

March 14–20
Genesis 42–50
“God Meant it Unto Good”



Joseph Saves His Father's Family

Gen 42:8-9,20-24

Why do you think Joseph put these demands on his brother?

Why do you think Joseph wept when he overheard their reaction to his demands?

Joseph Saves His Father's Family

Gen 42:33-36

How did Jacob react when he heard that “the lord of Egypt” was holding Simeon captive until his son's return with Benjamin?

Joseph Saves His Father's Family

Gen 43:26-34

How did Joseph react to being with Benjamin again?

Arthur R. Bassett

"It is in Joseph's relationship with his brothers that one sees his most Christlike features, especially the characteristics of brotherly kindness and charity.... What a shock it must have been, then, when Joseph confronted his brothers again for the first time in twenty-two years. What thoughts must have raced through his mind! Again one senses his great patience in not revealing himself to them until he discovers their feelings.

"History would search far to find another scene so filled with human feelings as that of Joseph listening to his brethren... speak of their punishment for having sold their brother into slavery. Joseph responded with sternness, as God must sometimes do with us, but when one sees him moved to tears on two occasions-to the point that he must leave the room to hide his face from his brethren-one senses the depth of his Christlike love, filled with forgiveness for the truly penitent." ("Joseph, Model of Excellence," Ensign, Sept. 1980)

Joseph Saves His Father's Family

Gen 44:1-5

Joseph Saves His Father's Family

Gen 44:22,32-34

What does Judah offer Joseph if he will let Benjamin return to his father?

Joseph Saves His Father's Family

Gen 45:1-8

In what way does Joseph recognize the hand of God in the way that his brothers mistreated him?

Joseph B. Wirthlin

“Through Joseph, the Lord preserved the children of Israel and provided a place in Egypt for them to flourish and increase.

“This story is well known, but I urge you to read it again, focusing your attention on the integrity of Joseph and on the blessings it brought to him. He became the birthright son in the house of Israel and received an inheritance in the lands of the Americas. The Lord permitted him to prophesy of Moses, who would deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt and of Joseph Smith, the prophet of the restoration of the gospel in the latter days.” (CR, April 1990)

Joseph Saves His Father's Family

Gen 45:9-15

How does Joseph demonstrate Christ-like forgiveness?

Arthur R. Bassett

"I respect our father Joseph for many things—for his faith, his virtue, his knowledge, his temperance and patience, and for his godliness. But most of all I respect him for his brotherly kindness and love. These are his most godlike attributes; these are his touch-point with the Savior and his touch-point with us, his posterity. These are the attributes we should attempt to emulate as the grandchildren of this model of Christian excellence; one of the greatest men this world has ever produced, a father who taught all of his posterity what it means to truly know Christ." ("Joseph, Model of Excellence," Ensign, Sept. 1980)

Joseph Saves His Father's Family

Gen 46:1-4

What does the Lord promise Jacob if he will go to Egypt?

Joseph Saves His Father's Family

Gen 46:27-30

Joseph Saves His Father's Family

Gen 47:27-31

Why do you think that it was important to Jacob that he be buried in the land of Canaan?

Jacob Blesses His Posterity

JST Gen 48:6-11

6 And thy issue which thou begettest after them shall be thine and shall be called after the name of their brethren in their inheritance in the tribes; therefore, they were called the tribes of Manasseh and of Ephraim.

7 And Jacob said unto Joseph, When the God of my fathers appeared unto me in Luz in the land of Canaan, he sware unto me that he would give unto me and unto my seed the land for an everlasting possession.

8 Therefore, O my son, he hath blessed me in raising thee up to be a servant unto me, in saving my house from death,

9 In delivering my people, thy brethren, from famine which was sore in the land; wherefore, the God of thy fathers shall bless thee and the fruit of thy loins, that they shall be blessed above thy brethren and above thy father's house;

10 For thou hast prevailed, and thy father's house hath bowed down unto thee, even as it was shown unto thee before thou wast sold into Egypt by the hands of thy brethren; wherefore, thy brethren shall bow down unto thee, from generation to generation, unto the fruit of thy loins forever;

11 For thou shalt be a light unto my people, to deliver them in the days of their captivity from bondage and to bring salvation unto them when they are altogether bowed down under sin.

Jacob Blesses His Posterity

Gen 48:13-14,17-22

John Taylor

"Joseph observing what his father was doing, informed him that he was putting his right hand on the head of the younger boy, but the old man replied, I know it, my son. The Spirit of the Lord prompted him to do as he did—to confer the greater blessing upon Ephraim, the younger brother. It was for this reason that God spake through the mouth of Jeremiah concerning the gathering of Israel: 'I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn' (Jer 31:9). That is according to his purposes. He acknowledged and reconfirmed this birthright upon Ephraim the younger of the two sons of Joseph, when he referred to the dispensation of the fullness of times and the ushering in of its great work—when the Lord should set his hand to gather His people, and be a father to Israel, even to Ephraim His firstborn."
(JD, 21:358)

Jacob Blesses His Posterity

Gen 49:1-2

John Taylor

“We are desirous of blessing our posterity. We read of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, before they left the world, calling their families together, and under the inspiration of the spirit of prophecy and revelation, putting their hands upon their heads and pronouncing certain blessings upon them, which should rest upon their posterity through every subsequent period of time. We have the same Gospel and Priesthood, and the same light and intelligence, and we are after the salvation and exaltation of our families that shall come after us, as they were, and we are seeking for God's blessings to be poured upon their heads as they were.” (JD, 15:284)

Jacob Blesses His Posterity

Gen 49:22-26

LeGrand Richards

"Jacob said that Joseph was a fruitful bough whose branches would run over the wall (and we have always understood that the wall referred to the great waters)—and where was he to go over the wall? Unto the utmost bounds of the everlasting hills. Is there any theologian in this world who can tell us where those everlasting hills are to which the Lord, through the father of Joseph, promised Joseph that he and his people would go?

“He further said that his blessings would prevail above the blessings of his progenitors and his progenitors were Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Can you imagine that God would have in store for that chosen one blessings greater than those of his progenitors, and then not provide that a record should be kept of the fulfillment of those promises unto that great branch of the house of Israel?" (CR, April 1967)

Jacob Blesses His Posterity

Gen 50:24-26

Next Week:

March 21–27

Exodus 1–6

“I Have Remembered My Covenant”

