

GENESIS Lesson 40 – 8/11/19

Jacobs sends his sons north

37:12: And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.

37:13: And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I.

37:14: And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

Last week I mentioned that Jacob left Shechem without Joseph, but I want to correct what I said; it was actually sometime after he left Shechem that Joseph ends up being sold into bondage because in chapter 37 Jacob is in the valley of Hebron and from there he sends Joseph back to Shechem to see how his brothers are faring.

We are told that Jacob sent his sons back to Shechem to feed the flock while he journeyed south; perhaps he was looking for pasture before he sent for the boys to join him. Or as Jacob and his family are heading south he finds no adequate pasture, he stops and sends his sons north to feed the flocks.

I surmise that Rachel was probably pregnant and Jacob knew he had to stop and the land didn't have adequate pasture. Now this is pure speculation on my part.

I want to read a verse that indicates that Joseph was sold to the Midianites before Benjamin was born.

When the brothers return from Egypt they told Jacob what had transpired between them and the lord of the land.

Gen. 43:7: And they said, The man asked us straitly of our state, and of our kindred, saying, Is your father yet alive? have ye another brother? and we told him according to the tenor of these words: could we certainly know that he would say, Bring your brother down?

Let's review the journey of Jacob.

Jacob's travel from Padan-Aram

1. Jacob leaves Padan-Aram (Gen. 31:17)
2. Jacob is confronted by Laban at Galeed (Gen. 31:48)
3. Jacob sees angels at Mahanaim (Gen. 32:2)
4. Jacob wrestles with God at Penuel (Gen. 32:30-31)
5. Jacob builds a house at Succoth (Gen. 33:17)
6. Jacob leaves Succoth and pitches his tent in Shalem a city in Shechem (Gen. 33:18)
 - a. Dinah is defiled (Gen. 34:2)
7. Jacob was in Shechem when God told him to leave and go to Bethel (Gen. 35:1)
8. Jacob arrives at Bethel and God speaks to him (Gen. 35:7)
 - a. Bethel is about 15 miles south of Shechem. It is possible that from Bethel Jacob sent his boys north again to Shechem in order to feed the flocks while he heads south.
 - b. Jacob then sends Joseph north to see how the brothers are doing; it is possible he stays behind because Rachel is pregnant and can't travel much.

- c. Jacob's sons return south without Joseph.
- 9. Jacob leaves Bethel and heads for Ephrath (Bethlehem) but didn't make it stops because Rachel had to give birth (Gen. 35:16-18)
 - a. The boys return with Joseph's blood-stained coat.
- 10. Jacob stops at the tower of Edar near Bethlehem (Gen. 35:21)
 - a. Reuben has relations with Bilhah (Gen. 35:22)
- 11. Bethlehem is about 30 miles south of Shechem
- 12. Jacob finally arrives at Mamre (Gen. 35:27)

Joseph goes to Dothan

But do you notice the typology already? Jacob sends his beloved son to a hostile group of men who were sinners.

37:15: And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou?

37:16: And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks.

37:17: And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.

I've always wondered who this man was. He was the one who directed Joseph to his brothers.

He just happened to hear them say where they were going, and he also happened to find Joseph as he was wandering.

Think about the coincidence.

Was he an angel? Was he sent by God? It almost seems so.

If so, then God Himself literally led Joseph to “the slaughter.”

Had it not been for that man Joseph would have never found his brothers, and he probably would have never ended up in Egypt. He would have returned home and said, “Dad, I couldn’t find them.”

The flip side is that the famine would have taken its toll. And the forefathers of the Israelites might have perished. But this is human speak; God will always accomplish His plan.

If you remember back in chapter 34 (vs. 25-26) Levi and Simeon killed Hamor, and his son Shechem, and the males who lived in his city. There were no more males in Shechem! So where did this man come from?

Who do you think this city of Shechem was named after? It was typical for men of those days to name their city after its founder. (Also see Gen. 33: 18, 19; also Cain and Enoch, and Dan their father.)

Dothan was about 15 miles northwest of Shechem.

Joseph is sold into bondage

37:18: And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

37:19: And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

37:20: Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

37:21: And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.

37:22: And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

As soon as they see Joseph out in the distance, they conspired to kill him.

Luke 20:13: Then said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence him when they see him.

Luke 20:14: But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.

Sin starts in the heart, first they conspired, they talked about it, they thought about and then they purposed that they were going to do it.

Then they were going to lie about their sin, some beast devoured him!
They lied about Jesus death too!

Matt. 28:13: Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

But Reuben figured this was a great opportunity to save face with dad. He suggested they throw Joseph in a pit and think about it some more. But he could have said, “We ain’t doing this! Over my dead body!”

Likewise Nicodemus warned his fellow Pharisees about making this hasty decision concerning killing Christ.

John 7:50: Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,)

John 7:51: Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?

This next scene we read is one of the saddest in the Bible

37:23: And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

37:24: And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

37:25: And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

37:26: And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

37:27: Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

37:28: Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

37:29: And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.

37:30: And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?

37:31: And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;

37:32: And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.

37:33: And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.

37:34: And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

37:35: And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

37:36: And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

It was an all-out assault. Could you imagine the pleading and the crying and the begging?

Gen. 42:21: And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us.

Dr. Barnhouse said, “A physicist could compute the exact time required for his cries to go twenty-five yards to the eardrums of the brothers. But it took twenty-two years for that cry to go from the eardrums to their hearts.”

This scene was replayed 1700 years later when Jesus was stripped of everything before He was crucified. Jesus went up on a cross and Joseph went down in a pit. There was conspiracy—each was stripped, declared cursed, and put into a place they could seemingly never rescue themselves out of. But Jesus remained silent.

And after they threw Joseph in the pit they watched. “And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked...”

They took the food Joseph brought them and started eating as if nothing happened.

Matt. 27:36: And sitting down they watched him (*Jesus*) there;

And when it so happened that a caravan of Arabs passed by their way they decided to sell Joseph. First we are told it was a company of

Ishmaelites (vs. 27) and then we are told they were Midianites (v. 28) and the again Ishmaelites (v. 28). So which is it?

Both—they were one and the same. Remember our lesson last week when we dealt with the Horites and the Edomites? Same thing happened with these people groups—they merged. Both were descended from Abraham. Ishmael from Hagar and Midian from Keturah.

Judges 8:22: Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian.

Judges 8:23: And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.

Judges 8:24: And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the earrings of his prey. (For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.)

The Midianites were Ishmaelites and their distinguishing feature was the fact that wore earrings.

So they sold Joseph for 20 pieces of silver. This amounts today as about \$400. Jesus was also sold, but for 30 pieces.

Matt. 26:15: And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

And to cover their sin Joseph's brothers killed an animal and soaked Joseph's coat of many colors with its blood, went back to dad and said, "We have found this coat, take a look and see whether this belongs to your son?" They didn't say Joseph or our brother, they simply said, "Your son."

And Jacob sees the blood stained coat and mourns for his son. Not once do we have a record of Jacob praying to God, asking God "Why?" Questioning what may have happened. And I have always wondered about that. Why didn't God show up and tell Jacob, "Your boys are lying to you. Joseph is alive." But all for the determinate counsel of God...

Gen. 46:2: And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I.

Gen. 46:3: And he 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:

Gen. 46:4: 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.

The Midianites then sold Joseph to Potiphar, a ranking official in Pharaoh's government.

Before we go on to the next chapter I want to give you 36 similarities between Joseph and Christ.

Joseph was a type of Christ. In fact, he was the perfect type of Christ

Again, a type is "a historical event of character that illustrates a spiritual truth". We find at least 36 types between Joseph and Jesus.

No.	Similarities	Joseph	Jesus
1	Both are first-born.	Genesis 30:22-24 (of Rachel)	Matthew 1:25 (of Mary)
2	Both are shepherds.	Genesis 37:2	Matthew 2:26, 26:31 John 10:11
3	Both are beloved of their fathers.	Genesis 37:3	Matthew 3:17, 12:18
4	Both were prophesied to be rulers.	Genesis 37:5-11	Daniel 7:13-14 Micah 4:7,5:2 Psalm 2
5	Both Joseph's and Jesus' brothers were jealous of them, and did not believe them.	Genesis 37:4-5, 11	John 7:3-5, 15:18-19
6	The prophecies that Joseph would rule his brothers (the 12 of Israel), and Jesus would rule the whole world, including Israel.	Genesis 37:6-11	Daniel 7:13-14 Psalm 2:1-12
7	Joseph was sent by his father to his brothers. Jesus was sent by His Father to Israel.	Genesis 37:13,18-20	Matthew 21:37-38 Mark 12:6-7 Luke 20:13-15 John 5:23
8	There was a conspiracy to put Joseph to death, and Jesus too.	Genesis 37:18	Matthew 26: 14-16 Acts 2:22-23
9	Reuben wanted to rescue Joseph. Pilate wanted to rescue Jesus.	Genesis 37:21-22	Matthew 27:24
10	Both were separated from their fathers.	Genesis 37:33-34	Matthew 27:46
11	A tale was told about their death.	Genesis 37:31-32	Matthew 28:11-15
12	Joseph was sold as a slave to Egypt. Jesus was betrayed for the price of a slave (20 pieces vs. 30 pieces).	Genesis 37:26-28	Matthew 26:15 Exodus 21:32 Zechariah 11:12-13
13	Both went to Egypt.	Genesis 37:28	Matthew 2:13-15

No.	Similarities	Joseph	Jesus
14	Both returned from Egypt.	Joshua 24:32	Matthew 2:19-23
15	Both were made slaves.	Genesis 39:1	Philippians 2:7
16	Both were falsely accused and arrested.	Genesis 39:11-20	Matthew 26:59-61 John 18:12
17	God was with them both.	Genesis 39:3,21,23 Acts 7:9	John 1:1-2, 3:2 Acts 10:38
18	Both were with two others condemned to die, one of which was pardoned and given life.	Genesis 40:1-3,20-22	Luke 23:32,39-43
19	Both had God's Spirit.	Genesis 41:38	Luke 4:1; Acts 10:38
20	The king of Egypt exalted Joseph as his 'right' hand ruler, and Jesus is exalted to rule at right hand God.	Genesis 41:40-44	Acts 2:32-33 1 Corinthians 15:27-28
21	All knees bowed to Joseph. All knees will bow to Jesus.	Genesis 41:43	Philippians 2:10
22	Both were given a name meaning "savior."	Genesis 41:45 ("Savior of the World" or "Sustainer of Life" or "Preserver of the Age – <i>Coptic</i> ")	Matthew 1:21 ("Jehovah Saves")
23	Both were given a gentile bride by the King.	Genesis 41:45	2 Corinthians 11:2
24	Both prophesied of 7 year time of trouble. Famine by Joseph, Tribulation by Jesus.	Genesis 41:54-55	Matthew 24 Daniel 9:27
25	The king of Egypt appointed Joseph to be the sole source of life for all. God appointed Jesus to be our sole source of eternal life.	Genesis 41:55-57	Acts 4:12 1 John 5:11-12
26	Joseph's brothers did not recognize him. Jesus' own people didn't either.	Genesis 42:8	John 1:10
27	Trouble for Joseph's brothers.	Genesis 42:21-22,36	Isaiah 40:1-2

No.	Similarities	Joseph	Jesus
	Trouble for Israel ("Jacob's trouble").		Jeremiah 30:7
28	Joseph was finally revealed to his brothers. Jesus will be finally revealed to Israel.	Genesis 45:3	Zechariah 12:10 Matthew 24:30-31 Revelation 1:7
29	The evil Joseph's brothers intended, God meant for good to save them. The same is true of the evil Jesus' own people intended to him...	Genesis 45:5-8 Genesis 50:20	Acts 3:12-18
30	Both groups were forgiven.	Genesis 45:5,10-15	Luke 23:34
31	Joseph's brothers shared Pharaoh's favor because of Joseph, not themselves. We share God's favor because of Jesus, not because we are worthy.	Genesis 45:16-20	Ephesians 2:4-8 Philippians 4:19
32	Both are to bring all under rule of the King.	Genesis 47:19-20	Ephesians 1:10-12
33	Both are "saviors."	Genesis 47:25	Acts 13:23
34	Joseph's sons (Manasseh and Ephraim) come through his gentile wife and are given full tribe status. Gentiles who believe are considered full members of God's people.	Genesis 48:5,9	Hebrews 2:13 Acts 28:28
35	Both resisted temptation.	Genesis 39:9	Matthew 4
36	While only Jesus was truly sinless, Joseph is one of the few people significantly written about in the Bible of which no sins are mentioned.	(silent)	1 Peter 2:22