

OLD TESTAMENT LITERATURE - Dr. Chris Miller

Session 5 - JOSEPH

Why would He call Himself the “God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob”?

What does this tell us about God? He’s the God that loves everyone.... regardless.

Who do you identify more with Abraham or Jacob?

REVIEW OF JACOB

- Abraham seems redeemable, but why would God work with the likes of Jacob?
 - God works with Abrahams. **ABRAM**
 - And Jacobs **JACOB JACOB JACOB JACOB**

Abraham	-Isaac-	Jacob
	Joseph	

JOSEPH: The photo-shopped patriarch

God’s Word to Jacob’s Family Results in Joseph’s Conflict with the Evil One

SATAN **SEED**

And in His Deliverance of His Family for Blessing

We know Joseph from the beautiful coat his father gives to him and his dreams.

- **Chapter 37 - Joseph’s Position... Separates him from his brothers.**
 - We know Joseph from the beautiful coat (coat of authority?) his father gives to him and the dreams God gives to him.
 - Is Joe to blame for his family situation? We know his brothers hate him. They hate him so much that they get rid of him. Commentators have called him an arrogant prideful young man, but Scripture doesn’t say that.

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of

grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.”

His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

*Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “**I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.**”*

*When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, “What is this dream you had? **Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?**” Gen 37:3-10*

His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind. Gen 37:11

Is it true? Yes. Had his mother been alive, everyone would have bowed down to him because he was 2nd in command of the entire world.

“Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. Luke 2:49

- Which two brothers offer plans concerning Lil’ Joe?
 - Reuben, the oldest and Judah.
 - Which brother is the most influential leader? Judah

<u>Reuben</u>	<u>Simeon</u>	<u>Levi</u>	<u>Judah</u>	<u>Naphtali</u>		
Gad	Asher	Issachar	Zebulun	Joseph	Benjamin	

- **Chapter 38-39 - Joseph’s Character Separates him.**

- Why the break in 38 to talk about sin? It provides the background to chapter 39.

Judah and Tamar

At that time, Judah left his brothers... met the daughter of a Canaanite man named Shua. He married her... she became pregnant and gave birth to a son, who was named Er. She conceived again and gave birth to a son and named him Onan. She gave birth to still another son and named him Shelah.

Judah got a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. But Er, Judah’s firstborn, was wicked in the Lord’s sight; so the Lord put him to death.

Then Judah said to Onan, "Sleep with your brother's wife and fulfill your duty to her as a brother-in-law to raise up offspring for your brother."... What he did was wicked in the Lord's sight; so the Lord put him to death also.

Judah then said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Live as a widow in your father's household until my son Shelah grows up." ... Judah's wife ... died. When Judah had recovered from his grief, he went up to Timnah, to the men who were shearing his sheep... When Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is on his way to Timnah to shear his sheep," she took off her widow's clothes, covered herself with a veil to disguise herself, ... When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. Not realizing that she was his daughter-in-law, he went over to her by the roadside and said, "Come now, let me sleep with you." "And what will you give me?" she asked. "I'll send you a young goat from my flock," he said.

"Will you give me something as a pledge until you send it?" she asked. He said, "What pledge should I give you?" "Your seal and its cord, and the staff in your hand," So he gave them to her and slept with her, and she became pregnant by him...Meanwhile Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite in order to get his pledge back from the woman, but he did not find her.... Besides, the men who lived there said, 'There hasn't been any shrine prostitute here.'"

About three months later Judah was told, "Your daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of prostitution, and as a result she is now pregnant." Judah said, "Bring her out and have her burned to death!"... She sent a message to her father-in-law. "I am pregnant by the man who owns these," she said. "See if you recognize whose seal and cord and staff these are."

Judah recognized them and said, "She is more righteous than I, since I wouldn't give her to my son Shelah." And he did not sleep with her again. Gen 38

- See the comparison between 38 & 39?

Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master... Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

But he refused... *My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or*

even be with her. One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did. Genesis 39

- **What does God value more highly in a leader?** "Leadership" "Purity"
- **Chapters 40-50 - Josephs' position Enables Him to Deliver His family**
- **Chapter 40-41** - God's selection of Joseph demonstrated in his **providential** rise to leadership. God Himself is doing it. Moses wants us to know that Joseph's rise to leadership is not because of any human intervention. Jacob would have deceived his way out of prison. Joseph doesn't resort to any strategies to get released.

The Cupbearer and the Baker

Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined. The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them... each of the two men—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison—had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own.

"We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams." So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream... "This is what it means," Joseph said to him.

“The three branches are three days. Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh’s cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon.”

... the chief baker said to Joseph, “I too had a dream “This is what it means,” Joseph said. “The three baskets are three days. Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head and impale your body on a pole. And the birds will eat away your flesh.” Now the third day was Pharaoh’s birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials: He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh’s hand—but he impaled the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation.

The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

You will oversee my household and all my people will submit to your commands. Only I, the king, will be greater than you. So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.” Gen 41:40-41

Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Gen 41:46

And all the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere. Gen 41:57

- **2nd in Command - 30 years old at the start - “blesses” his own nation and all nations of the earth with bread.**
- **Chapter 42-47 - Joseph tests his brothers.**
 - Actually he makes ‘em sweat bullets...
 - But WHY? Is he vengeful? Is he looking for justice?
 - Is he enjoying the charade? Is he “developing character”?
 - **The Key: What question surely has kept him awake at night for 20 years?**
 - Would you sell me into slavery again if given the chance?

- And why use little Ben?
 - His father's favorite, the other son of Rachael. He needs to be put into a position of jeopardy to see what the brothers will do.
- Where does the answer come from?

Joseph Sold into Slavery

When Joseph's brothers saw him coming... they made plans to kill him. "Here comes the dreamer!" they said. "Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!"

But when Reuben heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue. "Let's not kill him," he said.... Reuben was secretly planning to rescue Joseph and return him to his father.

*So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. **Judah said to his brothers**, "What will we gain by killing our brother? We'd have to cover up the crime. Instead of hurting him, **let's sell him** to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh and blood!" And his brothers agreed. So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph's brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt... where they sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Potiphar was captain of the palace guard.*

Gen 37:18-36

*Then **Judah** (the other leader) went up to him and said: "Pardon your servant, my lord, let me speak a word to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, though you are equal to Pharaoh himself. Gen 44:18*

*"Now the, please **let your servant remain here as my lord's slave in place of the boy**, and let the boy return to his brothers. How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come on my father." Gen 44:33-34*

He still doesn't know he's talking to Joseph, but he sees the repentance and sees Judah has changed.

Joseph Tells His Brothers Who He Is

Since Joseph could no longer control his feelings in front of his servants, he sent them out of the room. When he was alone with his brothers, he told them, "I am Joseph." Joseph asked his brothers if his father was still alive, but they were too frightened to answer. Yes, I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt. Don't worry or blame yourselves for what you did. There has already been a famine for two years, and for five more years no one will plow fields or harvest grain. But God sent me on ahead of you to keep your families alive and to save you in this wonderful way. After all, you weren't really the ones who sent me here—it was God. He made me the highest official in the king's court and placed me over all Egypt. Genesis 45

*As for you, you meant evil against me, but **God meant it for good**, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. Genesis 50:2*

- **Who is this guy Joseph?**

- He is a pure, faithful Beloved son of his father
- Who endures suffering, rejection from his people. (patient, forgiving)
- Later responds with grace and forgiveness.
- And he rescues his family and the entire world. (blesses all nations of the earth)

Why did Moses decide to basically ignore Isaac and give Joseph the largest and final story of the book?

- **What is the purpose of Joseph in the book?**

- **Joseph is the fleshing out of 3:15. Genesis 37:50 is the perfect finish and completion to one big idea. The best picture of the seed who is to come so you won't miss him.**

<u>The Seed</u>	<u>Joseph?</u>	<u>Jesus?</u>
Will test and deliver	7 lean years	7 years of tribulation
His brothers	10 brothers	The nation
To produce repentance	In the palace	In the Tribulation
To avoid the same mistake	Selling Joe	Selling Jesus for 30 pieces
And accept him	"we are your servants"	"Blessed is he who comes in the name"

- **Why is he photoshopped?**

- Is Joseph a sinner? Yes
- In the book of Genesis, is Joseph a sinner? He's forgiving, faithful, just, he endures unjust treatment carefully and faithfully... the answer is no. Moses selectively took out the portions of Joseph's life where he doesn't look so good so he's the perfect reflection of the Messiah when He comes. His role is different.

Jacob is dying and giving blessings to his son. He comes to his son Judah...

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes. Gen 49:10 (KJV)

*The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the **nations** is his.*
Gen 49:10 (NIV)

It = the scepter. Adam had it and lost it. Kings from Israel will hold scepters. The very first king of Israel who was from Judah was David. He's getting ready to pass the scepter onto his son Solomon, but just before he does, he tells him it has all sorts of power, use it well, it doesn't really belong to you. It gets passed down to Rehoboam... etc. etc.

- **What kind of hand do you want this to be in?**

- The hand of someone who won't use it for selfish ends.

**The leaders of the nation (of Israel) &
THE Leader of all nations will come from the line of Judah**

12:2 - Nation

12:3 - Leader

Gen 49 - Son of Judah

Gen 15 - Unconditional

Gen 12 - Son of Abraham

**Gen 3:15 - Someone will smash the head of the snake
and get the scepter back, son of Eve.**

And between thy seed and her seed

Cain

Lamech

Seed

Seth - Gen 3

Enoch

Noah

Shem

Abraham - Gen 12

Judah - Gen 49