

#6 Joseph | March 4, 2018

An Outline of Joseph's Life

- Genesis 37 – Joseph's first 17 years.
 - The first six years of Joseph's life were spent in Haran while Jacob worked for Laban (Gen. 30:25-34, 31:41)
 - Joseph is loved by his father and hated by his brothers – vv 3-11.
 - Joseph is sold by his brothers and mourned by his father – vv. 12-35.
- Genesis 39-40 – Joseph's 13 years of servitude in Egypt.
 - Joseph serves in Potiphar's house – vv. 39:1-12.
 - Joseph is imprisoned – vv. 39:13-40:23.
- Genesis 41-50 – Joseph's 80 years of glory in Egypt.
 - Joseph is exalted to leadership in Egypt by the telling of dreams – vv. 41:1-45.
 - Joseph prepares for famine and has a family – vv. 41:46-57.
 - Joseph's brothers seek help – chapters 42-45.
 - Jacob moves his family to Egypt and they settle in Goshen – chapters 46-50.
 - Joseph dies in Egypt, knowing that someday God will remove his people back to the Promised Land. He is embalmed and remains unburied for 144 years until the Exodus.

What You May Not Know

- Joseph's name means *add another* - Genesis 30:23-24
- Joseph was handsome and smart –
 - Genesis 39:6, literally, "Joseph was of a beautiful form and a beautiful countenance" (Darby Translation)
 - Josephus says that Joseph was his father's favorite, "because of the beauty of his body, and the virtues of his mind; for he excelled the rest in prudence." (Antiquities 2.9)
 - In the Eastern Orthodox church he is called *Righteous Joseph the Handsome*.
- Joseph's dream of the sun, moon, and 11 stars bowing down to him (Gen. 37:9) is the key to interpretation of Revelation 12:1, a vision which is misinterpreted by Catholics as the virgin Mary.

- Joseph was 17 years old when sold for 20 pieces of silver to Ishmaelite slave traders headed to Egypt (Gen. 37:2, 28).
- Joseph's brother Reuben had secretly planned to save Joseph's life, but was too late to rescue him (Gen. 37:29-30).
- When Jacob learns about Joseph's supposed death, he gives the first Biblical mention of Sheol (Gen. 37:35). Sheol is the place of departure (and waiting) for those who die without seeing the Redeemer.
- Joseph was 30 years old when he was released from prison and put in charge of the Egyptian agricultural economy.
- It is in the second year of famine that Joseph spares his brother's lives, with five years remaining (Gen. 45:6).
- Joseph was given a wife by the Pharaoh, the virgin daughter of a pagan priest, named Asenath, who became the mother of Manasseh and Ephraim.
- There are no "half-tribes" of Manasseh and Ephraim.
 - They are full tribes – Gen 48:5, 21-22
 - The "half tribe" error stems from poor translations of Numbers 32:33 and Joshua 13:20.
- There were 70 members of Jacob's family (in addition to Jacob and Joseph) who migrated to Egypt, where they would spend the next 215 years. The 70 members are listed by name in Genesis 46.

Joseph as a Type of Christ

- Both were loved by their father and hated by their brothers.
- Both were sold for a few pieces of silver.
- Joseph did not rise in self-defense. Christ was silent before His accusers (Is. 53:7).
 - Josephus: "Now Joseph, commending all his affairs to God, did not betake himself to make his defense, nor to give an account of the exact circumstances of the fact, but silently underwent the bonds and the distress he was in, firmly believing that God, who knew the cause of his affliction and the truth of the fact, would be more powerful than those that inflicted the punishments upon him." (Antiquities 2.60)
- Both became a blessing to the gentiles.
- Both put (or will put) their brothers through a time of testing.
 - The last of the brothers in the most danger.
 - Pleading brings them blessing.
- Both provided (or will provide) their brothers protection through famine followed by a land of plenty.