

North Christian Church Men's Bible Study
Men In the Bible: Joseph
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Purpose

To study the men in the Bible in order to draw out issues directly effecting men today, and learn how these principle may be applied to everyday life.

Topic

- Joseph, as portrayed in **Genesis 37-50**

Historical background

- Author: Moses
- Audience: Disciples of Jesus Christ
- Setting: Land of Canaan to Dothan and the Egyptian Empire
- Date: 1635 B.C.
- Theme: Jealousy and betrayal, salvation and empowerment, forgiveness and reconciliation

Reading Outline

- Read **Genesis 37:1-50:26**.
- Read straight through in one sitting, concentrating on “big picture “ themes.
- Make sure reading is done in a relaxing situation. Have fun, think of how the life of Joseph can edify your personal walk with your Lord and future relationships with others.
- Keep the Gospel in your mind as you read, trying to see Jesus Christ on every page.

Post Reading Questions / Conclusions

Chapter 37

- **V1- 2** What is the significance of the land of Canaan? How would you describe the relationship between Joseph and his brothers? Between Joseph and his father?
- **V3-4** Was Joseph's relationship with his father a source of pain/frustration for his brothers? Was this Joseph's problem or his brothers'?
- **V5-8** How did the dream Joseph described weigh on the family? Was Joseph telling them the dream because he was arrogant and trying to elevate himself?
- **V9-11** Why do you think the Bible says that Jacob "kept the matter in mind"? Does this dream speak of something larger than rulership over the family?
- **V12-14** This was the family business: How did Joseph checking on the older brothers fit into your thoughts on who was running the show?
- **V15-18** When they saw him did they instantaneously think of a plot to kill him, or was this on their minds already? Was it preconceived?
- **V19-22** How is Reuben used by God to protect Joseph? Why do you think this was?
- **V23-26** Why does the plan to get rid of Joseph suddenly change? Is it to satisfy a lust pattern? Does greed enter the picture? Does guilt come on the scene?
- **V27-30** Do the tribes show any unity in this process against Joseph? Is this a glimpse of the world system at work?
- **V31-35** How does "Operation Deception" play out for Joseph's brothers? What about the heavy burden placed on Jacob, their father? Is any one considering the welfare of others in this predicament?
- **V36** Did you see and understand that God had Joseph's back throughout all of his persecution?

Key Post Reading Summary Points

(How can these principles be applied to our lives as Men?)

- Do you see the sovereign hand of God in Joseph's life? How does his life inspire you as you live yours?
- How would you describe Joseph's relationship with the family, especially with his brothers?
- Could Joseph have prevented the jealousy of his brothers? Why or why not?

- We see Jacob make a tunic of many colors for Joseph. What is the significance of this tunic? What impact did it have on the rest of his sons? Does this have significance on how God was shaping Joseph, even at the young age of 17?
- Does Joseph's integrity shine in the darkness? Do his brothers have an issue with him based on this? How do you think integrity expresses itself in your life? Can we, as men, learn to act in integrity as we grow in the faith?
- Why do you think Joseph gave a bad report to his father in verse 2?
- Does Joseph's life, so far, have any parallels to the life of Jesus Christ our Lord? Are we able to see a picture of Jesus through Joseph?

Chapter 38

- Why do you think this chapter was inserted into the flowing story of Joseph?
- **V1-7** Judah by choice separates from his brothers and takes a gentile wife. Do you think this is consistent with what God wants for the Jews? In the Bible, is it a true statement that God can kill people if they need to be taken out for the greater good.
- **V8-10** These verses talk about leverite marriage. What is leverite marriage and how does this apply to the line of the messiah?
- **V11-12** Judah puts a stop to this practice. Why?
- **V13-15** After Judah put a stop to the 3rd brother performing his duties. What does Tamar do to put the ball in her court ?
- **V16-17** Judah wanted to satisfy a sexual lust, but what does Tamar want before the deed is done?
- **V18-22** When Judah keeps his word and sends back the kid, why do you think Tamar fled the scene and took the ID?
- **V23-24** When Judah is notified of the activities of his daughter in law, what kind of heart is manifested in Judah? (cp **Lev 21:9**)
- **V25-26** What does Judah do when he finds out that he is the father of the child Tamar is carrying?
- **V27-29** How does this birth remind us of other twins born into this family prior to this scene? How do these illegitimate children impact the Israelites? See **Mt 1** and **Ruth 4** for more evidence of how this affects them.

Key Post Reading Summary Points

- Do you see the sovereign hand of God in Judah's life? How does his life inspire you as you live yours?
- How would you describe Judah's role in the line of the Messiah?
- There are many articles on the hidden codes of **Genesis 38** are you familiar with any of these? If so what is your take on the reason they might be placed here?
- Why do you think that this passage is referenced to in the book of Ruth?

Chapter 40

- **V1- 3** Who are the cupbearer and the baker? What duties did they fill for Pharaoh? Where did they end up?
- **V4-7** Where did the captain of the guard assign them to? In the prison after a period of time, what happened to these two men on the same night? What was one of the main character traits that shined thru Joseph?
- **V8- 11** Cupbearer tells his dream to Joseph...Joseph gives the glory to God...
- **V12-15** Joseph tells the meaning of the dream. What are the significance of three days in the Bible? Joseph gives the good news and asked for a show of kindness when he is reappointed to his post close to the Pharaoh.
- **V16-17** Chief bakers dream is told to Joseph. Is the outcome of the dream even close to that of the cupbearer? Does Joseph like to give this kind of news? Is telling someone the truth no matter what a great form of integrity?
- **V18-19** Meaning of the dream for the chief baker.
- **V20-23** Pharaoh has a party for his birthday and just as Joseph had said he restored the cupbearer and executed the chief baker. Do you think that the excitement of the cupbearer being reinstated to the official position in the Pharaohs team might have made him forget Joseph or is this just people in general?

Key Post Reading Summary point to discuss and How can these principles be apply to our lives as Men.

- Do we see the sovereign hand of God in Joseph's life? And how does his life inspire you as you live your life?
- How would you describe Josephs relationship with others prisoners /

officials?

- Could Joseph have any input in the stay he had to endure in prison?
- What are the main characteristics of Joseph in this chapter?
- Joseph's integrity - does it shine in the darkness? How do we think our integrity shows in our lives? Can we as men learn to act in integrity as we grow in the faith?
- Why do you think Joseph goes thru all the imprisonments before being used by the Lord?
- Does Joseph's life so far have any parallels to Jesus Christ our Lord and can we see a picture of Jesus through Joseph?

Chapter 41

- **V1- 4** Why, at the end of 2 full years, did pharaoh have a dream? At the end of verse 4 it states Pharaoh awoke - why do you think it states this?
- **V5-7** Second dream states again and Pharaoh awoke.
- **V8** What does this tell you about how God used a Hebrew slave to humble the wisdom of Egypt?
- **V9-13** Operation memory trigger: Cupbearer recalls his experience with Joseph when he had a dream years ago in prison and how this Hebrew slave was able to interpret dream.
- **V14-16** Pharaoh sent for him - what are your thoughts on customs of other lands as a Christian when you are called to as an ambassador of Christ in that land?
- **V17-24** Pharaoh tells Joseph the dreams and explains no one in the land could explain. Do you think God caused this so Joseph would be used?
- **V25** Joseph states that the dreams are one in the same and God is about to tell you what you will do. Do you think Pharaoh was a God fearing man?
- **V26-31** Severe famine about to come on the world Joseph is a part of the solution. Why?
- **V32** Do you think this gives us insight regarding the 2 dreams and why God caused this in pharaohs life?
- **V33-36** Joseph is telling the leader of the world what to do. Why do you think Pharaoh is listening? Does this teach us that life requires planning?
- **V37-40** Pharaoh makes Joseph the leader of the known world. What

purpose does this accomplish in Gods plan for the Jews?

- **V41-43** Bow the knee - this is probably a indication that pharaoh was introducing Joseph as a son of pharaoh to the people. What a difference a day makes.
- **V44-45** Joseph given a wife by Pharaoh.
- **V46-49** Joseph was 30 years of age at this time. Who else was 30 at the start of His ministry?
- **Ps 105:16-22** A little more color on imprisonment of Joseph.
- **V50-52** Two sons born to him in Egypt, this will play a role in his advancement to the first-born position later in the book when his father adopts Manasseh and Ephraim as his own.
- **V53-54** Wide spread famine in the land but bread is plentiful in Egypt.
- **V55-57** Joseph again put in charge of the selling of food to the entire world. Does this show the great trust the Egyptians had in this Hebrew slave?