

Joseph ben Jacob

Text: [Genesis 30:22-24 HCSB](#) Then God remembered Rachel. He listened to her and opened her womb. (23) She conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my shame." (24) She named him Joseph: "May the LORD add another son to me."

I. PESHAT – THE FACTS OF THE MATTER

Joseph was the son of Jacob Genesis 30:24

He was well built and handsome Genesis 39:6

Picture of Joseph's coat of many colors



He was his father's favorite child. Jacob gave Joseph one particular gift – a coat of many colors. Genesis 33:2; 37:3-4, 35; 48:22; 1 Chronicles 5:2; John 4:5

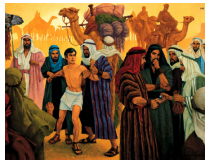
His dad's favoritism caused his brothers to be jealous of him. Genesis 37:4, 11, 18-28; Psalm 105:17; Acts 7:9

Picture of Joseph telling his dreams to his family by Rembrandt



God gave him prophetic dreams of future leadership which he shared with his family. Unfortunately this increased his brother's jealousy and hatred... Genesis 37:5-11

Picture of Joseph being sold to slave traders



Until one day, like Cain's jealousy over his brother Abel, it boiled over into rage. At first they threw him into a dry well but then sold him to passing slave merchants.

Genesis 37:27-28

Picture of Joseph's brothers deceiving Jacob



Then his brothers went and told Jacob that his favorite son had been killed by wild beasts. Genesis 37:29-35

The slave merchants sold Joseph to an Egyptian named Potiphar who was an official in the Egyptian government. Genesis 37:36

He quickly rose in leadership to be the head slave of the household. Genesis 39:2-5, 21, 23

Picture of Joseph resisting Potiphar's wife



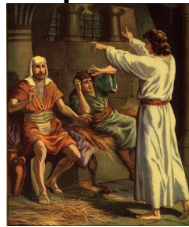
But this brought his rugged good looks to the attention of Potiphar's libidinous wife who continuously tried to seduce Joseph. When she failed, she falsely accused him of raping her and Joseph was sent to prison. Genesis 39:1-20

Though Joseph probably didn't realize it, God was still with him because it wasn't just any prison. Potiphar put Joseph in the Pharaoh's prison which would end up helping him. Genesis 39:20

At first Joseph was in shackles and a collar. Psalm 105:18

But his faithfulness and evident management skills brought him into the prison warden's favor and once again Joseph was soon in charge. Genesis 39:21-22; 40

Picture of Joseph interpreting dreams of prisoners



While serving time, Joseph's ability to both dream and interpret dreams came in handy when he accurately interpreted the dreams of two other prisoners who had had direct access to Pharaoh. Genesis 40:5-23

The prisoner who not only survived the Pharaoh's wrath but managed to get back into the king's good graces forgot about Joseph until the Pharaoh himself needed a dream interpreted. Genesis 41:1-37

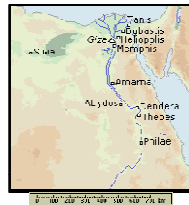
Picture of Joseph being put in charge of Egypt



Joseph was called, he interpreted the dream correctly and the Pharaoh changed his name to Zaphenath-Paneah. This name means "the one who furnishes the nourishment of life," i.e. the chief steward of the realm. Genesis 41:45

He became the second most powerful man in the world at the age of thirty. Genesis 41:37-46; Psalm 105:19-22

Map of ancient Egypt depicting the location of ancient Heliopolis.



He was given Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara priest of On as a wife. On is the biblical name for Heliopolis, an important city at the apex of the Nile Delta. Heliopolis

was the centre of sun worship in Egypt and a major source of religious writings.

Genesis 41:45

Joseph saved Egypt by providing for years of famine that he predicted were coming.

Genesis 41:46-57

He not had enough to live on but also enough to export to other countries. Genesis 41:57

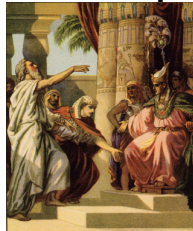
He even increased the power of the Pharaoh by selling the food to the people in exchange for money, flocks, herds, lands and even their very lives. Genesis 47:13-26

However, he exempted priests from these methods, whether because of his relatives who were priests in Heliopolis or not. Genesis 47:22, 26

Jacob's family also suffered from this worldwide famine, and Jacob sent his sons down to Egypt to buy some food from this powerful "Egyptian" he had heard about.

Genesis 42-44

Picture of the reunion between Jacob and Joseph



After some initial testing to determine if their character had actually improved, Joseph revealed his true identity to his brothers. He used his influence to get them to move to Egypt and set up in Goshen. Genesis 45; 46; 47:1-12

He had two sons by his wife Asenath who were named Manasseh and Ephraim.

Genesis 41:50-52; Deuteronomy 33:13-17

Eventually Jacob died and Joseph mourned for his father. Genesis 50:1-14

Still possessing a prophetic gift after all these years, Joseph made his relatives promise that when they eventually left Egypt that they would take his bones along with them to Canaan. Genesis 50:24-25; Hebrews 11:22

This was fulfilled 430 years later. Exodus 13:19; Joshua 24:32; Acts 7:16

Joseph died at the ripe old age of 110, was embalmed in the Egyptian manner and placed in a coffin. Genesis 50:22-26

II. DERASH – LIFE LESSONS

Joseph as a type of Christ in Genesis

1. He was despised by his brothers but loved by his father. (37:3-4)
2. He was hated for his words but honored with visions. (37:8-9)
3. He was cast into a pit but there was no water in it. (37:24)
4. He was sold as a slave but became a prosperous man. (37:28; 39:2)
5. He was falsely accused but the Lord remained with him. (39:7-23)
6. He was neglected by those he served but eventually remembered. (41:1-45)

III. SOD – SPIRITUAL APPLICATION

Picture of Jacob blessing his sons



In Genesis 49:1 we read that Jacob, on his deathbed, shared a prophetic blessing with his sons. In that prophetic blessing we read:

Picture of Genesis 49:22-26

Genesis 49:22-26 HCSB Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine beside a spring; its branches climb over the wall. (23) The archers attacked him, shot at him, and were hostile toward him. (24) Yet his bow remained steady, and his strong arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob, by the name of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel, (25) by the God of your father who helps you, and by the Almighty who blesses you with blessings of the heavens above, blessings of the deep that lies below, and blessings of the breasts and the womb. (26) The blessings of your father excel the blessings of my ancestors and the bounty of the eternal hills. May they rest on the head of Joseph, on the crown of the prince of his brothers.

Picture of the name of God Abhir or “Mighty One” found in Genesis 49:24

אֲבִיר

Joseph was attacked by the archers of envy, hatred, temptation, persecution, neglect, ingratitude, doubt and fear. But it says “his bow remained strong and his arms were strengthened.” Joseph didn’t do it. Abhir did. Notice that Abhir (Hebrew for “Mighty One”) did not keep Joseph from the difficulties of life. Instead, Abhir strengthened Joseph through it all.

Because Joseph was willing to go through whatever God sent his way, he found strength and blessing above and beyond all the blessings his ancestors had known. Who were his ancestors? Well, Abraham for one. I don’t know about you, but I would consider Abraham blessed. The source of blessing; the source of strength and power; the source of hope in a cruel and indifferent world is Abhir – the Mighty One of Israel.

Picture of ivy covered wall



As a branch Joseph abode by the spring. He kept in touch with the source of his strength. He was fruitful, an evidence that he was fully satisfied with that internal supply, even when he was being persecuted for righteousness’ sake. His branches ran over the wall. The fruitful life is a blessing to others, even to those who are outside of the wall of salvation. Power for service remains as long as we continue to abide in the Master.

Picture of John 15:1-8

John 15:1-8 HCSB "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vineyard keeper. (2) Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit He removes, and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. (3) You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. (4) Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. (5) "I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me. (6) If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. (7) If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. (8) My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples.