



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

## Old Testament Survey

### Lesson 6 – How the Children of Israel Got to Egypt (Genesis 33-45)

#### The Dangers in Canaan

God did not want the children of Jacob (Israel) to stay in Canaan because they might intermarry with the wicked Canaanites and learn their wicked ways. Chapters 34, 35, 37, and 38 show how wicked and adulterous Jacob's sons were becoming in Canaan.

#### The Move to Egypt

God wanted the children of Israel to grow and increase as a separate nation in Egypt. The whole story of Joseph is a story of how God used the wickedness of Joseph's brothers, the wickedness of Potiphar's wife, and a terrible seven-years famine to bring about what He wanted: the success of Joseph in Egypt as the Pharaoh's prime minister and the move of Jacob's whole family to Egypt under Joseph's protection.

Joseph later told his brothers: **"God sent me before you...to save your lives by a great deliverance... God...has made me a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt... Say to him (my father): ... You shall dwell in the land of Goshen"** (Genesis 45:7-10).

Since the children of Israel were shepherds and **"every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians"** (Genesis 46:34), they lived separately from the Egyptians in the land of Goshen.

Read Genesis chapters 33-45 along with the notes below. If you have any questions, please ask them.

#### Genesis 33 – The Reconciliation of Jacob with Esau

Jacob and Esau meet in friendship (vv. 1-15).

Esau goes to Seir: Jacob goes to Succoth and then Shechem (vv. 16-20).

#### Genesis 34 – Trouble with the Canaanites on Account of Dinah, Jacob's Daughter

Prince Shechem commits adultery with Dinah and then wants to marry her (vv. 1-12).

The heathen people of Shechem become circumcised so they can intermarry with Jacob and his descendants (vv. 13-24).

Simeon and Levi destroy the male population of Shechem (vv. 25-31).

#### Genesis 35 – The Return of Jacob to Bethel

God renews the Promise to Jacob at Bethel (1-15).

Notice: God says: **"Kings shall come from your body"** (v. \_\_\_\_). This points to JESUS.

Rachel dies in bearing Benjamin at Bethlehem (vv. 16-20).

Reuben commits adultery with Rachel's maid Bilhah (vv. 21-26).

Isaac dies and is buried (vv. 27-29).

Genesis 36 – Esau's Family

Genesis 37 – God Sends Joseph to Egypt

Notice: Joseph is 17 years old at this time.

Joseph's brothers hate him because he is his father's favorite and because of his proud dreams (vv. 1-11).

Reuben prevents his brothers from killing Joseph; Joseph is thrown into a cistern (vv. 12-24).

Judah suggests the selling of Joseph into slavery, and it is done (vv. 25-28).

Joseph's brothers deceive their mourning father (vv. 29-36).

Genesis 38 – Judah's Heathen Wife and Vile Adultery with His Own Daughter-in-Law

Genesis 39 – God Takes Care of Joseph in Egypt

God blesses Joseph in Potiphar's house (vv. 1-6).

Joseph's refusal to commit adultery with Potiphar's wife leads him to prison (vv. 7-20).

Joseph's words to Potiphar's wife: **"How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"** (v. \_\_\_ These are words we can use in time of temptation.

God blesses Joseph in prison (vv. 21-23).

Genesis 40 – The Dreams of the Butler and Baker and Joseph's God-Given Interpretation

God gives Joseph the interpretation of their two similar dreams (vv. 1-19).

Joseph's interpretation proves true (vv. 20-23).

Genesis 41 – Joseph Becomes Second Ruler in Egypt

The Pharaoh dreams strange dreams that no man can interpret (vv. 1-8).

God gives Joseph the interpretation of the Pharaoh's dreams (vv. 9-36).

The Pharaoh appoints Joseph chief administrator of surplus food (vv. 37-49).

Joseph has two sons: Manasseh and Ephraim (vv. 50-52).

The seven years of famine begin (vv. 53-57).

Genesis 42 – Joseph's Brothers' First Journey to Egypt

Joseph's ten older brothers come to Egypt for food (vv. 1-13).

Joseph imprisons Simeon and orders the brothers to bring Benjamin the next time (vv. 14-28).

Notice: Joseph's brothers in this crisis remember their sins against him. They say: **"We are truly guilty concerning our brother"** (v. \_\_\_

The nine remaining brothers tell their father the bad news (vv. 29-38).

Genesis 43 – Joseph's Brothers' Second Journey to Egypt

Judah promises to guarantee Benjamin safety and take responsibility for him; Jacob agrees to let Benjamin go (vv. 1-14).

Joseph gives a feast for his brothers in his home and favors Benjamin (vv. 15-34).

Genesis 44 – The Change in Joseph's Brothers

Joseph places his silver cup in Benjamin's sack, and it is found there; yet all the brothers return to

Egypt (vv. 1-13).

Notice: the brothers had every reason to be jealous of Benjamin (as they had been jealous of Joseph) and they could easily have abandoned him when the cup was found in his sack, but they did not. They had learned their lesson.

Judah pleads that he may take Benjamin's place as Joseph's servant (vv. 14-34).

Notice: Judah in this story is a type or picture of his descendant **JESUS**, who took our place and even died for us.

Joseph remembered that his dreams from his youth showed that his entire family would one day bow before him (see Genesis 42:9). The fulfillment of these dreams was now taking place.

#### Genesis 45 – Joseph Identifies Himself to His Father and Brothers

Joseph reveals himself to his brothers (vv. 1-15).

Joseph and the Pharaoh invite Jacob's family to Egypt (vv. 16-24).

Jacob hears the good news (vv. 25-28).

Jacob says: **"Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die"** (v. \_\_\_\_)

#### **Questions**

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1. What shows that the wickedness in Canaan was proving to be harmful to the Israelites?
2. Why was Jacob upset with the actions of Simeon and Levi?
3. Why did the place called Bethel have such important meaning for Jacob?
4. Why was there such hostility between Joseph and his older brothers?
5. How did God use the sins of Joseph's brothers to accomplish His purpose?
6. What did Joseph say that we can all say in time of great temptation?
7. Why did the Pharaoh of Egypt make Joseph the second in command in Egypt?
8. Why did Joseph wait so long to reveal who he was to his brothers?
9. In what way did Judah show himself to be a picture of his descendant JESUS?
10. What did Joseph attempt to determine by giving extra food to Benjamin?
11. What was Jacob's response to the news that Joseph was still alive?