

GENESIS 39

Joseph Resists Temptation

“There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9).

Joseph’s Success in Egypt (39:1-6)

- Joseph is bought by Potiphar (39:1)
- The Lord is with Joseph and he is successful (39:2)
- Potiphar sees that the Lord is with Joseph; makes him overseer of his house (39:3-6)
- Joseph is handsome in form and appearance (39:6)

Joseph and Potiphar’s Wife (39:7-18)

- Potiphar’s wife tempts Joseph, he refuses (39:7-9)
- She tempts him daily (39:10)
- Joseph is forced to flee from the house (39:11-13)
- Potiphar’s wife accuses Joseph (39:14-16)
- Potiphar is told his wife’s lie (39:17-18)

Joseph is Imprisoned (39:19-23)

- Potiphar becomes angry, puts Joseph in jail (39:19-20)
- The Lord is with Joseph; he finds favor with the chief jailer (39:21)
- The jailer puts Joseph in charge of the prisoners (39:22-23)

Questions on Genesis 39:

What was Joseph’s role in Potiphar’s house?

What reasons did Joseph give for refusing to give in to Potiphar's wife's temptations?

Why was Joseph imprisoned?

GENESIS 40

Joseph Interprets Dreams

“Then they said to him, ‘We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it.’ Then Joseph said to them, ‘Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell it to me, please’” (Genesis 40:8).

A Cupbearer and Baker are Imprisoned (40:1-8)

- Pharaoh becomes furious with his two officials and puts them in prison (40:1-3)
- Joseph is put in charge of them (40:4)
- Each man has a dream the same night (40:5)
- Joseph asks them about their dreams (40:6-8)

Joseph Interprets the Cupbearer's Dream (40:9-15)

- The cupbearer tells his dream (40:9-11)
- Joseph tells him that he will be restored to his office (40:12-13)
- Joseph asks the cupbearer to remember him before Pharaoh (40:14-15)

Joseph Interprets the Baker's Dream (40:16-19)

- The baker tells his dream (40:16-19)
- Joseph tells him that he will be killed (40:18-19)

Joseph's Interpretations are Fulfilled (40:20-23)

- Pharaoh makes a feast and restores the chief cupbearer to his place (40:20-21)
- The chief baker is hanged (40:22)
- The chief cupbearer forgets Joseph (40:23)

Questions on Genesis 40:

What was the source of Joseph's ability to interpret dreams?

Which official would be restored to his office?

What did Joseph ask of him?

GENESIS 41

Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams

“Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, ‘It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer’” (Genesis 41:16).

Pharaoh's Dreams (41:1-8)

- Pharaoh dreams of cows coming up from the Nile (41:1-4)
- Pharaoh dreams of the ears of grain (41:5-7)
- Pharaoh is troubled; no one can interpret his dreams (41:8)

The Cupbearer Remembers Joseph (41:9-13)

- The cupbearer tells Pharaoh of his dream in prison (41:9-11)
- He then tells Pharaoh how Joseph was able to interpret his dream (41:12-13)

Pharaoh Tells His Dreams and Joseph Interprets (41:14-36)

- Joseph is brought out of prison to interpret (41:14-15)
- Joseph attributes his ability to God (41:16)
- Pharaoh tells of his dream about the cows (41:17-21)
- Pharaoh tells of his dream about the ears of grain (41:22-24)
- Joseph interprets the dreams: seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine (41:25-31)
- Joseph says the dream was repeated to show that it would come to pass soon (41:32)
- Joseph tells Pharaoh of a plan to prepare for the famine (41:33-36)

Joseph is Set Over the Land of Egypt (41:37-57)

- Pharaoh approves of Joseph's proposed plan (41:37)
- Pharaoh appoints Joseph as head over all of Egypt (41:38-44)
- Joseph is given a new name and a wife (41:45)
- Joseph stores up grain during the seven years of plenty (41:46-49)
- Joseph has two sons: Manasseh and Ephraim (41:50-52)

- After the seven years of plenty, the seven years of famine began (41:53-54)
- The people of Egypt go to Joseph for food (41:55-56)
- People from other nations also came to buy grain from Joseph (41:57)

Questions on Genesis 41:

What did Pharaoh's dreams signify?

Why did Pharaoh have two dreams with the same meaning?

Why did Pharaoh appoint Joseph over all the land of Egypt?

Who were Joseph's sons?

Who came to Joseph during the famine to buy food?

GENESIS 42

Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

“Now Joseph was the ruler over 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 with their faces to the ground” (Genesis 42:6).

Joseph's Brothers are Sent to Egypt to Buy Food (42:1-7)

- Jacob tells his sons to go to Egypt to buy grain (42:1-2)
- Joseph's ten older brothers leave for Egypt (42:3)
- Jacob does not send Joseph's brother Benjamin (42:4)
- Jacob's sons come to Egypt because of the famine in Canaan (42:5)
- Joseph's brothers come to him and bow before him (42:6)
- Joseph recognizes them, but disguises himself (42:7)

Joseph's Brothers are Imprisoned as Spies (42:8-17)

- Joseph's brothers do not recognize him (42:8)
- Joseph remembers his dreams; accuses them of being spies (42:9)
- Joseph's brothers defend themselves (42:10-11)
- Joseph accuses them again of spying out the land (42:12)
- Joseph's brothers defend themselves again; make mention of Benjamin (42:13)
- Joseph proposes to test them by making one of them go back and return with Benjamin (42:14-16)
- Joseph puts his brothers in prison for three days (42:17)

Joseph's Brothers are Sent Back (42:18-28)

- Joseph offers to hold one brother in prison while the rest go back to return with Benjamin (42:18-20)
- Joseph's brothers believe they are being treated harshly because of how they dealt with Joseph (42:21)
- Reuben reminds them that he wanted to spare Joseph (42:22)
- They do not realize that Joseph understands them (42:23)

- Simeon is taken prisoner (42:24)
- Joseph gives them grain and returns their money (42:25)
- Joseph's brothers leave; find their money in their sacks and trembled with fear (42:26-28)

Jacob Refuses to Let Benjamin Go to Egypt (42:29-38)

- Joseph's brothers tell Jacob of what happened in Egypt (42:29-34)
- They are all dismayed when they discover the money in their sacks (42:35)
- Jacob rebukes them for proposing to take Benjamin to Egypt (42:36)
- Rueben offers his sons as a pledge that he would return with Benjamin (42:37)
- Jacob refuses to allow Benjamin to go (42:38)

Questions on Genesis 42:

Why did Joseph accuse his brothers of being spies?

Why did the brothers assume Joseph could not understand them?

Why did Jacob refuse to allow Benjamin to go to Egypt?

GENESIS 43

Joseph's Brothers Return to Egypt

“Take your brother also, and arise, return to the man; and may God Almighty grant you compassion in the sight of the man, so that he will release to you your other brother and Benjamin” (Genesis 43:13-14).

Joseph's Brothers Bring Benjamin to Egypt (43:1-15)

- The famine continues; Jacob tells his sons to return to Egypt to buy food (43:1-2)
- Judah says they cannot return without Benjamin (43:3-5)
- Jacob wishes they had not mentioned another brother (43:6)
- They tell of Joseph's specific questioning (43:7)
- Judah promises to take responsibility for Benjamin when they go (43:8-10)
- Jacob agrees to let Benjamin go; sends them with gifts and double the money they needed (43:11-13)
- Jacob hopes for God's compassion (43:14)
- Jacob's sons arise and go to Egypt (43:15)

Joseph's Brothers Are Brought to Eat with Him (43:16-34)

- Joseph has a feast prepared for his brothers at his house (43:16-17)
- Joseph's brothers are afraid because of the invitation (43:18)
- They declare their innocence to Joseph's servant (43:19-22)
- The servant reassures them and brings them into the house (43:23-25)
- Joseph comes in; his brothers bow before him (43:26)
- Joseph asks about the welfare of his father (43:27-28)
- Joseph sees Benjamin; has to hurry out and weep (43:29-31)
- The Egyptians ate separate from the Hebrews (43:32)
- Joseph seats them in order of their birth (43:33)
- Benjamin receives a portion five times as much as the others (43:34)

Questions on Genesis 43:

Why did the brothers need to bring Benjamin with them?

Why did Jacob send them with twice as much money?

What did Joseph do when he saw Benjamin?

How did Joseph arrange their seating?

GENESIS 44

Joseph's Brothers Are Brought Back

“The man in whose possession the cup has been found, he shall be my slave; but as for you, go up in peace to your father” (Genesis 44:17).

Joseph Arranges to Have Benjamin Brought Back (44:1-17)

- Joseph tells his servant to fill their sacks with food and return their money (44:1)
- He tells him to put his silver cup in Benjamin's sack (44:2)
- After they leave, Joseph tells his servant to pursue (44:3-5)

- The servant catches them and relays Joseph's words to them (44:6)
- The brothers defend their innocence (44:7-9)
- They search their sacks and the cup is found in Benjamin's sack (44:10-12)
- The brothers tear their clothes and return to the city (44:13)
- Joseph questions them about what they had done (44:14-15)
- Judah makes no defense; offers for all of them to become his slaves (44:16)
- Joseph releases the brothers; says he will make Benjamin his slave (44:17)

Judah Pleads with Joseph for Benjamin (44:18-34)

- Judah requests permission to speak with Joseph (44:18)
- Judah reminds Joseph of his demand that they bring Benjamin with them (44:19-23)
- Judah tells Joseph of how difficult it was to convince their father to let Benjamin come (44:24-29)
- Judah pleads with Joseph to release Benjamin for the sake of his father (44:30-31)
- Judah offers to take Benjamin's place (44:32-34)

Questions on Genesis 44:

What was placed in Benjamin's sack and why?

Why does Judah offer to take Benjamin's place?

GENESIS 45

Joseph Reveals Himself

“I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life” (Genesis 45:4-5).

Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers (45:1-15)

- Joseph sends everyone away before revealing himself (45:1)
- Joseph tells his brothers who he is (45:2-3)
- Joseph explains to them how everything happened according to the will of God (45:4-8)
- Joseph tells them to go to their father and for them all to return to live in the land of Goshen (45:9-11)
- Joseph points out to them the resemblance between him and Benjamin (45:12)
- Joseph tells them again to hurry and bring his father there (45:13)
- Joseph hugs Benjamin; afterward his brothers talk with him (45:14-15)

Joseph’s Brothers are Sent Back to Canaan (45:16-24)

- Pharaoh is pleased that Joseph’s brother have come (45:16)
- Pharaoh tells them to go and return with their father; offers to let them live in the best of the land of Egypt (45:17-20)
- Joseph sends them with provisions and gifts (45:21-23)
- Joseph tells them not to quarrel on the journey (45:24)

Jacob Receives the News About Joseph (45:25-28)

- Jacob initially did not believe the report from the brothers about Joseph (45:25-26)
- Jacob’s spirit revives when he hears of Joseph’s words and sees the wagons sent from Egypt (45:27)
- Jacob decides to go to Egypt (45:28)

Questions on Genesis 45:

Why did God sent Joseph before them into Egypt?

How did Joseph know that God was behind the events that brought him to his position in Egypt?

How did Pharaoh react to the news about Joseph's brothers?

GENESIS 46

Jacob Moves to Egypt

“I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. I will do down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes” (Genesis 46:3-4).

God Tells Jacob to Go to Egypt (46:1-4)

- Jacob comes to Beersheba and offers sacrifices to God (46:1)
- God speaks to Jacob in a vision; tells him to go to Egypt; promises to be with him (46:2-4)

Jacob and His Family Move to Egypt (46:5-27)

- Jacob departs for Egypt with all of his family and property (46:5-7)
- A record of those in Jacob's house who came to Egypt (46:8-27)

Joseph Welcomes His Family (46:28-34)

- Judah is sent ahead to point out the way to Goshen (46:28)
- Joseph goes to Goshen and meets his father (46:29)
- Jacob says that his life is complete now that he has seen Joseph (46:30)
- Joseph tells them of his plan to allow them to live in Goshen (46:31-34)

Questions on Genesis 46:

What does God promise Jacob about his move to Egypt?

How many people were of Jacob's house when he came to Egypt?

What was the attitude of the Egyptians about Jacob's family's occupation? How did this benefit them in terms of where they would settle?

GENESIS 47

Jacob's Family Settles in Goshen

“So Jacob said to Pharaoh, ‘The years of my sojourning are one hundred and thirty; few and unpleasant have been the years of my life, nor have they attained the years that my fathers lived during the days of their sojourning’” (Genesis 47:9).

Pharaoh Allows Jacob's Family to Settle in Goshen (47:1-6)

- Joseph tells Pharaoh of his family's arrival (47:1-2)
- Pharaoh asks them of their occupation; they request to be able to live in Goshen (47:3-4)
- Pharaoh gives them permission to live in Goshen; puts them in charge of his livestock (47:5-6)

Pharaoh Meets Jacob (47:7-12)

- Jacob is brought before Pharaoh (47:7)
- Pharaoh asks Jacob how long he has lived; Jacob answers (47:8-9)
- Jacob blesses Pharaoh (47:10)
- Joseph settles his family and provides for them (47:11-12)

The Egyptians Become Enslaved (47:13-26)

- The famine continues; Joseph gathers all the money of Egypt and Canaan through the sale of grain (47:13-14)
- With no money, the Egyptians trade their livestock for food (47:15-17)
- With no money or livestock to trade, the Egyptians offer to trade themselves and their land for food (47:18-19)
- Joseph buys all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh (47:20)
- Joseph relocates the people of Egypt to the cities (47:21)
- The priests are able to keep their land (47:22)
- Joseph provides seed; imposes a 20% tax (47:23-24, 26)
- Egyptians trade freedom for Pharaoh's provisions (47:25)

Jacob's Final Days (47:27-31)

- Jacob's family prospers and grows in Goshen (47:27)
- Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years; length of his life was 147 years (47:28)
- Jacob makes Joseph promise to bury him in the family's burial place, not in Egypt (47:29-31)

Questions on Genesis 47:

What responsibility does Pharaoh give to Joseph's family?

Why does Jacob call his 130 years of life "*few and unpleasant*"?

How did the Egyptians become enslaved to Pharaoh?

How long did Jacob live in Egypt?

What does Jacob make Joseph promise him about his burial?

GENESIS 48

Jacob Blesses Joseph's Sons

“Bless the lads; and may my name live on in them, and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth” (Genesis 48:16).

Joseph Brings His Sons to Jacob (48:1-7)

- Joseph hears his father is sick; brings his sons to him (48:1)
- Jacob collects his strength, sits up in bed to meet them (48:2)
- Jacob tells Joseph of God's promise to him (48:3-4)
- Jacob tells Joseph that his sons will share in the inheritance with Joseph's brothers (48:5-6)
- Jacob tells Joseph of the death of Rachel (48:7)

Jacob Blesses Joseph's Two Sons (48:8-22)

- Jacob tells Joseph to bring his sons to him that he might bless them (48:8-10)
- Jacob expresses thankfulness for seeing Joseph's sons (48:11)
- Joseph brings them to Jacob: Ephraim toward Jacob's left hand, Manasseh toward his right (48:12-13)
- Jacob crosses his arms; places his right hand on Ephraim and his left hand on Manasseh (48:14)
- Jacob blesses Joseph's sons (48:15-16)
- Joseph protests Jacob not placing his right hand on the head of the firstborn – Manasseh (48:17-18)
- Jacob defends his actions; places Ephraim before Manasseh (48:19-20)
- Jacob promises Joseph one more portion than his brothers in the land of Canaan (48:21-22)

Questions on Genesis 48:

How does Jacob make Joseph's sons equal with his brothers?

What did Jacob do that displeased Joseph?

GENESIS 49

Jacob Blesses His Sons

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes” (Genesis 49:10).

Jacob Prophecies About His Sons (49:1-28)

- Jacob gathers his sons (49:1-2)
- Jacob's prophecy concerning Reuben (49:3-4)
- Jacob's prophecy concerning Simeon and Levi (49:5-7)
- Jacob's prophecy concerning Judah (49:8-12)
- Jacob's prophecy concerning Zebulun (49:13)
- Jacob's prophecy concerning Issachar (49:14-15)
- Jacob's prophecy concerning Dan (49:16-18)
- Jacob's prophecy concerning Gad (49:19)
- Jacob's prophecy concerning Asher (49:20)
- Jacob's prophecy concerning Naphtali (49:21)
- Jacob's prophecy concerning Joseph (49:22-26)
- Jacob's prophecy concerning Benjamin (49:27)
- Summary of Jacob's blessings for his sons (49:28)

The Death of Jacob (49:29-33)

- Jacob charges his sons to bury him in the cave of Machpelah (49:29-30)
- This is the burial site of Abraham and Sarah, Issac and Rebekah, and Leah (49:31-32)
- Jacob “*breathed his last, and was gathered to his people*” (49:33)

Questions on Genesis 49:

Why would Reuben not have preeminence?

Why would Simeon and Levi be scattered?

What is “*Shiloh*” in verse 10?

Jacob tells his sons to bury him in the cave of Machpelah. Who else is buried here?

GENESIS 50

Deaths of Jacob and Joseph

“Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, ‘God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here.’” (Genesis 50:25).

The Death of Jacob (50:1-6)

- Joseph mourns the death of his father (50:1)
- Joseph commands his servants to embalm him (50:2-3)
- Joseph requests permission from Pharaoh to go to Canaan to bury his father (50:4-5)
- Pharaoh allows Joseph to go (50:6)

The Burial of Jacob (50:7-21)

- All the household of Joseph and Jacob depart for Canaan, leaving only their little ones and flocks and herds (50:7-9)
- At the threshing floor of Atad, they mourned for seven days (50:10-12)
- Jacob is buried in the cave of Machpelah (50:13)
- Joseph and his brothers return to Egypt (50:14)
- Joseph’s brothers fear that he will treat them harshly after the death of their father (50:15-18)
- Joseph tells them not to fear; he would continue to provide for them (50:19-21)

The Death of Joseph (50:22-26)

- Joseph lives 110 years; sees the third generation of Ephraim’s sons (50:22-23)
- Joseph tells the sons of Israel that God would bring them out of Egypt (50:24)
- Joseph makes them promise to carry his bones up from Egypt when they go (50:25)
- Joseph dies and placed in a coffin in Egypt (50:26)

Questions on Genesis 50:

Why did Jacob's sons travel to Canaan to bury him there?

What were Joseph's brothers afraid would happen after the death of their father?

What did Joseph believe about God's promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

What did Joseph tell the sons of Israel to do when they left Egypt?