

Genesis 42-50 – The Generations of Jacob (Final)

If an unbeliever asks you to explain how the Christian God interacts with the affairs of the world, what would you say?

First Journey to Egypt

Genesis 42:1-38

Summary

- Famine in the land
- Sons of Jacob sent to buy grain, except for Benjamin
- Joseph recognizes them when they arrive, but brothers do not recognize him
- Joseph hides his identity, treating them like roughly and like strangers
- Simeon is detained, family leaves
- Joseph advises they are to bring youngest next time
- Before they leave, Joseph puts money back into their sacks
- Brothers are surprised at finding the money in their sacks,
- Brothers report back to Jacob all that has happened
- Jacob is upset and does not want to lose Benjamin as well, and Reuben promises to protect Benjamin at the cost of his two sons.

Questions

Why would Joseph hide his identity from his brothers?

Lesson:

Second Journey to Egypt

Genesis 43:1-45:13

Summary

- Reuben's promise does not cause Jacob to act
- Judah pleads with his father
- Father relents, brothers are sent back to Egypt with Benjamin
- Meets Joseph, and explains that the money was found in their sacks
- Emotional outburst by Joseph from seeing Benjamin
- Joseph sets up another test for them
- Brothers leave Egypt and then are halted by Joseph's men

- Accusations are made against brothers, Benjamin is found with cup, and all of them are returned to the city
- Judah meets Joseph and does not claim to offer any proof of their innocence
- Judah takes initiative and explains the entire situation to Joseph
- Joseph reveals his identity

Questions

Describe Judah in his youth and the Judah we see now

What do these emotional outbursts for his family tell us about Joseph?

Lesson:

Joseph Reveals Himself

Genesis 45:1-28

Summary:

- Consoles brothers to not worry about what they did
- Puts it into perspective as to how God has used him
- Joseph now takes care of his family
- Wept his brother over their reunion
- Jacob comes to see Joseph

Questions

How can we see in this story that God is sovereign and that people still responsible for their actions, and what can we take away from this?

What lessons can we take away from Joseph's attitude in the face of adversity?

Lesson:

Third Visit of Joseph's Family to Egypt

Genesis 46:1-47:31

Summary

- Jacob offers sacrifices, and God appears to Jacob
- The family has an emotional reunion, and they meet Pharaoh
- People responded, "You have saved our lives; may it please my lord, we will be servants to Pharaoh."
- Jacob prepares to die

Lesson:

The last Days of Jacob and Joseph

Genesis 48:1-22 and 49:1-12

- Jacob states he wants to be buried in the patriarchal tomb in Canaan
- Joseph has two sons Ephraim and Manasseh
- Each child is given a "blessing," and these blessings will affect their destiny and posterity
- What they did in life has been taken into account in this blessing. E.g. Reuben

Judah

Summary and Lesson:

Questions

What is Joseph's attitude towards forgiveness? If someone doesn't want to be forgiven what should our attitude be? How does forgiveness look like?

What can we learn about reconciliation from this story?

Are there family situations you would like to reconcile what would it take on their part, and what would it take on yours?

Read through the Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 12:1-3, in what ways have the promises been fulfilled, and what is not fulfilled

Conclusion to Genesis

- Estranged family situations all have hope of being repaired and renewed
- The choices of people have real consequences and blessings
- God's sovereignty conquers everything in its path
- God's plan of fulfillment is blossoming but is unfinished