



Genesis 37-50—A Life Meant for Good

From Dysfunction to Dreams...Famine to Feast

Presenter: Greg English

WARNING: Familiarity can dull our interest, and muddy spiritual perceptions.

Why should Joseph's life be a big deal for us?

It models godly **CHARACTER**

It proves the faithfulness of God's **PROMISES**

It displays the power of **PROVIDENCE**

It sets up a remarkable **PATTERN**

THE BASICS:

The family tree- Great grandson of Abraham; Son of Jacob and Rachel; First-born of Rachel's only two biological sons; One of the 12 sons of Jacob (Israel), but eleventh in the family's birth order; favorite son of Jacob; Patriarch. Comes from a family of shepherds; lived near Hebron, south of Jerusalem about 1900 B.C.

The name- יוסף (pronounced **Yosef**) is based on a Hebrew verb that literally means "*he takes away.*" The Hebrew language is root-based, and the root of this name is אסף (*asaf*) meaning "*to gather, collect, bring in, or assemble.*" A keyword with the same root אסף (*asif*) means "*harvest*" (or that which is *collected.*) Joseph's entire life surrounds connections to these words. His name forecasts the future. Second name: *Zaphnath-Paaneah* Gen 41:45 "The God Speaks and Lives"

The story- This nearly "out of Hollywood" story of Joseph is told in Genesis, Chs. 37-50. Moses gives 28% of his writing space to tell the story—*more than any other* character. Primarily covers 23 years of his life, age 17-40 and gets more "billing" than any of the patriarchs. He was competing with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and still had prominence! No personal failure recorded! The Joseph story is the *resolution* of Genesis and sets up the greater story of the entire Bible—pain to provision, humiliation to glory.

“God is so great that He can work out His purpose even when people are doing their worst.”

PART ONE

A Flyover: Gen 37-50

Dream Sequence I

Family nightmare - 37 (**age 17**)

Pit to the Palace- 39-40

Faithful – 39:1-20

Fleeing – 39:7-20

Forgotten – 39:21-40:23 (*23) Rom 8:28-29

Dream Sequence II

Prison to Power – 41 (**age 30**)

Scary dreams – 41:1-36 (*32) Heb 1:1-2

Good advice – 41:37-57

Family Reunion – 42 -46 (**age 39**)

Brothers – 42- 45:25

Father – 46-47:12

Hunger Crisis Management – 41:53-57; 47:13-26

Joseph’s Dealings with his brothers- 42-43 (**age 39**)

Judah’s Transformation- 44:1-45:15

The Great Reveal – 45:3-5

Family Settlement-45:16-47:12

Greener Pastures – 46:28

Fuller Tummies- 47:12

Family Council- 47:27-31; 48-49

KEY THEMES

Sovereignty –

God’s sovereignty addresses His *authority* to rule and govern

“*God doesn’t roll the dice*”—
R.C. Sproul

Providence -

God’s providence addresses the way He does it.

Curtain Closes – 50 (Jacob dies at **age 147**; Joseph dies at **age 110**)

KEY VERSE:

Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? **But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day,** to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Gen 50:19-20