



GENESIS

Joseph and the Famine Genesis 47:13-31

Joseph's faithfulness and obedience in the task God set before him is a great example. As you reflect on the following passages, what stands out in how we are to approach our work and the tasks of daily life where God has placed us?

Genesis 2:15; Psalm 90:16-17; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 2:14-16; Colossians 3:23-24;
1 Peter 4:10

Jacob's life is a bit of a roller coaster, but in the end, we see a faithful man whose hope is firmly in the promises of God. As we approach the end of his life in the Genesis account, re-read this week the story of Jacob beginning in Genesis 25:19.

- What can we learn from Jacob's life about being a follower of Christ?
- What can we learn about God from Jacob's life?
- What promises of God give Jacob a hope that we can share to this day?

Hope is defined as desire with expectation of obtainment or fulfillment. When our hope is in Christ, our hope is placed upon an expectation that has never failed and will never fail. But often our hope can drift or be split amongst other worldly things rather than Christ alone. We looked at three things that a deep, strengthened hope requires: trust, endurance, and devotion. Below are some questions to prayerfully reflect on along with some verses to study and meditate on this week, remembering that Christ is the source of our hope.

- Trust: Where do you find your trust being placed? Are certain areas of your life not surrendered to Christ, but entrusted to something worldly instead?
Jeremiah 17:7; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 26:3-4; Matthew 6:19-21
- Endurance: Do you lose hope quickly when a trial comes? Have you stored God's Word in your heart so that He might use that in times of adversity?
Romans 15:4; Psalm 130:5; Proverbs 4:20-23; Micah 7:7; Romans 5:3-5
- Devotion: Are there areas in your life that you are more devoted to than Christ? What would those closest to you say that you are most committed to or passionate about?
1 Timothy 4:7-10; Psalm 37:5; Luke 16:13; Acts 2:42; Philippians 4:8-9

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¹³ Meanwhile, the famine became so severe that all the food was used up, and people were starving throughout the lands of Egypt and Canaan. ¹⁴ By selling grain to the people, Joseph eventually collected all the money in Egypt and Canaan, and he put the money in Pharaoh's treasury. ¹⁵ When the people of Egypt and Canaan ran out of money, all the Egyptians came to Joseph. "Our money is gone!" they cried. "But please give us food, or we will die before your very eyes!"

¹⁶ Joseph replied, "Since your money is gone, bring me your livestock. I will give you food in exchange for your livestock." ¹⁷ So they brought their livestock to Joseph in exchange for food. In exchange for their horses, flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and donkeys, Joseph provided them with food for another year.

¹⁸ But that year ended, and the next year they came again and said, "We cannot hide the truth from you, my lord. Our money is gone, and all our livestock and cattle are yours. We have nothing left to give but our bodies and our land. ¹⁹ Why should we die before your very eyes? Buy us and our land in exchange for food; we offer our land and ourselves as slaves for Pharaoh. Just give us grain so we may live and not die, and so the land does not become empty and desolate."

²⁰ So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh. All the Egyptians sold him their fields because the famine was so severe, and soon all the land belonged to Pharaoh. ²¹ As for the people, he made them all slaves, from one end of Egypt to the other. ²² The only land he did not buy was the land belonging to the priests. They received an allotment of food directly from Pharaoh, so they didn't need to sell their land.

²³ Then Joseph said to the people, "Look, today I have bought you and your land for Pharaoh. I will provide you with seed so you can plant the fields. ²⁴ Then when you harvest it, one-fifth of your crop will belong to Pharaoh. You may keep the remaining four-fifths as seed for your fields and as food for you, your households, and your little ones."

²⁵ "You have saved our lives!" they exclaimed. "May it please you, my lord, to let us be Pharaoh's servants." ²⁶ Joseph then issued a decree still in effect in the land of Egypt, that Pharaoh should receive one-fifth of all the crops grown on his land. Only the land belonging to the priests was not given to Pharaoh.

²⁷ Meanwhile, the people of Israel settled in the region of Goshen in Egypt. There they acquired property, and they were fruitful, and their population grew rapidly. ²⁸ Jacob lived for seventeen years after his arrival in Egypt, so he lived 147 years in all.

²⁹ As the time of his death drew near, Jacob called for his son Joseph and said to him, "Please do me this favor. Put your hand under my thigh and swear that you will treat me with unfailing love by honoring this last request: Do not bury me in Egypt. ³⁰ When I die, please take my body out of Egypt and bury me with my ancestors." So Joseph promised, "I will do as you ask."

³¹ "Swear that you will do it," Jacob insisted. So Joseph gave his oath, and Jacob bowed humbly at the head of his bed.