

March 7–13
Genesis 37–41
“The Lord Was With Joseph”



The Birthright From Israel

The Sons of Israel and Their Mothers

*1. Reuben	Leah
*2. Simeon	Leah
3. Levi	Leah
*4. Judah	Leah
*5. Dan	Bilhah
6. Naphtali	Bilhah
*7. Gad	Zilpah
8. Asher	Zilpah
9. Issachar	Leah
10. Zebulun	Leah
*11. Joseph	Rachel
12. Benjamin	Rachel

Joseph Sold Into Egypt

D&C 90:24

24 Search diligently, pray always, and be believing, and all things shall work together for your good, if ye walk uprightly and remember the covenant wherewith ye have covenanted one with another.

Romans 8:28

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

What is the message of these two passages?

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"Young Joseph, the son of Jacob, was thrown into a pit, sold into slavery, betrayed, and abandoned. Can you imagine how difficult it was for a young man in his prime to be betrayed, sold into slavery, falsely accused, and then imprisoned?... Joseph must have wondered if God had forgotten him. God had something unimaginable in mind for Joseph. He used this period of trial to strengthen Joseph's character and put him in a position to save his family." (CR, Oct. 2020)

Joseph Sold Into Egypt

Gen 37:2-4

What is significant about Joseph receiving the coat from his father?

One noted scholar suggested that it was "a tunic reaching to the palms of the hands and soles of the feet; the long tunic with sleeves worn by young men and maidens of the better class; in the case of Joseph, to have been the badge of the birthright which has been forfeited by Reuben and transferred to Joseph" (Wilson, Old Testament Word Studies, pg. 82).

If indeed this coat signaled that Joseph held the birthright, which may have been in question among the brothers, this fact would explain the intense hostility and jealousy the coat provoked among the other sons of Jacob.... (Old Testament Student Manual Genesis-2 Samuel, "Genesis 37–50: Joseph: The Power of Preparation")

Joseph Sold Into Egypt

Gen 37:5-11

How did his brothers and father interpret Joseph's dreams?

Joseph Sold Into Egypt

Gen 37:13,23-28

Joseph is thrown by his brothers into a pit—a dreadful physical fact. But morally and spiritually, too, it may often seem that the soul of man is in a pit. The realization of this may come with shocking suddenness. Joseph at one moment walked in the sunlight in his coat of many colors; the next moment he was down in stifling darkness. One moment he seemed to have no need of anything; the next moment he had agonized need of everything. So with human souls. From self-sufficiency they may be plunged into paralyzing helplessness and desperate need of God. Yet at Joseph's worst moment there were unsuspected forces moving for his release. God's purpose working through its own instruments would carry his life on to deliverance and great destiny. Beyond this verse in Genesis comes the sound of Ps. 40:2, "He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock." (The Interpreter's Bible, by G. A. Buttrick, 1:754-755)

Joseph Sold Into Egypt

Gen 37:31-35

Alma 46

23 Moroni said unto them: Behold, we are a remnant of the seed of Jacob; yea, we are a remnant of the seed of Joseph, whose coat was rent by his brethren into many pieces; yea, and now behold, let us remember to keep the commandments of God, or our garments shall be rent by our brethren, and we be cast into prison, or be sold, or be slain.

24 Yea, let us preserve our liberty as a remnant of Joseph; yea, let us remember the words of Jacob, before his death, for behold, he saw that a part of the remnant of the coat of Joseph was preserved and had not decayed. And he said— Even as this remnant of garment of my son hath been preserved, so shall a remnant of the seed of my son be preserved by the hand of God, and be taken unto himself, while the remainder of the seed of Joseph shall perish, even as the remnant of his garment.

Joseph Sold Into Egypt

Gen 39:1-6

How did the Lord bless Joseph while he was a servant of Potiphar?

What resulted from these blessing from the Lord?

L. Tom Perry

"They took their seventeen-year-old brother and sold him as a slave to a caravan going into Egypt, a strange land, where they spoke a strange tongue and had strange customs. But the Lord was with this remarkable young man, and he seemed never to be discouraged. Though a stranger, a slave, his countenance must have radiated a special spirit. When offered for sale, he was purchased by a captain of the king's guard. It was only a short time before Joseph had so distinguished himself to the captain that he made him ruler over his house. In authority he was the first servant; and he was made overseer over all the captain had, and the captain put his complete trust, his properties, his income, into the hands of Joseph.

"Joseph was a 'goodly person' and achieved a position of prominence through the help of the Lord." (CR, April 1978)

Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

Gen 39:7-12

Why was Joseph able to resist Potiphar's wife's advances without hesitation?

Alma 13

12] Now they, after being sanctified by the Holy Ghost, having their garments made white, being pure and spotless before God, could not look upon sin save it were with abhorrence; and there were many, exceedingly great many, who were made pure and entered into the rest of the Lord their God.

13] And now, my brethren, I would that ye should humble yourselves before God, and bring forth fruit meet for repentance, that ye may also enter into that rest.

Dallin H. Oaks

"[Potiphar's wife] tempted him to commit adultery with her. Joseph rejected her advances, telling her he would not betray the trust of her husband, or the even greater trust he would violate by sinning against God in doing what Joseph called 'this great wickedness.' He rejected her again and again. Then one day, when no one else was in the house, she seized hold of his clothing. In a marvelously vivid description, the scripture says, 'And he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.'

"What a persuasive instruction in righteousness! The same teaching was given in this modern revelation: 'And go ye out from among the wicked. Save yourselves. Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord' (D&C 38:42). Those words command all of us to follow the example of Joseph."
(CR, Oct. 1992)

Spencer W. Kimball

“The case of Potiphar's wife is an example of the creeping tentacles of sin. Even though this scheming woman did not succeed in defiling Joseph, her sin was most grievous. The intent was there and the desire and the lust and the coveting. She had ‘already committed adultery with him in her heart and mind.’ as she ‘cast her eyes upon Joseph day by day.’ This woman's transgression did not begin when she ripped the clothes from the body of this fleeing stalwart. Her perfidy had been born and nurtured in her mind and heart in the ‘day by day’ of wanting him, teasing him, desiring him, lusting for him, and coveting him. Her sin was a progressive thing. So, for all the numerous people, who, like this seductive woman, carry in their hearts and minds designs or desires or covetings, deep sin lieth already at their doors.” (CR, Oct. 1962)

Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

Gen 39:19-23

How did the Lord bless Joseph while he was in prison?

Hartman Rector Jr.

"Joseph always seemed to do the right thing; but still, more importantly, he did it for the right reason...."

"The ability to turn everything into something good appears to be a godly characteristic. Our Heavenly Father always seems to be able to do this. Everything, no matter how dire, becomes a victory to the Lord. Joseph, although a slave and wholly undeserving of his fate, nevertheless remains faithful to The Lord and continued to live the commandments and made something very good of his degrading circumstances. People like this cannot be defeated." (CR, Oct. 1972)

Joseph in Prison

Gen 40:12-15

Joseph in Prison

Gen 40:18-23

L. Tom Perry

"The chief butler was restored to his position of prominence in the king's service but forgot all about Joseph in prison for two full years. One day the king had a dream which none of the wise men could interpret. When the chief butler then remembered Joseph, he went to the king and said there was a man in prison who could interpret the dream. The Pharaoh sent for Joseph." (CR, April 1978)

Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream

Gen 41:25-32

What was the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream?

Quentin L. Cook

“The scriptures and modern prophets have made it clear that there will be lean years and plentiful years. The Lord expects us to be prepared for many of the challenges that come. He proclaims, ‘If ye are prepared ye shall not fear’ (D&C 38:30). One of the great blessings of the scriptures is that they warn us of challenges that are unexpected but often occur. We would do well to be prepared for them. One form of preparation is to keep the commandments.” (CR, Oct. 2008)

Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream

Gen 41:37-41

What reason does Pharaoh give for granting this power and blessing on Joseph?

Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream

Gen 41:37-41

What reason does Pharaoh give for granting this power and blessing on Joseph?

L. Tom Perry

“Because of the service Joseph rendered, the Pharaoh said unto his servants, ‘Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?’ The Pharaoh recognized that Joseph was, indeed, directed by the Lord when he said unto Joseph, ‘forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art.’

“When one follows the course marked by the road signs of the gospel of Jesus Christ and places his trust in the Lord, its influence is such that it is manifest not only in action and deed but by a marked and visible change in his very being. There is a special light and a spirit which radiates from his eternal soul. It can be described in words like brightness, light, joy, happiness, peace, purity, contentment, spirit, enthusiasm, etc.” (CR, April 1978)

Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream

Gen 41:53-57

Orson Hyde

“Thus, the country to which the chosen of God was banished, was enabled to feed the starving millions that fled thither for seven long years, and Joseph was prime minister to the crown, and general superintendent of all the affairs of Egypt. He controlled all the food that had been laid up in store. The famine waxed strong in the land from which he was expelled, and they had nothing laid up in store; for they had no Joseph to warn them of the approaching distress. They had driven him away, and God greatly blessed the land to which he fled.” (JD, 2:202)

Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream

Gen 41:45,50-52

Asenath the Daughter of Dinah

The traditions that trace Asenath to the family of Jacob relate that she was the daughter born to Dinah following her rape by Shechem son of Hamor. Jacob's sons wanted to kill the infant, lest it be said that there was harlotry in the tents of Jacob. Jacob brought a gold plate and wrote God's name on it.... Dinah left Asenath on the wall of Egypt. That day Poti-phaera went out for a walk near the wall with his young men, and he heard the infant's crying. When they brought the baby to him, he saw the plate and the record of the episode. Poti-phaera told his servants, "This girl is the daughter of great ones.".... This narrative teaches that all is foreseen by God. Each of Jacob's sons was born together with his future spouse, except for Joseph, who was not born together with his mate, since Asenath daughter of Dinah was fit to be his wife. God directed matters so that Joseph would find a wife when he went down to Egypt, and Asenath was suitable for him (Pirkei de-Rabbi Eliezer [ed. Higger], chaps. 35, 37; Midrash Aggadah [ed. Buber], Gen. 41:45). (Asenath: Midrash and Aggadah | Jewish Women's Archive". jwa.org.)

Next Week:

March 14–20

Genesis 42–50

“God Meant it Unto Good”

