



## WORKBOOK INTRODUCTION

November, 2010

Dear Young Person,

Greetings in the Hope we share! The time has come for us to begin preparation for another Youth Conference, which will be held **July 16-23, 2011** God willing. Our subject for the week is Joseph (as you've already discovered from the front cover!). Joseph is a really fascinating character and as we take a look at different events in his life, we will hopefully appreciate his example more as we see some powerful lessons from his faith and commitment to serving God. Also, we will see some beautiful types of Christ in Joseph's life, that will help us better appreciate the life and example of our Lord Jesus.

The theme from Joseph's life that we've chosen is, **“I seek my brethren”** taken from Genesis 37:16. As you go through the study, this theme and idea will pop up, and hopefully it will be clear why we have chosen it! As well, probably the most valuable lesson we can take from Joseph's life is his perseverance in tribulation and faith in God's providence. So, as we go through tribulation now – as all true servants of God must – we can take comfort in his amazing example and learn to rely on God's providence.

This first part of the workbook, that we'd called “short answer questions”, should refresh your memory on some of the events you know well, and get you familiar with some of the details you may not know so well. This should provide a good basis for the second part of the book, that we'd call “research questions”. As well, this book will help prepare you for the discussion groups and classes that will take place up at YC. Both parts of the workbook will be divided up into the following sections:

1. Joseph and his brethren in Canaan (Gen. 37)
2. Joseph and the Egyptians (Gen. 39-41)
3. Joseph and his brethren – Tribulation (Gen. 42:1 – 43:14)
4. Joseph and his brethren – Purification (Gen 43:15 – 44:34)
5. Joseph and his brethren – Revelation (Gen. 45-46)
6. Joseph and his family in Egypt (Gen. 47-50)

The second part of the workbook, unlike past years, will be shorter than the first part ☺ and will have some options for you (for example, choose 6 research questions out of 20 to do). The second part will cover (for the most part) the same chapters as the first. But, we hope it will allow for a little more open and in-depth study – a chance for you to dig a little deeper into some specific events, places or ideas to help you get a better appreciation for Joseph and different events and people in his life.

Please feel free to contact either of us, if you have any comments or questions about the book! May God bless and guide each one of you as you endeavour to learn and grow from the amazing example God has given to us through His servant and our brother, Joseph. As we look at Joseph's life, may each of us through the “patience and comfort of the scriptures” learn to “seek our brethren” as we patiently wait for the soon return of our Lord.

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## USEFUL RESOURCES AND STUDY MATERIALS

### GENERAL REFERENCES:

1. Bible (different versions)
  - KJV (King James Version)
  - RV (Revised Version)
  - RSV (Revised Standard Version)
  - NKJV (New King James Version)
  - NIV (New International Version)
  - YLT (Young's Literal Translation)
  - The Emphasized Bible (Rotherham's)
  - The Septuagint (Greek translation of Old Testament)
2. Bible Dictionary
  - Smith's Bible Dictionary
  - The New Unger's Bible Dictionary
3. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance
4. The New Englishman's Hebrew Concordance
5. Bible Program on computer (with different translations and Strong's #)

### CHRISTADELPHIAN BOOKS:

1. Instruction Unto the Kingdom (CSSA) – pg. 79 – 89
2. The Story of the Bible – Volume 1 (Logos Publications) – pg. 177 – 222
3. The Ways of Providence (Robert Roberts) – pg. 60 – 70
4. Joseph the Saviour (H. A. Whittaker)
5. Teenagers of the Bible (Shane Kingsbury) – pg. 8 – 98
6. Joseph and his Brethren (CSSS)

### WEB SITES:

BC Youth Conference 2010 – [www.youthconference.com](http://www.youthconference.com)

### STUDY SUGGESTIONS

1. Read the **whole story** of Joseph from different translations.
2. Read **each chapter** from the Bible before answering the questions for that section.
3. Work **together** with other young people!
4. Always **pray** for God's guidance before you begin!
5. Insert an **extra** piece of binder paper into your workbook if you need more space to answer a particular question.



## PART ONE: Short Answer Questions

### SECTION 1: Joseph and his Brethren in Canaan

#### 37:1-4 – Joseph – loved of his father, hated by his brethren

1. In order to better understand the story of Joseph, we have to look at some background details of **Jacob and his family.**

a) Jacob was a man of ups and downs, spiritual highs and lows. He often relied on his own power to accomplish things, so he struggled throughout his life to trust in God's care and guidance. Fill in this little biography about Jacob to refresh your memory about him, and the people and events in life:

- **Name:** Jacob "supplanter, heel catcher" ( Gen 25:26 )
- **Name changed to:** \_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_ " ( Gen 32:28 )
- **Parents:** \_\_\_\_\_ ( Gen 25:28 )
- **Brother:** \_\_\_\_\_ ( Gen 25:28 )
- **Father-in-law:** \_\_\_\_\_ ( Gen 28:2 )
- **Wives:** \_\_\_\_\_ ( Gen 29:21-24, 28-29 )
- **Number of years he served for his wives:** \_\_\_\_\_ ( Gen 29:20, 27 )
- **Concubines:** \_\_\_\_\_ ( Gen 29: 24, 29 )

b) Complete the following chart about Jacob's family:

Wife	Son	Meaning of Name (margin of KJV)	Birth (Genesis)	Comments
Leah	Reuben	"Behold, a son"	29:32	-given by God when He sees Leah is hated -Leah hopes Jacob will love her
"			29:33	
"			29:34	
"			29:35	
Bilhah (Rachel's handmaid)			30:6	
"			30:8	
Zilpah (Leah's handmaid)			30:11	
"			30:13	
Leah			30:18	
"			30:20	
"	(daughter)		30:21	
Rachel			30:24	
"			35:18	



c) Do you think the sons of the wives and the bondwomen (handmaids) were born of love or envy? Given the **atmosphere** they were born into, what do you think their characters were like?

d) Where were Jacob and his family living at this time? (v. 1) What is significant about this place?

2. What does **Joseph** mean?

a) Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

b) From what you know already about the story, what is the significance of his name in his life?

3. It says that Joseph was with “the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah” (v. 2) From the chart on the previous page, we saw who these sons were. Why is Joseph with them and not with the sons of Leah?

4. How old is Joseph at this time? \_\_\_\_\_

Find at least 3 examples of people near his age, serving God in their youth:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)



5. Knowing Joseph's age, consider Genesis 47:9, 28. There is a beautiful **comparison** here in relation to Joseph's age. What's the comparison?

6. What was the reason Israel (Jacob) **loved** Joseph more than the other brothers?

A useful exercise for this study is to colour in “Jacob” and “Israel” in the book of Genesis (particularly from chapter 32 and onward). We start to realize that Jacob was his **natural** name and Israel his **spiritual** name! Grab a coloured pencil or highlighter and see what you can discover...when is he called Israel the most?



7. Jacob made Joseph a “coat of many colours.” (v. 3) There are a few different ideas as to what this phrase actually means. Here are some of the suggestions put forward:
- **“coat of many colours or pieces”** – made up of different lengths of material that contained the colours of the rainbow, a remainder of the covenant God made with Noah; very suitable for Joseph, a very “colourful” character
  - **“coat of many hands”** (literal translation) – covered to the hands and feet, a garment worn by a priest
  - **“coat of many hands”** – a coat that has been “handed down” from generation to generation, consistent with the idea of a priestly garment

What was the reason Jacob gave Joseph this coat? Which suggestion, from above, do you think is right, then? (*this might be a good question to discuss*)

8. Look up the word **peaceably** (v. 4)

a) Strong’s Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Where have you heard this word before?

**Joseph’s Youth** - “Joseph was innocent and excellent, but Joseph was young and untried, and God had a great purpose with him that required that he should be matured and perfected in character as men only can be perfected – in the school of adversity.” - *The Ways of Providence* (pg 62)

**37:5-11 – Joseph’s dreams**

9. **Dreams** have a lot to do with Joseph’s life.  
 a) How many sets of dreams can you find in his life?

b) Complete this chart to figure out the details of Joseph’s dreams:

	<b>Symbols</b>	<b>What happened?</b> (who’s involved?)	<b>When was it fulfilled?</b> (try to give a reference)
<b>Dream 1</b> <b>(37:5-8)</b>			
<b>Dream 2</b> <b>(37:9-11)</b>			

c) In Joseph’s dreams, was the interpretation the **same** for both? What does this mean?





- b) Where was Shechem located? (use a Bible dictionary for the next few questions)
  
- c) There were 2 well-known mountains, one on either side of Shechem. What were the names of these mountains and what happened on these two mountains?
  
- d) Was Shechem a good place to feed flocks?
  
- e) Did Jacob have reason to worry that his sons were in Shechem? What happened recently in Shechem? (34:1-5, 25-31)

13. Joseph was found **wandering** (v. 15) What does this word mean?

a) Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Using this definition, describe the state of mind Joseph was in when he couldn't find his brethren.

14. The theme of Joseph **“I seek my brethren”** is in v. 16.

a) When it states that he sought his brethren, in what **way** did he do that?

b) Based on what you know about the story of Joseph, find as many examples as you can in the life of Joseph where he sought the welfare of his “brethren” or those around him (you may want to leave this question and come back to it).

**Joseph stayed spiritually strong and tried to raise others to God's level – he didn't sink to their level!**

15. Upon the advice of the “certain man” Joseph goes to Dothan to look for his brothers.

a) Look up the meaning of **Dothan** (v. 17)  
 Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_



- b) With it's meaning in mind, what is ironic about where they were and the conditions that existed? (To get the full meaning look up "pit" in verse 20 – use other translations to make the verse clearer)
  
- c) In comparison to Shechem, which was the better place to feed their flocks?
  
- d) Why do you think Joseph's brothers went to Dothan?

### **37:18-24 – Joseph cast into the pit**

- 16. "When they saw him afar off...they conspired against him to **slay him**" (v. 18)
  - a) What does this tell us about how much they **hated** him?
  
  - b) What was ironic about their statement "...and we shall see what will become of his dreams"? (v. 20)
  
  - c) What would it have been like in the pit for Joseph? How did Joseph feel while in it? (see Genesis 42:21)
  
  - d) What did the brothers do after they threw Joseph into the pit? What does this tell us about their hatred and insensitivity?
  
- 17. We learn a lot about **Reuben's** character in this chapter.
  - a) In v. 21-22, what had Reuben tried to do?
  
  - b) In this situation, does Reuben remind you of a character in the NT? In what way?
  
  - c) In v. 29-30, it says "Reuben returned" to the pit to find Joseph was not in it. Where had Reuben gone?
  
  - d) Why was Reuben so upset that his brothers had sold Joseph? What was he **really** upset about?





- e) As we saw earlier, Reuben was the oldest of the brothers. Did he have the status and privileges that went along with this? What had he done to impact his standing with his father? (35:22)
- f) From the events of this chapter, does it seem that Reuben is the leader of the brothers? Do they respect him as the eldest?
- g) If Reuben isn't the leader of the brothers, **who is?**

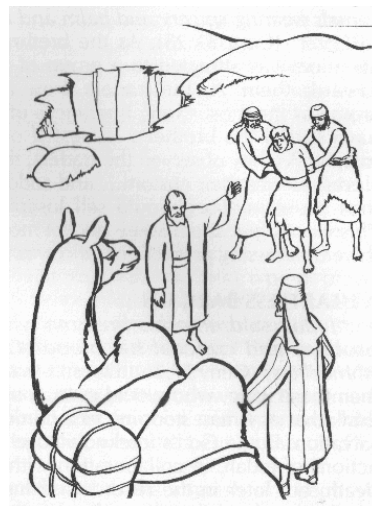
**Let down into a living death** - "The object of Joseph's brethren was to kill him. They proposed to do this out and out before casting him into the pit; but this would have interfered with the purpose of God. They were therefore diverted from their purpose. Reuben was touched with compassion for his brother, and purposed that they should do nothing violent to him, but merely put him into a pit, and let him come to die there – his object being to release him afterwards, and take him back to his father. Reuben's proposal was accepted; and Joseph, arriving, was seized and stripped of his outer coat. Nothing is said in the narrative of Joseph's terror; but it comes out in their remarks one to another in Egypt twenty years afterwards, 'We saw the anguish of his soul when he besought us, and we would not hear.' The poor boy was let down into a living death, as it seemed, appealing in vain to the mercy of his hard-hearted and grown-up brothers." - *The Ways of Providence* (pg 62, 63)

### 37:25-30 – Sold to the Ishmeelites

18. The brothers sell Joseph for 20 pieces of silver to a caravan of merchantmen called both "Ishmeelites" and "Midianites". It is likely that these men were:

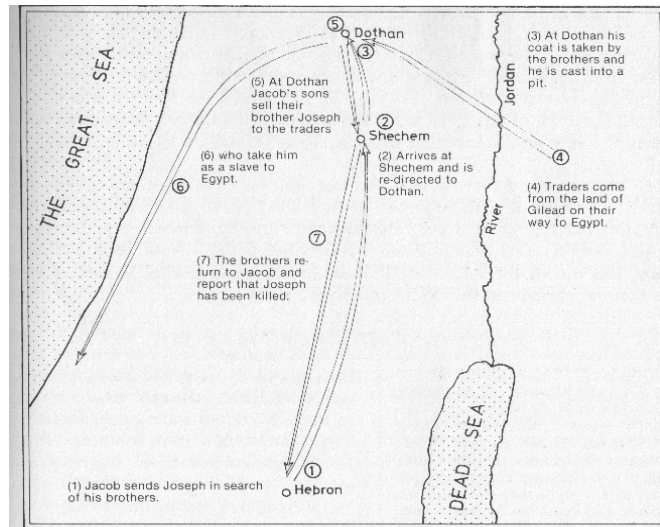
**Ishmeelites** by descent,  
**Midianites** by country,  
**Merchants** by profession.

- a) Who were the **Ishmeelites**? (Gen 16:15)
- b) Were they allies or enemies of Israel? (Gen 21:9-11)
- c) Why is it significant that they took Joseph down to Egypt?
- d) What is the significance of the 20 pieces of silver? (see Lev 27:5 and Ex 21:16, 32)





This might help you visualize what has happened so far in the story. **The events of Genesis 37** are outlined on this map. Take note of the places that we've looked at already in our study!



### 37:31-35 – Jacob's grief

19. Joseph's brethren try to cover up what they had done to Joseph and make it look like it wasn't their fault at all.
- Why is it significant that they killed a **kid of the goats** for blood to stain Joseph's coat? (see Lev 4:23, 28; Num 7:16)
  - Do you think the noise of the young goat would have reminded them of something? What?
  - Joseph's brothers tried to comfort their father in his time of sorrow. What does this tell us about their characters and **consciences**?
  - Do you think Jacob had second thoughts about what really happened to Joseph? Are we given any clues in this chapter?

**Follow Joseph** – “Follow Joseph in his journey. From one dreadful experience he has plunged into another, and far worse. A father's favourite, accustomed to the ways of love and the surroundings of comfort, he finds himself in the hands of unfeeling and mercenary strangers, who regard him as a chattel, and think only of how much he will fetch when they arrive in Egypt...exhausted with grief, broken down, unable to cry any more. It is not possible for human situation to be more agonizing; human prospects to be darker...and yet 'God was with him,' and was directing his way, and fitting him for exaltation and for untold usefulness in the execution of the divine purpose. The kingdom of God lies ahead, and Paul has told us that 'through much tribulation we must enter therein.' How much, and what sort we require, God knows, and not we ourselves. Therefore, let us 'humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God; and He will exalt us in due time.' Joseph's agonizing journey to Egypt was a journey to exaltation; and so is ours, if, like Joseph, we fear God, do His commandments, and commit our way to Him. But exaltation comes not at once. There were dark and dreary years before Joseph. Let us not be impatient.” - *The Ways of Providence* (pg 63, 64)



## Chapter 38

We have chosen not to consider this chapter in the first part of our studies. It will be considered in the second part of our studies, God willing, when we will look at it quite closely. If you've ever looked at this chapter, or are looking at it now for the first time (just because of the fact we're not going to cover it now!), you might be a little surprised at what it's about - it seems a little out of context and a little disgusting! But, not if we look at it carefully: if we do, it presents to us a picture of the sad **lack of moral restraint** that surrounded Judah. This chapter, then, is a stark contrast to the **moral integrity** Joseph showed in an immoral and foreign land, which we will see in the coming chapters.

The **Christadelphian Expositor** makes this interesting comment about chapter 38:

"Why was this story, so crude in it's details, recorded in Holy Writ? It appears as a harsh intrusion into the account of Joseph. We pass for a moment out of the environment of faith, goodness and purity, into one of lust, evil and intrigue. It is not even in proper chronological sequence, for much of the story occurred before those events recorded in the previous chapter. Nevertheless, its inclusion comprises a proof of the impartiality of Inspiration; and its appearance, in this place, is obviously divinely selected to emphasize a most important principle. The facts, considered in themselves, reflect no credit in Judah, but reveal why he was disqualified to be the fourth-generation leader among the sons of Jacob, after Reuben, Simeon and Levi had demonstrated their incompetence for the position. At the same time, it was revealed to Jacob, that ultimately the royal dignity would be vested in the Lion of Judah (Gen 49:10); but the incidents of this chapter show that this would be done on a basis of divine selection and foreknowledge, not on personal or fleshly merit as far as the tribe was concerned.

As exhortation, this chapter sets forth the acute moral temptations which living among the Canaanites brought into the lives of Jacob's sons, and offers a partial explanation for the move into Egypt. If the integrity of a covenant people was to be preserved, they must, for a time – until properly constituted as a nation under God-given Laws – be removed from the corrupting influence of Canaan's religious and social life. It is obvious from the record that first Dinah, then Reuben, and now Judah were exposed to Canaanitish influences from which they had to be guarded. By manipulation of famine, Yahweh drew his people into an area where separation was forced upon them (Gen 46:34), the design being to save lives (Gen 50:20)."



## SECTION 2: Joseph and the Egyptians

### 39:1-6 – Joseph elevated in Potiphar's house

1. "Joseph was brought down to Egypt." **Egypt** in the Bible is a symbol of great note.

a) What is it a symbol of? (Deut 5:6; Psa 89:10 margin; Hosea 11:1; Rev 11:8)

b) Give an example of somebody else "going down" to Egypt \_\_\_\_\_ (reference)

c) From these passages, how does God view "going down to **Egypt**"?

**Think about what kind of atmosphere Joseph (only 17) was being thrown into! How would he feel?**

2. What does the name **Potiphar** mean? (v. 1)

Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

a) What does the word "captain of the guard" signify? (try your margin)

b) What does this tell us about his occupation?

c) Keeping comparisons of Christ in mind, how can the events of Joseph being sold to Potiphar be likened to what happened to Christ? (think about "going down to Egypt" as well)

3. "The Lord was with Joseph" while he was in Potiphar's house (v. 2)

a) How many times is this phrase used in this chapter?

b) What does this say about how our Father felt about Joseph?

c) Find some verses that also mention how God protects and cares for His children.

d) What does this verse tell us about bad situations in our lives and the perspective we should have?



- e) Joseph had to maintain a spiritual, positive attitude despite the terrible conditions that he was placed in. How can we also like Joseph maintain this same **attitude** in difficult circumstances we find ourselves in?
4. Potiphar trusted **everything** he owned into the hand of Joseph, because Potiphar could see that God was with Joseph.
- a) In what way can we relate this to our work environment?
- b) Do you think that God will bless us, and those around us at work because of our actions? (provide some passages to support your answer)
5. What does the phrase "found grace in his sight" signify? (v. 4)
- a) Find 3 other places where this phrase is used again in the life of Joseph.
- 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
- b) Who else in the Bible uses this phrase?

**Joseph's Faithful Service** - "Potiphar, captain of Pharaoh's guard, buys him of their hands, and takes him into his house as a servant. Here we have to consider an instructive feature of the case. Joseph cheerily and faithfully addresses himself to the duties of his position. Had he been like some, he might have considered himself justified in sulking and dawdling, seeing that he was stolen and unjustly brought into his position. In that case, the Lord would not have been with Joseph; for the Lord is not with those who are slothful and contemptuous, from whatever cause. He is only with those who faithfully act their part in the circumstances into which He may bring them...there was nothing to tell Joseph that the act of his brethren was the act of God: but he feared God and submitted himself, knowing (as all true sons of God know and recognize) that God ruleth in the kingdoms of men even now, and orders the steps of those who please Him by their faith and submission." - *The Ways of Providence* (pgs 64-65)

### 39:7-12 – Joseph resists Potiphar's wife

6. We see in v. 6 that Joseph was a "goodly and well favoured" (KJV) young man.
- a) What does each of these words mean? (try other versions, like the NIV and NKJV)
- "goodly" –
  - "well favoured" –



- b) Find at least one woman and one man who were described in similar ways.
  - Man –
  - Woman –
- c) For the examples you found, were good looks a positive or negative thing in their life? What lesson does this teach us?

7. Take a moment to consider the situation that v. 7 suggests.

- a) How old would Joseph be here? \_\_\_\_\_ (approximately)
- b) Do you think he'd ever faced a situation like this, or seen anything like this before?

c) List off the possible ways Joseph could have dealt with this situation, and the pros and cons for each situation. How would **you** have dealt with the situation?

Possibility...	Pros +	Cons -

d) What is the best way for us to deal with sin and temptation? (provide a reference or two)

8. Joseph produced 3 reasons why he could not lie with Potiphar's wife.

- a) What were these reasons?
  - 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
- b) Ultimately, whom did Joseph say he would be sinning against? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Find 2 other references that state the same attitude about whom sin affects the most.
  - 1)
  - 2)

9. In v. 8-12, we see Potiphar's wife tried 3 different ways to seduce Joseph. Or you could say, Joseph tried 3 different ways to **stop** the temptation.



a) Fill in the chart and show what we can learn from each (how **we** should deal with temptation!).

	What Potiphar's wife did...	How Joseph reacted...	What we can learn...
1			
2			
3			

b) What was the final act in this temptation and how did Joseph react?

c) There is a series of verses in the New Testament that deal with **temptation**, which without a doubt are based on this event here. What are those verses? \_\_\_\_\_

**39:13-23 – Joseph falsely accused and cast into the king's prison**

10. Potiphar's wife has only two female peers even close to her in the bible for the evil mind she had, and the passionate turn in anger she displayed for being rejected. Name those other 2 women and briefly describe how each was similar to Potiphar's wife.

	Woman	How is she similar to Potiphar's wife?
1		
2		

11. Given what we know of Potiphar's occupation, the evidence in the hands of Potiphar's wife, and the status of Joseph as a slave, what would Joseph be feeling about his chances of survival in this situation? How would you feel if you were in this situation?

12. Potiphar's wife blames Potiphar for the embarrassment that “happened”.

a) How many times did she accuse Potiphar?

b) There is another very similar situation in the OT where blame was put upon another's shoulders in a very similar manner. Can you think of that situation and who was involved?

13. What does the word **mock** mean? (v. 14)

a) Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_



b) Using your Strong's or Englishman's Concordance (or a computer Bible program), find where else this word is used in the OT? (be sure to note any special significance)

14. There are several things we can take from Potiphar's reaction to the situation (v. 19-20).

a) Why wasn't Joseph killed for his indiscretion?

b) Do you think Potiphar knew who the real guilty party was?

c) Why did Potiphar still punish Joseph?

d) Name another person faced with a similar situation to Potiphar's. What was the result on that occasion and what was the reason he meted out the punishment?

15. Look up the word **prison** (v. 20)

a) Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Has this word been used before in the story? If so, where?

c) What would the conditions of the prison have been like?

d) How would Joseph be feeling at this time, after his **moral integrity** got him thrown in this prison?

16. Look up the word **bound** (v. 20)

a) Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

b) In Numbers 30:2 the same word is used. What does this verse tell us?

c) How is this word related to the trial Joseph was enduring here?

d) How does this relate to **us** today?





17. In v. 21, we have described two words to describe how God took care of Joseph: **mercy** and **favour**.

a) Look up each of these words (and look up "kindness" as well)

**Mercy**

Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

**Favour**

Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

**Kindness**

Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

b) How is the word "kindness" almost always translated in the Old Testament?

c) How many times is this word used in the life of Joseph? What is significant about this number? (try using a computer Bible program or Englishman's Concordance)

18. Three times in the life of Joseph the text of v. 23 is stated or implied.

a) List these three occurrences.

1)

2)

3)

b) This gives us great insight into the man Joseph, for immediately each of these rough, godless men saw in Joseph something remarkable and of great value. There is a lesson for us in this as we interact in the world. What exhortation can we take from this point about Joseph's **character**?

19. Joseph, although bound, showed remarkable poise while in prison. His attitude (as attested in the former chapter) allowed all those around him to admire his fortitude and faith, although they themselves were unbelieving.

a) In Acts, there is a very similar event, where some brothers' **attitude** in prison invoked a very strong reaction. What was the situation and describe what happened?

b) In what way does this teach us about **how** we should endure trials? Come up with at least 3 passages that reinforce this idea of how we should bear our trials.

1)



- 2)
- 3)
- c) What is the **value** of bearing our trials in this way?

**A Prisoner and an Outcast** - "Joseph is suddenly plunged into a lower deep than ever. He is not only in a strange land, but disgraced, and in a position debarring hope—not only a slave, but a branded slave; not only a prisoner, but a prisoner under circumstances that shut off all prospects of a possible release. In the first moments of his incarceration, Joseph must have been in a dreadful state of mind. We know what came after, which makes it difficult for us to realize the darkness of his situation. Joseph did not know what was coming after. He only knew the dreadfulness of his position—a prisoner and an outcast, unjustly banished from his country in the first instance, and now the victim of a false accusation. He had said, 'How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?' and this was the consequence....He was prostrate in an affliction, which seemed to lack a single ray of hope, yet in which God was guiding him to great blessedness. Joseph had to be fitted for exaltation and the exercise of power, and therefore he had to suffer for his own good, and for the bringing about of a great result to the whole house of Israel." - *The Ways of Providence* (pgs 66, 62)

#### **40:1-4 – Pharaoh's Butler and Baker cast into prison**

- 20. We're told in v. 1 that the butler and baker are put in prison because they "offended their lord." What do you think they had done to offend Pharaoh?
- 21. What is the location of the prison Joseph is in? (Look closely at v. 3)

Do you think that Joseph would have felt secure or comfortable, believing he was out of danger from Potiphar's wife?

- 22. Joseph is assigned to look after the chief butler and baker (v. 4)
  - a) Who actually assigned Joseph to look after these two men?
  - b) What does this tell us about this man that we didn't know before, about how he viewed Joseph?
  - c) What then does it tell us about how this man viewed these prisoners?

#### **40:5-19 – Joseph interprets the Butler's and Baker's dreams**

- 23. In v. 5, it is stated, "they dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream in one night" and in v. 8, "We have dreamed a dream". What do you think these phrases are telling us?



24. Look up the word **sad** in v. 6. What does it literally mean?

a) Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

b) How does this change your image of how these dreams affected the Butler and Baker?

25. Our theme “**I seek my brethren**” comes up again.

a) What do v. 6-7 tell us about Joseph's character?

b) How does Joseph's concern for these men relate to the theme “I seek my brethren”?

26. What does v. 8 tell us about Joseph?

27. **The chief butler's dream** (v. 9-13)

a) Fill in the chart to describe the details of the Butler's dream and the interpretation.

Details of Butler's dream	Interpretation given by Joseph

b) When the butler dreamed of the vine, there is a 3-stage process that happened to that vine (v. 10). List these 3 stages and find the meaning of each of them. (maybe try a Bible program)

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

c) There is another event in the OT where this 3-stage process takes place - but not with a vine.



- What was the item? \_\_\_\_\_
- What were the events surrounding it? (Num 16, 17)



- d) In answer to c), where was that item kept? What was the significance of where it was kept?
- e) How can this item relate to the Butler's dream and its interpretation?
- f) There are obvious allusions to Christ in this dream. What did this dream signify in type? Why **three** branches?
- g) What did this dream signify to the Butler? \_\_\_\_\_
- When relating this to the symbol of Christ's sacrifice, what then does the **wine** really mean?
28. Joseph chose to use this opportunity to ask that his life be spared from the prison (v. 14)
- a) Why, if he trusted in God, would he ask such a favour?
- b) From Section 1 question #9a) we saw that there are 3 sets of dreams that Joseph is "involved" with in his life. This is the second set of dreams. Did these dreams mean anything or signal something to Joseph?
- c) How did Joseph describe being brought to Egypt? (v. 15) Compare what is stated in Deut 24:7 with what Joseph stated. What did the Law state about this?



- d) It is not very often that the word “Hebrew” is used. At this time, Jacob was a small nation and owned no land. Why did Joseph describe himself as coming from the land of the Hebrews? What does “Hebrew” mean?

29. **The chief baker’s dream** (v. 16-19)

- a) “When he (the baker) saw that the interpretation was good...” What was going through the baker’s mind here? Are **we** ever like this?

- b) Fill in the chart to describe the details of the Baker’s dream and the interpretation.

Details of Baker’s dream	Interpretation given by Joseph

- c) What was the significance of the 3 baskets? The literal Hebrew for **baskets** is “three wicker baskets” or “three baskets full of holes” – how does this relate to what the 3 baskets signified?



- d) What are bakemeats? (try other translations) \_\_\_\_\_

- e) What is the difference in significance between the **grapes** and the **bakemeats**?

30. If we compare the 2 dreams and the 2 interpretations...

- a) Was the interpretation of both dreams the same? Taking it a further step, does the **bread** and the **wine** mean the same thing?



- b) Why in both interpretations does Joseph state that Pharaoh shall "lift up thy head". In each case, relating to this the symbolism of the bread and wine, what does that phrase suggest about our **choices** in life?

### **40:20-23 – Interpretations are vindicated**

31. Verse 20 states that on Pharaoh's birthday he made a feast unto all his servants. If the interpretations of the dreams come to pass on Pharaoh's birthday, what could this in type signify? (relate it to Christ) What event will take place on this significant day?
32. Consider for a moment why these dreams were given. What was the intent of the Father in giving these dreams? Did He particularly care about these two men? (more than likely, unbelievers)
33. Joseph asked the chief butler to remember him. What in actual fact happened? Relating this to Christ and ourselves, in what way can we be similar to the Butler?

**The Chief Butler Forgets Joseph** – "Joseph made the most of the circumstances to bring about his release to no purpose. When apprising the butler of his coming liberation, he said, 'Think on me when it shall be well with thee, and show kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house. For indeed, I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews, and here (in Egypt) also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.' But alas! The butler was like the ordinary run of mortals. When he found himself in prosperity, he was satisfied to enjoy his portion without a thought for the welfare of others. 'Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.' However, the butler was to be made use of. Joseph's deliverance was not to come through the butler's gratitude, not at once. It was to come after a considerable patience-requiring lapse of time, through the providentially developed baser desire of the butler to please Pharaoh." - *The Ways of Providence* (pg 68, 69)

### **41:1-13 – Pharaoh's two dreams**

34. Joseph is described as a "young man" in this chapter (v. 12)
- What is his age? \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 46)
  - Who else in Genesis is described as a "young man"? \_\_\_\_\_ (before the time of Joseph)
  - How does this make the story in b) more powerful?



35. Joseph was in prison **another** 2 years after he interpreted the dreams of the butler and baker (v. 1)
- a) Why did God allow Joseph to stay in prison another 2 years?
  
  - b) What does v. 9-13 indicate about Pharaoh?
  
  - c) The butler remembered his faults (v. 9) What were his “faults”?
36. Pharaoh's dreams are a background for Joseph's release from prison. His dreams are the third and final set of dreams in Joseph's life.
- a) What does Job 33:15-17 tell us about dreams? How do these verses apply to Pharaoh?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b) Why did God give these dreams to Pharaoh? Why was it necessary for Pharaoh to have his dreams as a background for Joseph's release?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c) What verse does v. 25 and 28 remind you of? What does this tell us about how God used Pharaoh?

***Prophecy is not given so that we can see what happened afterwards –  
It is given for a guiding light for the future!***

### **41:14-36 – Joseph before Pharaoh**

37. What is the significance of Joseph shaving and changing his raiment before he appeared before Pharaoh? (v. 14). How is this linked to the Law of Moses?



38. Joseph is brought before Pharaoh to interpret his dreams (v. 15)
- a) In v. 16, Joseph made it clear to Pharaoh it was God, not himself, that knew the interpretation of the dreams. What lesson can we take from this?

b) Fill in the details of Pharaoh's 2 dreams (v. 17-21, 22-24)

Details of first dream...	Details of second dream...

- c) If you're using the KJV, what are "kine" and "ears"? Why are these two things chosen to convey the sense of the dreams?
- d) Why are 2 dreams with the same interpretation given to Pharaoh?
- e) Why would Pharaoh listen to this amazing interpretation of a young **foreigner** and **prisoner**?
39. There are some amazing connections in this chapter to the **book of Daniel** (particularly Dan. 2).
- a) List as many comparisons between Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar as you can find.
- - 
  - 
  -
- b) List as many comparisons between Joseph and Daniel as you can find.
- - 
  - 
  - 
  -
40. Joseph not only gives the interpretation – he has a **plan** (v. 33-36)
- a) What was the plan he suggested to Pharaoh?
- b) What does this tell us about his character?







43. Pharaoh gives Joseph Asenath to be his wife (v. 45)

a) What does **Asenath** mean?

Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Who was she? Where is On? (try a Bible dictionary)

c) What does this tell us about Joseph's ranking?

d) Does this mean that Joseph married a woman "in the world"?

e) Look at 1 Chron. 4:18. If Bithiah, the daughter of Pharaoh, was included in the genealogy of Judah, what does this imply about Joseph's wife?

44. Names in the Bible always have meaning and significance – how is this true for Joseph's 2 sons?

a) **Manasseh** (v. 51)

Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

How does this meaning relate to both Joseph and Asenath, his wife?

➤ Joseph -

➤ Asenath -

b) **Ephraim** (v. 52)

Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

How is his name significant?

45. Pharaoh obviously believed Joseph's interpretation and plan were valid.

a) Did the people believe this young "Hebrew" as well?

b) Do you think they were bringing 1/5 of their corn in faith or just because they had to?

c) Would **you** have had faith in a young foreigner?





d) Does v. 55 remind you of a similar statement in the NT?

**Transferred in a Moment** – “Joseph is hurriedly summoned. The rest is familiar as a household word. Joseph finds himself transferred in a moment from a dungeon to a throne. The blackness of midnight gives way to a sudden burst of noonday splendour which abides with him through a long and illustrious day. God delivers him from all adversity, and, as he expressed it, ‘made him forget his toil and his father’s house.’ From a prison keeper’s servant, he is transformed into a governor of Egypt – the king’s minister: an object of universal defense, and controller of the land’s pouring treasure. It was God’s work in providence. God’s hand was visible at one or two points; but in the main, it was accomplished in an unseen manner by means of perfectly natural circumstances.” - *The Ways of Providence* (pg 69)



## SECTION 3: Joseph and His Brethren - Tribulation

### 42:1-5 – The sons of Israel come to buy corn

1. We're taken back to Jacob and his family in the land of Canaan.
  - a) Why is Jacob called "Jacob" here and not "Israel"? (v. 1)
  - b) The brothers "look one upon another". What does this phrase mean? (try other translations) What does it imply they were thinking and doing?
  
2. Upon Jacob's instruction, Joseph's brothers go to buy corn in Egypt (v. 2-3)
  - a) Where had Judah gone in chapter 38? If he is back with his brothers now, what does this mean?
  - b) Why do **all 10 brothers** go down to Egypt to buy corn? Why not just send a few brothers to get food for all of their families?
  - c) Jacob would not let Benjamin go down with his brothers (v. 4). How old was Benjamin at this time? What does this tell us about Jacob?
  - d) Why didn't Joseph go back home and find his family, after he'd been released from prison?

### 42:6-17 – Joseph imprisons them

3. Joseph is governor over Egypt and selling food to all the people (v. 6)
  - a) Why do you think Joseph is selling the food himself? (can't somebody else do this??)
  - b) Look up **Governor** (v. 6)
 

Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

<b><i>One of the Hyksos rulers was called Solatis! Was it Joseph?</i></b>
---



4. When Joseph's brothers come to buy food, he recognizes them, but they don't recognize him (v. 7, 8)

a) Why doesn't Joseph **reveal** himself immediately to his brothers?

b) In v. 6, what do Joseph's brothers do? \_\_\_\_\_

Find the other 4 times they do this:

➤ 42:6

➤

➤

➤

➤

c) What does this **fulfill**?

d) How would Joseph have felt when this happened? Do you think it was reassuring for him?

e) What does v. 9 show us? Why did Joseph speak so roughly to them?

f) What lessons can we learn from Joseph's **attitude** toward his brothers?

5. The brothers are shocked when Joseph accuses them of being spies! (v. 9)

a) Why did they say they were all **one man's sons**? What was the point of saying that? (v. 11)

b) How do you think Joseph felt when the brothers mentioned Benjamin? (v. 13)

c) How do you think Joseph felt when they mentioned him? ("one is not")

d) Why would they mention Joseph and Benjamin at all? Does this tell us anything about their spiritual growth up to this point?

6. "By the life of Pharaoh" (v. 15) How did the Egyptians esteem Pharaoh? Why would Joseph use this oath?

**42:18-28 – They are released on the condition of Benjamin's return**



7. Joseph is testing and trying his brothers to see how much they have grown spiritually (v. 15-20)
  - a) How many did he say he would send back **originally** to fetch Benjamin? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Joseph gave his brothers 3 days to decide which one would go back. Who did they decide would go back? Could they decide?
  - c) Joseph decides to only keep one. **Who** did he choose to keep and **why**?
  - d) Why did he "bind him before their eyes"? (v. 24)
  - e) Joseph said that when they brought Benjamin, their "words (would) be verified." (v. 20). How does this principle apply to us? (1 Cor 3:13)
  - f) Why did Joseph insist on Benjamin coming to Egypt, knowing full well his father's sorrow over this?
  
8. We see in v. 21 how alive the brothers' consciences are!
  - a) How long had it been since they sold Joseph into Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) What insight does this give us into the condition of the **pit** they threw Joseph into?
  - c) What does this tell us about how Joseph felt in the pit?
  - d) The word "guilty" in v. 21 is usually used in the sense of the infringement of the rights of another. What had Joseph's brothers taken away from him?
  
9. Look up **interpreter** (v. 23)
 

Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

Why would Joseph use an interpreter?
  
10. This is the first of 7 times that Joseph **cries** (weeps) in the story.
  - a) Find the 7 times and the reason why he cries each time.



	Reference	Reason why Joseph cried...
1	42:24	
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

- b) What does this tell us about his life?
- c) How many recorded times does Jesus cry (weep)?
- d) How was Joseph's life the same as Christ's life in this respect? (take a look at Isa 53:1-4)
- e) What lesson is there for **us**?

11. When one of the brothers discovers his money in his sack, what is their response? (v. 28)

- a) Find 2 other references where they have the same feeling and tell why in each case.
  - 1)
  - 2)
- b) How are we to read their response in v. 28? Are they blaming God or are they realizing God acting in their lives to test them?

**42:29-38 – Jacob’s dilemma and concern for Benjamin**

12. When the brothers returned to Jacob, they give their father a report of what happened in Egypt.

- a) What do they tell him? (v. 29-34)
- b) Compare their report here to the report they gave to their father about Joseph over 20 years earlier (37:32). Have they changed?
- c) How have they grown **spiritually**?





- d) How has their **attitude** to their father changed?
13. When they discover all the brothers have their money in their sacks, again it says, "they are afraid" (v.28, 35).
- a) Why are Jacob and the brothers so shocked to find their money returned?
- b) In what way was Joseph testing them by giving them their money back?
14. Jacob says, "All these things are against me" (v.36)
- a) Was there a reason for all these things happening to him?
- b) Did Jacob realize what the reason was?
- c) What does this teach us in our lives?
- d) What does v. 36 tell us about Jacob's suspicions of Joseph's disappearance?
15. **Reuben** offers his 2 sons to his father if he doesn't bring Benjamin back safe (v. 37)
- a) Did Jacob have any reason to trust Reuben?
- b) How many sons did Reuben have? (49:6) What does this tell us about Reuben?
- c) Was it a good or bad idea for Reuben to offer the lives of his 2 sons in exchange for Benjamin? Why?
- d) Knowing the situation they were in, how could Jacob justify his refusal to let Benjamin go down to Egypt?
16. In v. 38, Jacob makes the comment about Benjamin that "he is left alone."
- a) Does this show Jacob's favoritism? Or is it something else?
- b) Do **all** the other brothers not matter? How would **you** feel if you were one of the brothers?



**43:1-14 – Jacob relents under Judah’s surety**

17. Jacob is again called Israel (v. 6, 8, 11). Why?
  
18. Compare v.7 to 42:13. Did Joseph ask them these questions or had they given this information?
  
19. In v. 8 Benjamin is called a “lad”. In fact, he is about 30 at this time. Find other occurrences of “lad” in the OT and see how elastically it is used. (try a computer Bible program)
  
20. **Judah** pledges his own life to spare Benjamin’s (v. 8-10)
  - a) What mistakes had Judah made? (ch. 38)
  
  - b) Why did Jacob trust Judah? Did he have any reason to?
  
  - c) How does this incident show that Judah has grown spiritually?
  
  - d) This incident is a foreshadowing of a later close association of Judah and Benjamin. Where do we see them together later in scripture?
  
  - e) Judah became **surety** for Benjamin. What is surety? Find a couple of references that refer to surety that help us understand what it is (maybe start with Proverbs 6:1 and 11:15)
  
21. In v. 10, we get an idea of how long they waited to return to Egypt.
  - a) How long do you think they waited? How badly did they need food?
  
  - b) Where did they get the “best fruits in the land” during a famine?
  - c) What 6 gifts did they take with them? What is the significance of the gifts?
    - 
    - 
    - 
    -



- d) Where else in the story are **balm**, **spices** and **myrrh** used? What is the irony in this?
- e) Is there any significance of these gifts related to Christ?

22. On top of gifts, Jacob tells them to take extra money.

- a) How much money did Jacob tell them to take with them? (v. 12, 15)
- b) What law in the Law of Moses is perhaps based on this?

23. Jacob says farewell to his sons, including Benjamin, with the words: “God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother, and Benjamin. If I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved” (v. 14)

- a) Was this a big step for Jacob? Why?
- b) What does this example teach **us**?
- c) What is Hebrew for **God Almighty**? (v. 14)  
 Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

Where else is it used?

What does it reveal to us about Jacob in this situation?

- d) “If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.” Who in the OT made a similar statement? (not dealing with children though) \_\_\_\_\_



## SECTION 4: Joseph and His Brethren - Purification

### 43:15-25 – The brethren return to Egypt

1. Joseph's brothers go to Egypt with the present and the money their father instructed them to take. They present themselves before Joseph, and after about 22 years, Joseph finally sees Benjamin again.
  - a) Do you think Joseph **really** expected to see Benjamin with his brothers? (v. 16)
  - b) Why did Joseph bring them into his house?
  - c) Why did Joseph put on a banquet for his brothers?
  
2. The brothers are **afraid** again (as we saw in 42:28, 35).
  - a) Why did they think they were taken into Joseph's house?
  - b) How afraid do you think they are?
  - c) Why do they try to explain their situation to the steward?
  - d) Look up **seek occasion** (v. 18). What does this phrase mean? (using a Bible program will help)  
 Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 How does it apply in this situation?
  
3. The steward makes a **remarkable** statement in v. 23.
  - a) How did the steward know about the "God of their father"?
  - b) If we compare Joseph to Christ, who would the steward represent? Who does this teach us?
  - c) Name another person in the OT who had a Gentile steward that was familiar with the God of Israel. Who was the steward?
  - d) What do these 2 examples teach us about **preaching**, especially to our friends and family?



### 43:26-34 – Joseph entertains his brethren

4. In v. 26 and 28, we see Joseph's brothers bowing down to him again.
  - a) How many times have they bowed down to Joseph now? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) What do you think was going through **Joseph's** head at this time?
  - c) How would **you** have felt if you were in Joseph's position?
  
5. When the brothers sat down in Joseph's house for a meal, they were seated apart from the Egyptians and in order of age from oldest to youngest (v. 32-33)
  - a) Why were they not seated with the Egyptians?
  - b) What does the order they were seated in tell us about Joseph's attitude toward Reuben (the firstborn)?
  
6. Benjamin's "mess" was 5 times as much as the other brothers (v. 34)
  - a) What's a **mess**?  
 Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (try other translations as well, like the NIV)
  - b) What does 5 represent? Why was this significant?
  - c) Do you think the brothers were just as **jealous** of Benjamin now as they were of Joseph years earlier?

### 44:1-13 – Joseph again deceives his brethren



7. In these verses, Joseph gives specific commands to his steward regarding his **silver cup** (v. 1-2)
  - a) Whose sack was the steward to place the silver cup in? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Why this brother's sack? What was Joseph's purpose in doing this?
  - c) If we relate this to Christ, what is the significance?
  
8. Joseph sent for his brothers when they were out of the city, but "not yet far off" (v. 4)
  - a) Why did he do this?
  - b) What is the city mentioned in v.4? (you may have to look at a study book for the answer)
  
9. "Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good?" (v. 4, 6) Joseph is trying to test and prove his brothers – to see how much they have grown spiritually. It may seem like Joseph is acting revengefully and hatefully, but really this is not the case. Comment on how you think this final test of his brothers relates to the theme "**I seek my brethren.**" What feelings is Joseph experiencing?
  
10. The steward says Joseph uses the cup for "drinking" and for "divining". What do you think it means by "divining"? (try your margin)
  - a) Look up **cup** (v. 2)  
 Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Find other occurrences of this Hebrew word that show us how it was used elsewhere in the OT. (hint: Ex. 25:31; Jer 35:5)
  
11. When the steward accuses the brothers of stealing the silver cup, they are shocked (v. 7-8)
  - a) What do they offer as a logical reason why they couldn't have done this?



- b) "Let him die" (v. 9) - The code of Khammurabi (laws that existed before the Law of Moses) decreed that theft from a palace was restoration 30-fold or death! Here, the brothers pronounced judgment of death on the man who was found with the cup. Who else in the OT pronounced judgment of death upon himself, but was spared from it?
  
  - c) Why does the search for the cup start at the oldest (Reuben) and go to the youngest (Benjamin)? (v. 12)
  
  - d) Where in the NT is there a "search" made of the oldest to the youngest? What was the outcome of that "search"?
  
  - e) When the search was on, do you think they thought twice when it was Joseph's turn? (if he had of been there!)
12. Take note of the brothers' **reaction** when the cup was discovered in Benjamin's sack (v. 13)
- a) What was their reaction?
  
  - b) Did they blame Benjamin? Did they abandon him?
  
  - c) What does this tell us about the brothers?

### **44:14-34 – Judah's confession and plea for Benjamin**

13. Why did **Judah** become the spokesman on behalf of the brothers? (v. 16)
14. In v. 16, the brothers recognize what the cause of all this trouble is.
- a) What did they recognize was the cause? Why is it so amazing that they realize this now?
  
  - b) Why did Judah admit guilt and iniquity when he was sure that none of his brothers were guilty of stealing the cup? Did he know that it was planted there?



15. Consider Judah's speech in v. 18-34:

a) How does Judah acknowledge Joseph's power?

b) Does Judah sound envious that their father loves Benjamin? Why / why not?

c) Judah offers his life for Benjamin's. This is a **changed** Judah - what has caused the change?

d) Contrast Judah now with Judah of chapters 37 and 38.

Judah then...	Judah now...

e) In v.28, Joseph finds out for the **first** time what his brothers told Jacob after they had sold him into Egypt. How would Joseph feel right now?

f) Benjamin is described as a “little one” in v. 20. Why? (remember we already saw that he is about 30!)

g) “...his life is bound up in the lad's life” (v.30). Who is the same language used of in the OT?

h) In v.33, Judah requests that he be made a “bondman” or hired servant to Joseph. What story in the NT does this make you think of? Are there any more parallels to this story in the life of Joseph?





## SECTION 5: Joseph and His Brethren - Revelation

### 45:1-15 – Joseph reveals himself to his brethren

1. When Joseph made himself known to his brethren, he ordered all the Egyptians to leave (v. 1)
  - a) Why did he do this?
  - b) What's the type of Christ?
  
2. Read v. 2 and notice "...and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard." Is this talking about Joseph's actual crying or the news of his reunion?
  
3. "Doth my father yet live?" (v. 3)
  - a) Where else had Joseph enquired about his father? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Why did Joseph ask **again** about Jacob?
  
4. When Joseph revealed himself, his brothers were obviously shocked.
  - a) Look up **troubled** – what does it mean? (v. 3)  
 Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) How do you think **you** would have felt if you were one of Joseph's brothers when he revealed himself? Would you have felt the same way his brothers did?
  - c) Take a look at Zechariah 12:9-11. What is described here is similar to the situation we are looking at. What are these verses in Zechariah talking about? What comparison can be made to Joseph's brothers?
  - d) Why did Joseph say, "...whom ye sold into Egypt"? (v. 4)
  - e) How else would they have been sure it was really Joseph?
  - f) Why did Joseph say what he said in v. 12?
5. In v.5-8, Joseph's makes an amazing declaration of his understanding of **God's providence**.



- a) What is providence? (try a Bible dictionary or a standard English dictionary)
  
- b) How did Joseph show his **understanding** of providence?
  
- c) How would you have reacted if you were Joseph? (honestly!)
  
- d) What lesson can we learn from Joseph's **forgiveness**?
  
- e) What was the **first** word of the message Joseph wanted his brothers to pass along to their father? (v. 9) What does this teach us?

**God's Providence** - "It could not be imagined that the objects of the Father's love should be left to the operations of chance; that he should leave undirected, in the morass of human life, the steps of those whose eyes, affections and trust are directed to him in daily prayer. The righteous fall into trouble, but it is for their good. They come out of it to find themselves benefited. When trouble comes, do not think it is not from God because it is natural. It may not differ from the trouble of other men in apparent origin and form, but it differs from theirs in being under an invisible supervision which aims at a result, and will say, at a certain point, 'Thus far and no farther'." - *The Ways of Providence* (pgs 16, 28)

6. What did Joseph mean when he said "God....hath made me a **father** to Pharaoh"? (v. 8)

7. Look up **come to poverty** (v. 11). What does it literally mean?

Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_

What does this tell us about the severity of the famine?

8. In v. 15, it says that Joseph's brothers "talked with him". **Try to put yourself in the story** – what did his brothers say??? Use your imagination.....

**45:16-24 – Pharaoh's invitation to dwell in Egypt**



9. "It pleased Pharaoh well and his servants" (v. 16) that Joseph's brothers had come. Look at this section of verses and list some things that show us how highly esteemed Joseph was both by Pharaoh and the people.
- - 
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  - 
  -
10. "Come unto me: and I will give you..." (v. 18). Where are these words echoed in the NT? Who said this and why did he quote these words of Pharaoh?
11. "Now thou art commanded" (v. 19) Take a look at what the Septuagint translates this phrase as. What does it really mean?
12. When his brothers left to return to their homes to bring their families to Egypt, Joseph gave each of them changes of clothes. Benjamin, however, was given 300 pieces of silver and 5 changes of clothes (v. 22).
- a) How much is 300 pieces of silver in today's terms?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Do you think his brothers were at all jealous of what Joseph gave Benjamin?
13. Joseph tells his brothers, "see that ye fall not out by the way" as they return to their father (v. 24).
- a) What does this phrase mean? (try other translations)
  - b) What would have caused them to "fall out of the way"?

### **45:25-28 – Jacob receives the news and rejoices**

14. When reading Bible stories, we often lose the impact of certain events because we know the story **too** well. Clear your mind and try to see things from Jacob's perspective:
- a) Do you think there is **any** chance that your son Joseph is still alive? (42:38)
  - b) Your sons return from Egypt and tell you that Joseph is **alive** and that he is the **governor** of Egypt. How do you feel? Do you believe them?
15. "...the spirit of Jacob their father revived" (v. 27) when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent.



- a) What does **revived** mean?  
 Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_
- b) What does this tell us about Jacob's state of mind when he heard the news that Joseph was alive?

**46:1-7 – Migration to Egypt**

16. Why is Jacob called Israel here? And then back to Jacob? Why the changing?

17. Jacob set out for Egypt "with **all** that he had" (v. 1)

- a) Is this typical of Jacob? In what way?
- b) In 45:20, what had Pharaoh told Joseph to tell his family?

18. At Beersheba, Jacob offers sacrifices to the "God of his father Isaac".

- a) What does **Beersheba** mean? (v. 46)  
 Strong's Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hebrew word: \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Where is Beersheba?
- c) What happened at Beersheba? Why did Jacob go **here** to make an offering?

19. When God speaks to Jacob in a vision, Jacob responds by saying "Here am I." (v. 2)

- a) Who used this phrase earlier in the story? \_\_\_\_\_ (reference: \_\_\_\_\_ )
- b) Where else is this phrase used in the Bible? Who used it in each case?  
 ➤  
 ➤  
 ➤  
 ➤  
 ➤  
 ➤
- c) V.3 is a confirmation of a **promise** God made earlier to Jacob. When and where was the promise first given?

d) "...the God of thy Father" (v. 3). Where else is this used in Genesis?



- e) Why is Jacob told not to fear? What would he fear at this time?
- f) "I will there make of thee a great nation." Who was this promise first made to? Where?

20. In v. 4, what 3 additional things did God promise Jacob?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

- a) "...bring thee up again" What does this phrase signify? Where and how is it used elsewhere in the story?
- b) Where is the second part of this promise fulfilled? Does the promise have a greater fulfillment?

**Jacob goes down to Egypt** – "Jacob having received information of all that had been transacted, proceeded to break up his encampment, and go down into Egypt as Joseph and Pharaoh had invited him to do. Isaac had been dead ten years, and Jacob had attained the age of one hundred and thirty. Having arrived at Beer-sheba on his way thither, he offered sacrifices to the God of Isaac. On this occasion, God spake unto him, and said, 'I am God, the God of thy father; fear not to go down into Egypt: for I will there make of thee a great nation: I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes.' In this promise Jacob was reassured of a resurrection to life. The action of putting the hand upon the eyes represents death. Hence, to tell Jacob he should die, and yet that he should be brought up again, was telling him in effect that he should rise from the dead again to possess the land." - *Elpis Israel*

### 46:8-27 – The descendants of Jacob

21. In this section of verses, we have listed all the children and grandchildren of Jacob.
- a) According to v. 26, how many people came into Egypt with Jacob? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) In Stephen's speech in Acts 7, he makes mention of Jacob and his family going into Egypt. How many people does Stephen say went down into Egypt? (Acts 7:14) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) Is there a mistake? How is the **difference** accounted for?

### 46:28-34 – Jacob meets Joseph in Goshen





22. Enter into the feelings of both **Jacob** and **Joseph** as they meet.
- What is Jacob feeling?
  - What is Joseph feeling?
  - Compare/contrast their reunion to the father and son in Christ's parable of "The Prodigal Son".
23. Joseph weeps for a "good while" when he meets his father (v. 29). We already looked at the seven (recorded) times that Joseph weeps. In this instance, what does this reveal about Joseph?
24. Israel makes an amazing statement in v. 30. Who in the NT made a similar statement? About whom?
25. Joseph made sure his brothers told Pharaoh right away that they were shepherds (v. 33-34).
- Why did he do this?
  - Joseph's brothers would be an abomination in **whose** eyes?
  - Knowing this, Joseph was not ashamed of his brothers. Where is the same principle mentioned, that Christ isn't "ashamed" of us, his brethren?

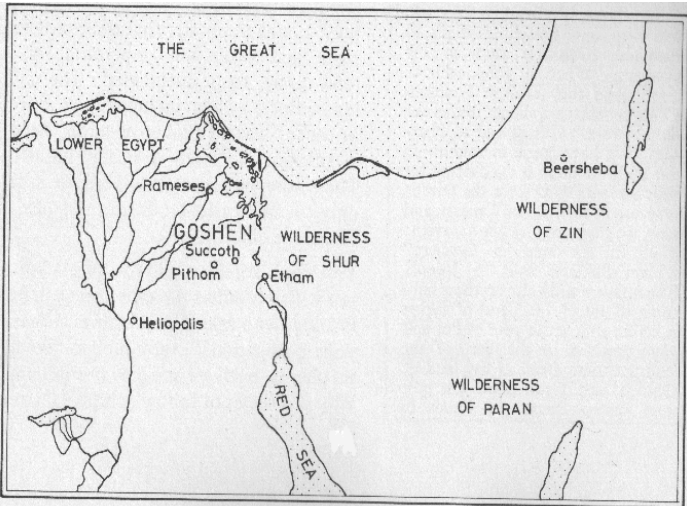


## SECTION 6: Joseph and His Family in Egypt

### 47:1-10 – Jacob presented to Pharaoh

1. Joseph chose only 5 of his brothers to appear before Pharaoh (v. 2).
  - a) Why did he do this? Why **five**?
  
  - b) The number 5 is significant in the story. Use your concordance to find at least 4 references to “5” in the story of Joseph. Do you think that 5 was a special number in Egypt? (see Isa 19:18)
    - 
    - 
    - 
    -
  
  - c) We aren’t told whom Joseph picked - who do you think he picked?
  
  - d) Who would you have picked?

2. Joseph chose to put his family in the **land of Goshen**. The Egyptian name for this place was Rameses (v.11) and in Psalms 78:43, it is called the “field of Zoan”. Agriculturally, Goshen was one of the best pieces of land in Egypt. It was located in the extreme NE of Egypt, and surrounded by mountains, which kept it separate and isolated from the rest of Egypt.



- a) Do you think this was a good place for Joseph to put his family? Why?
  
- b) Why did Joseph not put them in one of the cities of Egypt?

3. When Jacob meets Pharaoh, he blesses him twice (v. 7, 10).
  - a) How does this, in a small way, fulfill God's promise to Abraham in Gen 12:3?
  
  - b) Why does he bless Pharaoh **twice**?



c) "...the less is blessed of the greater" (Heb 7:7) Is this the case here?

4. When Pharaoh asks Jacob his age, Jacob says his days had been "few and evil" (v. 9)

a) How old is Jacob at this time? \_\_\_\_\_

b) Why does Jacob describe his life in this way?

### **47:11-12 – Israel possesses the best of the land**

5. We saw in an earlier question where Rameses (Goshen) was located. We're told Joseph places his family there and takes care of them "according to their families" (v. 12).

a) What does this phrase mean? (look in your margin and also find a cross reference)

b) What does this tell us about how much they **needed** Joseph now? How would they have felt about this?

c) Joseph was, in fact, their saviour. How much do we **need** our saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ?

### **47:13-21 – Egyptians made bondservants to Pharaoh**

6. The famine becomes "very sore" in the land (v. 13). People from all over Egypt and Canaan come to Joseph to buy food from him – Joseph becomes a "saviour" for the **whole world!**

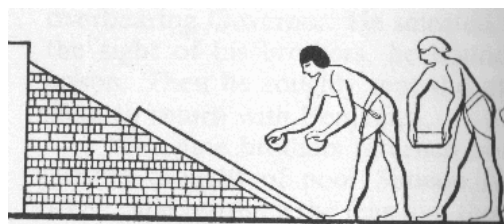
a) The Egyptians soon run out of money, and give their belongings to Joseph in exchange for food.

What did they give Joseph **first**? (v.15-17) \_\_\_\_\_

What was **second**? (v.18-22) \_\_\_\_\_

What was **last**? (v.23-25) \_\_\_\_\_

b) How does this relate to our life in Christ?



7. Look up v. 21 in other translations (try the NIV).

a) How is it translated?

b) Why is this significant? (consider what happens to the children of Israel after Joseph dies)





8. "We and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh" (v. 19)
- a) The Law of Moses speaks of land being redeemed or given back to its owner in Lev 25:23-28.  
**When** was the land given back? **Why** was this done?
- b) Do you think Egyptian law was the same as Jewish law? Do you think the Egyptians got their land back?

### **47:22-26 – The priests' land tax-exempt**

9. The Egyptian priests had a portion of land assigned to them by Pharaoh and Joseph was not able to buy this portion of land (v. 22).
- a) What was the **Jewish** law about priests' land? (Lev 25:32-34)
- b) Was Jewish law the same or different than Egyptian law in this respect?
10. Joseph took **one-fifth** of the people's crops (v. 24). How would you feel if the government of your country introduced a **20% income tax**?? ☺
- a) How much was the Jewish tithe? (hint: look up the word **tithe** in your concordance)
- b) Is there a practical lesson for us (in our service to God) with regards to these amounts?

### **47:27-31 – Jacob's command concerning burial**

11. How old is Jacob when he dies? \_\_\_\_\_ years
- How long has he been in Egypt now? \_\_\_\_\_ years (look back at v. 9)
- When did this number come up earlier in the story?
12. Jacob made it clear to Joseph that he did not want to be buried in Egypt (v. 29)



- a) Jacob made Joseph put his right hand **under his thigh**. Find other references to this (**under his thigh**) and to **thigh**. What did this represent?
- - 
  -

- b) Why did Jacob make Joseph swear to take him to where his fathers were buried? Why was it so important to Jacob?

- c) What do these verses reveal about the **relationship** Jacob and Joseph had? Why didn't Jacob tell Reuben, his eldest son, where he wished to be buried?

13. “If now I have found grace in thy sight.” (v. 29). Where did we first see this phrase occur in the story of Joseph? Why would Jacob use this phrase when speaking to Joseph?

14. Look up “bed’s head” (v. 31) in the Septuagint – what does it say? \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Hebrews 11:21, it says Jacob leaned upon “the top of his staff” when he blessed the sons of Joseph (ch. 48).

Why did Jacob need a **staff**? (Gen 32:24-32)

What do you think the staff is a symbol of?

### **Chapters 48, 49**

We have chosen not to include these 2 chapters in this section of the book. In the second part of the book, we will be looking at some aspects of these chapters, specifically the blessing of Joseph and his sons by Jacob in chapter 48, and the blessings of Reuben, Judah and Joseph in chapter 49.

### **50: 1-14 – Joseph buries his father in Canaan**

15. In v. 2, Jacob, at the end of his life, is called **Israel**. From what we've seen so far, what does this indicate to us?

16. Joseph had his father embalmed by the physicians (v. 2).



- a) Was Joseph following the customs of Egypt by doing this? If so, do you think it was it a good or bad idea to do this?
- b) **Why** did Joseph have his father embalmed? Was there a practical reason?
17. Compare how long the Egyptians mourn for Jacob and how long his family mourns for him.
- a) How long did the Egyptians mourn for Jacob? (v. 3) \_\_\_\_\_ **This was the period of mourning for a Pharaoh!**
- b) How long did the “children of Israel” mourn for Jacob? (v. 10) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Does this difference tell us anything?
- d) Where are we told in the NT not to mourn like those around us without hope, when our brothers and sisters die?
- e) List examples of people in the Bible who were mourned for, **even though they had the hope of the resurrection** (try to provide references).
- - 
  - 
  -
18. Jacob told Joseph to bury him “in my grave which I have dugged for me in the land of Canaan” (v. 5).
- a) **Where** was this burying place? (v. 13) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Who had **bought** it originally? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) From v. 5, what does it seem Jacob had done to it?
19. Where is the **threshingfloor of Atad**? (v. 10). Why did they mourn for Jacob here? (try a Bible dictionary or atlas).
20. When Joseph made his request to go and bury his father in the land of Canaan, Pharaoh allowed him to go (v. 5-6)
- a) Would you expect Pharaoh to say anything else?
- b) Why would Joseph even ask?
- c) What is the type of Christ in this?





- g) Joseph comforted them and “spake kindly unto them” (v. 21).
  - What does your margin say about this phrase?
  
  - Find others places where this phrase is used and who it is used of. (use your margin to get you started)

	Reference	Who is it used of?
1		
2		
3		
4	2 Chron 30:22	Hezekiah “spake comfortably” to the Levites

**50:22-26 – Joseph’s long life, message of Redemption and death**

23. We see Joseph was very blessed by God in the latter end of his life, **after** going through so much trial and hardship. Joseph was blessed by being able to see his great-grandchildren. Who else was blessed in the latter end of their life like Joseph, after going through so much pain and trial?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (reference: \_\_\_\_\_ )

24. Joseph declares to his brethren that God would visit them, bring them out of that land, and take them to the land that he promised to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (v. 24)

- a) How did Joseph know God would bring them out of the land of Egypt?
  
- b) Do you think his brothers knew this as well?
  
- c) What does this tell us about Joseph’s understanding of **spiritual** things? What does it teach **us**?

25. Joseph made an oath with his brethren that they would carry his bones out when the “children of Israel” left Egypt (v. 25).

- **Where** is it recorded that they did this? \_\_\_\_\_
- **When** were Joseph’s bones buried? \_\_\_\_\_
- **Who** brought his bones up out of Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_



- **Where** were Joseph's bones buried? \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Why** is this place significant? **When** else did this place come up in the story?
- a) Why didn't Joseph have the children of Israel take him back to Canaan as soon as he died?
- b) Where in the NT is this commandment about his bones shown to be an act of faith?
- c) Why was **this** an act of faith?
26. How old was Joseph when he died? (v. 26) \_\_\_\_\_ *One scholar has counted 27 references in ancient Egyptian literature to this as an ideal age to live to!*
- Referring back to #25, what great leader of Israel died at the same time that Joseph's bones were buried? \_\_\_\_\_
- How old was this leader when he died? \_\_\_\_\_
27. Think about everything we've considered. What is the greatest lesson for you **personally** from the life of Joseph? (remember to share and discuss your answer with others!)

**Suffering before Salvation** - "In studying the events of Joseph's life, therefore, we are studying a case in which God was at work beyond all question; and from which, therefore, we shall be able to learn instruction with regard to the experiences of our own lives, if our lives like his are framed in the fear of God and committed to His keeping in prayer and well-doing; for his case, like all the others, was "written for our learning"...It may seem to them that God is not only working with them, but actually working against them. Let them remember the agony of Joseph in the pit, in slavery, in false imprisonment and learn the darkest paths of their life may be the ways appointed for them to reach liberty and life, wealth and honour – yea, a throne in the Kingdom of the antitypical Joseph (Jesus Christ) who himself had to tread the dark and tearful valley of humiliation, and who in the day of his glory, will introduce all of his brethren, amongst many bright stars, to the most interesting of Jacob's sons." - *The Ways of Providence* (pg 60, 70)