

LESSON 9 – PROMISE ROAD DEVIATES THROUGH EGYPT

Genesis 37 - 50

THEME: To give a preview of Israel's history in relation to Jesus Christ.

Did you ever look through a telescope, the instrument for seeing things far away? If you did, you saw far off in the distance. Now we are going to meet a man on PROMISE ROAD whose life is like looking through a telescope. Through his experience we can see far off in the distance on THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE to the time of Jesus Christ and even farther to the time of the KINGDOM. We can call such a man a *type* because he is a picture of events to come. Joseph especially pictures the way the Lord Jesus Christ was treated by His people, the Jews, when He lived on this earth.

Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because Joseph was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic. His brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than them; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms. Then Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. Genesis 37:3-5.

One day his brothers went to pasture their father's flock in Shechem. Israel sent Joseph to that place to see how his brothers and the flock were doing. So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. When they saw him from a distance and before he came close to them, they plotted against him to put him to death. But Reuben, the eldest son of Israel, rescued Joseph out of their hands and suggested to throw him into an empty pit. And so they did. While eating they saw a caravan of traders passing enroute to Egypt. Upon suggestion of Judah they decided to sell Joseph for twenty pieces of silver to the traders. Reuben was not there when this happened and he felt very bad when Joseph was not anymore in the pit. He had the intention to rescue Joseph out of the hands of his brothers, to restore him to his father. He said to his brothers, "The boy is not there; as for me, where am I to go?" So they took Joseph's varicolored tunic, slaughtered a male goat and dipped the tunic in the blood. Then they brought it to their father and said that they found the tunic. Israel recognized the tunic and concluded that surely Joseph had been torn to pieces by a wild beast. He refused to be comforted and wept for him. Genesis 37:12-35.

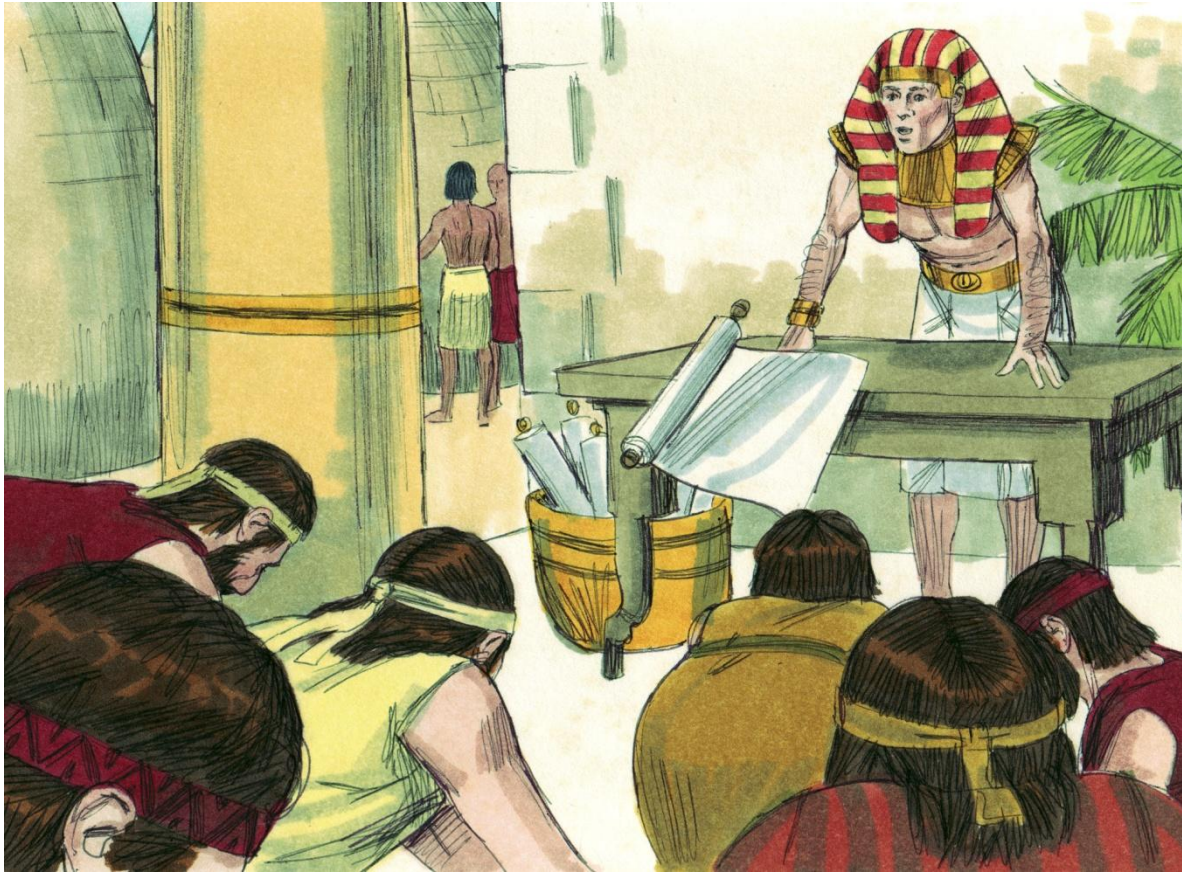
Meanwhile, the traders sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, Pharaoh's officer, the captain of the bodyguard. The Lord was with Joseph, so he became the overseer of Potiphar's house.

But there the sin of lust confronted Joseph when Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him. When he avoided this woman she falsely accused him to her husband and Joseph was sent to prison. But the Lord was with Joseph and gave him favour in the sight of the chief jailer. The chief jailer committed to Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the jail. Then the chief cupbearer and the chief baker for the king of Egypt, who were confined in jail, both had a dream. Joseph interpreted their dreams and said that within three more days the chief cupbearer would be restored to his office but that the chief baker would die. The dreams came true, but Joseph was forgotten by the chief cupbearer.

One day Pharaoh had two dreams and no one of the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men could interpret them. Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh about Joseph and so Pharaoh sent and called for him. Joseph came and interpreted that God had told to Pharaoh in his dreams what He is about to do; that there will be seven years of abundance and seven years of very severe famine. Joseph proposed to store food as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine. Now the proposal seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his servants.

So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you." Pharaoh set Joseph, who was thirty years old when he stood before him, over all the land of Egypt and named him Zaphenath-paneah.

When the seven years of plenty which had been in the land of Egypt came to an end, there was famine in all the lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. Then ten brothers of Joseph went down to buy grain from Egypt. Now Joseph was the ruler over all the land: he was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down to him. They did not recognize Joseph, but Joseph recognized them. He tested his brothers to see if their hearts had changed since he had been sold by them. Chapters 42-44 of Genesis tell of these tests which Joseph used upon his brothers. They were proven to be sincerely repentant. Joseph then revealed himself to his brothers. We can imagine the weeping and rejoicing when they learned this was their brother! Joseph did not see his brothers as enemies because of his perspective. By saying "it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land Of Egypt", Joseph shows that he was a man who operated his life with divine perspective. Genesis 45:8.



Source: Sweet Publishing - for illustration purposes of Genesis 42:6 only

Joseph then sent for his father to come and bring the whole family to live in Egypt. God promised to bless Israel in Egypt and to bring his descendants out again. Genesis 46:3-4.

Now we will look through the telescope, far ahead. In how many ways are Joseph's life experiences like the experiences of Jesus?

1. Both were beloved sons. Matthew 3:17.
2. Both were faithful to the will of the father. John 8:29.
3. Both wore a tunic. John 19:23.
4. Both were hated without a cause. John 15:25.
5. Both were not received by their own. John 1:11.
6. Both were delivered for pieces of silver. Matthew 26:15.
7. Both were tempted to sin. Matthew 4:3.
8. Both were falsely accused. Matthew 26:60.
9. Both had companions in humiliation: one lost, one saved. Luke 23:32.

10. Both were obedient and exalted. Philippians 2:8-11.
11. Both were 30 years old when they received power. Luke 3:23.
12. Both were (Joseph) and will be (Jesus) honoured by their brethren. Zechariah 12:10.

Israel and Joseph both died in Egypt, but they died in hope. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob." Genesis 50:24. God who leads on PROMISE ROAD cannot lie and never forget His promises.

Is this wonderful God your God? He can be if you trust His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as your personal Saviour from going to hell. With Him He will give you His justification and His glorification. Romans 8:28-32.

MEMORY VERSE: "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32.

LESSON 9 – WORK SHEET

You will find listed below 9 statements about our Lord Jesus Christ. Under each statement fill in the fact which concerned Joseph in a similar way.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ was the beloved Son of God, the Father.
Matthew 3:17.
Joseph was the beloved son of _____ . Genesis 37:3.
2. Jesus was hated without a cause. John 15:25.
Joseph was _____ . Genesis 37:5, 11.
3. Jesus was not received by His own, the Jews. John 1:11.
Joseph was not received by _____ . Genesis 37:18.
4. Jesus was delivered for 30 pieces of silver. Matthew 26:15.
Joseph was delivered for _____ . Genesis 37:28.
5. Jesus was tempted to sin by the devil. Matthew 4:3.
Joseph was tempted to sin by _____ . Genesis 39:7.
6. Jesus was falsely accused by false witnesses. Matthew 26:60.
Joseph was falsely accused by _____ . Genesis 39:17,18.
7. Jesus had two companions in humiliation, one thief was lost, one was saved. Luke 23:32
Joseph had two companions in _____
_____. Genesis 40:1-3.
8. Jesus saves people from eternal death to eternal life. John 3:16.
Joseph saved people from _____ . Genesis 41:56,57.
9. Jesus will one day be honoured by His brethren, the Jews, and will reign over them. Zechariah 12:10.
Joseph was honoured by _____ . Genesis 45:26.
10. Write Romans 8:32: _____

