

Genesis 44 through 46 is the great climax of the account.

Before Joseph will reveal himself to his brothers, he puts them to a severe test to see if they have changed.

Judah begs to be allowed to redeem Benjamin - to take his place as this mysterious Egyptian's slave.

Many generations later, One from the tribe of Judah would stand substitute for the whole world.

The mention of a divination cup is out of place for the people of Israel, but very much in character for an Egyptian household, and may have been part of Joseph's "cover" before he revealed himself to his brothers.

Judah's statement, "...God has uncovered your servant's guilt..." may be an indication of confession of sin and repentance for selling Joseph into slavery.

Joseph finally cries out, "I am Joseph!" His brothers are too terrified to speak. Joseph had come to understand the doctrine of providence in a profound way.

The Doctrine of Providence means that God is controlling and guiding our lives so everything that happens will fit His agenda to glorify Himself and bless us.

God's providence does not remove from us the responsibility for our choices.

There is a dual track that runs throughout all Scripture - the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man.

Though Satan has one agenda, it is God's agenda that prevails.

Persecution of the first century church was meant to exterminate it; instead the Gospel spread like wildfire.

We see God's providence in locating the children of Israel in Goshen.

The Joseph story may well be set in the time of the Hyksos rulers of Egypt, who were themselves Semites.

The land of Goshen was the well-watered delta region of Lower Egypt. The Egyptians dwelt mostly in Upper Egypt.

The Egyptians may have hated shepherds because the Hyksos invaders were themselves of nomadic origin.

Goshen was a place where the family could become a nation.

The last of the Hyksos pharaohs became an ardent monotheist.

The Egyptians destroyed almost all reminders of the Hyksos reign, which may explain the lack of Egyptian material to substantiate the Genesis account. Jacob's family went down to Egypt with 75 people; they left 400 years later numbering in the millions.

Joseph managed Pharaoh's affairs by nationalizing the assets of Egypt.

Jacob made Joseph promise to bury him in the Promised Land.

When Jacob blesses his sons, he elevates Joseph's sons Ephraim and Manasseh so that they become tribes of Israel.

Jacob gives the greater blessing to Ephraim, who was the younger son of Joseph.

Israel prospered in Egypt during this time.

God's Word changes lives.

There are 2 very important words here:

The first one is blessing.

Noah blesses Shem, and Shem becomes the father of the Hebrew nation.

God tells Abram, "Whoever blesses you I will bless..."

Jacob and Esau fight bitterly over the blessing of Isaac.

Here Jacob blesses each of his sons.

- God's people, both in Old and New Testament times and on into today, are meant to be blessings to each other and to **pronounce** blessings on each other.

Reuben loses the blessing of the oldest as a result of his sin.

Simeon and Levi do not fare well, either, because of the incident at Shechem.

The primary blessing goes to Joseph.

In Joseph's blessing, God is called by 5 different names:

The Mighty One of Jacob; The Shepherd; The Rock of Israel;
Your Father's God; The Almighty

Judah's blessing contains a significant Messianic prophecy.

The second word is forgiveness.

Joseph is one of Scriptures great models of how to handle being treated badly.

Joseph says to his brothers, “You intended to harm me, but God meant it for good.”

If we believe God is truly in control, forgiveness will not be difficult to grant.

The greatest link between Jesus and Joseph is found in the word forgiveness.

We have finished Genesis - four events in Genesis chapters 1-11; four people in Genesis 12-50.

Hebrews 11 is the Faith chapter. The people mentioned here are:

Abel and Cain - Abel offered an acceptable sacrifice .

Enoch - He passed from this life into the next without dying.

Noah - He built an ark.

Abraham - He responded to God's call; believed God's promise; lived as a pilgrim; became a father in his old age; offered up his son.

Isaac blessed his sons.

Jacob blessed Joseph's sons.

The way to enter into a relationship with God has always been by faith.

The faith of Old Testament saints looked forward; our faith looks backward at the cross.

Faith is a mighty word:

Faith was active when Abel offered the kind of sacrifice that God required.

Faith was evidenced when Enoch lived righteously in the midst of a perverse generation.

Faith describes Noah, building a boat in anticipation of a flood most thought would never come.

Faith caused Abraham to spend his entire life trusting God to keep his promises.

Faith made Jacob finally able to trust God and not his own schemes.

Faith helped Joseph endure the long years of waiting in captivity.

The New Testament question for us is, "When He comes will He find faith upon the earth?"

Cain and Esau are given as examples of what it means to be without faith.

Other New Testament references to people in Genesis:

Romans 5 - Adam as our Federal Representatives
Hebrews 10 - Melchizedek gets most of the chapter
1 Peter 3; Galatians - Sarah as a model of faithful obedience
2 Peter 2 - Lot is called a righteous man
Galatians 4 - Hagar, Isaac and Ishmael

Without an understanding of Abraham's life, large portions of the Old and New Testaments would be totally incomprehensible to us.

Psalm 100 is the only one with the title Jubilation given to it.

It has 2 brief stanzas built around these 2 phrases:
The Lord is God.

The Lord is good.

Faith is living a life of obedience and trust based on the realization that the Lord is God and the Lord is good.

A third theme we see in Psalm 100: God has a right to be sovereign over us because He made us. We are the people of His pasture.

The Book of Proverbs is called “Wisdom Literature.”

Wisdom Literature articulates general principles by which to live.

The principles are called the perceptive will of God; what He has ordained to happen is called the decretive will of God.

Wisdom Literature should not be interpreted as prophecy or promises. Its principles are the guidelines by which to govern our lives.

The four most important truths about God from the Book of Genesis:

Truth #1: God created everything that is.

Truth #2: God reveals Himself to His people.

Truth #3: God seeks men and women upon whom to set His love.

Truth #4: God sustains and saves us.

A constant theme keeps occurring in the 2 chapters of Proverbs we read today: God is in control!