God, rejected by their own choice, God still receives glory even if they go and ruin their life. For his holiness and righteousness were presented to them, and they therefore must make a decision on the word that was presented to them. The world cannot live freely once the Word has been presented to them, they are not accountable to the word that has just pierced their heart. They will have to make a decision on whether they will follow God or not, be obedient to his word or not, and God again is glorified. Stand for Jesus in the midst of this corrupt world, be labeled legalistic, a jerk, unloving, whatever they may say, but the fact is they can no longer stay neutral, they will now have to make a decision for Jesus Christ, either they will be for Him, or against Him, whether that is for salvation, or Lordship, in both cases God is glorified.

#### **Minister – Burn out – Fade Away – Become Bitter**

You ministers if for any other reason you are sharing the word of God and bringing counsel to man other than for the glory of God, you will burn out and fade away, and probably become bitter in the process.

#### **No Credit – No Defeat**

Now when people do respond we need to make sure we don't take the credit, and here's good news, when people don't respond, when they reject, you don't have to take credit for that either. You don't have to feel the pressure that it's something to do with you. We just present the words of the Father, and let things happen from there as the Spirit will lead people, or people will reject the leading of the Spirit.

#### **People in Scripture Used - Pointed**

We find this so many places through the scriptures. These men that were so used of God were men who were never willing to take credit for the gift of God:

*(Matthew 5:16 NKJV) "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

**(Genesis 41:17 NKJV) Then Pharaoh said to Joseph: "Behold, in my dream I stood on the bank of the river.**

**(Genesis 41:18 NKJV) "Suddenly seven cows came up out of the river, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow.**

**(Genesis 41:19 NKJV) "Then behold, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and gaunt, such ugliness as I have never seen in all the land of Egypt.**

**(Genesis 41:20 NKJV) "And the gaunt and ugly cows ate up the first seven, the fat cows.**

**Genesis 41:21 NKJV) "When they had eaten them up, no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were just as ugly as at the beginning. So I awoke.**

**(Genesis 41:22 NKJV) "Also I saw in my dream, and suddenly seven heads came up on one stalk, full and good.**

**(Genesis 41:23 NKJV) "Then behold, seven heads, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them.**

**(Genesis 41:24 NKJV) "And the thin heads devoured the seven good heads. So I told this to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me."**

#### **Pharaoh Repeats Dream**

So Pharaoh repeats the dream to Joseph's

**(Genesis 41:25 NKJV)** Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do:

#### **Both Same Dream**

Joseph says they are not two different dreams both dreams mean the same thing.

**(Genesis 41:26 NKJV)** "The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads are seven years; the dreams are one.

**(Genesis 41:27 NKJV)** "And the seven thin and ugly cows which came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty heads blighted by the east wind are seven years of famine.

**(Genesis 41:28 NKJV)** "This is the thing which I have spoken to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do.

**(Genesis 41:29 NKJV)** "Indeed seven years of great plenty will come throughout all the land of Egypt;

**(Genesis 41:30 NKJV)** "but after them seven years of famine will arise, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine will deplete the land.

**(Genesis 41:31 NKJV)** "So the plenty will not be known in the land because of the famine following, for it will be very severe.

#### **7 Great – 7 Terrible / Lays Out next 14 Years**

There will be seven plentiful years, then seven miserable and difficult years. So Joseph now lays out for the king exactly what is going to happen. God is showing you the future, the next fourteen years God has laid out before you. They will be divided in two, seven years there will be plenty, a bumper crop, years of abundance; but, it will be followed by seven years of drought, seven years of famine and the famine will be so great that all of the abundance of the seven good years will be used up.

#### **We Know Tribulation Period**

We know of a time that there will be seven miserable and difficult years, it is called the Tribulation Period. We read about in Revelation chapter 6 to 19.

#### **Forced Israel to Joseph / Will Force Israel to Jesus**

It is interesting that the seven hard years forced Jacob (Israel), to come to Joseph for preservation. Joseph again is a picture of Jesus Christ, and we see here a picture of the seven-year tribulation period. Israel will come to Jesus, they will see the Savior that they had missed, the one they falsely accused, abandoned and forgotten, and they will come to Him in the tribulation and be preserved.

#### **World Ready to Receive Mark of Beast**

For the most part the world lives and comfort. Never in the history of mankind has the economy of the world been so good, so prosperous. Yes there are pockets of problems of course, but for most part the world is living in comfort that has been unknown to man. Even in some of the poorest countries a computer is in every home and food is on every table. But the tribulation period will come and I believe the abundance of ease of life we live today will make people readily jump on the mark of the beast. People will not want to leave their stuff, they will not want to leave the comfort that they are so used to, so they will take the mark to keep living the good life. They will trade eternity, for the temporary.

**(Genesis 41:32 NKJV)** "And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

#### **It will Come to Pass**

It will come to pass, and it did. Just as it did happen there in Genesis/Egypt, so too will happen in Revelation chapter 6 through 19.

## **2 Dreams Joseph & Pharaoh / Prison Doors Squeak / The Long Wait**

Joseph interprets a dream again, and after this one will begin the series of events that will bring the dreams he had to pass. Joseph had 2 dreams, and so does Pharaoh, and he says because it was repeated twice that means that it has been established by God, and it will shortly come to pass. So too will Joseph's come to pass, very soon. I can only image when Joseph interpreted the dreams for the butler and the baker, and the butler was freed, that every time Joseph heard the prison door open, how he must have thought, they are here for me, see ya I am out of here. But the days turned into months, and the months into two full years. How hard that must have been for Joseph, how he must have wondered, where are you God.

## **God Met Joseph in Prison / Never Forgot / Went with & Went before**

God met Joseph there in that prison, and God never forgot Joseph there in that prison, because God went before Joseph wherever he went, and He was with Joseph wherever he was, He never left Joseph (so true to the words the Lord speaks to us - I will never leave you no forsake you - I will not leave you orphans) - from the pit, to the palace, back to a pit, and then when he is back in a palace, God was with Him ever step of the way.

## **Wherever He was – Everywhere He Was**

God met Joseph wherever he was, and everywhere he was. God will meet you wherever you are, and everywhere you are.

## **Compass Direct / Fellow – Guard – Soldier – Mother - Mother**

There's a Ministry called Compass Direct and they ministry to the persecuted Church. They tell the story of a dying prisoner in a Chinese prison who was imprisoned for life. The prisoner wrote a letter to his mother before he died. He would not mail it because he was afraid the censors with tear up, so he gave it to a fellow prisoner who was supposed to be freed in four more years. The dying prisoner died during those four years, but the prisoner he gave the letter to, did not get out at the end of four years, so that prisoner gave the letter to a guard that he had become friendly with, who in turn gave it to a soldier friend who travelled to the it was written, and three years after the prisoner had died, finally reaches his mother and here is what it says:

## **Letter of Prisoner**

Of my mother, my dear mother, I have not been a good son; I have brought disgrace upon you and all the family. I hope you can forgive me. I am dying. You brought me up to be a good boy; you gave me food, love, and affection. What did I do to repay you; I painted an anti-government slogan upon a wall and got life imprisonment. Life imprisonment when my life was only 18 years old. You raised me for more than this, and I am sorry. And now your son is 31 and he will not live past 33, I have cancer of the intestines and my jailers will not pay for an operation.

Now instead of working underground in the mine, I now man a tiny storage shed full of rusty tins and tools. I fetch them all day long, no one comes near, but at least I can look out over the desert and see the shifting of the sand. For 8 years I never saw the sunlight, I was taken from the barracks through a tunnel into the mine. A room, a corridor, and a shaft were all the world that I had. And now my world is bigger, but is coming to an end, there is no hope. So I have sat on my stool and thought for many hours, I have cried many tears, mostly for the things I have never did, and will never do. I have never kissed a woman, I have never so much as owned a toothbrush, I've never received a paycheck, never ate a gourmet meal, and never built a kite for an excited child. Above all that I have never said how much I owed you. Never said to say how sorry I am for grieving you until now, boys are not meant to bring their mothers such sorrow, otherwise no one would have them.

I have come to 2 conclusions, one is this; this is not the only world there is. I cannot believe that I went through the miracle of birth to live a life like this and to die a death like this. I believe there is another world where there is a table that I can choose to sit at, and I can drink the finest wines,

and eat until my heart is content, and I can make friends with whomsoever I please, and I can speak without fear, and not be marched off at the half-hour when the gong is sounded.

And I also believe that there is someone there, who is also here, who sits at the head of that table. A fellow prisoner told me of such a one, who said my yoke is easy, my burden is light. I do not know all that that means, all that I can say is when I heard those words I felt a great relief that my death was not the end of life.

So my dying charge to you mother is to find out who spoke those words so that we may dine together again with Him.

#### **No one Outside God's Reach / What Prison You are In / Wants to Minister to You**

There is no one outside of God's reach, no matter how far away that person or you are, there is no human life that God takes for granted, and every soul is precious to Him. No matter what prison you may feel that you are in, maybe it is a love that has left you, maybe it was inappropriate behaviour towards you as a child, maybe it's an illness today, whatever it may be you are well within God's reach. And He is thinking of you right now, and wants to minister to you, even when you feel like maybe He has forsaken you. God is faithful.

#### **Forget our Sin / Not Forsaken / Million Miles Away**

The only thing God forgets is our sins, He never forgets us. Whatever it may be for you, God knows, He has not forsaken you. No matter how far away, how out of reach you may feel, He will reach you. That person you love, that you think is a million miles from God, don't give up hope, don't give up your intercession for them, for God has His ways to reach them.

# Genesis Chapter 41

## *Joseph made Second in the Land*

### **Genesis more than history book / It is His-story**

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### **Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### **Outline:**

#### Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

#### Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### **Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers**

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

### **Joseph not Line of Messiah**

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

### **Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good**

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

*(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

*(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*



### **Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well**

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, let's go for it, let's cut the lines, put the sails up, and let's live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, let's go for it, let's not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

*(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

### **Recap Joseph's Life**

We saw in chapter 39 Potiphar's wife grabbing hold of Joseph, but Joseph flees, and she fabricates the a story of lies to have him thrown in prison. And then in chapter 40 Joseph interprets the dreams of the butler and the baker. The baker is set free, Joseph says remember me when you stand before the king again, but he doesn't, and Joseph sits for 2 more years, waiting for the fulfilment of his dreams. Last study Joseph hears the dream of Pharaoh.

### **7 Great – 7 Terrible / Lays Out next 14 Years**

There will be seven plentiful years, then seven miserable and difficult years. So Joseph now lays out for the king exactly what is going to happen. God is showing you the future, the next fourteen years God has laid out before you. They will be divided in two, seven years there will be plenty, a bumper crop, years of abundance; but, it will be followed by seven years of drought, seven years of famine and the famine will be so great that all of the abundance of the seven good years will be used up.

**(Genesis 41:33 NKJV) "Now therefore, let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt.**

**(Genesis 41:34 NKJV) "Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, to collect one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years.**

**(Genesis 41:35 NKJV) "And let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming, and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.**

### **General Tax Rule**

Now as a general rule the people were taxed 10% but Joseph is suggesting that during this time of surplus that the government tax them 20%, so that they might gather a large surplus to see them through the lean years that were coming.

**(Genesis 41:36 NKJV) "Then that food shall be as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land may not perish during the famine."**

**(Genesis 41:37 NKJV) So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants.**

### **Joseph gives IBS**

I like this, Pharaoh asked for an interpretation of the dream, but Joseph does not stop there he goes all the way through the inductive Bible study method, or should I say be inductive prayer method. He not only gives the observation and the interpretation, he goes on to give the application. King this is what the prayer says, this is what it means to you, and this is the application now for your life.

### **Example when we Quote Scriptures**

I like that, good example for us. When we quote Scriptures to people we must also have the application for them. This is what the Scripture says, this is what the Scripture means, and this is how you should apply it to your life. I remember quoting scripture to my father when I was a young in the Lord, I remember saying, for me to live as Christ, and to die is gain (Phil 1:21). He said what does that mean son? I'm saying to myself I don't know what that means, I know what it means to me but I cannot explain it to him. So, be careful about throwing Scriptures out that we cannot back up with explanation, when people call you on it you could look foolish, and more so like you don't know what you are talking about. So stick to what you know, minister within your spiritual maturity level. Learn the Inductive Bible Study Method so you can give the full counsel of the Word.

**(Genesis 41:38 NKJV) And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?"**

**(Genesis 41:39 NKJV) Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you.**

### **Recognized Quality of Joseph / 13 yrs Testing / The Spirit Difference**

"And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? They recognized that there was a quality in Joseph that set him above the crowd and that he wasn't an ordinary person. Joseph had gone through thirteen years of severe testing, trials, hardships and still there was that quality about him. What was it they saw? They recognized the Spirit of God in him. Oh, what a difference the Spirit of God makes in our lives. How we need the Spirit of God in control in our lives. Can we find a man like this in whom is the Spirit of God?

### **World needs more Josephs**

How the world needs more men and women like Joseph; people in whom the spirit of God is upon. People, who are filled with the Holy Spirit, people who were filled with the wisdom of the Lord, who are able to discern the things of God.

### **Tell Us your Secret / Teacher – Univ – Library – Volumes - Traveling**

I can imagine them saying to him, tell us your secret Joseph. How did you gain such wisdom and knowledge and understanding of these things? What teacher have you sat under? What fine university did you go to? How massive is your library, tell me all the volumes of books that you have read. Surely you must be a published author? How extensive you must have been traveling the world to glean so much wisdom and knowledge.

### **Joseph – No Teacher – Straight from Lord / 13 yrs Imprisoned / No Church**

Please tell us your story of how you gain so much knowledge and wisdom. Joseph would say well at the age of 17 I was sold into slavery by my brothers, which ended up resulting in my imprisonment, so for the last 13 years I've been a slave or a prisoner. I do not have a Bible, no church, I do not have a pastor, I do not have a set of Pastor Chuck MP3's, I have no access to the Web, no commentaries, all I've had has come straight from the Lord.

### **No Excuses for Us / Spirit within Us**

Christian know that all the we need to overcome sin in temptation in the world, all that we need to live the victorious Christian life, all that we need to do the work of the Ministry, has been given to us by the Spirit dwelling within us.

### **Univ of Tears / 13 yrs – Learned to Hear God's Voice**

Joseph's University was the University of tears. And Joseph became the man that he was after 13 years of suffering. I believe it was during his 13 years of suffering that Joseph learned to hear the voice of God. Joseph would sit in the quietness of his prison cell, the loneliness of his slavery, and he learned to not only speak to the Lord but also to hear from the Lord.

### **Set Aside – Sit / Poor Joseph – Poor You / Pouring of God**

What an example for us, how vital it is, to set aside that time of quietness where we sit to hear from the Lord. You know I could really imagine people saying to Joseph, what a pity for you, how terrible you suffered. But I believe Joseph would look and say what a pity for you. I have experienced communion with the God of all creation, I hear His voice, I am one with Him. When people are saying poor you, that is when God is pouring Himself into you.

### **America – Busy / Oneness of Joseph**

We think America is so great, is it really? These busy lives that we lead, these lives of abundance, are they really that great? Do we have the oneness with God as Joseph did?

**(Genesis 41:40 NKJV)** "You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you."

**(Genesis 41:41 NKJV)** And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

**(Genesis 41:42 NKJV)** Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.

### **Signet symbol of Power / Seal / Chains of Empowerment**

The signet ring was Pharaoh's signature. They would drip wax on a seal and he would press his ring onto it, and everyone would know the king's design. Imagine the President giving you that same power. The chains around his neck represents power, for only those in power wore them around their neck. So Joseph goes from chains of imprisonment, to chains of empowerment.

**(Genesis 41:43 NKJV)** And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, "Bow the knee!" So he set him over all the land of Egypt.

**(Genesis 41:44 NKJV)** Pharaoh also said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."

### **You can do Nothing without Me**

Joseph a picture of Jesus, without Me you can do nothing:

*(John 15:5 NKJV)* "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

**(Genesis 41:45 NKJV)** And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath-Paaneah. And he gave him as a wife Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On. So Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

### **Revealer / Jesus Reveals all Things**

The name given to Joseph by the Pharaoh probably means the "revealer of secrets." That is our Jesus, He reveals all things to us:

*(Mark 4:22 NKJV)* "For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light."

*(Mark 4:23 NKJV)* "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

*(Hebrews 4:12 NKJV)* For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

*(Hebrews 4:13 NKJV)* And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

### **Name of Jesus**

But the meaning of his name is not fully clear, and that too is a good picture of Our Jesus.

Revelation says that He has a name that nobody knows:

*(Revelation 19:12 NKJV)* His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

### **God so Rich – Deep / Spend Eternity Exploring Him**

You see Christian God is so rich, He is so deep, that we will never come to the end of Him. We will live eternity with Him, and still never scratch the depth of who He is. Heaven will not be boring for we will be in the presence of a source so deep, so rich, that will spend eternity exploring His depth, and never reach it. Imagine every day, we will be fascinated by Him, thrilled about Him, growing deeper and deeper in love with Him.

### **Gentile Bride**

It will be a wonderful marriage. Please note here that Joseph, a Jew, is given a Gentile bride. So too are most of here a Gentile bride to Jesus Christ.

**(Genesis 41:46 NKJV) Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.**

### **Joseph 30**

Here Joseph is thirty years old when he began his ministry over Egypt, even as Jesus was thirty years old when He began his public ministry:

*(Luke 3:23 NKJV) Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli,*

**(Genesis 41:47 NKJV) Now in the seven plentiful years the ground brought forth abundantly.**

**(Genesis 41:48 NKJV) So he gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities; he laid up in every city the food of the fields which surrounded them.**

### **Joseph Learned in Prison / We Complain – God Preparing**

Joseph would have learned how to stretch supplies while he oversaw the prison where supplies would be scarce. God so often does that in our lives, He is preparing us for things long before He ever puts us in that ministry requiring those talents. Sometimes we even complain why God are you having me waste my time in these things. We never know what God is preparing us for, so wherever He has you today, be all there. Don't waste today's equipping waiting for tomorrows ministry.

### **Every City – Distribution Center / America Depression**

Notice that in every city Joseph set up a distribution center? The church needs to take note of this; there is definitely a place for order, for planning. In the days of depression here in the United States you saw the pictures of people waiting in line 2 and 3 blocks long to get bread and soup. The fact is there was plumbing of bread and soup, but the distribution centers were poorly established. The distribution centers were poorly planned and established, thus requiring the people to walk extra distances to stand in line with many people for long periods of time. The distribution centers were overloaded and understaffed.

### **Church needs to Plan – Order / Not Wing It**

They should have read the Bible and took this example from Joseph. Joseph had distribution centers all over the place so that they were readily accessible to the people. In the church we need to plan ahead. Lots of people just want a wing it, say as the Spirit leads us. Yes the Spirit will lead us but the Spirit also tells us to do all things orderly. That is where prayers comes in, where you seek the Lord and say what is it that you want us to do Lord, and as the Lord leads us, we plan and prepare accordingly. Why is that? Because when things are not done orderly, confusion sets in, frustration and irritation follows:

*(1 Corinthians 14:33 NKJV) For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.*

*(1 Corinthians 14:40 NKJV) Let all things be done decently and in order.*

### **If not People not Fed**

Like in the days of depression, and would have been in days of Joseph, If there is no order people will not get fed. The church needs to be a feeding center, a place of nourishment. That is why there needs to be Children's church schedules, ushers, door greeters directing people, and, order in the sanctuary when the Word is being taught. Why people can't be moving around, coming in and going out, talking, and causing distractions.

**(Genesis 41:49 NKJV)** Joseph gathered very much grain, as the sand of the sea, until he stopped counting, for it was immeasurable.

**(Genesis 41:50 NKJV)** And to Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him.

**(Genesis 41:51 NKJV)** Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house."

**(Genesis 41:52 NKJV)** And the name of the second he called Ephraim: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."

### **Manasseh – Forget / Joseph not Dysfunctional / Will not Dwell on Past**

Manasseh means forget. You know if anyone had a reason to be dysfunctional, it was Joseph. He was lied about, falsely accused, mistreated, imprisoned, forgotten, used and tossed aside. 13 years of his life, almost half of it, yet he says I forget all the struggle and toil. Joseph chose not to dwell on the past, he chose not to let the past ruin his life today, or his future tomorrow. I forget he says.

### **Christian forget Past – Press On**

Christian that is what we must do, we must forget the past hurts, our past failings, and we must live in today. Paul said I forget the past and press on towards the mark:

*(Philippians 3:12 NKJV)* Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

*(Philippians 3:13 NKJV)* Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

*(Philippians 3:14 NKJV)* I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

### **Put it behind You / Ex – Parents – family - Friend**

Christian forget about it, as terrible as it was, forget it, put it behind you or it will rot you, it will rob you. Whatever it was that an ex did to you, your mother, your father, that teacher, or friend, forget about it, or it will rob you, it will cause bitterness and you will be blinded.

### **People Crippled**

I have noticed people today who are cripple because they will not let it go; they are literally paralysed. It effects all their relationships, they live for a bottle, whether it be booze or pills, their life is paralysed; Let It Go!

### **Ephraim – Fruitful / Forget then Fruitful / God has Blotted Out Past**

His second son was Ephraim, which means fruitful. It is the divine order. You will never be fruitful until you forget about and quit living in the pains of the past. God has washed away your past, blotted it out, so too should you:

*(2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV)* Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

### **Roll Away the Stone**

Christian roll away the stone and live. Jesus walked out of the tomb, so too can you, so too should you. When you leave that tomb, you will go out and live that life, and that more abundant:

*(John 10:10 NKJV)* "..... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

*(John 10:11 NKJV)* "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

### **Joseph sees Kids – Reminded of God's Goodness**

Joseph called his second son Ephraim, which means "fruitfulness." Again a very beautiful phrase, God has caused me to forget all my toil, all my fathers house and He has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction. Every time Joseph called his kids he was reminded of Gods goodness and Gods blessings and what God had done for him.

**(Genesis 41:53 NKJV) Then the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Egypt ended,**

**(Genesis 41:54 NKJV) and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. The famine was in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.**

### **Famine All Lands / Never Know what God Raising You Up For**

Notice the famine was in all lands. So Joseph has been raised up to preserve the whole world, his people, the children of Israel, and as we know to preserve the lineage of the Messiah, the one who will buy man back from prison in to Paradise. You never know what God is doing in your trial.

**(Genesis 41:55 NKJV) So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Then Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, do."**

### **Mary – Do as he Says**

Joseph is a picture of Jesus Christ, and I'm reminded by this verse would Mary said to the servants about Jesus, whatever he says to you do it:

(John 2:3 NKJV) And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

(John 2:4 NKJV) Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

(John 2:5 NKJV) His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

### **Bread 7 Wine / Jesus always the Answer**

So Mary was out of wine, and Egypt was out of bread, Here again a picture of communion (bread and wine). Joseph a picture of Jesus, and the answer is always the same, when you are empty come to Jesus.

**(Genesis 41:56 NKJV) The famine was over all the face of the earth, and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. And the famine became severe in the land of Egypt.**

**(Genesis 41:57 NKJV) So all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all lands.**

### **Today – Famine of Word / Desperate Times**

Christian there is a famine today him as we are told in the Scriptures, and that famine is a famine of the word of God. People are pushing it aside, I'll think about it later, churches are not teaching it, but telling jokes and cute stories, we live in desperate times:

(Amos 8:11 NKJV) "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD."

### **Tribulation Period / We Raptured – Our Words Left / Keep Giving out the Word**

So there will 7 years of famine, just like there will be 7 years of tribulation. People will be drawn to Egypt, to Joseph for preservation. So too in the 7 year period there will be a great revival as people will be drawn to Jesus Christ. For the Christian, we will be raptured before the Tribulation period begins. The only thing that will be left here will be the words that we spoke to those who are left behind. The words you give will be remembered; they will put the pieces together. Keep giving out the Word, it will not return void, so don't ever quit, be like Joseph, keep giving out the word even when everything seems so bleak and useless.

### **Had Joseph Quit / Butler Same / No Joe to Remember / No Deliverance**

Guess what? Had Joseph said no more dreams, you are on your own, The butler would have gotten out regardless had Joseph interpreted or not, but had Joseph not kept ministering, then there would have been no Joseph to remember 2 years later. There would have been no deliverance from that prison, there would have been no Joseph to deliver the world from a famine, and he would never have seen his family again.

**Joseph Never See Family Again / You keep Sharing / Dine Together with Lamb**

Never seen his family again, consider that. You keep preaching the word, you keep giving them those tracts, books, tapes, you keep witnessing and when the rapture happens, they will put all the pieces together. Those days will be horrible for them, but when they put the pieces together, we will see them again, we will dine together in heaven, with the Lamb.

**Wonderful Story/ Peaks & Valleys / Lord Sustain / Trust Him**

A wonderful story, and it is not over yet. Again let me encourage you to wait on the Lord, be of good cheer. Though your path may have led you into the valley and you are going through deep water and at the present time you may not yet see your way out. You are a child of God, His hand will lead you, He will sustain you, He will bring you forth with shouts of joy and victory as you see the full cycle of Gods plan work out in your life. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, don't lean to your own understanding. There is more to the story of your life than you can see; so, don't close the book.

**Next Chapter the Dream Comes to Pass**

Wait for God to bring you into that next chapter where the solution to the puzzle lies and see the unfolding grace of God in your lives and the goodness of God day after day until you say, "God is so good."

# Genesis Chapter 42

## The Dream Comes to Pass (Part 1) - Genesis 42:1-9

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

#### Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

#### Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

### Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

### Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

*(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*



*(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*

### **Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well**

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, lets go for it, lets cut the lines, put the sails up, and lets live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, lets go for it, lets not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

*(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

*(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

### **Recap Joseph's Life**

Here is a brief synopsis of the story up to this point. Jacob had twelve sons by four different wives. Rachel, the wife that he loved dearly, bore him two sons; because of his love for her, they became his favorite sons. Their names were Joseph and Benjamin and they were the youngest of the twelve boys. The son's of Jacob, except Joseph, were not honorable. There developed a friction between the boys because of the dishonor of the older sons and the honor of Joseph. The older boys were treacherous and cruel; but, Joseph was compassionate. They were jealous of Joseph, of his father's obvious favoritism.

Joseph had a couple of dreams, which made his brothers angry. He dreamed that he and his brother's were out in the field binding their sheaves of barley and his brother's sheaves all bowed down to his. This really upset them, thinking they would bow to Joseph.

Later he dreamed that the sun, moon, and stars bowed down to him. His father sent Joseph out into the area of Dothan where his brother's were keeping the flock to find out how they were doing and when they saw Joseph coming, they said, "Here comes that dreamer, let's kill him and we will see what happens to his dreams then." The oldest brother Reuben said, "No, let's not kill him; because, we don't want to get our hands bloody. Let's throw him in the pit and let him starve to death."

As Joseph arrived they threw him into the pit and he begged them for mercy, and asked them to let him out, but they just had no heart for him whatsoever. When they saw a caravan heading toward Egypt, Judah suggested maybe they should sell him as a slave. That way they wouldn't have to kill him, yet, they could get rid of him.

They stopped the caravan and sold their brother Joseph for twenty pieces of silver. Joseph was taken by these traders to Egypt where he was auctioned and bought by a man whose name was Potiphar, captain of the guard for Pharaoh. Joseph, while in Egypt, was a diligent, faithful servant in the house of Potiphar. Potiphar was blessed because of Joseph's diligence; but, his wife cast lustful eyes upon Joseph and sought to seduce him. When Joseph refused to be seduced, she grabbed him by the coat, tried to disrobe him and force him into bed. He fled from the house leaving the coat in her hand and she, being scorned, began to cry out rape! rape! and reported to the servants and later to her husband that Joseph had attempted to rape her.

As a result Joseph was thrown into jail. He was seventeen years old at the time that his brothers sold him as a slave into Egypt. Just how long he was a servant in Potiphar's house we don't know.

While he was in prison he had charge over all of the other prisoners. During that time Pharaoh's butler and baker were cast into prison because they had come into disfavor with Pharaoh. Both of

them had dreams which Joseph interpreted, in which the butler was to be restored to his position, and the baker was to be hung. The dreams both came to pass.

Joseph said, "When you come into the Pharaoh, don't forget me, tell him about me," but the butler forgot Joseph. He remained for another two years in the prison until the Pharaoh had a dream. He called his wise men and magicians in to interpret the dream for him, and to tell him what it meant; but, they were unable to do so. Suddenly, the RNA began to buzz in the brain of this butler and he said, "Oh king, I have done a horrible thing. There is a man of the Hebrews, he is in prison and he is able to interpret dreams. The baker and I both had dreams and he interpreted them and it came to pass as he said."

They ordered Joseph to be brought quickly and he shaved and came in before the Pharaoh. Pharaoh said, "I understand that you can interpret dreams and Joseph said, "Not really, but, God is able to give Pharaoh an answer of peace."

The Pharaoh told Joseph the dreams of the seven cows being eaten up by the seven skinny cows and Joseph said, "God has told you that there will be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine which will be so great that the lean years will eat up the fat. Point a wise man over the kingdom during the good years, gather 20% of the crops, put them into store houses, so that when the lean years come, you will be able to distribute to the people and you will be saved."

Pharaoh said, "I can not find a wiser man in all the kingdom than you, because only you were able to tell me what the dream meant." He took his signet ring and gave it to Joseph and said, "You are in charge, only I am above you in the land." He ordered that when Joseph went out in the chariots, that the people would go in front of him crying out, "Bow down!"

During the seven years of plenty, he gathered into the storehouses until they lost count of the abundance of grain. Let's continue the story with Genesis, chapter forty-two, and look at the years of famine.

**(Genesis 42:1 NKJV) When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?"**

#### **Rueben Sandwich**

The brothers are looking at each other, all extremely hungry, I wouldn't want the name Rueben during a famine, the brothers might be thinking sauerkraut, corn beef, thousand island dressing, on toasted rye bread.

**(Genesis 42:2 NKJV) And he said, "Indeed I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down to that place and buy for us there, that we may live and not die."**

**Sound Familiar / We're Doomed – Disaster Imminent / Abundance – Joy / 20 yrs Preparing that we may live and not die** - Sound familiar? Ohh things are so terrible, my life is doomed; we literally have no idea what God has prepared for us. God has prepared provisions for them, yet they do not know it. God does the same for us; how many times we thought disaster is imminent, and then we see God's hand was upon the situation way before we even knew there was a situation. For the people, 7 years of plenty, hey let the good times roll, never considering a famine was coming. Or when the famine began, ohh the rains will come, I wonder how long into the famine before they realized this is serious. But it was 20 years prior that God had been preparing for this famine. I wonder what God is doing today in my life, in your life, that is preparing for something 20 years down the road. Praise your God, rejoice that He is your God, He is worthy of all praise.

#### **Psalm 23**

Psalm 23 is probably the most known passage of Scripture, but most forgotten:

*(Psalms 23:1 NKJV) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*(Psalms 23:2 NKJV) He makes me to lie down in green pastures; **He leads** me beside the still waters.*

*(Psalms 23:3 NKJV) He restores my soul; **He leads** me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.*

*(Psalms 23:4 NKJV) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; **For You are with me**; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

*(Psalms 23:5 NKJV) You prepare a table **before me** in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.*

*(Psalms 23:6 NKJV) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.*

**(Genesis 42:3 NKJV) So Joseph's ten brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.**

**(Genesis 42:4 NKJV) But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, "Lest some calamity befall him."**

### **Benjamin Mid-20's**

I wonder if it was because he was the youngest of the 12 brothers, but he was no baby, he is in his mid-20's at this time, or maybe because Jacob had some suspicions about what happened to Joseph, don't know but interesting to ponder.

**(Genesis 42:5 NKJV) And the sons of Israel went to buy grain among those who journeyed, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.**

### **Not a Local Famine**

Last chapter we saw that the famine affected all the lands, it wasn't local to Egypt. To bad today, famines are localized, there are people starving in worlds around us, but it doesn't effect us, so it doesn't affect us. May God move in our hearts that it will affect us.

**(Genesis 42:6 NKJV) Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth.**

### **Dream Comes to Pass**

The dream comes to pass:

*(Genesis 37:5 NKJV) Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.*

*(Genesis 37:6 NKJV) So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed:*

*(Genesis 37:7 NKJV) "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."*

*(Genesis 37:8 NKJV) And his brothers said to him, "**Shall you indeed reign over us?** Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.*

### **Joseph Oversees Selling / Price gouging / Spies**

It is interesting that Joseph oversees all the selling. Why, probably he oversees all the selling to assure people are fed and not bled. We see it around us when hurricanes and the like strike, people take the opportunity to rip people off. Joseph probably is assuring that no one is coming in and buying large portions so they can start their own distribution center at a 200% mark-up. No one had the wisdom and discernment like Joseph, so he is making sure no wolves are coming in; and also we will see that no spies come into the land and try to take food by force.

### **Jesus Bread of Life**

Also, do you see Joseph, a picture of Jesus. He is giving out the bread of life to all who would come, no one will be cast out:

*(John 6:35 NKJV) And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. **He who comes to Me** shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.*

*(John 6:36 NKJV) "But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe.*

*(John 6:37 NKJV) "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me **I will by no means cast out.***

**(Genesis 42:7 NKJV) Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he acted as a stranger to them and spoke roughly to them. Then he said to them, "Where do you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food."**

**(Genesis 42:8 NKJV) So Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.**

### **13+7+20 / Joseph about 37 or so**

It was thirteen years from the time he was sold by his brothers till the time that he was appointed over the land and then we have the seven good years until the famine began. His brothers probably came down at the end of the first year of famine; so, a time lapse of approximately twenty-one years between Joseph being sold by his brothers and meeting them again. By the time they came down to Egypt to buy grain, Joseph is thirty-seven or thirty-eight years old, so they would not recognize Joseph now that he is a man.

### **Spoke Roughly**

*Verse 7 - and spoke roughly to them* - this word roughly is the Hebrew word: qasheh, kaw-sheh'; severe (in various applications):--churlish, cruel, grievous, hard ([-hearted], thing), heavy, + impudent, obstinate, prevailed, rough (-ly), sore, sorrowful, stiff ([-necked]), stubborn, + in trouble.

### **Joseph very Direct / Why? / Last Encounter – Ben – Dad / Their Heart / Confession**

Joseph isn't speaking nicely, tenderly, ohh I don't want to upset you. Joseph is being very direct with them, very heavy, severe words. Why? Joseph's last encounter with them they threw him in a pit, and then sold him for profit. They turned on their own flesh and blood. Joseph has to be wondering where their hearts are; what did they tell dad about that day, did they make something up that made me look like a jerk, like I ran off with some pagan girl, or overdosed on drugs, was drunk driving and hit a tree. What about Benjamin, did they kill him? What about dad, how are they treating him? So Joseph is seeing what is in their heart. Joseph we will see is truly revealing what is in their heart, they will finally confess amongst themselves that what they did was wrong:

*(Genesis 42:21 NKJV) Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."*

*(Genesis 42:22 NKJV) And Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not speak to you, saying, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us."*

### **Training Ground / Study Lives of godly Bible People**

I don't know if you realize it but this study on the life of Joseph is also a "training course on leadership. Save your money on conferences and seminars on how to be a leader in ministry, in your home, in your community, and study the life lessons of godly men such as Joseph, Moses, Peter, Paul, and of course Jesus. We have seen some great leadership examples and principles in the life of Joseph in the past few chapters; we saw him keep ministering even after he was burned, he ministers for the glory of God, and his continual ministering brought blessings upon his own life and eventually his family.

### **Hardest Area of Ministry - Correction - Being Direct / Great Disservice**

One of the hardest areas in ministry is the area of correcting or rebuking someone; of speaking to them very frankly. Nobody likes to do it, therefore for the most part we don't, and we do our fellow brothers or the lost a great disservice.

### **Told the Facts / So can Correct / Conditioned Today no Bible Thumping / Rom 10:15**

Christian, sometimes people need to be told the facts so they can see their wrong and turn from it, repent (as do we). They need to see that they may think they are getting away with it, but others see right through them. Today we are afraid to speak frankly to people because we are afraid to upset them, or they will call us judgemental, legalistic. We have been conditioned that that is Bible thumping; that love never upsets, love is never blunt, love never makes a person uncomfortable, that love is never frank, direct. The Scripture gives us this responsibility (for both the unsaved and the brethren):

*(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,*

*(2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

*(2 Timothy 4:1 NKJV) I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:*

(2 Timothy 4:2 NKJV) **Preach the word!** Be ready in season and out of season. **Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.**

(2 Timothy 4:3 NKJV) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

(2 Timothy 4:4 NKJV) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

(Romans 10:13 NKJV) For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

(Romans 10:14 NKJV) How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And **how shall they hear without a preacher?**

(Romans 10:15 NKJV) And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

## Contrary to Scriptures / John Baptist / Rough Category

Saying we are not to correct or rebuke is contrary to the Scriptures (whether saved or unsaved); there is John the Baptist to the "religious" people, the Pharisees and Sadducees. First words of his public ministry was repent:

(Matthew 3:1 NKJV) In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

(Matthew 3:2 NKJV) and saying, "**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

(Matthew 3:7 NKJV) But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "**Brood of vipers!** Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

(Matthew 3:8 NKJV) "Therefore bear fruits worthy of **repentance**,

(Matthew 3:9 NKJV) "and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

(Matthew 3:10 NKJV) "And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

(Matthew 3:11 NKJV) "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

(Matthew 3:12 NKJV) "His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Brood of vipers, I say that falls into the "speaking roughly" category.

## Jesus 1<sup>st</sup> Words / Can't build a Church

Jesus' first words in His public ministry was repent:

(Matthew 4:17 NKJV) From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jesus you can't build a church off that message; cappuccino bar and sermons filled with lots of stories and jokes, that is the way to do it.

## Jesus – Sodom / Politically Correct

Jesus had some harsh words for those who did not repent, he likened them to the people of Sodom, which really isn't politically correct:

(Matthew 11:20 NKJV) Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, **because they did not repent**:

(Matthew 11:21 NKJV) "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

(Matthew 11:22 NKJV) "But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.

(Matthew 11:23 NKJV) "And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

(Matthew 11:24 NKJV) "**But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.**"

## Disciples Sent to Preach Repentance

The disciples were sent to preach a message of repentance:

(Mark 6:12 NKJV) So they went out and preached **that people should repent**.

Disciple means "sent one", who does Jesus send today?

## Peters 1<sup>st</sup> Sermon

Peter's first sermon was a message of repentance:

(Acts 2:34 NKJV) "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,

(Acts 2:35 NKJV) Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'"

(Acts 2:36 NKJV) "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."  
 (Acts 2:37 NKJV) **Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"  
 (Acts 2:38 NKJV) Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins**; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."  
 (Acts 2:39 NKJV) "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."  
 (Acts 2:40 NKJV) And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."  
 (Acts 2:41 NKJV) Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.  
 (Acts 2:42 NKJV) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

### Stephen's Sermon

Stephen's message he preached which resulted in his stoning was a call for repentance. He called the people "stiff-necked and uncircumcised", I say that falls into the "roughly" speaking category:

(Acts 7:49 NKJV) 'Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the LORD, Or what is the place of My rest?  
 (Acts 7:50 NKJV) Has My hand not made all these things?'  
 (Acts 7:51 NKJV) "**You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears!** You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.  
 (Acts 7:52 NKJV) "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,  
 (Acts 7:53 NKJV) "who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."  
 (Acts 7:54 NKJV) **When they heard these things they were cut to the heart**, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.  
 (Acts 7:55 NKJV) But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,  
 (Acts 7:56 NKJV) and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"  
 (Acts 7:57 NKJV) Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord;  
 (Acts 7:58 NKJV) and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.  
 (Acts 7:59 NKJV) And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."  
 (Acts 7:60 NKJV) Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

### Paul on Mars Hill

Paul's preaching on Mars Hill was a message of repentance:

(Acts 17:30 NKJV) "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, **but now commands all men everywhere to repent**.  
 (Acts 17:31 NKJV) "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."  
 (Acts 17:32 NKJV) And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter."  
 (Acts 17:33 NKJV) So Paul departed from among them.  
 (Acts 17:34 NKJV) However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

### 3 Responses at Mars Hill / Peter 3000 – Stephen Stoned / Cut to Heart

When Paul preached that message, some believed, some mocked, and some said, "I need to think more about this". Those are the common responses today. Interesting, Peter's sermon and Stephen's sermons really were not that different. The outcome was greatly different, for 3,000 got saved at Peter's message, but Stephen got stoned to death. In both sermon's it says that the people were cut to the heart. One group cut at the heart for repentance, the other cut at the heart for retaliation.

### Conditioned Today no Preaching

Today we are conditioned by Christians, and even from the pulpit, well if they retaliated against you, then you did something wrong, you shoved it down their throat. That statement is contrary to what we see in the Scriptures. Jesus was standing, ready to receive Stephen; Jesus was not upset with Him.

## How about a Wayward Christian / 2 Tim 3

How about when it is correction to a brother or sister that is living contrary to the word? Now I am surely not saying let's become sin sniffers, I am surely not saying let not show grace, let's jump on every sin, and let's make sure it is set right; no not by any means. The Scripture gives us a responsibility:

*(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, **for reproof, for correction**, for instruction in righteousness,*

*(2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

*(2 Timothy 4:1 NKJV) I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:*

*(2 Timothy 4:2 NKJV) Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*

*(2 Timothy 4:3 NKJV) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;*

*(2 Timothy 4:4 NKJV) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

## Won't come back to Church

People are afraid that they will offend them, or they will not come back to the church; people leave the church for all kinds of reasons, that is just the way it is, don't be in fear of that:

*There was a man who was stranded on a desert island for many, many years. One day, while strolling along the beach, he spotted a ship in the distance. This had never happened in all the time he was on the island, so he was very excited about the chance of being rescued.*

*Immediately, he built a fire on the beach and generated as much smoke as possible. It worked! Soon, the ship was heading his way. When the ship was close enough to the island, a dinghy was dispatched to investigate the situation. The man on the island was overjoyed with the chance to be rescued and met his saviors as they landed.*

*After some preliminary conversation the man in charge asked the man on the island how he had survived for so many years. The man replied by telling of his exploits for food and how he was able to make a fine house to live in. In fact, the man said, "You can see my home from here. It's up there on the ridge."*

*He pointed the men in the direction of his home. They looked up and saw three buildings. They inquired about the building next to the man's house and he replied, "That's my church - I go there to worship on Sundays."*

*When asked about the third building, the man replied, "That's where I used to go to church."*

## 2 Principles / Key 1 – Spirit – Discernment & Wisdom

We can learn 2 very important principles in this study of having to speak frankly when needed.

First, in life of Joseph, this is Key #1, in the last chapter what was said about Joseph? In whom is the Spirit of God, there is no one as discerning and wise:

*(Genesis 41:38 NKJV) And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?"*

*(Genesis 41:39 NKJV) Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you."*

## Must be Filled – Must be One / Sure Led – Clear Discernment / Prayer & Fellowship

You must be filled with the Spirit if you are going to speak frankly to anyone about their sin in their life. You must be at one with the Lord, you have to be sure that you are led by the Lord to do this, and that He has clearly given you discernment and wisdom in the matter, and that can only come through much prayer and fellowship with the Lord.

## Know the Word – back It / When in Doubt / Error on Grace

You had better know your Word too, and be ready to back it up. I will tell you my personal approach; when in doubt, don't! If I am not fully confident that the Lord is leading me to speak to that person then I don't. If I am not fully sure of my facts, then I don't. Good ministry principle, always error on the side of grace when you are not sure.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> / Heart of Stephen / Charge them Not / Any Bitterness – Anger – Don't

Secondly, you must do it with the heart that Stephen had, a heart of love. What, Stephen called them stiff-necked and uncircumcised; you call that love, yes. Stephen brought them the words of life, in love, while giving it to them straight up and very frankly. When they stoned him, he said do not charge them with this sin. That message, was given in love, even to the point of death. If you

have any anger, bitterness, or hatred in your heart about that person, then I would error on the side of grace and remain silent.

### **Sometimes we have to / Depart from Me / Fruit Inspectors / Life not in line w/ Words**

Sometimes we have to speak frankly to people, they have to hear it. There are some people deceived into thinking they are right-on with God, yet for them they will hear those terrible words, "depart from Me, I never knew you." Love tells them, I am not judging you, but your life does not line up with your words:

*(Matthew 7:16 NKJV) "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?"*

*(Matthew 7:17 NKJV) "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit."*

*(Matthew 7:18 NKJV) "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit."*

*(Matthew 7:19 NKJV) "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."*

*(Matthew 7:20 NKJV) "Therefore by their fruits you will know them."*

*(Matthew 7:21 NKJV) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."*

*(Matthew 7:22 NKJV) "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'"*

*(Matthew 7:23 NKJV) "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*

*(Matthew 7:24 NKJV) "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:"*

*(Matthew 7:25 NKJV) "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."*

*(Matthew 7:26 NKJV) "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:"*

*(Matthew 7:27 NKJV) "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."*

### **Paul to Church in Corinth**

Paul laid it out to the church in Corinth, and at first it was not received, but after they pondered it, they repented and came back into sweet fellowship with the Lord and each other. So to we can hope that will be the resultant for us:

*(2 Corinthians 7:8 NKJV) For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while.*

*(2 Corinthians 7:9 NKJV) Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.*

*(2 Corinthians 7:10 NKJV) For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death*

### **Doubt you'll be Stoned**

And if they do not receive it, I doubt you'll be stoned for it, but you can take the comfort in knowing that you reached out to them in love.

### **Discernment**

Sometimes that discernment God gives will tell you,

- They know, and they know that you know, tight now they need to be loved, with no words.
- Not right now, I am getting ready to do something.
- Or, say nothing, they do not have ears to hear, move on.
- And sometimes, God will say you are my vessel, speak. You may get to be a Nathan (2 Samuel 12:7), King David, you are that man. And you know the story, King David says (verse 13), I have sinned against God.

Correction, speaking frankly, directly, is hard stuff and it must be bathed in much prayer and soaked in love.



# Genesis 42

## *The Dream Comes to Pass (Part 2) - Genesis 42:10 - 38*

### **Genesis more than history book / It is His-story**

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### **Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### **Outline:**

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### **Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers**

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

### **Joseph not Line of Messiah**

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

### **Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good**

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

*(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

*(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*

### **Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well**

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, lets go for it, lets cut the lines, put the sails up, and lets live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, lets go for it, lets not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

*(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

### **Last Study**

In our last study we saw the famine had made its way to Jacob and the family, so Jacob sends the boys down to Egypt to buy some grain, and Joseph immediately recognizes them, and he starts a dialogue with them, and speaks very directly, frankly, roughly (as verse 7 said), and we pick it up there.

**(Genesis 42:7 NKJV) Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he acted as a stranger to them and spoke roughly to them. Then he said to them, "Where do you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food."**

**(Genesis 42:8 NKJV) So Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.**

**(Genesis 42:9 NKJV) Then Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed about them, and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land!"**

### **Spies Would Come**

Joseph, being a wise man knew that hard times bring out evil men, people who would rather steal and kill, then work and pay. So his accusation against his brothers would not be out of character, and the brothers would know that.

### **Pause in Recognizing the Dream / Busy about Master's Business / Draw to Him**

Joseph recognized them in verse 7 as they are bowing down to him, he starts this drawing out process with them, and then he remembers the dream he had about them. I love that about Joseph, he was always busy about his masters business, and he wasn't always thinking of himself. It is a key to life, be busy about the Fathers Business, and you will find yourself living above all the things that will depress you and pull you down in this world. It took 20 years for this dream to come to pass, and here it is, but it immediately doesn't pop in his mind. When God gives you a calling, a vision, a Word for your life, He wants that calling to draw us to Him, not that calling, dream, or Word.

### **Don't Day Dream / Look for the Giver of Dreams - not the Dream**

He doesn't want us dreaming about the dream, spending all our time looking for the vision, or listening for the call. Joseph doesn't recognize the dream at first because He was busy about his Master's business. Joseph was no longer looking for the dream, but the giver of the dream.

### **Why the Dream? / Something to Hold on To / I can't Sin - Still to Yet to Come**

Why then does He give us dream, visions, and Words? He gives them to us so that we have something to hold on to in when the times get tough. When that temptation comes before us, Joseph come lie with me, our hearts will say I cannot do such wickedness, for He is Holy, and the Holy One has called me; He has a calling upon my life. Yet when we do fall down, when we say, that's it I quit, God will bring that vision, that dream, that Word back before our minds and say the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable, pick it back up and lets move on. When all seems so lost and desperate, God brings that dream back before our minds and reminds us that it must still come to pass, therefore this cannot be the end.

**(Genesis 42:10 NKJV)** And they said to him, "No, my lord, but your servants have come to buy food.

**(Genesis 42:11 NKJV)** "We are all one man's sons; we are honest men; your servants are not spies."

#### **Some Honesty! / Think Self Nice / Vote 10-1 / God's Word**

Honest men they call themselves; they leave out the dishonest actions of selling Joseph off and then deceiving their father Jacob. People can think they are nice guys, their actions may be in-line with the popular vote (the vote was 10-1 to sell Joseph) but God's word is the mirror to how we are doing.

**(Genesis 42:12 NKJV)** But he said to them, "No, but you have come to see the nakedness of the land."

**(Genesis 42:13 NKJV)** And they said, "Your servants are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and in fact, the youngest is with our father today, and one is no more."

**(Genesis 42:14 NKJV)** But Joseph said to them, "It is as I spoke to you, saying, 'You are spies!'

**(Genesis 42:15 NKJV)** "In this manner you shall be tested: By the life of Pharaoh, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here.

**(Genesis 42:16 NKJV)** "Send one of you, and let him bring your brother; and you shall be kept in prison, that your words may be tested to see whether there is any truth in you; or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies!"

#### **Is Benjamin Alright?**

Joseph had to wonder if they had brought harm to his little brother Benjamin.

**(Genesis 42:17 NKJV)** So he put them all together in prison three days.

**(Genesis 42:18 NKJV)** Then Joseph said to them the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God:

**(Genesis 42:19 NKJV)** "If you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined to your prison house; but you, go and carry grain for the famine of your houses.

**(Genesis 42:20 NKJV)** "And bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so.

#### **Life on 3<sup>rd</sup> Day**

Again we see this theme of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day as we study Joseph. Life comes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, do this and live Joseph says to them.

*(1 Corinthians 15:3 NKJV) For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,*

*(1 Corinthians 15:4 NKJV) and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,*

Life only comes to us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, the belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

#### **Didn't Expect to See Them that Day / Never Know - Stay in Devotion**

It had been 20+ years since Joseph had last seen his brothers, he would have at least thought that at some point I will see them again, for they will have to come to Egypt like the rest of the people to buy grain. But, it is highly doubtful that Joseph knew that it would be that day, in this place. How important it is to stay in the Word, to have your daily time with the Lord, so that you will be prepared for the unexpected. We never know what the day may hold for us; it may be the day that the boss says we need to talk, how will you handle that? It may be the day that that person says, what is this Jesus thing all about? It may be the day that shocking news comes to you, how will you handle it? It may be the day that she grabs your robe and says come lie with me. It may be the day that your worse enemy comes with a full on attack upon you, either in word or deed. We must be prepared every day, for the unexpected, make sure you have your

armour on, you know the commercial, life comes at you fast, and you are going to need more than Allstate:

*(Ephesians 6:10 NKJV) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

*(Ephesians 6:11 NKJV) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

*(Ephesians 6:12 NKJV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

*(Ephesians 6:13 NKJV) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

### **New Direction 3<sup>rd</sup> Day / God Spoke in those 3 Days**

We see that after 3 days, Joseph has a new direction for them. First he said all of you will be imprisoned, and one will go get your brother, but after 3 days he says that only one will stay in prison while the rest of you go. God must have spoke to him, and spoke very directly, because Joseph had the fear of God in him over this matter. God must have been very direct with him about letting all go and only 1 remain. Maybe Joseph had some bitterness, revenge, in his heart and God showed him his heart, and Joseph repented and followed the Lord's will (don't know, but his mind was definitely changed after 3 days, and God was the reason for the change of mind).

### **Ok to Wait / Think it Through - Pray it Through / Saves Mistakes**

Christian, we do not have to immediately have all the answers and all the directions for every thing in our lives (that includes at work, at home, or at church and ministry), even if we had a time of fellowship and devotion that morning with the Lord. Not only is it ok, it is a good practice (as seen here) to do so. So often we feel that we have to have all the answers and know the right things to do because we are Christians, that isn't so, it is ok to say, I will think these things through, I will seek the Lord on these things and get back to you. You will find yourself avoiding a lot of waste and mistakes by doing so. God puts things in our lives like these situation, so we will come to Him, so we will slow down and seek Him.

**(Genesis 42:21 NKJV) Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."**

**(Genesis 42:22 NKJV) And Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not speak to you, saying, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us."**

### **His Blood Upon Us**

*Verse 22- Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us* - As Joseph cried from the pit, they went on their way; they knew their guilt. Interesting when Jesus was betrayed, and brought before the people, Pilate said what will you have me do with this man, and they cried crucify Him, let His blood be upon us:

*(Matthew 27:24 NKJV) When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."*

*(Matthew 27:25 NKJV) And all the people answered and said, "**His blood be on us** and on our children."*

### **God Working in Brothers Too / Maybe Justified It / God will Bring it About**

We see that Joseph's dream is fulfilled, after 20 years it comes to past. But God is not only working in Joseph's life, He was working in these 10 brothers life also. Through this testing, they came to a place of confession, of acknowledging their guilt. They may have justified at some point, convinced each other it was the right thing to do, but now they are face to face with it and acknowledge their wrong. Sometimes that is what God will do with us, we can come confess, or he will bring about the confession, it is always easier to come to Him:

*(1 John 1:9 NKJV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

### **If You can Get Away with It**

If you can get away with your sin, without the Lord chastening you, then I would be worried if I was truly His.

*(Hebrews 12:5 NKJV) And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;  
(Hebrews 12:6 NKJV) For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."  
(Hebrews 12:7 NKJV) If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?  
(Hebrews 12:8 NKJV) But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.*

### **Picture of Jesus / Chance to be Free from Guilt / We Have an Advocate**

Now Joseph here is a picture of Jesus, and here Joseph is giving them an opportunity after 20 years of carrying this guilt and shame around, that they may be released from it and walk in the freedom of knowing that they are forgiven. 20 years is along time to carry guilt, it will eat you alive. Christian God says you are forgiven, He says it to you today, Paid in full by your Advocate (1 John 2:1-2).

### **You Can be Free Today / Abortion - Divorce - Hurt Loved One**

You need not live in your guilt and shame, for He says "forgiven". Maybe you had an abortion, maybe you were promiscuous, made you ruined your marriage, maybe you have hurt loved one, hurt the innocent, whatever it may be, God says forgiven, go and sin no more.

*(John 8:9 NKJV) Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.*

*(John 8:10 NKJV) When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"*

*(John 8:11 NKJV) She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "**Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.**"*

### **Maybe need to Ask Person - God**

Maybe you need to go and ask forgiveness for someone, maybe you need to go to the Lord and hear Him assure you that you are forgiven. If you want to talk and pray with someone, then talk to someone tonight and we will pray with you.

**(Genesis 42:23 NKJV) But they did not know that Joseph understood them, for he spoke to them through an interpreter.**

**(Genesis 42:24 NKJV) And he turned himself away from them and wept. Then he returned to them again, and talked with them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.**

**(Genesis 42:25 NKJV) Then Joseph gave a command to fill their sacks with grain, to restore every man's money to his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. Thus he did for them.**

**(Genesis 42:26 NKJV) So they loaded their donkeys with the grain and departed from there.**

**(Genesis 42:27 NKJV) But as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey feed at the encampment, he saw his money; and there it was, in the mouth of his sack.**

**(Genesis 42:28 NKJV) So he said to his brothers, "My money has been restored, and there it is, in my sack!" Then their hearts failed them and they were afraid, saying to one another, "What is this that God has done to us?"**

### **Can't Buy Forgiveness - Grace**

Heehee, Joseph is probably just enjoying himself with this one. Actually, it is a good picture of we cannot buy forgiveness, it is given to us through love. Joseph a beautiful picture of Jesus Christ:

*(Ephesians 2:8 NKJV) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,  
(Ephesians 2:9 NKJV) not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

### **Blame it on God**

Verse 28 - *What is this that God has done to us?"* - The ole blame my sin and mistake on God. A person is sowing and sowing with no regard to God and His word, but then when the reaping comes they immediately say God how could you do this to me. I'm struggling financially, God where are you how could you allow this, yet there was never the trust to tithe. God how could you allow my girlfriend/boyfriend to dump me, yet all the while they were unfaithful in their purity.

I treated my brother like trash, and now I am all alone, God how could you. God how could you, you fill in the blank\_\_\_\_\_.

**(Genesis 42:29 NKJV)** Then they went to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan and told him all that had happened to them, saying:

**(Genesis 42:30 NKJV)** "The man who is lord of the land spoke roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country.

**(Genesis 42:31 NKJV)** "But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies.

**(Genesis 42:32 NKJV)** 'We are twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is no more, and the youngest is with our father this day in the land of Canaan.'

**(Genesis 42:33 NKJV)** "Then the man, the lord of the country, said to us, 'By this I will know that you are honest men: Leave one of your brothers here with me, take food for the famine of your households, and be gone.

**(Genesis 42:34 NKJV)** 'And bring your youngest brother to me; so I shall know that you are not spies, but that you are honest men. I will grant your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.'"

### **Retell the Story – The Man / Just like Israel – A Man / Missed their Salvation**

They retell the story to their father, and they retell it calling Joseph (the man). They only recognized Joseph as another man, just as the so many of the people of Israel did when Jesus walked the earth 2000 years ago. They looked at him as just a man, they did not recognize Him as their brother, as the One sent from their Father, their deliverer, the one who would give them life.

### **Still Today / Gentile Appearance – OT vs NT**

In large part today, the children of Israel still do not recognize Jesus Christ as the Messiah. You know it is interesting, Joseph was dressed as an Egyptian, that aided in their not recognizing Him, for their minds could not look past the Gentile appearance. Today, the same still holds true for the most part in that most Jew will not recognize the New Testament, they will not even pick it up to see if the claims of Christ could possibly be true. The NT is written in Greek originally, the OT written in Hebrew (some Aramaic); Hebrew is the language of the Jewish people, and Greek was the language of the non-Jewish people, so still to this day a Jewish person believes that the Hebrew text is the only acceptable text.

### **Recognize at 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming**

They will not recognize Joseph until the second trip to Egypt:

*(Acts 7:11 NKJV) "Now a famine and great trouble came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers found no sustenance.*

*(Acts 7:12 NKJV) "But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.*

*(Acts 7:13 NKJV) "And the second time Joseph was made known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to the Pharaoh.*

### **Still Today / Students of Word – God not done with Israel / Romans 11**

So to will it be with the Jewish people (for the most part), they will not recognize their Messiah until His Second Coming. So, Christian, be good student of the word, know that God is not done with the Nation of Israel. Many teachers of the word over the years, and even today, think that God cast Israel off once they rejected the Jesus, but God says otherwise, and he even shows us a picture here in the story of Joseph. Romans, we are told not to be ignorant about the Nation Israel, God is not done with them:

*(Romans 11:25 NKJV) For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.*

*(Romans 11:26 NKJV) And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;*

*(Romans 11:27 NKJV) For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."*

### **Lasts Days – All will See**

There will come a time when all of Israel will see, we missed Him, Jesus was and is the Messiah, and all of Israel will be saved. We know from the Scriptures that will be in the last days:

*(Revelation 12:13 NKJV) Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.*

*(Revelation 12:14 NKJV) But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.*

*(Ezekiel 39:22 NKJV) "So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day forward.....*

*(Ezekiel 39:28 NKJV) 'then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer.*

*(Ezekiel 39:29 NKJV) 'And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,' says the Lord GOD."*

### **We Live Exciting Times / Prophetic Timepiece / Rapture Near**

We live in such exciting days, we live in days of the rebirth of Israel. When Israel was without a homeland, which is why many good Bible teachers said God must be done with them, but we have been given the real life interpretation right before our eyes. We get to see it most every day on the nightly news. Christian keep and eye on Israel, it is the prophetic timepiece, and we see that events of the last days are coming in line. Thus, the rapture is near, if not today, than tomorrow, and if you ask me tomorrow I will tell you the same thing.

### **World Confused / 5 to 300 / No Homeland / Peace Brokers – Antichrist**

The world is so confused on these things, they can't understand this whole Israel, Jewish, Palestinian thing, but we do. Sadly, the majority of the world is blind to the whole story on Israel, for anyone with an open mind would have to ask, how does 5 million Jews continue to stand surrounded by 300 million Arab-Muslims bent on destroying them. How can a nation survive and keep its identity without having a homeland for 2000 years, for history shows that 200 years has been the maximum for any national group to survive without an homeland. The worlds so-called greatest minds are trying to broker peace in Israel and we no it will never happen (at least for any extended period) until the anti-christ brokers that peace deal. We know it doesn't matter how many nukes Iran develops, how many terrorist Syria trains, they will never wipeout Israel. I wish I could say that about the USA. It is amazing that a bunch of nobody's like us know the future of the world more so than the world leaders do. This book is truly amazing, so exciting to explore, study, and learn. And, what exciting times we get to live in.....

**(Genesis 42:35 NKJV) Then it happened as they emptied their sacks, that surprisingly each man's bundle of money was in his sack; and when they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid.**

**(Genesis 42:36 NKJV) And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me: Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me."**

### **All things Against / Rest of Story – Chp 45 / Forget his Past**

As far as Jacob could see, all things were against him. We, like Jacob, with our limited vision and our inability of seeing past today, look at the circumstances of our life and say everything or everybody is against me. Jacob doesn't know the rest of the story, if he can just hold on until chapter 45. How quickly and easily he forgot his story, a story of God meeting him, revealing Himself to him, and receiving promises from God:

### **The Ladder – the Promise -**

He saw the Lord ascending and descending upon the ladder between heaven and earth, he saw a foreshadow of Jesus Christ the bridge between man and God. Jacob also received a promise from God that he would have many descendants, and that God would keep him wherever he went:

*(Genesis 28:12 NKJV) Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.*

*(Genesis 28:13 NKJV) And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.*

*(Genesis 28:14 NKJV) "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*

*(Genesis 28:15 NKJV) "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."  
(Genesis 28:16 NKJV) Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."*

### **Wrestling Match – Name Change**

Jacob wrestled with God, and God humbled him, and changed his name from sneaky conniver to Israel – governed by God:

*(Genesis 32:24 NKJV) Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.  
(Genesis 32:25 NKJV) Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.  
(Genesis 32:26 NKJV) And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"  
(Genesis 32:27 NKJV) So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob."  
(Genesis 32:28 NKJV) And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."  
(Genesis 32:29 NKJV) Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.  
(Genesis 32:30 NKJV) And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."*

### **Reaffirms the Promise**

God reaffirms his covenant with Jacob, His promise to give him the land and his descendants, and that from Jacob descendants will come:

*(Genesis 35:11 NKJV) Also God said to him: "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.  
(Genesis 35:12 NKJV) "The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land."  
(Genesis 35:13 NKJV) Then God went up from him in the place where He talked with him.*

### **Christian God is for You**

Christian, remember, even when things look so hopeless, and all is against you, that God is for you:

*(Romans 8:31 NKJV) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

### **Past is Promise of Future / Master's Plan**

God is for you beloved, and what God has done in the past is an indication, a promise, of what He will do in the future. God has a master plan for all of our lives, it is the "Master's Plan":

*(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

### **Enjoy it – Watch it Unfold**

Trust in that, enjoy it, enjoy the excitement of watching the Master's Plan unfold in our lives, right before our very eyes.

**(Genesis 42:37 NKJV) Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you."**

**(Genesis 42:38 NKJV) But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is left alone. If any calamity should befall him along the way in which you go, then you would bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave."**

### **Rueben – Living up to Name**

Rueben here is living up to his name, Jacob will identify who he is in his final words before he dies:

*(Genesis 49:3 NKJV) "Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.  
(Genesis 49:4 NKJV) Unstable as water, you shall not excel, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it; He went up to my couch.*

### **Unstable – Boiling Water / Foolish Words – No Thought**



Jacob says Reuben is unstable as water, and that is a reference to boiling water. Reuben makes a foolish vow in the heat of the moment. Kill my 2 sons if I don't bring Benjamin back, I am sure his sons were like gee thanks dad, really appreciate that. It is ok to defer a comment, until after you have thought it through, prayed it through, and allow the Lord to speak to you discernment on the matter. Like Joseph did, after 3 days he says go, for I fear God. Reuben, he hadn't thought this through, for offering his sons as a ransom is foolish:

*(Proverbs 14:29 NKJV) He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly.*

*(James 1:19 NKJV) So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;*

*(James 1:20 NKJV) for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

### **Joseph our Example**

Joseph is our example, take the time and go away to seek the Lord, so you may do and say what is pleasing in the sight of the Lord.

# Genesis Chapter 43

## The Sons Return to Egypt

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

#### Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

#### Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

### Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

### Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

*(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

*(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*

### **Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well**

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, lets go for it, lets cut the lines, put the sails up, and lets live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, lets go for it, lets not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

*(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

### **Last Study / Dream Passes / Joseph Tests their Hearts – Any Repentance**

In chapter 42 we saw Joseph's dream come to pass as his 10 brothers (Benjamin not included) came to Egypt to buy grain for the famine was severe in all the lands. His brothers bow down before him just as he had dreamed some 20 years prior. Joseph then starts to work on his brothers to see where their heart was at, were they as mean and callous some 20 years later, as they were when they sold him into slavery. Was his brother Benjamin all right, how was his father Jacob, was he still alive. Was there any repentance in their hearts for the thing they had done to him?

### **Works Them / Spies / Imprisoned / Money in the Sacks**

So Joseph works them, he accuses them of being spies to start this drawing out process. They say we are not, we are sons of one father, and we have 2 other brothers, one is at home, and the other is not. Joseph cast them all into prison, but after 3 days of thinking about it he says ok one will stay here (Simeon), and the rest will go home, and when you return for more grain your younger brother had better be with you or else I know you are spies. Then just to stir it up a little more, Joseph has his servant put their money they brought to buy the grain, back into the sacks of grain, so it make s them look as thieves.

### **Sons Released / Jacob – Gen 45**

When they return they tell Jacob all that happened, and Jacob says all these things are against me. As we had said last study, Jacob had no idea that all things were working together for good. Jacob's faith was weak, he forgot all the past promises of God, he had no idea that chapter 45 was coming!

**(Genesis 43:1 NKJV) Now the famine was severe in the land.**

**(Genesis 43:2 NKJV) And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food."**

**(Genesis 43:3 NKJV) But Judah spoke to him, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"**

### **Not for Simeon**

So they aren't going back for Simeon, but because they are hungry. Some family!

### **The Man – Missed their Brethren**

Again, they call Joseph the man, they did not recognize him as their brother, as the one who would preserve their life, their salvation; just as the people of Israel have missed their brother, their Messiah.

**(Genesis 43:4 NKJV) "If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food.**

**(Genesis 43:5 NKJV) "But if you will not send him, we will not go down; for the man said to us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"**

### **Mean Guy / Starve or Starve**

The boys are saying no Benjamin, no trip. Dad this guy was mean, he was tough, he is not messing around, if we return without Benjamin not only won't we get grain, we will be killed or imprisoned as spies. So the situation is this, stay there at home and watch each other starve to death, or go to Egypt without Benjamin and get thrown in prison and watch each other starve to death, or watch each other get killed.

### **Impossible Situations / No Family Prayer / Jacob – angles – wrestles – descendants**

You know Christian sometimes God puts us in situations that seem impossible, He does so that we will see Him work, so we will have no choice but to trust in Him.

Sadly what we won't read in this chapter is the family saying let us pray, let us seek the Lord, let us trust the Lord. Not even Jacob who had seen the angels ascending and descending while the Lord stood on top of the ladder, even after he had wrestled with the Lord, even after God promised him the land and to make his descendants number the stars in the sky.

### **Jacob's faith Weak / What happened to Jacob? / We Need Each Other – Stay Strong**

Jacob's faith was weak, what had happened over the years to weaken it we do not know, but his lack of faith is evident here. Christian, we need each other, we really do. We need each other to keep us strong:

*(Proverbs 27:17 NKJV) As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.*

### **To Speak Wisdom**

To speak wisdom into our lives:

*(Proverbs 11:14 NKJV) Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.*

### **Intercede in Prayer**

To do battle for each other in the spiritual realm through intercessory prayer:

*(Ephesians 6:17 NKJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

*(Ephesians 6:18 NKJV) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;*

*(Ephesians 6:19 NKJV) and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,*

*(Ephesians 6:20 NKJV) for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

### **Thank You / Accountable - Strong**

I thank each and every one of you, for you keep me strong, you keep me accountable before the Lord, and I know how you are praying for me and my family. Thank You, and may the Lord richly bless you and your family for that.

**(Genesis 43:6 NKJV) And Israel said, "Why did you deal so wrongfully with me as to tell the man whether you had still another brother?"**

**(Genesis 43:7 NKJV) But they said, "The man asked us pointedly about ourselves and our family, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?' And we told him according to these words. Could we possibly have known that he would say, 'Bring your brother down'?"**

### **Give us a Break / It happens to Us / Don't Beat Self Up**

Hey dad how did we know that the guy was going to say that, give us a break. The man down there is a nutcase. I've been there, I've done things that I thought seemed so right, and then they blew up in my face and I'm going I wish I just hadn't done anything; but truly how could we know? We do that to our friends and family, but truly who knew it would turn out badly. Christian don't beat your self up, do your best and commit the rest; and should it turn badly say Lord you knew, therefore I know you will use this.

**(Genesis 43:8 NKJV) Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones.**

**(Genesis 43:9 NKJV)** "I myself will be surety for him; from my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever.

**(Genesis 43:10 NKJV)** "For if we had not lingered, surely by now we would have returned this second time."

### **Someday – Surety will Come through Judah / Jesus – Mission Accomplished – None Lost**

Someday there would come One from the lineage of Judah would do that very thing; Jesus would come from the lineage of the Judah, and He would become the surety for every man, He would assure that all who would come would stand before the Father safely. Jesus took the blame forever, the guilt and the shame, yet He would say "Mission Complete":

*(John 3:16 NKJV)* "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

*(John 17:11 NKJV)* "Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

*(John 17:12 NKJV)* "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

**(Genesis 43:11 NKJV)** And their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: Take some of the best fruits of the land in your vessels and carry down a present for the man; a little balm and a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds.

**(Genesis 43:12 NKJV)** "Take double money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was an oversight.

**(Genesis 43:13 NKJV)** "Take your brother also, and arise, go back to the man.

**(Genesis 43:14 NKJV)** "And may God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may release your other brother and Benjamin. If I am bereaved, I am bereaved!"

### **God Almighty / Jacobs Tactics – Like Esau / Bless my Plan**

Here Jacob sounds godly, "may God Almighty give you mercy before the man", but notice Jacobs's tactics before commits this to the Lord. Send over to him all this things, this stuff, fruits, balm, honey, spices, myrrh, pistachio, almonds (all stuff that was not very common in Egypt).

Lets try to entice the flesh of this man (Joseph) and maybe we will find favor. Lets work to my scheme, and then we will ask God to bless it. Not much has changed for Jacob, remember back when he was coming to meet Esau, what did he do:

*(Genesis 32:13 NKJV)* So he lodged there that same night, and took what came to his hand as a present for Esau his brother:

*(Genesis 32:14 NKJV)* two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams,

*(Genesis 32:15 NKJV)* thirty milk camels with their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals.

*(Genesis 32:16 NKJV)* Then he delivered them to the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass over before me, and put some distance between successive droves."

*(Genesis 32:17 NKJV)* And he commanded the first one, saying, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose are these in front of you?'

*(Genesis 32:18 NKJV)* "then you shall say, 'They are your servant Jacob's. It is a present sent to my lord Esau; and behold, he also is behind us.'"

*(Genesis 32:19 NKJV)* So he commanded the second, the third, and all who followed the droves, saying, "In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him;

*(Genesis 32:20 NKJV)* "and also say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob is behind us.' " For he said, "I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me."

### **Flesh against Faith / Faith is God in Control / Don't Manipulate**

It is so easy to get into the flesh when the circumstances look impossible or difficult, but that goes against everything faith is. Faith is trusting that God is in control. I am not saying that we shouldn't plan, no planning is part of wisdom that god gives us, but if we are honest with ourselves we know the difference between planning wisely, and trying to manipulate the situation through carnal ways.

### **In Relationships / Spirit seeks Peace**

Relationships are a common one; alright then I am not going call, I am going to wait and see if they will call. If he/she really cares about me they will offer to do this or that, therefore I am not

going to ask.....that is carnal, that is how the flesh operates. The spirit always looks for peace, the spirit always looks for unity, the spirit always considers the other first:  
(James 3:13 NKJV) *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.*  
(James 3:14 NKJV) *But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.*  
(James 3:15 NKJV) *This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.*  
(James 3:16 NKJV) *For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.*  
(James 3:17 NKJV) *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.*  
(James 3:18 NKJV) *Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

### **In the Church**

It is sad how much flesh is involved in the ministry. People being pressured to serve, give, and attend. How sad.

### **Business World**

How sad when Christians have double standards in the business world. Well I have to be in the flesh at work or else I will get passed over or dumped on. Do it all unto the Lord, and you will always know God will take care of you. Try to manipulate things through carnal ways, and God will say if you want to be in charge, you got it, you are on your own:

**(Genesis 43:15 NKJV)** So the men took that present and Benjamin, and they took double money in their hand, and arose and went down to Egypt; and they stood before Joseph.  
**(Genesis 43:16 NKJV)** When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Take these men to my home, and slaughter an animal and make ready; for these men will dine with me at noon."  
**(Genesis 43:17 NKJV)** Then the man did as Joseph ordered, and the man brought the men into Joseph's house.  
**(Genesis 43:18 NKJV)** Now the men were afraid because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, "It is because of the money, which was returned in our sacks the first time, that we are brought in, so that he may make a case against us and fall upon us, to take us as slaves with our donkeys."

### **We Think God is Mad at us -Seeking Revenge / Man's Thoughts / God's Grace - Backslider**

Ohh no, we are going to his house because he is going to sell us, he is angry with us. How people still have this mindset about the greater than Joseph, Jesus. They think I have blown it badly, and now God is going to get me, He is going to inflict me to get even, He is angry with me. That is not the Lord, for He is merciful and loving, He isn't mad at you, He doesn't want to hurt you, He is not looking for revenge. That is so much how we are, that is why we think that is what is going to happen to us. God is so far above that, He loves the sinner, His grace abounds. Don't let those thoughts keep you from approaching Him; His arms are open to receive you. Listen, even if you are backslidden, for god says that He still loves the backslider. God doesn't respond like we do, although that may be how we would react when we are offended, not God. God is Love!

(Romans 5:20 NKJV) *Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,*

(Hosea 14:4 NKJV) *"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from him.*  
(Hosea 14:5 NKJV) *I will be like the dew to Israel; He shall grow like the lily, And lengthen his roots like Lebanon.*  
(Hosea 14:6 NKJV) *His branches shall spread; His beauty shall be like an olive tree, And his fragrance like Lebanon.*  
(Hosea 14:7 NKJV) *Those who dwell under his shadow shall return; They shall be revived like grain, And grow like a vine. Their scent shall be like the wine of Lebanon.*

(1 John 4:8 NKJV) *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*  
(1 John 4:9 NKJV) *In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*  
(1 John 4:10 NKJV) *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

**(Genesis 43:19 NKJV)** When they drew near to the steward of Joseph's house, they talked with him at the door of the house,  
**(Genesis 43:20 NKJV)** and said, "O sir, we indeed came down the first time to buy food;  
**(Genesis 43:21 NKJV)** "but it happened, when we came to the encampment, that we opened our sacks, and there, each man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight; so we have brought it back in our hand.  
**(Genesis 43:22 NKJV)** "And we have brought down other money in our hands to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks."  
**(Genesis 43:23 NKJV)** But he said, "Peace be with you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.

### **Can't Out give God**

Referring back to the money that had ended up in their sacks on the first trip, and the guy says hey I had your money all the time, don't worry about. Beautiful picture here for each of us. Beloved you cannot out give God. Whether that be your financial giving, or giving of your time, it will always return unto you for you cannot out give God, and God will never be a debtor to man.

### **Here's Brother**

And now here is your brother also.

**(Genesis 43:24 NKJV)** So the man brought the men into Joseph's house and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys feed.  
**(Genesis 43:25 NKJV)** Then they made the present ready for Joseph's coming at noon, for they heard that they would eat bread there.  
**(Genesis 43:26 NKJV)** And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed down before him to the earth.  
**(Genesis 43:27 NKJV)** Then he asked them about their well-being, and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"

### **Thinking of Dad**

How is dad? Joseph wanting to hear that dad is ok. Joseph a picture of Jesus, always thinking of the Father. We will eat later, first tell me how dad is.

*(John 4:34 NKJV) Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."*

**(Genesis 43:28 NKJV)** And they answered, "Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive." And they bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves.  
**(Genesis 43:29 NKJV)** Then he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your younger brother of whom you spoke to me?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son."  
**(Genesis 43:30 NKJV)** Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep. And he went into his chamber and wept there.

### **Joseph Weeps / Jesus Running to You**

Joseph holds back his emotions after some 20 years of not seeing his little brother. Joseph a picture of Jesus Christ, and do you know how He longs to see you face to face, to hold you physically. Jesus won't be sitting and saying there you are when we meet Him face to face, I believe the story of the Prodigal son is not just for a backslider repenting, but when we take our last breath on earth and come into the physical presence of the Father. God loves you, He is crazy about you, He cannot stop thinking about you, do you realize that:

*(Luke 15:20 NKJV) "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him."*

*(Psalms 139:17 NKJV) How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!*

*(Psalms 139:18 NKJV) If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.*

*(1 John 3:1 NKJV) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.*  
*(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

**(Genesis 43:31 NKJV) Then he washed his face and came out; and he restrained himself, and said, "Serve the bread."**

**(Genesis 43:32 NKJV) So they set him a place by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves; because the Egyptians could not eat food with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians.**

**(Genesis 43:33 NKJV) And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth; and the men looked in astonishment at one another.**

### **Egyptians Eat at Own Table**

There were three tables, and Joseph had his own table. The other Egyptian guests had a table for themselves and then his brothers all had their table. It would be an abomination for an Egyptian to eat with a non-Egyptian at the same table

### **1 in 40 Million**

When Joseph set them at the table, he set them according to their age around the table. They looked at each other and thought, what is going on here? Do you know what the chances are of setting eleven brothers according to age around the table? Thirty-nine million nine hundred and forty-one thousand! He had about one chance in forty million to set them in the order according to age. That freaked them out. At this point, they evidently figured that this guy has some divining knowledge. In fact Joseph led them to believe that he had the capacity of divination. As we get into the next chapter we will find it quite fascinating as the plot thickens. Joseph, first of all, passes off the fact, don't you know that a fellow in my position is able to divine. They no doubt believed it, because of the order around the table and the fact that he was able to set them according to age.

**(Genesis 43:34 NKJV) Then he took servings to them from before him, but Benjamin's serving was five times as much as any of theirs. So they drank and were merry with him.**

### **5x Blessings / How will You React**

Now it could be that Joseph was looking to see if the same kind of jealousy and bitterness that they had towards him was also manifested towards Benjamin. This could have been sort of a test to see if they were still the old guys that they used to be, bitterly jealous of the younger brother, who was obviously favored by the father. You know you can see a person's heart when people around them prosper. It is easy to weep with those who are hurting, but sometimes it is hard to rejoice when others are receiving abundant blessing. You will know a deep work has happened in you when you can be as happy for a person when great things happen for them, when they are getting 5 times as much as you are. For some, they get upset, even bitter, why are they being blessed, they don't deserve it as much as I do. I pray harder, I serve longer, why not me. You will know what is in your heart when people are getting blessed around you, and you are not.

*So they drank and were merry with him.*



# Genesis Chapter 44

## The Old Money in the Sack Trick Again

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

**Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
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- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

### Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

### Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

*(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

*(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*

### **Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well**

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, lets go for it, lets cut the lines, put the sails up, and lets live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, lets go for it, lets not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

*(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

### **Last Study / Dream Passes / Joseph Tests their Hearts – Any Repentance**

In chapter 42 we saw Joseph's dream come to pass as his 10 brothers (Benjamin not included) came to Egypt to buy grain for the famine was severe in all the lands. His brothers bow down before him just as he had dreamed some 20 years prior. Joseph then starts to work on his brothers to see where their heart was at, were they as mean and callous some 20 years later, as they were when they sold him into slavery. Was his brother Benjamin all right, how was his father Jacob, was he still alive. Was there any repentance in their hearts for the thing they had done to him?

### **Works Them / Spies / Imprisoned / Money in the Sacks**

So Joseph works them, he accuses them of being spies to start this drawing out process. They say we are not, we are sons of one father, and we have 2 other brothers, one is at home, and the other is not. Joseph cast them all into prison, but after 3 days of thinking about it he says ok one will stay here (Simeon), and the rest will go home, and when you return for more grain your younger brother had better be with you or else I know you are spies. Then just to stir it up a little more, Joseph has his servant put their money they brought to buy the grain, back into the sacks of grain, so it make s them look as thieves.

### **Sons Released / Jacob – Gen 45 / Gen 44**

When they return they tell Jacob all that happened, and Jacob says all these things are against me. As we had said last study, Jacob had no idea that all things were working together for good. Jacob's faith was weak, he forgot all the past promises of God, he had no idea that chapter 45 was coming! So chapter 44 they return to Egypt to buy more grain for they are now out. Benjamin is with them and Joseph has to run out of the room when he sees Benjamin for the first time in some 20 plus years, a picture of Jesus Christ when He see us in heaven if our minds can grasp that. So they all sit and eat together and all are merry: now the boys are heading back to Jacob, and Joseph has one more roughing up for them to see where their hearts are.

**(Genesis 44:1 NKJV) And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack.**

### **Money in Sack trick / Gomer Pyle**

It is the old money in the sack trick again, how could you fall for that one again (haahaa). Gomer Pyle use to always say, fool me once shame on you, fool me twice shame on me. If it was me, I would check my sack, and check it again to make sure the money mix up didn't happen again. It is like in the airport, I make sure I don't put my laptop on the x-ray belt until right before I am ready to go through the metal detector myself, so as to remove the conman who waits on the other side an acts like it is his while you are being held up by security. You think these boys would have checked, but they don't.

**(Genesis 44:2 NKJV) "Also put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his grain money." So he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken.**

### **Silver – 20 pieces / Joseph doesn't Use Divining Cup**

Notice it was silver cup, maybe just a little reminder to them for selling him for 20 pieces of silver. In Egypt this silver cup represented authority, rulers would have a silver cup and they would use it to determine god's will for what they should do by the leading of their gods. It was called a "divining cup". Now, from our study of Joseph's character we have no reason to believe that Joseph would use it for such a thing, for he as we have seen was a man solely sold out to the Lord. So my opinion is that they (Pharaoh's support people) because that is what they do; hey you are a leader therefore you need a cup to talk to god so you know how to lead. Joseph probably kept spare change in it or something.

### **I Still get Divining Cups / World Doesn't Understand**

You know, I still get "divining cups" from well meaning people. Unsaved people give me books for Christmas or my birthday on the "spiritual" things; and you up those books and they are so far from God it is ridiculous. They are new age, or all religions are one, or lets not offend anyone, spiritual books. Some of them give me the creeps when I see them, so religious, and I am so unreligious, I just love Jesus. Still to this day friends and family offer me alcohol, when I come to their home, I think it has been 12 years why do you even set a class before me. You know the world doesn't know, they don't understand the change that has happened to you, exactly the Scriptures says they wont:

*(1 John 3:1 NKJV) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.*

### **Opportunities to Talk / Open Doors**

Some of these "divining cups" are the perfect opportunity to open the door to talk about the things of the spirit with them, so use them. Beloved, plant spiritual seeds as you go, a minute here, a minute there. Be careful not to embarrass them, and make them feel stupid, do it very delicately and gently, and again you have to be in tune with the Lord so you know when to, and when not to. God continually opens doors of opportunity for us to share the Good News, look for them, and use them.

**(Genesis 44:3 NKJV) As soon as the morning dawned, the men were sent away, they and their donkeys.**

**(Genesis 44:4 NKJV) When they had gone out of the city, and were not yet far off, Joseph said to his steward, "Get up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good?'**

**(Genesis 44:5 NKJV) 'Is not this the one from which my lord drinks, and with which he indeed practices divination? You have done evil in so doing.'**

**(Genesis 44:6 NKJV) So he overtook them, and he spoke to them these same words.**

### **Servant Did as Told**

So the servant did as he was told.

**(Genesis 44:7 NKJV) And they said to him, "Why does my lord say these words? Far be it from us that your servants should do such a thing.**

**(Genesis 44:8 NKJV) "Look, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house?**

**(Genesis 44:9 NKJV) "With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves."**

### **Not Thieves**

Trying to make a point that if we were thieves why would we have brought the money back from our first trip.

### **Last Time is Reason Enough / Gather Facts before you Jump – 1%**

Just repeating what happened last time should be enough reason to say, it could be possible, we were so sure we paid last time, and then somehow the money ended up in our sacks. You know, I have found it best that if there is any possibility that I could be wrong about something, that I will leave that possibility open until all the facts are gathered. I hate to say I was wrong after I so adamantly said there is no way that I could be wrong.

### **Examples at Home & Work**

Son, how many times have I told you not to touch my computer, you are grounded.....what's that, it was your mother who used it, opps. Hey co-worker get off my back, I entered all my data, I worked late last night, how dare you say that.....what's that, we are using revision C now instead of Revision B, opps.

### **Good Witness / If Wrong Easier to Say Sorry**

If you are right, it is the other person that has to say I'm sorry, I wrong accused you, so you come out looking great. First you didn't get in their face or get an attitude, so that is a great witness, and secondly if you are wrong it is easier to say, opps my mistake, sorry about that. Once pride enters in, emotions start to run, the formula for a blow-out fight is in place.

### **Humble Thyself**

Humble thyself and the Lord will lift you up:

*(James 4:10 NKJV) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.*

**(Genesis 44:10 NKJV) And he said, "Now also let it be according to your words; he with whom it is found shall be my slave, and you shall be blameless."**

**(Genesis 44:11 NKJV) Then each man speedily let down his sack to the ground, and each opened his sack.**

**(Genesis 44:12 NKJV) So he searched. He began with the oldest and left off with the youngest; and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.**

**(Genesis 44:13 NKJV) Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city.**

### **Another Test / Brother could have went Home / Returned to Stand Together**

Look at this, another test, and look where their hearts are. At the table Benjamin got 5 times more, yet they ate and were merry, no resentment or animosity towards Benjamin getting more. And now here, the servant said only he who has the cup will become the slave, everyone else can go home, go your way, be free. But what do these brothers do, they all return to Egypt together. They had the opportunity to go home, go free, yet they all return to Egypt together to stand with their brother.

### **Hearts Changed / Joseph Sold – Stand with Benjamin**

The work in their heart has taken root. We see them going from selling Joseph out, to risking life and death for Benjamin. This process that Joseph put them through, brought about growth and maturity to these boys. That they could go from being so selfish to selling a brother, to a place that they would be willing to give up their life for a brother.

### **Don't Despise Struggles / Refining Process / Babes to Adulthood**

Ohh Christian that you would not despise the struggles the Lord allows into your life, that you would embrace them and see them as God's refining process as He strengthens you and develops you into the man or woman of God He desires for you to be. He wants to take you from babes in Christ into Adulthood. To men and woman of God who go past yea I am saved, into a people who have the strength to do battle against the evil one, to overcome the evil one, to a people that are mature mothers and fathers in Christ the you reproduce spiritual offspring's. Too many Christians are content just being saved; they want to live a life of ease, but beloved we live in a fallen world, and it is to escape it's consequences, the daily struggles of life strengthen and prepare us for the inevitable pains that come from living in a fallen world:

*(1 John 2:12 NKJV) I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.  
(1 John 2:13 NKJV) I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.  
(1 John 2:14 NKJV) I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.*

**(Genesis 44:14 NKJV) So Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, and he was still there; and they fell before him on the ground.**

**(Genesis 44:15 NKJV) And Joseph said to them, "What deed is this you have done? Did you not know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?"**

**(Genesis 44:16 NKJV) Then Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; here we are, my lord's slaves, both we and he also with whom the cup was found."**

### **Your - Plural**

Judah says God has found out the iniquity of "your" servants, plural. He doesn't say yep stupid Benjamin blew it; no he says we have sinned.

### **To See the Church Stand Together / Place for the Unrepentant**

Oh to see this in the church, in the body of Christ today; that we would stand beside the fallen brother, rather than separate ourselves from the fallen brother. Yes the Scriptures say there is a place that an "unrepentant" brother or sister is to be turned over to Satan:

*(1 Corinthians 5:5 NKJV) deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

*(1 Corinthians 5:6 NKJV) Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?*

*(1 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV) Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*

### **But Repentant Brother / John Baptist – Risk Life & Reputation**

But as for the fallen brother, to stand with them, to be there for them, that is family, that is love. I am reminded of the story of John the Baptist when he was beheaded (Mark 6), his brothers came for his body. Doesn't sound like much until you consider that John was considered a criminal, a problem to society, then it changes everything. These men who came risked their life (for they could have found the same fate for being associated with him), they risked their reputation as people would say you are with him.

### **May We Stand / New Believers – The Big Sin / Most Defining Powerful Moments**

May we be a people that will stand beside each other, even when it costs us greatly. This seems so so applicable when it comes to standing besides a new believer, a young believer, or the "big sins", or standing with one of the youth who has blown it. So often the most defining, and powerful moments in our Christian walk is when someone is there after a fall, all alone, broken, and a brother or sister comes besides them, and says I will stand with you, and extends their hand to lift that brother back up to their feet.

**(Genesis 44:17 NKJV) But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so; the man in whose hand the cup was found, he shall be my slave. And as for you, go up in peace to your father."**

**(Genesis 44:18 NKJV) Then Judah came near to him and said: "O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's hearing, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you are even like Pharaoh.**

**(Genesis 44:19 NKJV) "My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father or a brother?'**

**(Genesis 44:20 NKJV) "And we said to my lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, who is young; his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.'**

**(Genesis 44:21 NKJV) "Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.'**

**(Genesis 44:22 NKJV)** "And we said to my lord, 'The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.'  
**(Genesis 44:23 NKJV)** "But you said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.'  
**(Genesis 44:24 NKJV)** "So it was, when we went up to your servant my father, that we told him the words of my lord.  
**(Genesis 44:25 NKJV)** "And our father said, 'Go back and buy us a little food.'  
**(Genesis 44:26 NKJV)** "But we said, 'We cannot go down; if our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down; for we may not see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.'  
**(Genesis 44:27 NKJV)** "Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons;  
**(Genesis 44:28 NKJV)** 'and the one went out from me, and I said, "Surely he is torn to pieces"; and I have not seen him since.

### **20 Years of Wondering / Don't Defend Yourself**

By the way, after 20 some years of wondering, Joseph for the first time hears what the brothers alibi was when they returned home without him. As I mentioned before Joseph would have plenty of time in prison to wonder what they told Jacob. Maybe he ran off with a prostitute, overdosed in a crack house, (that's your golden boy); whatever it may be Joseph probably had long nights of wondering did they make a lie up that would make dad disappointed in his son. I know I always say you take care of your character, and God will take care of your reputation, but I by no means ever mean that it is easy when someone attacks your character. But remember, if Satan sees that you will try to defend your reputation, then he will see to it that you spend the rest of your doing it, diminishing your time and ability doing the things of the Lord.

### **Relief to Joseph**

What a relief in some sense to Joseph that they told this story, rather than destroy his character before his father whom he loves.

**(Genesis 44:29 NKJV)** 'But if you take this one also from me, and calamity befalls him, you shall bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave.'  
**(Genesis 44:30 NKJV)** "Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad's life,  
**(Genesis 44:31 NKJV)** "it will happen, when he sees that the lad is not with us, that he will die. So your servants will bring down the gray hair of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave.

### **No Benjamin – Jacobs broken Heart**

If Benjamin does not return, dad will die a broken heart.

**(Genesis 44:32 NKJV)** "For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father forever.'  
**(Genesis 44:33 NKJV)** "Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers.  
**(Genesis 44:34 NKJV)** "For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?"

### **Picture of Intercession / Love for Father – Love for Brother**

A beautiful picture of intercession here by Judah, an example for us. We see 2 things in his intercession, a love for his father, and a love for his brother. What a picture for us, teacher what is the greatest command, and Jesus says you shall love the Lord (your Father) with all your heart mind and soul, and you shall love your brother as yourself:

*(Matthew 22:36 NKJV)* "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

*(Matthew 22:37 NKJV)* Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

*(Matthew 22:38 NKJV)* "This is the first and great commandment.

*(Matthew 22:39 NKJV) "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'  
(Matthew 22:40 NKJV) "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

### **Want to Move God's Heart – Intercede**

Judah does not want to see his father's heart break, nor see his brother Benjamin a slave. What an example for us, that we do not want to see the heart of the Father hurt, broken, nor see our brother a slave to anything, but free. Do you want to move the heart of the Lord, confess your sin, seek to walk in all His ways, and to intercede for your brother.

### **Chp 45 / the Revelation**

Joseph's heart is moved, and finally the revelation of who he is before his brother:

*(Genesis 45:1 NKJV) Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers.*

*(Genesis 45:2 NKJV) And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.*

*(Genesis 45:3 NKJV) Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.*

# Genesis Chapter 45

## Joseph Revealed to his Brothers

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

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- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

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### **Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well**

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, lets go for it, lets cut the lines, put the sails up, and lets live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, lets go for it, lets not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

*(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

### **Last Study / They all Ate / Return to Canaan - Silver Cup / Return to Stand with Benjamin**

In our last study we saw the sons of Jacob returning to Egypt to buy more grain, Joseph has them over to his home for dinner and they all ate and were merry, even when he gave Benjamin 5 times more than the other. So when they left to return to Canaan, Joseph tests them one more time by placing his silver cup, his divining cup in Benjamin's sack. They say whomever the cup is found will become a slave, and the rest can go home; but when the cup is revealed in Benjamin's sack rather than leaving him they all return together to Egypt, they stand with their youngest brother. We see a change in these brothers heart for they go from leaving Joseph to be a slave, to 22 years later to standing with Benjamin even if it means they become a slave. The testing and proving out is complete, and now Joseph will reveal himself to his brothers, and father Jacob will hear the news that he thought he would never hear, Joseph lives, and all the things you thought were against you, God was really working out for your good.

**(Genesis 45:1 NKJV) Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers.**

**(Genesis 45:2 NKJV) And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.**

**(Genesis 45:3 NKJV) Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.**

### **22 Years later / Watch the Video / Brothers – Doom & Longer Doom**

Joseph clears the room, and lets it be known, I am Joseph. Some Twenty-two years later Joseph finally lets it out, I can't wait to watch the video on this one. Joseph's voice, his eyes, his body language; and then his brothers eyes and body language when they had heard, what a moment it must have been. Here these brothers are expecting imminent doom, and then to hear these words, I am Joseph your brother. Hmmmm, now rather than expecting imminent doom, they are now expecting long drawn out doom; wondering what type of torture methods the Egyptians have developed over the years, what type of revenge Joseph may have for them after 22 years of planning.

### **Benjamin hears for First Time**

By the way this is the first time probably that Benjamin hears what happened to his older brother. We can only imagine what he is thinking.

### **Joseph always Thinking about the Father**

*Verse 3 - Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" - Joseph a picture of Jesus, always thinking of the Father. He says I am Joseph, does my father live.*

*Immediately he asks how is dad. Jesus said:*

*(John 8:29 NKJV) "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, **for I always do those things that please Him.**"*

*(John 5:19 NKJV) Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do**; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.*

### **Joseph gained Strength thinking of Father / Picture for Us**

I believe Joseph gain strength through the hard times, the lonely times, the struggles, that he gained strength to endure as he thought about his father, and held on to the hope of seeing him again. A picture for all of us, through the hard times of life may we gain strength as we look forward to seeing our Father. Often I find myself saying, soon I'll be home, I will hold Him, see Him face to face, and I find immediate comfort and peace.

*(2 Thessalonians 2:16 NKJV) Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,*

*(2 Thessalonians 2:17 NKJV) comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.*

*(1 John 3:1 NKJV) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.*

*(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

**(Genesis 45:4 NKJV) And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.**

**(Genesis 45:5 NKJV) "But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.**

### **Depict Heart of Jesus / Don't be Grieved for Your Faults**

I love the words of Joseph, for they depict the heart of Jesus to us. Jesus would say don't be grieved, don't be angry with yourself, I know you are aware of so many faults and shortcomings in yourself, don't be grieved for I died for all your faults, all your failings past present and future:

*(1 John 3:20 NKJV) For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.*

### **Jesus said on the Cross / Done in Ignorance**

Let me also add here, what Jesus said when He hung on the cross, Peter would say:

*(Luke 23:34 NKJV) Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.*

*(Acts 3:17 NKJV) "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.*

*(Acts 17:30 NKJV) "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,*

### **Habitual Sin / Things we have Done – Did in Ignorance / Don't beat Self**

Let me first say if you are living in a habitual sin that I hope God chastens you to the point of repentance. But you know there are things that you may have done before you were saved, or while you were still growing in the Lord as a babe in Christ, things you are greatly ashamed of, things you still struggle with that you are truly forgiven of. Maybe it was an abortion, strange sexual behavior, adultery, murder, hooking another friend n to drugs that has ruined their lives, whatever it may have been, the Lord says you did them in ignorance, you didn't know, don't continue to beat yourself up over them.

### **Amazing – As wretched as they Were – Turned us to Christ / Wrath to Love**

You know what is amazing, that as sinful and wretched as some of those things may be, they were the turning point to bring us to Christ. Just like in this story, God used it (enslavement of Joseph) to preserve life. How gracious a God we serve. Rather than bringing wrath upon us for those things, He brings forgiveness, mercy, and love. He offers fellowship with Him, when He has every right to offer us hell and eternal damnation.

This is love, a wonderful, beautiful, God of love He is, blessed be His name.

**(Genesis 45:6 NKJV) "For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.**

### **Joseph 39 / Number of Grace**

So Joseph is 39 which the number for mercy in the Bible. 40 is the number for judgement; 40 days of rain for the flood, 40 years in the wilderness for the nation Israel, and it would be 40 stripes across the back (scourging) for a criminal and if they wanted to show mercy they would minus one, 39. The apostle Paul saw such mercy:

*(2 Corinthians 11:24 NKJV) From the Jews five times I received forty stripes **minus one**.*

### **Jesus takes full 40 – Full Wrath**

Our Jesus would have taken the full 40, for He took the full wrath of God's fury against sin, so that we may receive the full pardon, which is mercy:

*(1 John 2:1 NKJV) My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

*(1 John 2:2 NKJV) And He Himself is **the propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

### **Propitiation / Appease - Satisfy**

*Verse 2 - And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins* - Our Advocate is also the propitiation of our sins and the sins of the whole world. Propitiation means to appease and satisfy an offended power. Whatever it takes to satisfy the power, the propitiation has met the requirement. Whether that is money, property, flesh and blood, the propitiation has met the requirement.

**(Genesis 45:7 NKJV) "And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.**

**(Genesis 45:8 NKJV) "So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.**

### **Joseph saying God at Work / Lord in it from Beginning**

Joseph is saying hey, God is at work; He put me in this position to save you. If I wasn't here, than there would not have been any grain, for God revealed the revelation of what was going to happen in the land to me, and He set me here to preserve the world and you. The Lord was in it from the beginning:

*(Psalms 105:16 NKJV) Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread.*

*(Psalms 105:17 NKJV) **He sent a man before them; Joseph; who was sold as a slave.***

*(Psalms 105:18 NKJV) They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons.*

*(Psalms 105:19 NKJV) Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him.*

*(Psalms 105:20 NKJV) The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free.*

*(Psalms 105:21 NKJV) He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions,*

### **110 Years no Bitter Word**

Joseph lives to be 110 years old, he comprises 25% of the book of Genesis, yet we never read of one word of bitterness coming from his mouth over all the injustice that was done to him. Joseph is a picture of a life that was totally committed and trusted to the Lord. What an example for all of us.

**(Genesis 45:9 NKJV) "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry.**

**(Genesis 45:10 NKJV) "You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have.**

**(Genesis 45:11 NKJV) "There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine."**

### **5 years to Go / Brothers wouldn't Know**

See Joseph says come down here where the food is, for there is still 5 more years to go of this famine. The boys and Jacob would not have known how much longer the famine would have lasted, but Joseph does, and he shares it with them, and we will see them packaging up and moving to Egypt based on Joseph's word which came from the Lord.

### **Sad When People won't Heed the Warning / No bread – No Nourishment / Beauty when Do**

You know, it is sad when people don't pack up and move when they are giving a word that came from the Lord. How often we have seen people heading toward destruction in their lives, and we said you are going the wrong way, you are living in the land of famine, there is no Bread of Life (Jesus Christ) where you are living at, and you are going to face hard times, maybe even destruction. Hear the Word of the Lord; hear His Words of life so that you may be nourished and strengthened, but they refuse and we watch them go down. But how beautiful it is when we tell them this word, and they respond, and they go on to wonderful things with the Lord.

**(Genesis 45:12 NKJV) "And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you.**

**(Genesis 45:13 NKJV) "So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here."**

#### **Tell Dad what you have Seen / Youth Bless Parents**

Tell dad what you have seen in me. Isn't wonderful for a dad and mom to hear that their child is doing well. You youth, may you bless your parents heart as they hear about how you are doing well in the things of the Lord. Ohh it is the perfect gift to them, don't worry about Christmas gift, birthday, mothers day and fathers day, do well and they will be blessed.

#### **Bless Father in Heaven**

And, do you want to bless your Father in Heaven, let Him hear (if you would) how well you are doing in your walk, and He will be blessed.

#### **So too for Me**

So too for me, thank you for the Pastor's appreciation, but please no need for a gift next year, just let me hear that you are doing well:

*(3 John 1:2 NKJV) Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.*

*(3 John 1:3 NKJV) For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.*

*(3 John 1:4 NKJV) I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*

**(Genesis 45:14 NKJV) Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck.**

**(Genesis 45:15 NKJV) Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.**

#### **Forgiveness brings Fellowship / Same in Marriage and Friendships**

Notice this, forgiveness brings sweet fellowship. Joseph forgave his brothers, he had no bitterness towards them, thus they could have sweet fellowship together. The same holds true in your marriage, in your friendships, and in your church.

**(Genesis 45:16 NKJV) Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well.**

**(Genesis 45:17 NKJV) And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and depart; go to the land of Canaan.**

**(Genesis 45:18 NKJV) 'Bring your father and your households and come to me; I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land.**

**(Genesis 45:19 NKJV) 'Now you are commanded; do this: Take carts out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives; bring your father and come.**

**(Genesis 45:20 NKJV) 'Also do not be concerned about your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"**

#### **Take the U-hauls**

Hey take these U-hauls and get your stuff and get down here.

**(Genesis 45:21 NKJV)** Then the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them carts, according to the command of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey.  
**(Genesis 45:22 NKJV)** He gave to all of them, to each man, changes of garments; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments.

**Benjamin extra Blessings / Recognize Forgiveness Forget Fairness / Riches of America**  
Benjamin gets extra blessing, and none of the brother's care. When you recognize forgiveness, you'll be blinded to fairness. You won't be worried about getting yours, you'll be glad with what you got, thankful for what you have. I realize that there are Christians living in foreign lands who have nothing, maybe less than nothing for they are persecuted for their faith to boot, and what can I say to that. I'm am rich beyond measure when I consider that. How easy is it to forget all the riches we have being American, we even complain about our lives, yet we are so richly blessed compared to other brothers and sisters in this world.

#### **When we Recognize Father Forgiveness / See Everything else as Blessing**

When we recognize God's forgiveness, His full pardon to us, we will look at every thing we have and say Father, you forgave me, you promise me eternal life, and then on top of it You give me this job, this spouse, a place to live, food on the table, oh Lord you are too good to me.

**(Genesis 45:23 NKJV)** And he sent to his father these things: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and food for his father for the journey.

**(Genesis 45:24 NKJV)** So he sent his brothers away, and they departed; and he said to them, "See that you do not become troubled along the way."

#### **Don't Fall Short – Don't Turn / Everything Need for Journey / Christian stay Strong**

Verse 24 - *See that you do not become troubled along the way.* - Joseph said to them I have given you every thing you need for the journey, don't fall short along the way. Don't turn to the left or the right, stay straight the course. Jesus would say to us today I have given you everything you need for the journey, don't turn to the left or the right, don't fall short, stay the course. Oh Christian please don't fade away, fall to the back of the pack, please stay the course, finish strong. It is such a bummer to watch Christian who once walked strong have fallen away, went back to the things of the flesh, it's so sad to see it. Christian don't you quit, don't you fade, don't let the cares of the world choke you out:

*(Luke 8:11 NKJV)* "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

*(Luke 8:12 NKJV)* "Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then **the devil comes** and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

*(Luke 8:13 NKJV)* "But the ones **on the rock** are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

*(Luke 8:14 NKJV)* "Now the ones that fell **among thorns** are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

*(Luke 8:15 NKJV)* "But the ones that fell **on the good ground** are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

#### **Beautiful to Watch Christians**

It is beautiful to watch the Christian who continues, stays the course, and it is just natural for them to produce fruit because they are rooted and grounded in faith, they have kept their eyes focused and fixed on Him:

*(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV)* Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

*(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV)* **looking unto Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**(Genesis 45:25 NKJV)** Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father.

**(Genesis 45:26 NKJV)** And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them.

**(Genesis 45:27 NKJV) But when they told him all the words which Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived.**

**(Genesis 45:28 NKJV) Then Israel said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."**

Jacobs unbelief did not stop the wagon carts loaded with blessings from coming!

# When He Saw the Carts

## Genesis 45:25-28

**(Genesis 45:25 NKJV)** Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father.

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### Genesis 37 Jacob Believed the Lie

Back in chapter 37 Jacob was told the story that his son Joseph was killed, and he believed the lie:

*(Genesis 37:31 NKJV) So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood.*

*(Genesis 37:32 NKJV) Then they sent the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?"*

*(Genesis 37:33 NKJV) And he recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces."*

### He Would not be Comforted

And then we are told that he would not be comforted:

*(Genesis 37:34 NKJV) Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days.*

*(Genesis 37:35 NKJV) And all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and he said, "For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning." Thus his father wept for him.*

### He Would believe the Bad – But Not the Good / Sounds Like Us

So he believed what was bad and would not be comforted, but then he would not believe what was good. Doesn't that sound like us so much, we believe the worst, and have a hard time believing the good stuff. I find with myself I often don't want to get too excited about the good reports because if I do and it isn't true, then I'll be let down.

### King David When All Against Him / Loss of Heart – Strengthening of Heart

King David, when all was against him, he said I would have fainted, I would have lost heart, unless I had believed "that I would see the goodness of the Lord". Believing the worst, expecting the worst, will always result in a loss of heart. Believing God is able, that God is coming to us, always results in the strengthening of our hearts:

*(Psalms 27:1 NKJV) The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?*

*(Psalms 27:2 NKJV) When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell.*

*(Psalms 27:3 NKJV) Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war should rise against me, In this I will be confident.*

*(Psalms 27:4 NKJV) One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.*

*(Psalms 27:5 NKJV) For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.*

*(Psalms 27:6 NKJV) And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.*

*(Psalms 27:7 NKJV) Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.*

*(Psalms 27:8 NKJV) When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."*

*(Psalms 27:9 NKJV) Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.*

*(Psalms 27:10 NKJV) When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me.*

*(Psalms 27:11 NKJV) Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies.*

*(Psalms 27:12 NKJV) Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; For false witnesses have risen against me, And such as breathe out violence.*

*(Psalms 27:13 NKJV) I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.*  
*(Psalms 27:14 NKJV) Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!*

### **Wouldn't believe the Word Spoken / But Believe what he Saw**

Now Jacob wouldn't believe the word shared with him, but verse 27, when he saw the wagons and then he believed. Interesting in verse 27 when he didn't believe he is called Jacob, but then in verse 28 when he believed he is called Israel, meaning governed by God.

### **Reminds me of Thomas**

This sound like Thomas in the New Testament, he said I will not believe it until I can see it:

*(John 20:24 NKJV) Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.*  
*(John 20:25 NKJV) The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."*  
*(John 20:26 NKJV) And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"*  
*(John 20:27 NKJV) Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."*  
*(John 20:28 NKJV) And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"*  
*(John 20:29 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

### **Good News / Weak Faith Didn't Stop the Carts / Like Us**

Here is the good news for all of us even though Jacob did not believe the word that was spoken, was weak in faith; it did not stop the wagon trains from coming. His pessimism, sour outlook on life didn't keep the good news from coming. Hey we are like this in some way, we are not much different than Jacob in our lives today.

### **Wagons from Joseph – Picture of Jesus / If We are Weak in Faith / Wagons still Coming**

The wagons were from Joseph, a picture of Jesus Christ, kept coming. Even if you and I don't believe the promises of God, are weak in faith, the Word spoken through His Word, it will not stop the wagons from coming.

### **Maybe Going through Famine in Soul / Wagon Coming / Marriage Supper**

Maybe you are going through a dry time, a famine in your soul; well the good news is the wagon train has been sent your way. Which wagon? The one to take you and I up to enjoy the great feast ever known to the world, the "Marriage Supper of the Lamb":

*(Revelation 19:9 NKJV) Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."*

### **Twinkling of Eye / Put on Incorruption**

In a twinkling of an eye, we will be there, even if the believer doesn't believe or understand the rapture. In a twinkling of an eye if we are taken to heaven by age, accident, or circumstances, we will put on incorruption. Even if you haven't considered that or thought about today or in the last 6 months, the wagons are coming for us to carry us home. Swing low sweet chariot, coming for to carry my home:

*(1 Corinthians 15:51 NKJV) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed;*  
*(1 Corinthians 15:52 NKJV) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*  
*(1 Corinthians 15:53 NKJV) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*  
*(1 Corinthians 15:54 NKJV) So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."*

### **John Gives us the Prophetic Word – It will Come to Pass**

John goes on to give us the prophetic word, which will come to pass no matter how weak in faith we may be. And we will see glorious things, the power and majesty of the Great I AM:

*(Revelation 19:10 NKJV) And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*



*(Revelation 19:11 NKJV) Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.*  
*(Revelation 19:12 NKJV) His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.*  
*(Revelation 19:13 NKJV) He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.*  
*(Revelation 19:14 NKJV) And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.*  
*(Revelation 19:15 NKJV) Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*  
*(Revelation 19:16 NKJV) And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

### **We Don't have to Wait for Heaven / Are You Thirsty / Refreshment on the Way**

But we don't have to wait until heaven to enjoy Him now, for He says all who are thirsty, all who are hungry come buy and eat, hey the wagon is on its way to refresh you and comfort you, and all you have to do is flag it down:

*(Isaiah 55:1 NKJV) "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.*

*(Matthew 11:28 NKJV) "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*  
*(Matthew 11:29 NKJV) "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*  
*(Matthew 11:30 NKJV) "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

### **Kids Scattered – Not Doing Well / Wagon is Coming**

Maybe you say well my kids are not doing well, they may be scattered, they may be doing some things that are just not good. Maybe you are losing heart, well good news the wagon is on its way, for we have the promise of the Word to train up a child in the way they should go and when they are older they shall return. Take heart the wagon train is coming:

*(Proverbs 22:6 NKJV) Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*

### **Struggling Financially**

Maybe you are struggling financially, good news the wagon is coming:

*(Philippians 4:19 NKJV) And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

### **Desires of Your Heart**

Maybe there are desires on your heart that have yet to come to pass. That mate to walk with, that ministry, that loved one you have been praying for, good news the wagon is coming:

*(Psalms 37:4 NKJV) Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

*(Psalms 37:5 NKJV) Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.*

### **You Wish More Mature**

Maybe you wish you were further along in your walk, you wish you were more mature, understand the things of the Lord deeper and clearer. Good news the wagon is coming, and God will complete that which He has begun in you:

*(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

### **God will Finish / He Keeps that which Committed**

God will finish this for us, He is coming for us, for He shall keep that which has been committed to Him:

*(2 Timothy 1:12 NKJV) For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.*

*(2 Timothy 1:13 NKJV) Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.*

*(2 Timothy 1:14 NKJV) That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.*

### **Promises True – Even if Weak in Faith / Wagons Coming**

The promises of God are true, even if we don't believe it or are weak in faith, the wagon is still coming. God can't stop thinking about you, or me, the wagons must come for they flow right from the heart of God. My love is not dependant on your faith, but my nature, and I am love. Joseph

didn't say if dad believes I'm alive I'll then I'll send the carts. Joseph's love for his father sent the wagons. Same with our Father, it is His love for us that He sends the wagons our way:  
*(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

### **No Matter Your Day / Wagon on Way**

Hey no matter how your day was today, you are one day closer to heaven for we are on our way, the chariot is coming to take us home.

### **Wagon to Mansion / 2000 Years**

The wagon will come to pick us up, and then the wagon will take us to the mansion God has prepared for us, I've been preparing a place for you for 2,000 years, enter into the joy of your Lord.

### **Wagon Coming – Nothing Derail / Paid in Full**

The wagon is coming and nothing can derail it from coming, for it is done deal, it is finished.....He said as He hung on that cross saying paid in full, they are mine, they are all mine:

*(John 19:30 NKJV) So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

*(John 17:12 NKJV) "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.*

*(John 18:9 NKJV) that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."*

### **Little Boy / You are Twice Mine**

The little boy and his father made a model ship, they labored hours over days over months to make it. Then one day while out sailing it in the stream a sudden wind blew it out of reach and all they could do is watch there masterpiece float away. Some months later as the little boy was in town he passed the hobby store and there it was, right there in the window, his boat, the masterpiece and his father created. He grabbed dad and went back to the store, excuse mister that is my boat, me my dad made it. The owner said maybe so son, but it was sold to me, and this is the business I am in, if you want it you'll have to pay the full offering price. He looked at his father and said that would be all that I have in my bank, but I'll pay it daddy. So after his purchase he leaves the store clinging to his boat, saying I made you, and now I have bought you, you are twice mine.

### **Jesus Says the Same of us**

Jesus clinging to us says the same thing; I made you, and I have bought you, you are twice mine, forever. Beloved the wagon is coming to get us, you can be sure of that.

### **Live in Optimism / Change Your Mind**

Beloved if you are living in anything less than victory, ohh may you grasp this tonight, may you see that He is coming for you and nothing can change that. Maybe you are like Jacob tonight and everything in your life seems to be a bummer and a drag, may your mind be changed like Israel, may you life optimistically looking forward to seeing that wagon coming.

### **No Life Better than Living Optimistically / Spurgeon / Wagons Coming**

None live a better life on this earth than those who live optimistically, looking forward to that wagon train coming. Spurgeon said a little faith will get your soul to heaven, but a lot of faith will bring heaven to your soul. None live so pleasantly than those who live optimistically. Nothing can stop the purposes of God from coming to pass. For even when we are weak in faith, he is faithful to us. The Wagons are Coming!

# Genesis Chapter 46

## The Family Moves to Egypt

### **Genesis more than history book / It is His-story**

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

**Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### **Outline:**

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### **Recap / Joseph Revealed to Brothers / Bring Jacob / 5 years Left**

Last chapter we see Joseph revealing himself to his brothers, and what a shocker it must have been. He sends them back to get Jacob and the rest of the family as Joseph will preserve them for the remaining 5 years left in the 7 year famine. Jacob doesn't believe it until he saw the wagons coming.

**(Genesis 46:1 NKJV) So Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.**

**(Genesis 46:2 NKJV) Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."**

**(Genesis 46:3 NKJV) So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.**

**(Genesis 46:4 NKJV) "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."**

### **Edge of Promise Land**

They left the area of Hebron and began their journey toward Egypt and came to Beersheba. Beersheba is on the edge of the desert, which is the edge of the land of Canaan or "land of promise." Once you leave Beersheba you are in the wilderness area.

### **Beersheba / Abraham's Hometown / Jacob with Isaac**

Beersheba held a lot of memories for Jacob, for he lived there, as a child, with his grandfather, Abraham, and his father, Isaac. They had built an altar there in Beersheba and Jacob offered sacrifices on that altar.

### **Jacob about 130 – Tough Travelers / Deep Emotion – Didn't Inquire of Lord**

At this point, Jacob could have been one hundred and thirty years old and travelling on a cart wasn't too comfortable for him; but, his decision to go was one of deep emotion. Hearing that Joseph was alive and so anxious to see his son, he just decided to go and see him and didn't really inquire of the Lord or seek His will.

### **Appearances Deceiving / Seem Right can be Wrong**

Appearances can be deceiving, things that appear to be so good and right, can be so wrong. Things that appear one way can be totally something different. Important we seek the Lord.

### **Isaac Told not to Go**

Maybe, he was remembering how God had told Isaac not to go down to Egypt.

*(Genesis 26:1 NKJV) There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.*

*(Genesis 26:2 NKJV) Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you."*

### **Abraham's Trip to Egypt – the Lie – Almost Death**

Maybe he remembers the story of when Abraham went to Egypt and it almost cost him his life because he lied about Sarah being his sister and not his wife:

*(Genesis 12:10 NKJV) Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land.*

*(Genesis 12:11 NKJV) And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance."*

*(Genesis 12:12 NKJV) "Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live."*

*(Genesis 12:13 NKJV) "Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you."*

### **Grief of Hagar / Ishmael – Arab Muslims**

Maybe he is remembering all the grief that was caused by Abraham going down to Egypt as he remembers back to what Abraham brought out of Egypt with him, when the Pharaoh said get out of Egypt you and your sister, excuse me your wife, and here are some riches for you, and take this maidservant - Hagar. From Hagar would come Ishmael, and we still see the struggles today there in the Mid-East that was caused by the child produced by Hagar and Abraham.

*(Genesis 16:1 NKJV) Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.*

### **Jacob Inquires of Lord / Check the Heart**

He probably began to wonder if God was in this whole move. Maybe I should inquire of God whether or not I should go. I don't want to go against God's will even though my heart is drawing me there and so, he offered sacrifices (plural) to the God of his father Isaac. Jacob is going to do a heart check. The heart can be so deceitful, we need to keep it in check.

### **Stops at Border / Seem Right – Maybe Last Resort / Sound Familiar / Gets Confirmation**

So Jacob stops at the border of Egypt and he stops to make sacrifice unto the Lord, he stops to make sure that what he is doing is right. It may seem like the right thing to do, maybe the last resort (sound familiar), but he stops to consult the Lord, for confirmation from Him, and the Lord says fear not, go into the land.

### **God gives Go-ahead / 400 yrs of Slavery – People Question / For Us – Place to Return To**

God gives Jacob the go-ahead to go down to Egypt, and with it a most vital example for every one of us. What will happen to the children of Israel after some time there in Egypt?

Enslavement, 400 years of enslavement. Surely they would have questioned why did Jacob bring the family down here to Egypt, God told his father not to go there for it was evil, nothing but

problems, yet you came. Listen, when the struggle began, this is the place that they were to return to, God said fear not. Go down to Egypt. They were not to go back to, well Joseph was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the land, they were not to go back to there was a famine in the land, they were to go back to God said go to the land.

### **Talk this Often – Make Part of Life / Seek Him – He will Lead You**

Christian we talk about this often, and it is so important to make this part of life, we are to seek the Lord on these matters. He will lead His children, He will speak to you on what you are to do.

### **What I Do / 4 Things / Scriptures – Counsel – Time – a Word**

Here is what I do when I am faced with decisions such as this; I ask myself is this in opposition to the Word given in the Scriptures, If so then stop right there. I seek godly counsel with just a few (not many) and see if they see something I may be missing because my emotions are deceiving me. I also wait on the Lord for time will outlast my emotions, and anything that is of the Lord will last over time, it will keep coming back to my heart, it will stay upon my heart (for He would have put that desire in my heart). And as a major part, I ask the Lord for a Verse or a clear Word from Him.

### **In Agreement with the Word:**

*(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,*

*(2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

*(Psalms 119:105 NKJV) Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*

### **Godly Counsel:**

*(Proverbs 1:5 NKJV) A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,*

*(Proverbs 11:14 NKJV) Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.*

### **Wait on the Lord:**

*(Psalms 27:14 NKJV) Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!*

*(Psalms 37:34 NKJV) Wait on the LORD, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.*

*(Psalms 37:4 NKJV) Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

*(Psalms 37:5 NKJV) Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.*

*(Psalms 37:6 NKJV) He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.*

*(Psalms 37:7 NKJV) Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.*

### **Confirmation by Word or Verse:**

*(Genesis 46:2 NKJV) Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."*

*(Genesis 46:3 NKJV) So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there."*

*(Genesis 46:4 NKJV) "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."*

### **For this Church / Acts 8:26 – Go South**

As for this fellowship the Lord spoke clearly to me as I did my morning studies, I was in Acts and God told Phillip to arise and go to the south and we know then he witnessed to the Ethiopian.

God spoke to me and said go to the south (I was supporting at a church in Baltimore County, and obviously Anne Arundel County is south). I remember that moment as if only a moment ago:

*(Acts 8:26 NKJV) Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.*

### **Why Important – Hard Times Come / Word to Stand On – Outside Circumstances**

Why is that so important, because when the hard times came, and I questioned myself, the work, all the warfare, I always had that verse to stand on. No matter how bad it may have seemed, I always came back to the place and said I know this is your will for my life, and I am exactly where you want me to be. Doesn't matter what my outside circumstances may say, the Word is greater than my circumstances.

### **400 yrs of Slavery**

400 years of slavery, but God said:

*(Genesis 46:2 NKJV) Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."*

*(Genesis 46:3 NKJV) So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there."*

*(Genesis 46:4 NKJV) "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."*

### **Be Slow to Run to Something / When Opposition Comes - Strengthened**

Christian be slow to run into something, for a some point opposition will come and you will be glad, comforted, strengthened for the battle when you have taken your time and thought these things through. Is it that new job? Is it that person you are considering marrying, that ministry to be involved in? Christian God will always honor your waiting to hear from Him, He will bring it to pass even if it looks like it is now or never.

**(Genesis 46:5 NKJV) Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob, their little ones, and their wives, in the carts which Pharaoh had sent to carry him.**

**(Genesis 46:6 NKJV) So they took their livestock and their goods, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him.**

**(Genesis 46:7 NKJV) His sons and his sons' sons, his daughters and his sons' daughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt.**

### **Whole Family Goes – Joseph will Preserve / Parents – Your Kids / Your Influence**

The whole family goes to be with Joseph who will preserve them. Notice not one person of the family said no thanks, I'll stay here, I get by my own way. No the whole family goes with Father Jacob. Parents I believe you stick with Jesus, you live a life for Him, centered on Him, where He is the family priority, and your whole family will be saved, persevered. They are not saved by default (Psalm 49:7 & Duet 24:16), they are saved by demonstration. Mom and Dad you have a tremendous power and influence in your child, it something in the blood, and you can bring them to the greater than Joseph, Jesus Christ. Parents don't cave to the pressures of this world, don't worry about upsetting them, keep your attention on the King, and they will look to see where you are looking:

*(Acts 16:31 NKJV) So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."*

*(Acts 16:32 NKJV) Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.*

*(Acts 16:33 NKJV) And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.*

*(Proverbs 22:6 NKJV) Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*

### **God Preparing for Your Whole Family**

God is preparing a place for your whole family.

### **By Name**

By name I might add as we see here:

**(Genesis 46:8 NKJV) Now these were the names of the children of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who went to Egypt: Reuben was Jacob's firstborn.**

**(Genesis 46:9 NKJV) The sons of Reuben were Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.**

(Genesis 46:10 NKJV) The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman.

(Genesis 46:11 NKJV) The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

(Genesis 46:12 NKJV) The sons of Judah were Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan). The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul.

(Genesis 46:13 NKJV) The sons of Issachar were Tola, Puvah, Job, and Shimron.

(Genesis 46:14 NKJV) The sons of Zebulun were Sered, Elon, and Jahleel.

(Genesis 46:15 NKJV) These were the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Padan Aram, with his daughter Dinah. All the persons, his sons and his daughters, were thirty-three.

(Genesis 46:16 NKJV) The sons of Gad were Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli.

(Genesis 46:17 NKJV) The sons of Asher were Jimnah, Ishuah, Isui, Beriah, and Serah, their sister. And the sons of Beriah were Heber and Malchiel.

(Genesis 46:18 NKJV) These were the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter; and these she bore to Jacob: sixteen persons.

(Genesis 46:19 NKJV) The sons of Rachel, Jacob's wife, were Joseph and Benjamin.

(Genesis 46:20 NKJV) And to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him.

(Genesis 46:21 NKJV) The sons of Benjamin were Belah, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard.

(Genesis 46:22 NKJV) These were the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob: fourteen persons in all.

(Genesis 46:23 NKJV) The son of Dan was Hushim.

(Genesis 46:24 NKJV) The sons of Naphtali were Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.

(Genesis 46:25 NKJV) These were the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to Rachel his daughter, and she bore these to Jacob: seven persons in all.

### **Sons Listed by Name / Genealogy of Christ – Matt & Luke**

Notice that each son of Jacob and his offspring are listed by name. Why are these lists of names given to us in the Scriptures? Doesn't God have more important information to give to us? My friend, there is nothing more important than our Lord Jesus Christ, and this is the genealogy that leads to Him. We will find some of these names in the genealogy in the first chapter of Matthew, at the beginning of the New Testament. Again, we will find some of these names in the genealogy given to us in Luke, chapter 3. These lists of names are important for that reason.

### **Another Reason / Lamb's Book of Life**

There is another reason, and it is very personal. Have you heard of the Lamb's Book of Life? The question is: Is your name written there? Just as you got into the line of Adam (and we all are in that line), you get into the line of Christ—that is, by birth. But in the case of the Lamb's Book of Life, you get there by the new birth which comes about by receiving Christ as your personal Savior. When you do that, you become a child of God.

### **God Knows You / Knows Hair on Head / Knows You Personally**

How important are you? Well, God knows you. In fact, He has numbered the very hairs of your head! He knows you better than anyone else knows you. He knows you and loves you more than your mother ever did—I don't imagine that she ever counted the hairs of your head! God did. God knows you personally.

### **Names Mean Nothing to Us – Everything to God**

In Jacob's genealogy there are names that mean nothing to me. Often times as I drive to church on Sunday I see the ball fields filled with people, or I see them in their cars driving up to Ravens stadium for the game. As I looked at them, I thought, God knows each one of them, and God loves each one. They are not thinking of Him (most of them), but each one is precious in God's sight, and Christ died for each one. My friend, here you are in the midst of a great population explosion with literally millions of people around you, yet you are an individual to God. And the

names listed in Jacob's genealogy are people whom I don't know. Candidly, I'm not that interested in them. But God is. He delighted in putting their names down because they were His. This again causes me to ask you the question: Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life?

**(Genesis 46:26 NKJV) All the persons who went with Jacob to Egypt, who came from his body, besides Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all.**

**(Genesis 46:27 NKJV) And the sons of Joseph who were born to him in Egypt were two persons. All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy.**

#### **66 to 70**

66 people plus Joseph and his 2 sons, equal 69, and Jacob is seventy. These 70 names are important to us because we will see some of these names again as we are given the lineage of the Messiah in Matthew 1 (lineage of Joseph) and Luke 3 (lineage of Mary).

#### **Jacob Great Nation / 600K Adults 400yrs**

God said that He would make of Jacob a great nation there in Egypt. When they left Egypt four hundred years later there were six hundred thousand adult males over the age of twenty.

#### **1.5 – 2.0 million / Only 5% Increase/yr**

It is estimated that there was probably between one million, six hundred thousand and two million people who made the Exodus with Moses. God made of him a great nation in the four hundred years that they were in Egypt. You might say that sounds impossible, but, if you take the age of Jacob at the time that he was married and the number of descendants he had by the time he went to Egypt it was a six percent per year increase in the population of the family. If you had a hundred people and you had a 5% per year increase in population, in two hundred and twenty-five years you have a population of more than two million. It was seventy that went down, six hundred thousand adults males over the age of twenty that came out, four hundred years later.

**(Genesis 46:28 NKJV) Then he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out before him the way to Goshen. And they came to the land of Goshen.**

#### **Judah Goes before Them / Praise & Worship – Into His Presence**

Judah went before them, to point out, prepare the way, for the joyful reunion with Joseph, a picture of Jesus Christ. Judah means "praise", how fitting that praise leads the way into the presence of Joseph. We are so blessed to have praise and worship here as it prepares and brings us into the presence of the Lord. Worship is a wonderful gift from the Lord.

**(Genesis 46:29 NKJV) So Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; and he presented himself to him, and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while.**

**(Genesis 46:30 NKJV) And Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you are still alive."**

#### **Ever Consider the Father – Son Reunion / Forsaken for Sin – So we are Not**

I have never thought about this before, but we always consider the apostles and followers of Christ and their great reunion with Jesus after His resurrection. Here Jacob sees the son he thought was dead alive, and they embrace and hold each other, and weep. Have you ever considered the reunion of the Father and Son after Jesus who was dead rises again and is embraced by the Father? The reunion after Jesus would cry out, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" The sins of the whole world placed upon Him, the sins of Hitler, Saddam, Charles Manson, the sins of the pervert, the sins of the child molester, your sins, and my sin, as the Father would turn away, and Jesus for the first time in eternity asking "why hast thou forsaken me", so all who will chose will never have to be forsaken.

#### **Imagine the Embrace / Smiles – Tears / I Brought Family**



I can only imagine, the embrace, as they look into each others eyes, the tears, the smile, and then Jesus would extend His hands towards the risen saints and say, I brought the family. I can only imagine! Dad, the rest will be here soon.

### **Praise**

Thank God for Praise and Worship, for He is worthy.

### **Joseph Held On to Hope / Jacob the Impossible Happened / Same God**

Joseph held on to this hope of seeing his father again. For Jacob an impossible situation has unfolded before him. You know the very same God that took this impossible situation and brought it to past is the same God today:

*(Hebrews 13:8 NKJV) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

*(Malachi 3:6 NKJV) "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.*

### **Are You Living Impossible Situation / He Works Same Today**

Are you living an impossible situation in your life today, that God seems to be over looking, that you may think He worked that was in ancient times, but not for me today; He is the same.

### **Tatte**

The Jerusalem Post had an incredible article a few years ago. The story is about a man who had been rescued from a concentration camp during the Holocaust. He was raised in South Africa and while there as a young man he committed himself to the Jewish faith. He eventually became a Rabbi. Once he found himself on an airplane seated next to an elderly gentleman that he felt particularly drawn to. They spoke in Yiddish, talked about Israel and politics and the Jewish world. When breakfast came the young rabbi encouraged the elder man to skip the sausage (kosher meal), but the elder man said since I lost my only child in Auschwitz, he ate whatever he liked. They parted but the rabbi was deeply disappointed that he did not ask the elder man for his telephone number. 2 years later on a visit to the holocaust museum there in Jerusalem the rabbi saw a familiar figure at the entrance to the building, he ran over to the man and speaking in Yiddish said do you recognize me, do you remember our plane trip? The man smiled and said I do, and I still eat the sausage. The rabbi asked if the elder man would join him on his walk through the museum, the old man said I never go in, didn't I tell you that I lost my only son at Auschwitz. Something suddenly clicked in the rabbi brain and he said what was your name before the war he asked, and when the man answered, tears began to run down the rabbi face. He said "Tatte" - father, all they gave me at the orphanage was one word, your name, I am your son. Now they both live together in Israel, the father no longer eats sausages, and the only thing the rabbi complains about is every time he enters the room, his father stands up.

### **Same God Today**

Same God! Do you have an impossible situation in your life that you think He won't deal with?

**(Genesis 46:31 NKJV) Then Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh, and say to him, 'My brothers and those of my father's house, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me.**

**(Genesis 46:32 NKJV) 'And the men are shepherds, for their occupation has been to feed livestock; and they have brought their flocks, their herds, and all that they have.'**

**(Genesis 46:33 NKJV) "So it shall be, when Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?'**

**(Genesis 46:34 NKJV) "that you shall say, 'Your servants' occupation has been with livestock from our youth even till now, both we and also our fathers,' that you may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."**

# Genesis Chapter 47

## The Lord Bless Thee (Genesis 47:1-10)

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

**Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Recap Joseph Revealed / Jacob Inquires of the Lord / 22 Yrs Later the Embrace

Last chapter we see Joseph revealing himself to his brothers, and what a shocker it must have been. He sends them back to get Jacob and the rest of the family as Joseph will preserve them for the remaining 5 years left in the 7 year famine. Jacob doesn't believe it until he saw the wagons coming. So he loads up the whole family, and head to Egypt. A few days into the journey Jacob stops, inquires of the Lord to make sure the Lord is in it and Jacob not making an emotional decision. God says go ahead, I am with you. Judah leads the way (his name means praise), and then we saw the wonderful reunion of the father and the son, after 22 years of thinking his son dead, Jacob embraces Joseph again.

### Goshen / Jacobs Best Chapter

We have seen how Jacob and all his family have arrived in the land of Egypt. Joseph, as a move of strategy, brought them into the land of Goshen. This actually was the richest land in that day, but right now they are in the midst of a famine and no land is very valuable to the owner at this particular time. We are going to find that this is the best chapter in the life of Jacob so far. Jacob doesn't appear in a good light when we first meet him in Scripture. In fact, not until he makes his trip to Egypt do we begin to see that he has become a man of faith. This chapter, more than any other, reveals that.

**(Genesis 46:31 NKJV) Then Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh, and say to him, 'My brothers and those of my father's house, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me."**

**(Genesis 46:32 NKJV)** 'And the men are shepherds, for their occupation has been to feed livestock; and they have brought their flocks, their herds, and all that they have.'

**(Genesis 46:33 NKJV)** "So it shall be, when Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?'

**(Genesis 46:34 NKJV)** "that you shall say, 'Your servants' occupation has been with livestock from our youth even till now, both we and also our fathers,' that you may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

### **Shepherds an Abomination**

Shepherds were an abomination to the Egyptians. Joseph tells his brothers to tell Pharaoh that they are shepherds and that they raise cattle. Actually, they had both cattle and sheep. We will find later that Pharaoh will give them the land of Goshen (away from the rest of the people of Egypt) and will ask them to take care of his sheep so that the children of Israel became the shepherds in the land of Egypt.

### **Jesus – Good – Great - Chief**

It is interesting that the Word of God has had so much to say about shepherds. These people were shepherds who raised their own sheep, and they still do in the land of Israel. "Shepherd" is the figure of speech that is used to describe our Lord. He is the Good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep. He is the Great Shepherd of His sheep who watches over them today. He is the Chief Shepherd who is yet to appear. He calls Himself the Shepherd.

*(John 10:11 NKJV) "I am the good shepherd. The **good shepherd** gives His life for the sheep.*

*(Hebrews 13:20 NKJV) Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that **great Shepherd** of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,*

*(1 Peter 5:4 NKJV) and when the **Chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

### **Egypt picture of World / Great Shepherd an Abomination to World**

Egypt is a picture of the world in the Scriptures and isn't it still so today that to most people in their hearts He is an abomination to them. He is not received today; He gets in the way of their plans and desires, and the world says You stay over there and stay out of our schools, our government, take care of my dirty work and I'll call you when I need you.

*(John 10:1 NKJV) "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.*

*(John 10:2 NKJV) "But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.*

*(John 10:3 NKJV) "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.*

*(John 10:4 NKJV) "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.*

*(John 10:5 NKJV) "Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."*

### **God's Chosen Among Them / Stay Over There / We Can Bless Them**

These people had God's chosen living amongst them, yet they were considered an abomination too. God's children are living amongst the world today, and the world says stay over there, you religious moralist are getting in the way of my fun, plans, and desires. Too sad for them, but we will see in this chapter application for us on how to bless them.

**(Genesis 47:1 NKJV)** Then Joseph went and told Pharaoh, and said, "My father and my brothers, their flocks and their herds and all that they possess, have come from the land of Canaan; and indeed they are in the land of Goshen."

**(Genesis 47:2 NKJV)** And he took five men from among his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh.

**(Genesis 47:3 NKJV)** Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, both we and also our fathers."

**(Genesis 47:4 NKJV)** And they said to Pharaoh, "We have come to dwell in the land, because your servants have no pasture for their flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now therefore, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen."

## OKJV

I like the Old King James translation of this passage:

*(Genesis 47:4 KJV) They said moreover unto Pharaoh, **For to sojourn in the land are we come**; for thy servants have no pasture for their flocks; for the famine is sore in the land of Canaan: now therefore, we pray thee, let thy servants dwell in the land of Goshen.*

## Sojourners / Passing Through / We Are Aliens – Look at Newspaper

Notice they didn't say, we have come to dwell or we have come to stay, we have only come to sojourn. The bible tells us concerning the fathers: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; that they dwelled as strangers and pilgrims on this earth. We don't belong to this earth, we are just passing through. We are strangers and pilgrims here. It is sad when we start feeling at home in this corrupted society. The more I read the newspaper and watch Television, the more I realize that I am an alien. I don't belong in this mess. I am a stranger and a pilgrim here, I am just passing on looking for that city whose maker and builder is God. I am going to dwell in the house of the Lord forever:

*(Hebrews 11:8 NKJV) By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.*

*(Hebrews 11:9 NKJV) By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;*

*(Hebrews 11:10 NKJV) **for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.***

*(Hebrews 11:13 NKJV) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

*(Hebrews 11:14 NKJV) For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.*

*(Hebrews 11:15 NKJV) And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.*

*(Hebrews 11:16 NKJV) But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, **for He has prepared a city for them.***

**(Genesis 47:5 NKJV) Then Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, saying, "Your father and your brothers have come to you.**

**(Genesis 47:6 NKJV) "The land of Egypt is before you. Have your father and brothers dwell in the best of the land; let them dwell in the land of Goshen. And if you know any competent men among them, then make them chief herdsmen over my livestock."**

## Joseph man of Grace / Brings Brothers Before Throne / Jesus the Same

Look at Joseph, what a man of grace. Here he takes 5 brothers, the very same brothers who sold him into slavery, and he brings them before the throne of Pharaoh. Joseph a picture of Jesus, and the very thing Jesus will do for us. After all our failures, all the times we have knowingly chosen sin over obedience, all the times we have grieved Him, yet what will He do, he will present us faultless before the Father:

*(Jude 1:24 NKJV) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And **to present you faultless** Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,*

*(Jude 1:25 NKJV) To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.*

## Exceeding Joy / They are Mine

Notice it is with exceeding joy; He will be full of joy when He presents us. These are mine, my beloved, I am so pleased to say these are my family, they are with Me. Hang on to Jude 24, it is true, we have been cleansed by Calvary's Tree.

**(Genesis 47:7 NKJV) Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob and set him before Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.**

**(Genesis 47:8 NKJV) Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How old are you?"**

**(Genesis 47:9 NKJV) And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage."**

**(Genesis 47:10 NKJV) So Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh.**

### **Greater blesses the Lesser**

This is interesting for in Hebrews we are told in that cultural that the lesser would be blessed by the greater, yet here we see Jacob blessing the Number 1 in all the land, the world for that matter, yet here is this shepherd from the famine land of Canaan blesses the great Pharaoh: *(Hebrews 7:7 NKJV) Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better.*

### **Not Greater Person – but Position / Jacob linked to Jehovah**

Now Jacob does not think that he is greater than Pharaoh in his person, but he knew he was greater than Pharaoh in his position. Jacob knew he was link to Jehovah, he was a child of God, he knew there was a linkage to God, and that he had a personal relationship with God.

### **Pharaoh's Position Passing Away**

He knew in his position he was in a better place than Pharaoh, even with all his power, prestige, wealth, armies, woman, and reverence from the people. Jacob knew he was in a better position because it was all going to pass away.

### **Jacob Blesses Pharaoh**

So Jacob says I am going to bless you today Pharaoh.

### **Scripture Blessings – Patriarchs – Prophets – Priests - Kings**

In the Bible we see that blessings were reserved for the patriarchs, the prophets, the priests, the kings, they were the ones who blessed the people, bestowed blessings upon the people.

### **How's that Apply to You**

Maybe you are saying so what, what does this apply to me, and why is this important to me. I'm not a patriarch, nor a prophet, nor a priest, nor a king. Really:

*(1 Peter 2:9 NKJV) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

*(1 Peter 2:10 NKJV) who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

### **Priesthood of Aaron / Numbers 6**

We are all kings and priests, and what were royalty and priest to do, God tells us in Numbers 6, as He told the priesthood of Aaron:

*(Numbers 6:22 NKJV) And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:*

*(Numbers 6:23 NKJV) "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:*

*(Numbers 6:24 NKJV) "The LORD bless you and keep you;*

*(Numbers 6:25 NKJV) The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;*

*(Numbers 6:26 NKJV) The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."*

*(Numbers 6:27 NKJV) "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."*

### **Bless Them – Put God's Name Upon Them**

See there, we are to bless them, and notice verse 27 it says we are to put the Lord's name upon the people, and then.....God will bless them.

### **Jacob Did / We Get To – We are Priest / Bless People at Work – Home - Store**

That is what the priests did in that day, that is what Jacob does to Pharaoh. Maybe Jacob something just like Numbers 6, who knows but he pronounces a blessing upon Pharaoh that day. This is the very thing that you and I get to do as well. We get to do this because we are in the royal priesthood, and we get to pronounce blessings upon people at work, in our home, at the grocery store, everywhere we go we get to leave people with a blessing.

### **2 Ways – Words - Prayer**

We do this in two ways; the words that we say, and the way that we pray.

### **The Words We Say**

### **People Need to Hear His Name / Not Blaspheming – Trivialized / Leave Name with Them**

People need to hear the Lord's name in a way that is not swearing, mockery, or blaspheming. Everywhere we go around us we hear people mocking God, trivializing God, cursing Him, but you and I get to say, may the Lord bless you. We get to leave the name of the Lord with them, and God says He will bless all that we leave His name with. That is powerful my brethren, can you realize that power that is in your life.

### **Gayle Erwin / Watch Before Your Eyes / Speechless – Touched / Faced Presence Jesus**

I had learned this principle from Pastor Gayle Erwin over 12 years ago, and have applied it to my life ever since, and it is amazing to watch it before your eyes. All the world is used to is the God word used in vain; but when you are at the store, or talking to someone at the game, and as you depart from them, and you say, "may the Lord bless, may He keep you, may His face shine upon", and then you walk away, they are left speechless. We live in a world that is contrary to hearing blessings of the Lord, and for that moment, they are faced with the presence of Jesus Christ in their lives. They may have never considered Him, or haven't thought about Him in days, weeks, or years, but we have been given the power in a simple blessing to bring them before Him.

### **You have Opportunity – Work – Store / We are Priests**

You have the opportunity to go to work and as you leave your co-workers office, your bosses office, you can say to them, "the Lord bless you." It is radical for their lives, and it is doable, because we are priests of the royal priesthood, we have been given the power to do so.

### **Good Life – We Making Bricks / They Need the Blessing – Empty - Alone**

You know what, the people around us, our co-workers and neighbors, those who it seems that their life is so good, maybe compared to ours it is as we are making bricks in the sun and they are living in the palace with all the servants. But you know gang, these people are the ones that truly need the blessing. We might think they have it made, but really in their lives they are empty and alone, and so much in need of a blessing, to hear God cares, God loves you, and then to put His name in their ear, and God promises to bless them.

### **God Promises to Bless Them / Crazy Not to Do This**

*(Numbers 6:27 NKJV) "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."*

Look at that Christian, God promises to bless them. Here is a guarantee from God to us, to the people we love, and the world around us, you leave them with my name in a blessing, and I will bless them. We would have to be crazy not to seize this promise for all that it is worth. It just takes a moment or two to do this to the people in this world and our life.

### **Give them What We Have - Jesus**

We give them what we have, and we have the power to bless them. The Apostle Peter in Acts 3:

*(Acts 3:1 NKJV) Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.*

*(Acts 3:2 NKJV) And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;*

*(Acts 3:3 NKJV) who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.*

*(Acts 3:4 NKJV) And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."*

*(Acts 3:5 NKJV) So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.*

*(Acts 3:6 NKJV) Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."*

### **No Silver or Gold – Give them God**

We may not have silver and gold, but we give the people what we do have, and that is Jesus Christ. They may not rise and walk, that is God's determination, but we can give them a blessing, and God promises to bless them.

### **The Way that we Pray**

**Pray Your Neighborhood – That Car / Feel His Presence – Peace in Home**

We can bless people in the way that we pray also. You can walk your neighbourhood and pray blessings upon each home. That person next to you in traffic, you can say Lord may Your grace be upon them, may your face shine upon them so much so that they feel your presence, bring peace upon their home that they may see you as the Prince of Peace.

### **Still Questioning / Blessing Flows – It Sticks**

Maybe you are still saying why would I want to do that? First there is power in the blessing as we pronounce a blessing upon a person, and a prayer for them. We are talking to the people about the Lord, and talking to the Lord about the people. Listen, it will not only impact them, but it will also impact you. For you see the blessing that flows through you, sticks to you.

### **Bless those Who Curse You**

You bless someone who is cursing you, God will bless you, even if your boss is nasty, or that person has mistreated you, you bless them, and God will bless you.

*(Matthew 5:43 NKJV) "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'*

*(Matthew 5:44 NKJV) "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,*

*(Matthew 5:45 NKJV) "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

*(Luke 6:28 NKJV) "bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.*

*(Matthew 5:11 NKJV) "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.*

### **Bless Wife – Child / Wherever You Go Bless / Be Like Jacob in Pharaoh's Court**

Bless you wife, bless you child too, give blessings everywhere you go, and your life will be impacted, and so too will theirs. What ever flows through you, sticks to you. If you are blessing people, you will be a blessing. Be like Jacob wherever you go, walk into the court of Pharaoh where ever you go and bless the people.

### **World needs to Know God's Gracious / Be the Channel / It Sticks – You'll be Blessed**

The world needs to know that God is gracious and kind and desires to bless them. Be that channel that God's blessings flow through, and blessings will stick to you and you will be a most blessed person:

*(Numbers 6:22 NKJV) And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:*

*(Numbers 6:23 NKJV) "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:*

*(Numbers 6:24 NKJV) "The LORD bless you and keep you;*

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*(Numbers 6:26 NKJV) The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."*

*(Numbers 6:27 NKJV) "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."*

# Genesis 47

## *Joseph gathers up the Money, Possessions, the Land, and the People*

### *Genesis 47:7-31*

#### **Genesis more than history book / It is His-story**

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

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*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

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- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

#### **Recap**

Last chapter we see Joseph revealing himself to his brothers, and what a shocker it must have been. He sends them back to get Jacob and the rest of the family as Joseph will preserve them for the remaining 5 years left in the 7 year famine. Jacob doesn't believe it until he saw the wagons coming. So he loads up the whole family, and head to Egypt. A few days into the journey Jacob stops, inquires of the Lord to make sure the Lord is in it and Jacob not making an emotional decision. God says go ahead, I am with you. Judah leads the way (his name means praise), and then we saw the wonderful reunion of the father and the son, after 22 years of thinking his son dead, Jacob embraces Joseph again. Then in the first part of this chapter we saw Jacob going into Pharaoh's court and pronouncing a blessing upon Pharaoh.

**(Genesis 47:7 NKJV) Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob and set him before Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.**

#### **Blessing when Go – When Leave / Joy / Light Up / Jacob brings Blessing**

Jacob walks into the palace and blesses Pharaoh. Some people are a blessing wherever they go. Some people are a blessing when they go, how about you. Some people bring joy wherever they go, others bring joy when they go, how about you. Do people light up when they see you



because they know here comes a blessing, or here comes a put down, a bummer, a let down. Jacob bursts in, and brings blessing.....I like that.

**(Genesis 47:8 NKJV) Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How old are you?"**

**(Genesis 47:9 NKJV) And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage."**

#### **Pharaoh put Back / 130-175-180 / Not Easy Life – Saves Saga of Life**

Pharaoh is put back it seems, and he responds with how old are you. Jacob says I'm old, but I am not as old as my father and my father's father were when they died Abraham 175, Isaac 180), so I still have some living left. I am 130 years old, and the days haven't always been easy. But instead of giving his saga of Joseph being thought dead for 22 years, or the 20 years he spent slaving for his Uncle Laban, Joseph blesses the richest, most well-off man in the whole world. I like that too.

#### **Bless World – Carry Burdens at Church**

I say for us, let's bless the world, not burden the world, and we will come here (to the church) and we will carry each other burdens:

*(Galatians 6:1 NKJV) Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*

*(Galatians 6:2 NKJV) Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

**(Genesis 47:10 NKJV) So Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh.**

#### **Blesses Again – Double Portion / Serve a Feast – a Banquet / Make sure they Heard**

Jacob blesses Pharaoh again, he gives a double blessing, a double portion. If we are going to serve up blessings to people, than let it be a banquet for them, let them feast, have seconds, be sure that they heard it right the first time. I like that.

**(Genesis 47:11 NKJV) And Joseph situated his father and his brothers, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded.**

#### **Rameses is a Region**

The name Rameses, refers to the region there in Goshen, not the Pharaoh. It will be dozens of years later before the Pharaoh would take the name Rameses. He may have taken the name based on the land, we do not know. But we do know that the name of the land came before the name of that particular Pharaoh as we will see in Exodus.

#### **Grace of Joseph – Bothers get best of Land / Based on What He did – not We did**

Notice the grace of Joseph again, he gives the brothers who had sold him into slavery the best of the land. Joseph a picture of Jesus Christ, and He gives us the best. His best is not based on what we have done, but on who He is.

**(Genesis 47:12 NKJV) Then Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with bread, according to the number in their families.**

**(Genesis 47:13 NKJV) Now there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine.**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Year of Famine / No Grain / Land Wiped Out**

Now throughout the land of Egypt, we are into the third year of the famine, there was no bread, no grain for bread, the famine was very severe so that all of the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine. The land was wiped out.

**(Genesis 47:14 NKJV)** And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, for the grain which they bought; and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.

### **People Clearing out Savings – Selling Possessions**

Verse 14 - The people are clearing out their savings.

Verse 15-17, The people are clearing out their possessions:

**(Genesis 47:15 NKJV)** So when the money failed in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us bread, for why should we die in your presence? For the money has failed."

**(Genesis 47:16 NKJV)** Then Joseph said, "Give your livestock, and I will give you bread for your livestock, if the money is gone."

**(Genesis 47:17 NKJV)** So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the cattle of the herds, and for the donkeys. Thus he fed them with bread in exchange for all their livestock that year.

### **Without Money Worry - With Money Worry / Possessions can Posses You**

Money and possessions; interesting how those without money worry about how they are going to get money, but the people with money worry about how they are going to hold on to it. And it is true that possessions can end up possessing you.

### **World spends 50% - USA 15% / 85% for Stuff / Stuff can Posses You / Blessings - Curse**

Do you know that the average person in the world spends 50% of their income for food, but the average American only spends 15%. That means the average American has 85% of their income left for "stuff". Be careful about letting your possessions possess you, ie, I need that bigger house, the nicer car, more nick-knacks the home, more stuff for your body. They can be a blessing, they can also be a curse.

### **Do they Possess You – Or You Them / Sure Way to Tell**

Do your possessions posses you, or do you posses them, I'll tell ya a sure way to tell:

*(Malachi 3:8 NKJV) "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.*

*(Malachi 3:9 NKJV) You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation.*

*(Malachi 3:10 NKJV) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.*

*(Mark 12:42 NKJV) Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.*

*(Mark 12:43 NKJV) So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury;*

*(Mark 12:44 NKJV) "for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."*

### **Examine Self – How much Trust Lord / Can't Afford / Leave Word – Leave Protection**

You can examine yourself of how much you trust the Lord, with money. Do I trust you enough to let go of this and know that you will provide. People say to me, I can not afford to tithe, my answer is always the same, you can't afford not to. Remember, when you leave God's Word, then you leave His protection and provision in that area, whatever it is, whether it is telling a lie, sex, or tithing, once you leave the protection, you lose the protection. God will take care of you, He didn't die for your money, He died for you, and now He wants to conform you into His image and He can only do that by you letting go and trusting Him in all areas of your life:

*(2 Corinthians 12:14 NKJV) Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; **for I do not seek yours, but you.** For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.*

*(2 Corinthians 12:15 NKJV) And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.*

### **My Case it Evened Out – Separate Yourself / God Could Adjust your Salary**

Interestingly in my case, I was a new believer, I was still hitting the bars with my softball buddies, but God was working my heart. At the same time that God worked my heart in the area of tithing, so too was He working it in the other area. The Lord spoke clearly to me, I want you to separate from drinking, I do not want you to stumble others. I started to tithe at the same time, amazingly, and don't you already know it, my bar tab was equal to my tithing, I never even saw a blimp in my finances, and I haven't lost my car since. Some may say well I make a lot of money, and that is a lot to give, I just can't give that much - well just think if God lowered your income so as to make what you gave, a tithe. You can't out-give God, He will never be a debtor to man.

### **Money Talk**

No one likes to talk about money, but it is a critical spiritual point in every believer's life. It is up to you, you can have all of God you want, but not one bit more.

### **When Gone – All Have is God / Joseph takes care of Them / Just & Unjust**

When all your savings and possessions are gone, all you have left, is the Lord. As we see here in this story, a picture for us, all their stuff didn't matter for if it wasn't for Joseph there would not have been anything to buy with their stuff. That is the way it is for us too, if it wasn't for the Lord truly taking care of us, there wouldn't be anything for us to buy with our stuff. That goes for the saved and the unsaved:

*(Matthew 5:44 NKJV) "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,*

*(Matthew 5:45 NKJV) "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

**(Genesis 47:18 NKJV)** When that year had ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is gone; my lord also has our herds of livestock. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands.

**(Genesis 47:19 NKJV)** "Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants of Pharaoh; give us seed, that we may live and not die, that the land may not be desolate."

**(Genesis 47:20 NKJV)** Then Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every man of the Egyptians sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. So the land became Pharaoh's.

**(Genesis 47:21 NKJV)** And as for the people, he moved them into the cities, from one end of the borders of Egypt to the other end.

### **Joseph Criticized / Joseph Agent of Pharaoh**

This is something for which Joseph has been criticized. People say he took advantage of poverty and he bought up the land. In other words, he closed in on the mortgages and bought the land. I feel that this is an unfair criticism of Joseph. To begin with, he is the agent of Pharaoh. None of this is for himself; he is making no effort to enrich himself. He was not crooked in any sense of the word. He did not gain personally because of the famine.

### **He turned No One Away – Preserved All / Picture of Jesus**

Notice also, Joseph turned no one away, he played no favorites, he didn't take the opportunity to wipe certain groups or factions that caused trouble, rather he received all, and preserved all.

Again a picture of Jesus Christ who never turns anyone away:

*(Matthew 5:42 NKJV) "Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.*

*(John 6:37 NKJV) "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*

*(John 6:38 NKJV) "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*

**(Genesis 47:22 NKJV)** Only the land of the priests he did not buy; for the priests had rations allotted to them by Pharaoh, and they ate their rations which Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their lands.

## **Pagan Priesthood – Did Own Thing**

The pagan priesthood is left alone, to do their own thing.

## **Zechariah 14 / Famine in Land / Principle in Spiritual Life / Come Worship**

*(Zechariah 14:16 NKJV) And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.*

*(Zechariah 14:17 NKJV) And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.*

*(Zechariah 14:18 NKJV) If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.*

Speaking of millennium, those nations that do not come to celebrate and worship the Lord, there will be drought and famine in their land. Principle that is true throughout spiritual life; we don't have to go celebrate communion, sing songs with the congregation, study the word with my brethren, we don't have to, but if we don't there will be famine and drought in our lives. The Lord says, come, come to Jerusalem and worship with me.

## **Ephesians 1 / Lord Gathering All things to Himself**

*(Ephesians 1:9 NKJV) having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,*

*(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times **He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth;** in Him.*

*(Ephesians 1:11 NKJV) In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,*

That is what it is all about; the Lord is gathering everything to Himself, all things, that is what life is all about, God is gathering all things (on earth and in heaven) to Himself. We see it here in this story; Joseph is gathering all things to the throne. In our life, our own money, possession, land, and ourselves are all being gathered together to Him, around Him, and for Him.

## **To Whatever Degree I Bring – the Degree I am in the Flow**

Listen, to whatever degree you are bringing all those things, money, possession, land, and persons to the throne of the Father, will be the degree that I am in the flow of where God is taking all things. All things are coming together for Him, and the degree that I point all things to Him, will be the degree that I am in the flow of what He is doing.

## **If Tired & Weary – Maybe going against the Flow / Things in Light of Authority – it Flows**

If you find yourself tired and weary in life, it may just be because you are going against the flow of what God is doing. It is all about Jesus, not about me. But when all things in your life are put in the light and authority of the One who is on the throne, you will find that life is just flowing along. Friendships, family, activities, hobbies, all those things must be brought into the Light and Authority of what the Lord is doing. Bondage, no way, freedom, for whatever Jesus is doing, is what I want to be doing.

**(Genesis 47:23 NKJV) Then Joseph said to the people, "Indeed I have bought you and your land this day for Pharaoh. Look, here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land.**

## **Give All – Joseph Provides**

They give all up, and Joseph provides for them.

**(Genesis 47:24 NKJV) "And it shall come to pass in the harvest that you shall give one-fifth to Pharaoh. Four-fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and for your food, for those of your households and as food for your little ones."**

**(Genesis 47:25 NKJV) So they said, "You have saved our lives; let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants."**

**(Genesis 47:26 NKJV) And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt to this day, that Pharaoh should have one-fifth, except for the land of the priests only, which did not become Pharaoh's.**

### **No One Complains – Found Favor / How Much Grace – How Less Complain**

No one complains, no one says not fair, rather they say "we have found favor". Truly, when we see how much grace the Lord shows us, the less and less we complain about what we have and don't have, for we realize we are blessed to have anything, thank you Lord for these blessings you have given.

### **20% / 40% - June 3rd**

Well 20% you may doesn't sound that good. How I would love to be at 20%, considering personal income tax, property tax, sales tax, we must be close to 40% with all those things combined. The average taxpayer will work until June 3<sup>rd</sup> this year to pay all their taxes.

**(Genesis 47:27 NKJV)** So Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly.

**(Genesis 47:28 NKJV)** And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the length of Jacob's life was one hundred and forty-seven years.

**(Genesis 47:29 NKJV)** When the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "Now if I have found favor in your sight, please put your hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me. Please do not bury me in Egypt,

**(Genesis 47:30 NKJV)** "but let me lie with my fathers; you shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place." And he said, "I will do as you have said."

**(Genesis 47:31 NKJV)** Then he said, "Swear to me." And he swore to him. So Israel bowed himself on the head of the bed.

### **Serious Vow – Face to Face**

Sitting on someone's hand was the most serious kind of vow. So serious that the person would sit on the others hand so they could not move away, so they would listen intently, face to face what the other person was saying to them.

### **Jacob a Sojourner / Believed God's Promise**

Jacob knew he was just a sojourner there in Egypt, he believed the promises of God in giving him the land of Canaan and making him a great nation:

*(Genesis 35:11 NKJV) Also God said to him: "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.*

*(Genesis 35:12 NKJV) "The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land."*

### **Jacob Matures – So do We**

This is probably Jacobs best chapter in the Bible. We see Him mature and leading as God desired of him. He boldly goes into Pharaoh's court and blesses the most powerful man on the planet. Here we see Him claiming the promises of God, seeking after one thing and one thing only. Take me home. Jacob could have said hey Joseph you are number 2 in the land, build me a monument and bury me in there. No rather he says take me home, I'll wait for His return there.

### **God is doing the Same for Us**

Beloved God is doing the same for us. Maybe you, like me, wonder how we can still be doing stupid stuff, how come we are not further along in our walk, don't beat yourself up, just keep abiding, and He will continue His work in us and bring us into maturity. Beloved, your best chapter is yet to come:

*(John 15:9 NKJV) "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.*

*(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

# Genesis Chapter 48

## *The Blessings in Blessing (Joseph's Double Portion)*

### **Genesis more than history book / It is His-story**

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### **Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### **Outline:**

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### **Recap**

The children of Israel are settled into the land there in Egypt, specifically in the land of Goshen. There is less than five years left in the famine; Joseph is still second in command of all the land, and we pick the story up here:

**(Genesis 48:1 NKJV) Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph was told, "Indeed your father is sick"; and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.**

**(Genesis 48:2 NKJV) And Jacob was told, "Look, your son Joseph is coming to you"; and Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed.**

### **Jacob Deathbed / Heard Strengthened**

Jacob on his deathbed, he is approximately 147 years old, and word is sent to Joseph, your father is sick. Joseph immediately grabs the boys (Joseph about 56 and his sons are in their 20's) and heads to see dad, and when Jacob heard they were coming it says Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed.

### **That's what a Visit Does**

You know that is what a visit does to someone who is hurting, someone who is ill, they are strengthened. Beloved when the opportunity arises, take it to go visit someone who is sick, hospitalized, they will be blessed, they will be strengthened.

### **Matthew 25**

Let me remind you what the Lord says about this:

*(Matthew 25:34 NKJV) "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*  
*(Matthew 25:35 NKJV) 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;*  
*(Matthew 25:36 NKJV) 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'*  
*(Matthew 25:37 NKJV) "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?*  
*(Matthew 25:38 NKJV) 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?*  
*(Matthew 25:39 NKJV) 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'*  
*(Matthew 25:40 NKJV) "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

### **Visiting Jesus – Jesus Visiting / Jacob Hears – Israel Strengthened**

Yes the word says it is as we are visiting Jesus Himself, but for the person you are visiting, in a special way, it is as if the Lord Himself is visiting that person. It is a special time where we get to be just like Jesus. Joseph is a picture of Jesus Christ, and he visits Jacob when he is sick, and Jacob is strengthened. Notice there in verse two, when Jacob hears, Israel is strengthened. Israel the name given to Jacob after he wrestles with God (Genesis 32) and is broken, when God says you will no longer be Jacob that sneaky self-serving conniver, but you shall now be called Israel, which means governed by God.

### **Ask the Sick Person / I need a Special Touch / Bring Bible – Word from the Lord**

Ask any person who has been there, day after day, hour by hour, laying in that bed sick, a person can grow faint on heart, they can cry out oh God I need a special touch from you, I feel so broken, alone. And then you walk in, a breath from heaven to them, an answer to that plead to God for that special touch. You come in and bring compassion, someone who cares. You bring your Bible and you say I have a word for you from the Lord, the God who loves you and cares for you; immediately that person is strengthened, they return to that place of being governed by God, and thankful for it, that they are not alone but the God who hears, has heard the cry of their heart.  
*(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

*(Isaiah 43:1 NKJV) But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.*  
*(Isaiah 43:2 NKJV) When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.*  
*(Isaiah 43:3 NKJV) For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place.*

*(Isaiah 44:1 NKJV) "Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, And Israel whom I have chosen.*  
*(Isaiah 44:2 NKJV) Thus says the LORD who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you: 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant; And you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.*  
*(Isaiah 44:3 NKJV) For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;*

### **Take the Opportunity – Go Strengthen**

Beloved, take those opportunities, go out off your way any time you can to see that person who is sick. Whether in the hospital, their home long-term, the Assisted Living, go and strengthen and bless them.

### **Watch what happens for Joseph**

Hey, watch what happens to Joseph and sons for going, they are blessed, and so too will you.

**(Genesis 48:3 NKJV) Then Jacob said to Joseph: "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me,**

**(Genesis 48:4 NKJV) "and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.'**

**Jacob's Maturity / God's Presence – Goodness – Promise / Maturity does That**

Jacob showing his maturity, proclaiming the presence of God in his life (*God Almighty appeared to me at Luz*), the goodness of God (*and blessed me*), and the promises of God (*'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession*). Spiritual maturity in our lives will bring us into that same place, that we constantly and keenly aware of His presence in our lives, that every day we know that He walks with us every step that we take whether big stuff or little stuff. That He is with me at Rita's having an ice cream, and He is with me there at the hospital. And that we would daily see the goodness of God, His blessings upon our lives. Thank you for your daily provisions in my life, for my wife, for my family, for my brethren, for this country, Lord you are so good to me. And we rejoice in the promises He gives, inspite of the circumstances around us, Lord you have saved me from the wrath to come.

### **Long Road / Abide**

Jacob took the Long Road to maturity; but one thing I noticed, although Jacob may have drifted off coarse a bit here and there, didn't always use the best discernment, one thing I notice is that Jacob never walked away from the Lord. Beloved, as long as we continue with the Lord, the Lord can continue His work in us. Should we leave, walk a different road, then there is nothing there for the Lord to work with. Continue abiding, and God will see us through, bring us into the best chapters of our lives.

*(John 15:4 NKJV) "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.*

*(John 15:5 NKJV) "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*

*(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

**(Genesis 48:5 NKJV) "And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.**

**(Genesis 48:6 NKJV) "Your offspring whom you beget after them shall be yours; they will be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.**

**(Genesis 48:7 NKJV) "But as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."**

**(Genesis 48:8 NKJV) Then Israel saw Joseph's sons, and said, "Who are these?"**

**(Genesis 48:9 NKJV) And Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me in this place." And he said, "Please bring them to me, and I will bless them."**

### **They go to Bless – But are Blessed / Do Missions**

Joseph and sons show up to bless Jacob, but they are the ones that will be blessed. How often we go somewhere and think we will be bestowing blessings to upon others, but we end up being the one who receives the blessings tenfold. Missions is like that, you think you are going to go bless the lost or unfortunate and return home being the one who was greatly blessed. That's just God's economy on how He does things. You can't out give God.

### **Measured Out- Measured Given Back**

That is why Jesus is so into us ministering, because when we do, it is an avenue where the blessings can flow to us. To measure you use, is the measure that will be given back to you:

*(Mark 4:20 NKJV) "But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."*

*(Mark 4:21 NKJV) Also He said to them, "Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand?"*

*(Mark 4:22 NKJV) "For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light.*

*(Mark 4:23 NKJV) "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."*

*(Mark 4:24 NKJV) Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.*

*(Mark 4:25 NKJV) "For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be*



taken away from him."

### **Out –Back / Pray for Emotional – Your Lifted / Explain Truths – See Truths**

It is in giving out that you get back. It is praying for those who are doing poorly emotionally that you find your emotions lifted high, into the heavenly places as you intercede and God lifts you up to the throne. It is explaining truths to others that you get to see God's truths in ways you had never seen before.

### **Son's Adopted / Jacob Recognizing Joseph as First Born**

In verse 5 - *And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine* - Jacob adopts Joseph's two sons, and gives them equal status with the rest of the sons. They will become tribes of Israel. The first-born was to receive a double portion of the inheritance over the rest of the sons. Jacob is saying Joseph I recognize you as the first born, for your mother Rachael was my first love, should have been my first wife (maybe his only wife? - had Uncle Laban not deceived him), and you would have been my firstborn Joseph. So Jacob is recognizing Joseph as firstborn, and he is giving the double portion through the two sons.

### **Joseph Receives Double Blessing**

So for Joseph's family it is a double blessing. Rather than just Joseph being a tribe, now his family will have 2 tribes, double blessing

### **12 tribes – 14 Tribes**

Note on the 12 tribes. There are 12 sons of Jacob including Joseph. Add Joseph's 2 sons and you have 14. But when the children of Israel come into the Promised Land after the Exodus, Joseph will not be counted, but his 2 sons will (Ephraim and Manasseh). Levi will not be given the land, for they will be the Levitical priesthood and they will not be given a portion of the land for the Lord will be their inheritance/possession. Just keep that in mind as you read through the Scriptures.

**(Genesis 48:10 NKJV) Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. Then Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them.**

### **Blind Isaac – Blind Jacob / Sons enjoy Blessing – No Fear / Don't Force a Blessings**

Amazingly, many years prior Jacob has to trick and steal the blessing from his blind father, and here he is nearly blind willingly giving the blessing. Surely he must have reflected on this and took peace in how far God has brought him from Jacob, to Israel, one governed by God. These two boys won't have to go on the run, they won't have to live in fear of their brothers, they can enjoy the blessing because the blessing was freely given to them, not like Jacob. Example for us in all our dealings, receive the blessings given freely by the Lord and enjoy them fully, don't try to force a blessing into your life, try to force God to work to your plan, rather than His plan. Life just flows when we say, Lord, let your will be done, I refer you to last weeks study, life just flows when you are in God's flow:

**(Genesis 48:11 NKJV) And Israel said to Joseph, "I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your offspring!"**

**(Genesis 48:12 NKJV) So Joseph brought them from beside his knees, and he bowed down with his face to the earth.**

**(Genesis 48:13 NKJV) And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him.**

**(Genesis 48:14 NKJV) Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn.**

### **Right Hand – Crosses Hand**

When giving a blessing the right hand was to go on the older, but Jacob switches his hands, crosses them, putting his right on the younger son, Ephraims.

**(Genesis 48:15 NKJV) And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day,**

**(Genesis 48:16 NKJV) The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads; Let my name be named upon them, And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."**

### **Jehovah Ra / Genesis 28**

Verse 15 - *The God who has fed me all my life long to this day*, - The God who fed me, in the Hebrew is "Jehovah Ra", the God who shepherded me all my life long. Takes me back to when Jacob begins his journey with the Lord after the Lord broke him in that wrestling match.

*(Genesis 28:20 NKJV) Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,*

*(Genesis 28:21 NKJV) "so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God.*

*(Genesis 28:22 NKJV) "And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."*

*(Genesis 29:1 NKJV) So Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the East.*

### **Your Translation / Shepherd – Wandering Sheep**

Maybe your translation says, the God who has fed me all my life long to this day; but in the original language it is much deeper and richer than just being fed. The phrase Jacob uses is Jehovah Ra, the Lord shepherded him. The Lord prepared a place for Jacob, He gave him rest in the green pastures, besides the still water. He anointed his head with oil, the Lord shepherded Jacob all the days of his life. A shepherd does more than feed the sheep, he guides them, protects them, if a sheep was wayward, constantly wandering away from the flock, the shepherd would break his leg so the sheep was helpless, then carry that sheep around his neck until it was healed, but something wonderful would happen along the way, all that time next to the Shepherds body would cause the sheep to become connected to the Shepherd. From that point on the sheep would always walk right by the side of the Shepherd. That is what God has done to and for Jacob, and that is what God will do to and for us if need be, because He loves us that much:

*(Psalms 23:1 NKJV) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*(Psalms 23:2 NKJV) He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.*

*(Psalms 23:3 NKJV) He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.*

*(Psalms 23:4 NKJV) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

*(Psalms 23:5 NKJV) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.*

*(Psalms 23:6 NKJV) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.*

### **Capital A / Redeemer**

Notice the capital "A" on the word Angel there in verse 16, the reason it is capitalized is because it is referring to Jesus Christ. The word for "redeemed" is "ga'al", which is the first mention of the ga'al, the redeemer in the Scripture. Jesus would become our "ga'al", our kinsman (next of kin) redeemer. Redeemer means to purchase back, pay the ransom for, Jesus is our Redeemer. This is an important principle in the Scriptures and we will be talking about it in depth in Leviticus, Ruth, and of course in the New Testament.

**(Genesis 48:17 NKJV) Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.**

**(Genesis 48:18 NKJV) And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head."**

### **Joseph tries to Fix**

Joseph thinks dad can't see well, so he tries to fix Jacob's hand, but dad says I know what I am doing.

**(Genesis 48:19 NKJV)** But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations."

**(Genesis 48:20 NKJV)** So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!' " And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

### **Spirit Revealed Younger will be Greater / Northern Tribe**

Jacob is saying the Spirit of God has revealed to me that the younger shall be greater than the older. That is exactly what happens too. Ephraim become a greater tribe than Manasseh did. Numerically and historically, we will see in the Bible Ephraim playing key roles throughout our studies in Kings and Chronicles. When the kingdom splits, often Ephraim will be the name used often to refer to the ten Northern tribes.

### **Not First / Cain- Abel / Jacob-Esau / Moses-Aaron / David - Brothers**

This isn't the first we will see this in the Bible either. Culturally the eldest son was thought to be the one who would be the greatest, and do the greatest, but that isn't always the way we see it in the Scriptures. Able obviously was greater than his older brother Cain who killed him. Isaac more blessed than his older brother Ishmael. Jacob more blessed than his older brother Esau. Moses more blessed than his oldest brother Aaron, and David was the youngest of his family.

### **Why Does God Do That? / Avoid the Cultural Flow - Stay in God's Flow**

We will see often the Lord using the younger more greatly than the older, even though culturally the older is suppose to be the one destined for greatest over all the others in the family. Why does God do that? God does that so that we never get caught up in the flow of what is going on in our cultural, but that we stay focused on the flow that God is doing. We know God's flow, because His Word points the way for us.

### **The Emerging Church**

Let me give you something to keep an eye out for, it is in its early stages, but I believe is going to grow into the new hype, it is called the "Emerging Church". The Emerging Church is based on what is relevant in today's cultural, what people are into, and then they frame the church around it. Not let the church through the Word conform the person, rather let the cultural conform the church. They are saying do an analysis on what the people want in a church, and then make your church that. It sounds good at the surface, but the fact is, because the word says, that in the last days people will have itching ears, they will not be able to endure sound doctrine, so these churches most likely are going to preach a water downed, don't offend anyone, everyone is accepted gospel. More to come on this as we keep an eye as it develops.

*(2 Timothy 4:3 NKJV) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;*

*(2 Timothy 4:4 NKJV) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

### **As For You / John Baptist / Apostles**

As for you here right now, apart from the Emerging Church, what blessing do we see in God breaking the cultural sacred cows, we can be excited about God using us. God breaks the cultural mentality that only the gifted and talented will be used by God. God has shown us that He will use the weak to confound the wise. Look at little shepherd boy David slaying the giant and becoming a king. Who would you have picked to prepare the way of the Messiah, a great public official, the leading man in the synagogue, the greatest actor in Hollywood, the chart topping musician? No God picks a man (John the Baptist) who ate locust and wore a camel hair suit. The Apostles, there are 12 for you, fisherman, who ever believes fisherman. A tax collector, who trusts a tax collector. Don't ever exempt yourself being used by the Lord because the world may say you don't fit the cultural mold. It seems the ones that do fit the mold today are just that. Christian go for it, expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.

**(Genesis 48:21 NKJV)** Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am dying, but God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers.

**(Genesis 48:22 NKJV)** "Moreover I have given to you one portion above your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow."

#### **No Details When this Happened**

No details of when this took place, but Jacob drove the Amorites from a portion of the land by the use of the sword.

#### **Portion – Shechem /**

The word here for "portion", is "Shechem", and interestingly in Joshua 24:32; Joseph bones will be laid to rest after they leave Egypt in Shechem:

*(Joshua 24:32 NKJV) The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem, in the plot of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of silver, and which had become an inheritance of the children of Joseph.*

# Genesis Chapter 49

## Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

**Theme of this Book** – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

## Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

## Recap

The children of Israel are settled into the land there in Egypt, specifically in the land of Goshen. Jacob is 147 years old, and he is ready to die so he gathers his boys together to pronounce his blessings upon them.

**(Genesis 49:1 NKJV) And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:**

**(Genesis 49:2 NKJV) "Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, And listen to Israel your father.**

## Last Days / Prophetic Picture

Every time this phrase, "in the last days" is used in the Old Testament, it is referring to prophecy. So Jacob here is going to speak prophetically of what is going to come to pass in reference to these sons. We will also see it being a prophetic picture of the nation Israel also.

## Future History of Sons / Future History of Nation

This is a key study for Bible prophecy. We will see an overview of the history of these sons. Many Jewish rabbi's believe these verses are also a prophetic picture of the history of the nation Israel. You can see some very clearly, others to be honest, are beyond my understanding at this time. But, maybe you will be inclined to skip through these verses, considering dry or non-applicable for your personal growth, I highly encourage you to study them through. By doing so, hopefully you will notice something totally amazing, and that is that God has never forgot His people Israel. We read their history then, and we still read their history today. A people that survived 2000 years without a national homeland, are still making history today, and that can only

be by the work of God. And as history was, so will it be, that in the last days as God fulfilled every prophetic picture of these people in these passages, so too will He fulfil them in the other passages, specifically Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Revelation.

### **No Chronological Order**

So Jacob starts with Reuben, but he doesn't go in chronological order, or any order for that matter. So let's just do a recap on who was who. Leah was Jacob's first wife and her handmaiden was Zilpah. Rachael was Jacob's second wife and her handmaiden was Bilhah. Jacob had relations with both handmaidens. Leah had 6 sons, their names are in the order they were birthed by their mother (parenthesis is the order in birthing of the 12): Reuben (1), Simeon (2), Levi (3), Judah (4), Issachar (9), and Zebulun (10). Leah's handmaiden Zilpah had 2 sons: Gad (7), and Asher (8). Rachael had 2 sons: Joseph (11), and Benjamin (12). Rachel's handmaiden Bilhah had 2 sons: Dan (5), and Naphtali (6). So, these are the 12 sons of Jacob (Israel).

### **Reuben**

**(Genesis 49:3 NKJV) "Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.**

**(Genesis 49:4 NKJV) Unstable as water, you shall not excel, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it; He went up to my couch.**

### **Unstable - Boiling**

Unstable as water means "boiling water".

### **40 Years Earlier w/Bilhah / Potential there – but Unstable / Sowing & Reaping**

Jacob is referring to what Reuben did 40 years earlier. Reuben sleeps with Rachel's (his mother's handmaiden - Bilhah), one of Jacob's wife's (Genesis 35:22). 40 years later it comes back upon him, maybe he thought he got away with it, but 40 years later it comes back before him. Jacob is saying you were the first born, you were supposed to be a leader, but you failed to be all that you could have been because of your lustful desires. The potential was there, the birthright should have fallen to him; but, his problem was instability. Sin has robbed you of all you could have been, the law of sowing and reaping. God says an unstable person will not prosper:

*(Galatians 6:7 NKJV) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*

*(Galatians 6:8 NKJV) For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

*(Galatians 6:9 NKJV) And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

*(James 1:7 NKJV) For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;*

*(James 1:8 NKJV) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

### **Sin Robs / Little Sins we Think no Big Deal / Trinkets**

God forgives, but there are consequences for sin as we live in this fallen world. Sin will rob us from being all that we could be. Those little sins in our lives today that we think are no big deal, a look here, a thought there, a partaking here a little there a little, will rob us from being all that we could be. God has destined us for great things, don't trade that for trinkets and bobbles that glisten and sparkle, but have no value.

### **Never Did Excel / No Single Leader / First Overthrown by Assyrians**

Incidentally the tribe of Reuben never did excel. There was not a single leader who came from the tribe of Reuben. It was a nothing tribe. They settled on the East banks of the Jordan River, where the land was rich for pasture, and didn't claim any inheritance within the land, and were the first to be overthrown by the Assyrians.

### **Israel History / Golden Calf - Adultery**

Interesting when the nation Israel finally after 400 years leaves Egypt, leaves that bondage, see the miracles of God, what do they do when Moses is up on the Mount talking with the Lord? They

create the golden calf, worship it, and enter into spiritual adultery, being unstable as water. So Israel was a disappointing people.

### **Simeon and Levi**

**(Genesis 49:5 NKJV)** "Simeon and Levi are brothers; Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place.

**(Genesis 49:6 NKJV)** Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; For in their anger they slew a man, And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox.

**(Genesis 49:7 NKJV)** Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob And scatter them in Israel.

### **Rape of Dinah / Plan in the Flesh – No Seek the Lord – Self-willed**

It was Simeon and Levi who hatched the plan to kill the Shechemites after they had raped their sister Dinah (Gen 34:25). They didn't seek the Lord, they seek their father, they hatched a plan in the flesh. They were self-willed and it will cause them to be scattered.

### **Watch out for your Anger / Give no Place for the Devil**

God gives us a word here about letting our anger control our actions. We do stupid things when we are angry, and we give place for the devil to work. Once anger is unleashed there is no getting it back, the effects will be felt, no matter how many times you may say you are sorry. There are things we are to be angry about, but never to the point of causing us to sin. Yes I should be angry if a child molester tries to enter my home, I should be angry about sin that is trying to destroy my family and country, but never to the point that it cause me to sin:

*(Ephesians 4:26 NKJV) "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,*

*(Ephesians 4:27 NKJV) nor give place to the devil.*

### **Promise Land – Scattered / Simeon no Leader / Levi were Priests**

When they came into the land there was no inheritance for the tribe of Levi, but they were given cities throughout the entire land, so Levi was scattered in the land. Simeon settled in the area, to the south of Judah, which today is the area of Beersheba. The tribe of Simeon never, again, produced leadership. The tribe of Levi produced Moses and Aaron and their descendants and God chose the Levites for the priesthood. This was certainly a demonstration of the grace of God. It wasn't because of the righteousness of the fathers, that this tribe was chosen for priesthood, but God's sovereign grace.

### **Israel History / Captivity 722BC Assyrians – 586BC Babylonians**

In the nation of Israel 2 times would they be dispersed and scattered for being self-willed, not willing to seek after the things of the Lord. First the Assyrians 722BC and the Babylonians in 586BC. They made alliances, they made their own plan, being self-willed God dispersed them. Each time, and over and over again, we read of God warning them for their spiritual adultery.

But good news

### **Judah**

**(Genesis 49:8 NKJV)** "Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you.

**(Genesis 49:9 NKJV)** Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?

**(Genesis 49:10 NKJV)** The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

**(Genesis 49:11 NKJV)** Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes.

**(Genesis 49:12 NKJV)** His eyes are darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk.

**Judah means Praise / Brothers Praise for King David**

The name Judah means, "praise". This is a beautiful prophecy concerning Judah. This is the tribe that the brothers will praise. This did not happen for several hundred years, until David ascended the throne; then Judah became a dominant tribe and remained dominant, especially in the southern kingdom.

### **History of Israel / Judah Praises for Messiah Comes**

After being a disappointed people, and a dispersed people, now they can be a delivered people, this prophecy is speaking none other than of Jesus Christ the coming Messiah. Jesus is from the tribe of Judah.

*(Revelation 5:5 NKJV) But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."*

### **Neck of Enemies / Lion of Judah / Shiloh – Prince of Peace**

*Verse 8 - Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies* – Jesus is seen as a leader who will lead victory over the enemy

*Verse 9 - Judah is a lion's whelp* – Jesus is seen as the Lion of Judah.

*Verse 10 - Until Shiloh comes* – Jesus is seen as the Lord. Shiloh is a name for Jesus and the root of Shiloh is "Shalom" which means peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Shiloh is another name for the Messiah.

*(Isaiah 9:6 NKJV) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.*

*(Isaiah 9:7 NKJV) Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

### **The Scepter - Track the Lineage / 70AD Titus – No idea who Messiah will Be**

*Verse 10 - The scepter shall not depart from Judah....until Shiloh comes* - The "scepter – the "tribal staff" means the identity of the 12 tribes of Israel. The Jewish people took great pains to track the lineage of where every person came from. They did so because they knew that the Messiah had to come through the lineage of Judah which eventually became the lineage of David. This passage says the Messiah will come before they lose the ability to track the lineage of which tribe the person comes from. In 70AD after the Titus Roman destruction of Jerusalem, the people were dispersed for 2000 years, and ask a Jewish person today, and they can not tell you which tribe they are from. Jesus came in 1BC, before the Scepter departed. If someone came today and said they are the Messiah, the Jewish people would have no proof of his lineage.

### **Lawgiver / Capital Punishment / Ask Pilate for Permission**

*Verse 10 - Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes* - But the scepter also it speaks of a lawgiver. This speaks of the ability for the Jewish people to perform Capital Punishment upon anybody who breaks the Law of Moses, the 10 commandments. Remember when the Jews wanted to kill Jesus they had to get approval from Pilate to do so:

*(John 18:31 NKJV) Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,"*

### **30AD / 40 yrs Before Destruction of Temple / They didn't Study their Scriptures**

The Jewish writings (the Talmud) says that it was 40 years before the Destruction of the temple that the Roman Empire ceased allowing them to carry out capital punishment upon a person 70AD minus 40 equal 30AD. Jesus came in 1BC/AD. He came 30 years before they lost this right. The Jewish people missed their Messiah, all the signs were given them, yet they still missed Him. If Jesus is not the promised Messiah of Israel, there is none. There is to be none, because here God's word plainly declares that the scepter will not depart from Judah nor a lawgiver from between his feet until the Messiah, the Shiloh, the peace has come. They didn't study their own Scriptures which they were so diligent to preserve

### **Picture of Vineyard owner**

*Verse 11 - Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, - Verse 11-12* is a picture of being a landowner, and we know Jesus purchased the world with His own blood. He is our ga'al, our kinsman redeemer, and He rode into Jerusalem lowly and riding on a donkey.



*(Matthew 21:33 NKJV) "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.*

*(John 12:14 NKJV) Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:*

*(John 12:15 NKJV) "Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt."*

**Verse 11 - He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes. – Jesus washed His robe in wine:**

*(Isaiah 63:1 NKJV) Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?; "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."*

*(Isaiah 63:2 NKJV) Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?*

*(Isaiah 63:3 NKJV) "I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.*

### **Beautiful Prophecy of Jesus**

Jacob's prophecy of Judah is a beautiful prophecy about Jesus. We could study this even deeper and you will see deeper and deeper meanings behind every word as they relate to Jesus.

### **Zebulun**

**(Genesis 49:13 NKJV) "Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea; He shall become a haven for ships, And his border shall adjoin Sidon.**

#### **Not a Sea Port – Benefit from Trade Route**

Zebulun settled in the northern part of the land which today is called the Galilee region. Although Zebulun's territory did not border the Mediterranean or the Sea of Galilee, the tribe was situated to benefit from the important trade route, the Via Maris, travelled by sea traders moving through out the territory.

### **Issachar**

**(Genesis 49:14 NKJV) "Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between two burdens;**

**(Genesis 49:15 NKJV) He saw that rest was good, And that the land was pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden, And became a band of slaves.**

#### **Valley Meggido – Rich & Fertile - Breadbasket**

He is going to be a lazy fellow. Issachar inherited the area that is known as the valley of Megiddo. That is, probably, some of the most fertile area in the land and they didn't have to do much work. Throw out your seed and it just grew. He became prosperous and lazy. That area is called the breadbasket of Israel and produces, even to the present day, an abundance of beautiful crops. It is in the area of Mt. Gilboa.

### **Wealthy People**

They became a wealthy people (1 Chronicles 7:1-5, 12:32):

*(1 Chronicles 7:1 NKJV) The sons of Issachar were Tola, Puah, Jashub, and Shimron; four in all.*

*(1 Chronicles 7:2 NKJV) The sons of Tola were Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Jibsam, and Shemuel, heads of their father's house. The sons of Tola were mighty men of valor in their generations; their number in the days of David was twenty-two thousand six hundred.*

*(1 Chronicles 7:3 NKJV) The son of Uzzi was Izrahiah, and the sons of Izrahiah were Michael, Obadiah, Joel, and Ishiah. All five of them were chief men.*

*(1 Chronicles 7:4 NKJV) And with them, by their generations, according to their fathers' houses, were thirty-six thousand troops ready for war; for they had many wives and sons.*

*(1 Chronicles 7:5 NKJV) Now their brethren among all the families of Issachar were mighty men of valor, listed by their genealogies, eighty-seven thousand in all.*

*(1 Chronicles 12:32 NKJV) of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;*

### **Dan**

**(Genesis 49:16 NKJV) "Dan shall judge his people As one of the tribes of Israel.**

**(Genesis 49:17 NKJV) Dan shall be a serpent by the way, A viper by the path, That bites the horse's heels So that its rider shall fall backward.**

#### **Dan – to Judge / Samson a Judge**

Dan means to judge, and during the period of the judges a judge arose from the tribe of Dan, his name was Samson (Judges 13).

#### **Introduced Idolatry to Israel**

*Verse 17 - Dan shall be a serpent by the way, A viper by the path* - The tribe of Dan introduced idolatry to the children of Israel. In the later years, when there was a division of the kingdom, Jeroboam set up one of the golden calves in Dan (Judges 18 / 1 Kings 12:28-30 / 2 Kings 10:22):  
*(Judges 18:30 NKJV) Then the children of Dan set up for themselves the carved image; and Jonathan the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.*

#### **Left out of 144,000**

Dan would be left out of the listing of the tribes of Israel in Revelation when the 144,000 are named, probably because of their idol worship:

*(Revelation 7:4 NKJV) And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:*

*(Revelation 7:5 NKJV) of the tribe of **Judah** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Reuben** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Gad** twelve thousand were sealed;*

*(Revelation 7:6 NKJV) of the tribe of **Asher** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Naphtali** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Manasseh** twelve thousand were sealed;*

*(Revelation 7:7 NKJV) of the tribe of **Simeon** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Levi** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Issachar** twelve thousand were sealed;*

*(Revelation 7:8 NKJV) of the tribe of **Zebulun** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Joseph** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Benjamin** twelve thousand were sealed.*

#### **Jewish Rabbis say Anti-Messiah Come**

*Verse 17 - Dan shall be a serpent by the way* - Some Jewish rabbi believe also that an anti-messiah will come upon the world scene, and they believe he will arise from the tribe of Dan (take that for what it is worth).

**(Genesis 49:18 NKJV) I have waited for your salvation, O LORD!**

#### **Maybe After Thought / Salvation – Yeshua - Jesus**

"I have waited for your salvation, O LORD," seems to be thrown in without any reference to Dan. It is sort of a little after thought. The word salvation in Hebrew, as used here, is "Yeshua." Literally, Jacob said, "I have waited for Yeshua or Jesus." Maybe Jacob is praying for the tribe of Dan, or grieving over all his sons as he sees some headed for destruction.

#### **Gad**

**(Genesis 49:19 NKJV) "Gad, a troop shall tramp upon him, But he shall triumph at last.**

#### **Gad – A Troop / Mighty Warriors**

The name Gad means "troop." A troop shall tramp upon him, meaning his land was most vulnerable to the invaders to the east. Gad became mighty and valiant warriors with many great victories (1 Chronicles 5:18-22, 12:8-15):

*(1 Chronicles 5:18 NKJV) The sons of Reuben, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh had forty-four thousand seven hundred and sixty valiant men, men able to bear shield and sword, to shoot with the bow, and skillful in war, who went to war.*

#### **Asher**

**(Genesis 49:20 NKJV) "Bread from Asher shall be rich, And he shall yield royal dainties.**

#### **Bakers – Rich Cookies**

Asher's descendants will be bakers and provide the land with rich bread and cookies, they were situated in the area of Mount Carmel, and had easy access to the palace. (Joshua 19:24-31).

## **Naphtali**

**(Genesis 49:21 NKJV) "Naphtali is a deer let loose; He uses beautiful words.**

### **Deer Like Agility – Military Prowess**

Deer-like speed and agility marked Naphtali's military prowess (Judges 4:6, 5:18).

*(Judges 4:6 NKJV) Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "Has not the LORD God of Israel commanded, 'Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun;*

*(Judges 5:18 NKJV) Zebulun is a people who jeopardized their lives to the point of death, Naphtali also, on the heights of the battlefield.*

### **Poets & Speechmakers**

The tribe of Naphtali will be the poets and speech makers. The song of Deborah and Barak who hailed from Naphtali represent the eloquence of their words (Judges 4:6, Judges 5).

## **Joseph**

**(Genesis 49:22 NKJV) "Joseph is a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a well; His branches run over the wall.**

NIV - (Genesis 49:22 NIV) "Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall.

### **Joseph picture Psalm 1**

*Verse 22 - A bough by a well - Even in a time of famine Joseph is fruitful, a source of refreshment, a well from which others can drink from. Joseph is a picture of Psalm 1.*

*(Psalms 1:1 NKJV) Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;*

*(Psalms 1:2 NKJV) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.*

*(Psalms 1:3 NKJV) He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.*

### **We Need Living Water**

A picture for us, to be like a Joseph we need to be planted by the rivers of living water:

*(John 4:10 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."*

*(John 4:11 NKJV) The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?"*

*(John 4:12 NKJV) "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"*

*(John 4:13 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,*

*(John 4:14 NKJV) "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*

**(Genesis 49:23 NKJV) The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him.**

**(Genesis 49:24 NKJV) But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),**

### **Joseph was Hated**

*Verse 23 -The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him - Though he was prospered abundantly, though he had the great wealth of Egypt at his fingertips, he had gone through some really heavy trials. Life was not always easy for Joseph. The archers had sorely grieved him. He had experienced a lot of grief in having them plot together to kill him. The grief of being sold by his brothers as a slave. The grief of being falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, of rape, and spending years in prison because of the false charges. There was a deep hatred in the brothers hearts concerning Joseph. It says that they hated him and when he told the dreams that he had, they hated him all the more. Hatred so great that they actually conspired to kill him, then*

opted later to just sell him as a slave. Jacob recognizes and acknowledges before the other sons of what they did.

### **Didn't Retaliate / Joseph Abided**

*Verse 24 - And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob*  
- Many arrows had gone his way; but, his bough (vine) remained in strength. That is, he did not retaliate though it was in his power to do so. Joseph doesn't try to get even, his bough (vine) abides in strength. He could have destroyed those that sought to destroy him, but he didn't. The secret of that strength was the arms of his hands were made strong by Almighty God, because Joseph was attached to the vine:

*(John 15:4 KJV) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

*(John 15:5 KJV) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

### **God was Restraining Power**

God was the one that was the restraining power in Joseph's life. He is a restraining power in our lives and is able to help us if we have that habit of just sort of flying off in a fit of temper. You can know the power of God. He will hold the arms of your hands so that you will not strike back.

### **God the Rock / Symbolizes Strength – Protection - Safety**

*Verse 24 - (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),* - Then the stone and this is the first reference to God as the "rock" or God as a "stone." Through the Psalms, this symbolism for God is used over and over. The Lord is "my rock" or "my strong defense." Even in the Song of Moses, Deuteronomy thirty-two, "their rock is not as our rock" and many other references to God as a rock in the Song of Moses. The rock was a symbol of strength, the symbol of protection. "Hide me in the rock that is higher than I." The place of defense, the place of protection, the place of safety and that is what God becomes to us.

*(Psalms 18:2 NIV) The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

### **Jacob points to Joseph's Strength / Never too Late to Start Doing Right**

Jacob is pointing to the brothers, all the things you want to accomplish in the flesh, you didn't and couldn't. All the things you wanted, Joseph got. Why, because you put your trust in yourselves, but Joseph in all his doings, sought and trusted after the Lord. If you want blessings in your life, Joseph shows the way how. Son's it is never too late to start doing things right.

**(Genesis 49:25 NKJV) By the God of your father who will help you, And by the Almighty who will bless you With blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.**

**(Genesis 49:26 NKJV) The blessings of your father Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.**

### **Many Blessings for Joseph / Ephraim – Manasseh Large Tribes**

Many blessings were to come upon Joseph. Those blessings of heaven, the rain that shall come down; blessings of the water that lies beneath, referring to the well of water; and the blessings of the breasts and of the womb or the multiplying of the tribe. Ephraim and Manasseh became large tribes and Ephraim became a dominant tribe. The blessings pronounced to Joseph were applicable for his 2 sons based on our study in chapter 48.

### **Joseph gets more than Jacob**

Jacob is saying all the blessings that were pronounced upon me, I am pronouncing more upon you.

## **Benjamin**

**(Genesis 49:27 NKJV) "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he shall devour the prey, And at night he shall divide the spoil."**

### **Tough Fellows / Fierce Fighters**

The tribe of Benjamin produced the tough fellows. History tells how fierce the Benjamites were in battle.. There were a group of Benjamites who fought with David and they were skillful with the sling (left or right handed). They could split a hair at a hundred yards it was said. The warlike nature of the small tribe of Benjamin became well known, as exhibited in their archers and slingers (Judges 20:16, 1 Chronicles 8:40, 12:2, 2 Chronicles 14:8, 17:17, Judges 19&20):

*(1 Chronicles 8:40 NIV) The sons of Ulam were brave warriors who could handle the bow. They had many sons and grandsons--150 in all. All these were the descendants of Benjamin.*

*(1 Chronicles 12:1 NIV) These were the men who came to David at Ziklag, while he was banished from the presence of Saul son of Kish (they were among the warriors who helped him in battle;*

*(1 Chronicles 12:2 NIV) they were armed with bows and were able to shoot arrows or to sling stones right-handed or left-handed; they were kinsmen of Saul from the tribe of Benjamin):*

*(2 Chronicles 14:8 NIV) Asa had an army of three hundred thousand men from Judah, equipped with large shields and with spears, and two hundred and eighty thousand from Benjamin, armed with small shields and with bows. All these were brave fighting men.*

### **Saul & Paul**

The first king of Israel, Saul, came from the tribe of Benjamin (1 Samuel 9), and so did the Apostle Paul (Philippians 3:5)

### **History of Israel**

In reference to the history of Israel as seen in these brothers, here is what some commentators say how it goes (again, beyond my knowledge in this area, but for your reading to ponder). First Rueben, they left Egypt and immediately entered into idol worship. Then Simeon and Levi they were taken into captivity and dispersed. Then Judah, the promised Messiah would come from Judah and did 2000 years ago. Now for the rest:

**(Genesis 49:13 NKJV) "Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea; He shall become a haven for ships, And his border shall adjoin Sidon.**

- Zebulan, ships coming and going into port is a picture of the Jewish people going into exile after 70AD when Titus destroyed Jerusalem. They would be spread around the world.

**(Genesis 49:14 NKJV) "Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between two burdens;**

**(Genesis 49:15 NKJV) He saw that rest was good, And that the land was pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden, And became a band of slaves.**

- After exile, still everywhere they went they prospered, the land was pleasant to them financially. But they became a band of slaves in that everywhere they went they were persecuted.

**(Genesis 49:16 NKJV) "Dan shall judge his people As one of the tribes of Israel.**

**(Genesis 49:17 NKJV) Dan shall be a serpent by the way, A viper by the path, That bites the horse's heels So that its rider shall fall backward.**

- Now speaks of future things. A snake will come upon them, a false Messiah (anti-christ), and will persecute them. This will be the seven year Tribulation period.

**(Genesis 49:19 NKJV) "Gad, a troop shall tramp upon him, But he shall triumph at last.**

- Persecution will come as Anti-Christ will turn on them at the 3 1/2 year point of the Tribulation, but they will triumph because God will protect them supernaturally from the Anti-Christ.

**(Genesis 49:20 NKJV) "Bread from Asher shall be rich, And he shall yield royal dainties.**

- During the last 3 1/2 years God will provide for them, feed them and protect them (most likely in the Rock city Petra).

**(Genesis 49:21 NKJV) "Naphtali is a deer let loose; He uses beautiful words.**

- During this time the Word of God will come upon the people and all of Israel will be saved (Romans 9,10,11)

**(Genesis 49:22 NKJV)** "Joseph is a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a well; His branches run over the wall.

**(Genesis 49:23 NKJV)** The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him.

**(Genesis 49:24 NKJV)** But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),

**(Genesis 49:25 NKJV)** By the God of your father who will help you, And by the Almighty who will bless you With blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

**(Genesis 49:26 NKJV)** The blessings of your father Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.

- This speaks of the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus was separated from His people on His first visit, but on His Second Coming all Israel will receive Him and be blessed.

**(Genesis 49:27 NKJV)** "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he shall devour the prey, And at night he shall divide the spoil

- Israel will get their spoil. They will rule and reign with Jesus during the Millennial Kingdom. At the end of the 1,000 years God will separate the people, the sheep from the goats.

*(Matthew 25:32 NIV) All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.*

*(Matthew 25:33 NIV) He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.*

*(Matthew 25:34 NIV) "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'*

So interesting to think about.

**(Genesis 49:28 NKJV)** All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.

### **Good Examples / Worth Meditating Over Again**

Good words and examples for our lives today. It would be worth going back and meditating over each of these 12 and allow the Lord to speak to our hearts about each thing that was spoken of these boys.

**(Genesis 49:28 NKJV)** All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.

**(Genesis 49:29 NKJV)** Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,

**(Genesis 49:30 NKJV)** "in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place.

**(Genesis 49:31 NKJV)** "There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.

**(Genesis 49:32 NKJV)** "The field and the cave that is there were purchased from the sons of Heth."

**(Genesis 49:33 NKJV)** And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

# Genesis Chapter 50

## The Death of Jacob (Genesis 49:28 – Genesis 50:14)

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Recap

We left off seeing Jacob the patriarch pronouncing blessings and prophecy upon his sons.

**(Genesis 49:28 NKJV) All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.**

### His Own Blessing

Just to point that out to you, each one of the 12 received their own blessing, and no two blessing were alike. I believe that is important for us to see, that God has a special blessing for each one of us, and they are different blessings. So the blessing I receive from the Lord will not be the same as yours. Though they may be alike, they are not the same. That is important to remember, for we are so apt to compare blessings; why is he blessed in that way, yet I am not, and we can become discouraged or envious. God gives different blessings, so we have something to give to one another. You see the children of Israel will need each other when they enter the Promised Land, when they endure 400 years of slavery, they will need each other. So too for us, we need each other, for we are strangers in the land, just sojourners passing through, and God gives us all our own blessing, and we in turn are to use those special blessings to bless one another.

**(Genesis 49:29 NKJV) Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,**

**(Genesis 49:30 NKJV)** "in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place.

**(Genesis 49:31 NKJV)** "There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.

**(Genesis 49:32 NKJV)** "The field and the cave that is there were purchased from the sons of Heth."

### **Final Wish – Bury Me at Machpelah / No Monument in Egypt / Sojourner**

Now after passing blessing upon them, he passes his final wish, to be buried back in the Land that God had promised him. Do you realize with his son being second in the land Jacob could have said build me a monument and bury me there before all the people of Egypt, but he doesn't, he said bury me back home. Jacob was not looking to make his make on this world, but looking for the world to come:

*(Hebrews 11:13 NKJV) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

*(Hebrews 11:14 NKJV) For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.*

*(Hebrews 11:15 NKJV) And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.*

*(Hebrews 11:16 NKJV) But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, **for He has prepared a city for them.***

### **Remember the Story / Switcharoo / 14 Years Total**

*Verse 31 - and there I buried Leah* - Leah was Jacobs first wife, but not by desire. You remember the story, Jacob sees Rachel and falls in love with her, ask for her hand in marriage and agrees to work 7 years for her, and the Bible says they only seemed like a few days to Jacob for he loved her so much. You know the story that on the wedding night Uncle Laban did the ole switcheroo, for the wedding custom the bride would be veiled during the wedding and then they would go back to the dark tent and consummate the marriage. In the morning Jacob awoke to a rude awaking (Leah means teary eyed - or make your eyes tear). Jacob would say what gives, how could you do such a thing, and Laban would say it is custom to marry the older before the younger. So Jacob would work 7 more years for Rachael, a total of 14.

### **2 Wives – 1 Didn't ask For / Bury me with Leah**

So Jacob now finds himself with 2 wives, and one wife he didn't ask for. But it is interesting, that when Rachael died, Jacob buried her outside Bethlehem, not at Machpelah with Abraham and Sarah, and Isaac and Rebekah. But when Leah dies, he buries her there at Machpelah, and when Jacob is about to die, his last request is to be buried at Machpelah, where Leah is buried, not outside Bethlehem where Rachael is buried.

### **Felt Tricked Buy – Bury me Buy / From Leah came Judah – David - Jesus**

How interesting that the woman he felt tricked by, is the one he wants to be buried by. You see from Leah came a child named Judah, and from Judah would come the great King David, and through the lineage of David will come the one who would fulfil the promise, the Messiah:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

### **If I Knew Like That / Feel Tricked – Trapped / Want Out / What Need to See Jesus**

It is an interesting suggestion in this passage. When you hear the words, or are considering saying them yourself, if I know that he/she was going to be like that, or turn out like this, I would have never married them. I feel tricked, I feel trapped, I want out of here, remember this story. All too often people want to get out of the relationship that they feel trapped in, but if they will hang in there, trust that the Lord is working, they will see as time goes by, as the months turn into years, they will see that that person was exactly what they needed to see Jesus. That Jesus was brought into the relation, that you were forced to look to the Lord, to walk with the Lord, in ways that I wasn't or wouldn't have had I just had the person I thought I was getting. It could very well be that if those things didn't happen in your relationship you never would have sought the Lord like you have to.



### **Don't Quit / Learn to be Like Jesus / Been through Hard Part – get Best Part**

I say so often to Christians, don't bail out, don't quit, hang in there, for nothing will make you more like Jesus than marriage. Nothing will make you see Jesus more than marriage, for you will have to die to yourself, you will have to learn to forgive and forget like never before, you will learn and know grace like never before, and in all cases you will have to see Jesus like never before in order to do so. You quit, you are never grow. You never go, deeper in the things of the Lord. I tell people, don't quit now, you are working through the hard parts, don't let them go to waste, get through them and enjoy the best parts.

### **Bury Me Next to Leah**

Jacob says bury me Leah. So too will you.

**(Genesis 49:33 NKJV) And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.**

### **Blast Off / Leaning on the Staff**

Jacob tucked himself in, and blasted off. What a way to go. Hebrews gives us a little more insight into this blessing of the sons:

*(Hebrews 11:21 NKJV) By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.*

### **End of Life / Genesis 32 / Beautiful Picture**

At the end of his life, he still has his staff. Back in Genesis 32 he says Lord I am not worthy, I came into the land with nothing but this staff and now look at all you have done for me. Now all these years later Jacob still has that staff, and he leans on it, and worships the Lord. What a beautiful picture:

*(Genesis 32:10 NKJV) "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.*

### **Jacob has Total Peace**

We see Jacob, no fear in death, for he knows the One he will see, and he sure of the Promise. Jacob in his last breaths worships the Lord, he takes his last energy and stands before his Lord. Then, he gets in the bed, tucks himself in, and in total peace breaths his last.

### **You will be Gathered to Your People / Free-will Honored on Earth & Heaven & Hell**

*Verse 33 - and was gathered to his people* – Jacob had peace because he knew who he would be gathered to. Beloved, you will be "gathered to your people" the question is who are your people. Who are your people you? Let me just lay it out before you, if you have no interest in the things of God here on earth, don't fool yourself, don't fool yourself. Your free-will will be honored in heaven or hell as it is on earth. By the way, hell is no party, the Scriptures make it clear:

*(Matthew 25:30 NKJV) 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

Who are your people?

**(Genesis 50:1 NKJV) Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him, and kissed him.**

**(Genesis 50:2 NKJV) And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel.**

**(Genesis 50:3 NKJV) Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those who are embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.**

### **Just as God Said**

Joseph was there to close his father's eyes just as God said he would be when he told Jacob to go. God's words are always yes and amen:

*(Genesis 46:2 NKJV) Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."*

*(Genesis 46:3 NKJV) So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there."*

*(Genesis 46:4 NKJV) "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; **and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes.**"*

### **Embalming Process – Sophisticated Process**

The embalming process took about 40 days. It was a very sophisticated process, as with the pyramids we can see the Egyptians were a very intelligent and advanced people. Even today our scientist still fully do not understand how they did all these highly advanced things. Jacob a non-Egyptian honored in such a way because he is Joseph's father. They would mourn a King for 72 days, and here we see Jacob being honored for 70, that is such a high regard they had for Joseph.

### **Little Shepherd becomes 2<sup>nd</sup> in Land / No Formal Training / Whatever God Call You To**

But you know what I like? A little shepherd boy with no formal training, no Bible College, no Chuck tapes, no youth group, became second in all the land. Believer there is no limit to what God can and will do with you, so never limit yourself. Whatever God calls you to do, step out in faith and allow Him to flow through you, in spite of what other people may be telling you, and do whatever it, for the glory of God:

*(Philippians 4:13 NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

*(Colossians 3:23 NKJV) And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,*

*(Colossians 3:24 NKJV) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

*(1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJV) Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 1:27 NKJV) But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;*

*(1 Corinthians 1:28 NKJV) and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,*

*(1 Corinthians 1:29 NKJV) that no flesh should glory in His presence.*

*(1 Corinthians 1:30 NKJV) But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God; and righteousness and sanctification and redemption;*

*(1 Corinthians 1:31 NKJV) that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."*

God says come Joseph, I am going to take you from the pit and place you in the palace, all for My glory. God will do the same for you.

**(Genesis 50:4 NKJV) And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying,**

**(Genesis 50:5 NKJV) 'My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, I am dying; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me." Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back.'"**

**(Genesis 50:6 NKJV) And Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear."**

### **Joseph Requests**

Joseph requests of Pharaoh to fulfill his father Jacob's desire, and Pharaoh says go.

**(Genesis 50:7 NKJV) So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,**

**(Genesis 50:8 NKJV) as well as all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's**

**house. Only their little ones, their flocks, and their herds they left in the land of Goshen.**

**(Genesis 50:9 NKJV) And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen, and it was a very great gathering.**

**(Genesis 50:10 NKJV)** Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father.

**(Genesis 50:11 NKJV)** And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a deep mourning of the Egyptians." Therefore its name was called Abel Mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan.

### **Great Funeral Process / Canaanites Blown Away / President Reagan**

So they have this funeral process if you would, and there was great mourning. The Canaanites saw this and were blown away, who was this man, he must have been some one great in the land. Maybe you recall the funeral of President Reagan a few months back, it would be such as that.

### **Jacob's Greatness based on Relationship with Joseph / Our Legacy**

The fact of the matter is, Jacob's greatness in Egypt was based on one thing, his relationship to Joseph. Joseph is a picture of Jesus Christ. A picture for us, when we die, what will we be remembered for. What will be our legacy?

### **David's Legacy**

May our legacy be that of David:

*(Acts 13:22 NKJV) "And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'"*

### **Solomon's Legacy**

Sadly his son Solomon had a legacy:

*(1 Kings 11:4 NKJV) For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.*

### **Our Legacy – Our Relationship / No Matter How Great- God's Own Heart**

May our legacy be of whom we followed, who our relationship was with, Jesus Christ. It won't matter how great we were at work, or in high school, as good as those things may be; but may people remember us to whom we loved and served, who we had a relationship with, who we were linked to. May they say of us that we were a man/woman after God's own heart, who did His will. When it is all said and done, what else will matter.

**(Genesis 50:12 NKJV)** So his sons did for him just as he had commanded them.

**(Genesis 50:13 NKJV)** For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place.

**(Genesis 50:14 NKJV)** And after he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father.

### **His Best Chapters / Finish Well**

The end of the life of Jacob. He finished well, his last chapters were his best chapters, and may that be so with us:

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.*

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

### **Leaning on His Staff**

Jacob ends his life doing 3 things, blessing, worshipping, and leaning. Leaning on the back of Jesus, the one who had broken him, and the One that made him whole:

*(Hebrews 11:21 NKJV) By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.*

# Genesis 50:14-26

## The Death of Joseph

### Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

### Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

*(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

*(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."*

### Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

### Recap

We left off with Jacob pronouncing blessings upon his sons as he leaned upon his staff, then he crawled into bed, tucked himself in, then breathed his last. Now its just Joseph and the 10 brothers that betrayed him, and they are wondering if it is payback time.

**(Genesis 50:15 NKJV) When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him."**

**(Genesis 50:16 NKJV) So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying,**

**(Genesis 50:17 NKJV) 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." ' Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father.'" And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.**

### Payback Time / Joseph Wept / They Just Didn't get It

Now the brothers are afraid it is payback time, so they tell Joseph dad said to forgive us, so please forgive us. And, Joseph wept. They thought Joseph was waiting for his time of revenge that he had bottled up bitterness and hatred towards them, but Joseph just wept, because they just didn't get it.

### Picture of Jesus / People's Concept of God – Keeping a Record

Joseph is a picture of Jesus. So many people have this concept of God, that He is keeping a record and at some point says that is enough, I'm going to let my fury fly on you. The Lord says I will remember your sins no more, they are wiped clean, past, present, and future:

*(Hebrews 8:12 NKJV) "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*

### **God want's to Draw You Near / Touch You / God Weeps**

Christian know this, if you are here tonight, and maybe you are not doing well, know that the Lord wants to touch you, and draw you close to Himself and love on you, not step on you to teach you a lesson or two. How that must break the heart of god when we question His love, acceptance, and forgiveness. I wonder if He weeps.

### **Mark 3 / Jesus Touched Him – in the Church**

In Mark 3, there came a man into the synagogue, the church if you will, and his hand was withered; Jesus spoke to him and said step forward, and Jesus touched him:

*(Mark 3:1 NKJV) And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand.*

*(Mark 3:2 NKJV) So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.*

*(Mark 3:3 NKJV) And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "**Step forward.**"*

*(Mark 3:4 NKJV) Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent.*

*(Mark 3:5 NKJV) And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "**Stretch out your hand.**" And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.*

### **Maybe you are Withered – Dry / Jesus Interested Seeing you Whole / Not Withered**

Jesus touched him, and healed him. Maybe you feel all withered up, dried out, wondering why I even bother with this church stuff; Jesus says step forward, stretch out your hand to Me, and I will touch. Jesus is always interested in seeing you whole, seeing you healthy, and He is always ready to touch so that you might do well, and be well. He never wants to leave you in that withered condition (yes there may be consequences to your sin, but that is the result of living in a fallen world, bit God pouring wrath out upon you)

*(Romans 8:1 NKJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

### **He says Reach Out / I want to Give You Joy**

God says reach out, let me touch you, receive from Me the things I want to give you, love, joy, and peace. He will not leave us, even when we are not doing well:

*(Hebrews 13:5 NKJV) Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

### **He wants to Gather You to His Heart / No Doubt – Look at Cross / No Condemnation**

The Lord wants to gather you to Himself and nestle you close to His heart. If you doubt that, look to the cross. If you ever wonder or doubt His love, look to the cross. There is therefore now no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus:

*(Romans 8:1 NKJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

*(Romans 8:2 NKJV) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

### **No Charge / Paid at Cross / Now He Freely Gives**

Nothing can separate us from his love, for He is for us, and brings no charge against us for it was all His wrath was poured out there upon the cross:

*(Romans 8:31 NKJV) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

*(Romans 8:32 NKJV) **He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?***

*(Romans 8:33 NKJV) Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.*

**(Genesis 50:18 NKJV) Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants."**

**(Genesis 50:19 NKJV) Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?"**

### **Fear Not – I'm not God / Wonderful Place not to Judge / Love & Judge**

Joseph says "fear not", am I in the place of God, it is not for me to judge you. It is a wonderful day when a person comes to the place and realization that they do not have to be the judge of people. God will say to us, you love them, and let me judge them. So often the church has it backwards, we think it is up to us to judge them, and up to God to love them.

### **The Whole Story / Impossible to Know Heart / Actions & Intentions**

It is amazing how your judgement can change when you have the whole story. It is impossible for us to know what is in a man's heart, what they are thinking and struggling with. I can see their actions, but I can never know what their intentions truly were. I'll look at a situation, get an overview of what is currently going on, I can be so quick to judge them and right them off, not knowing that there is so much more to the story.

### **Joseph Knew Big Picture**

Joseph knew so much more to the story than these boys did, verse 20:

**(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."**

### **All Brothers Knew / Joseph Knew 20 year Picture / Egypt – Prison - You**

Hey, even though you meant it for evil, but God meant it for God. For these boys all they knew was they sold their brother off. But Joseph saw a bigger plan that took some 20 years to develop. First God had to get me to Egypt, hence where you boys came in. Then God had to get me to palace, hence where Potiphar's wife came in. Then God had to get you to Egypt, hence where I came in. God worked it all together because He had to preserve a people (Nation of Israel), He had to preserve the lineage of the Messiah (Judah), and He had to preserve a world (thus we are today).

### **Joseph Preserves Lineage / Forgive – They Know Not / Religious Leaders - Redemption**

Hey I would have said death to them all Joseph, judge them so all can see you are not to be messed with, but guess what I would have destroyed the lineage of the Messiah. Our greater than Joseph, Jesus, there that day cried to the Father, "forgive them, they know not what they do". The religious leaders meant it for evil, but God had a plan; a plan for you, a plan for me, to buy us back, redeem us from the evil task master that we were in bondage to, so that He might preserve our lives for all of eternity, and provide for us daily through any feast or famine.

**(Genesis 50:21 NKJV) "Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.**

### **Spoke Kindly – Picture of Jesus**

Joseph spoke kindly to them, and comforted them. Oh what a picture of our Jesus.

**(Genesis 50:22 NKJV) So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years.**

**(Genesis 50:23 NKJV) Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees.**

### **Grandkids on his Knees / Telling Stories God's Miracles / Grandparents Opportunity**

I can only imagine Joseph having his grandkids on his knee, and telling them stories of all of God's miracles and goodness. What a wonderful place to be, having a youngster looking up to, listening to your words with respect, interested in hearing your stories. Grandparents have clout with their grandkids. Joseph would tell his grandkids what his father Jacob told him, and what was passed down from Abraham and Isaac. What a great opportunity for grandparents to minister to their kids telling them all about God's wonders. Take the opportunity whenever you, whether it is on your lap, or over the phone. Should you be separated from them because of the

hatred and division so common in this selfish world, maybe barring you from seeing them, then raise them up on your knees, go to the Lord as often as you can and lift them up in prayer.

### **My Grand Dad**

I can still remember stories my grandfather told me when I was a kid, I can remember many of them as if it was just yesterday, and it was 25-30 years ago. Even as a teenager I use to love just to sit with him and hear his stories about the war, his boxing days, his real estate days. How much I remember them, I remembered them! But granddaddy never told me about Jesus, don't know if he knew Jesus, he never mentioned Him. Imagine, if I can remember so many stories 25-30 years later, just think if he would have been telling me about Jesus, how much of an impact that would have had in my life. Grandparents, don't miss this opportunity.

**(Genesis 50:24 NKJV)** And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

**(Genesis 50:25 NKJV)** Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."

**(Genesis 50:26 NKJV)** So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

### **Monuments & Pyramids / Look at heritage Passed On**

All the other great Egyptian leaders had monuments and pyramids built for themselves, but not Joseph, he says bury me in the land, carry my bones up when you leave this place. Look how the heritage is passed down from father to son:

*(Genesis 49:29 NKJV) Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,*

*(Genesis 49:30 NKJV) "in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place.*

*(Genesis 49:31 NKJV) "There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.*

### **Believed Promise / Sojourners / City of God**

They believed the promises of God, and knew they were just sojourners in the land, and they were looking for a city whose builder and maker was God:

*(Hebrews 11:13 NKJV) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

*(Hebrews 11:14 NKJV) For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.*

*(Hebrews 11:15 NKJV) And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.*

*(Hebrews 11:16 NKJV) But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, **for He has prepared a city for them.***

### **Parents - Children - Follow**

Parents, where will your children want their bones to be buried? May they follow in your footsteps.

### **Half of OT History**

Joseph's death marks about half of the history of the OT. About 2350 years.

### **Genesis – Ends with a Coffin**

Verse 26 - *and he was put in a coffin in Egypt* – We begin this book with the glory of God and His creation. He said let there be light, He said let us make man in our image. God walked with His creation in the garden in perfect sweet fellowship. We close this book with death, darkness, and separation.

### **Repercussion of Sin / Paradise to Prison / You shall Die**

The repercussions of sin, from paradise to prison. Satan said if you eat you will not die; God says if you eat surely you will die:

*(Genesis 2:16 NKJV) And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;*

(Genesis 2:17 NKJV) "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, **for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**"

(Genesis 3:1 NKJV) Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

(Genesis 3:2 NKJV) And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

(Genesis 3:3 NKJV) "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

(Genesis 3:4 NKJV) **Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.**

### **Moses Carry the Bones**

It is interesting after 400 years of slavery who is the one that carries the bones of Joseph out of Egypt. Moses himself would carry them out:

(Exodus 13:19 NKJV) And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you."

### **Egyptians think this Crazy / For 400 yrs Slavery**

The Egyptians must have thought this is ridiculous, why the bones, why carry them all the way up to the land of Caanan. They didn't know what the bones represented, they represented a promise, the promise of God, that He will come to His people, He will carry them out of the land into His Promised Land. For 400 years of slavery the children of Israel will have this coffin to look at as a Promise from God that He will carry them up out of the land:

(Genesis 46:2 NKJV) Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."

(Genesis 46:3 NKJV) So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.

(Genesis 46:4 NKJV) "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

### **God's Promise today = Communion**

God gives us that same promise today, take eat, this is My body that has been broken for you, do this in remembrance of Me:

(Matthew 26:26 NKJV) And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

(Matthew 26:27 NKJV) Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

(Matthew 26:28 NKJV) "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

(Matthew 26:29 NKJV) "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

*Take, eat; this is My body*