

JOSEPH— GOD'S SUPERHERO

GENESIS 37-50

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HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS
Eugene, Oregon 97402

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Illustrations by Steve Bjorkman

Cover by Left Coast Design, Portland, Oregon

Discover 4 Yourself Bible Studies for Kids

JOSEPH—GOD'S SUPERHERO

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Published by Harvest House Publishers
Eugene, Oregon 97402

ISBN 0-7369-0739-4

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Printed in the United States of America

02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 / RDP-VS / 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

For my sons, Chase and Brent:

I am so blessed to see so much of Joseph in you—your integrity, your love, compassion, and forgiveness. May your knees always be bowed and your hearts surrendered to God. May you always have courage to do the right thing, enduring hardships with grace, knowing that a loving God holds you in His hands and will use all things for your good. May you give God all the glory. May you always be superheroes of the faith!

I love you with all my heart.

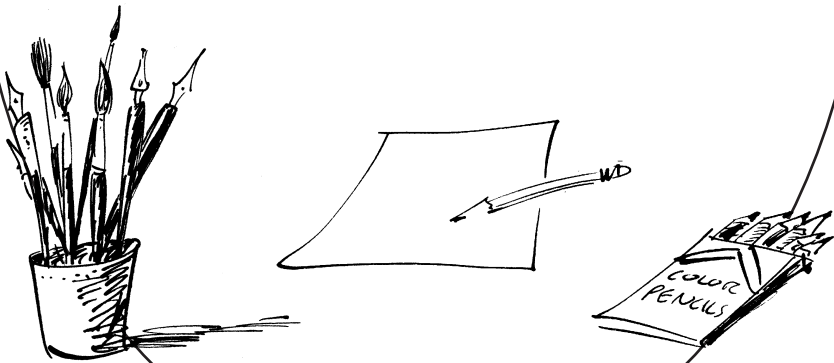
Mommy

Philippians 3:14

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SEARCHING FOR TRUTH— A BIBLE STUDY YOU CAN DO!

Hey! Look up here! Can you see us? Molly and I are in the tree house with Sam (the great detective beagle) planning our next adventure in God's Word. By the way, my name is Max. Guess where we're headed? New York City! My Aunt Sherry is developing a new comic book for Amazing Comics on the life of Joseph called *Joseph—God's Superhero*. Doesn't that sound exciting?

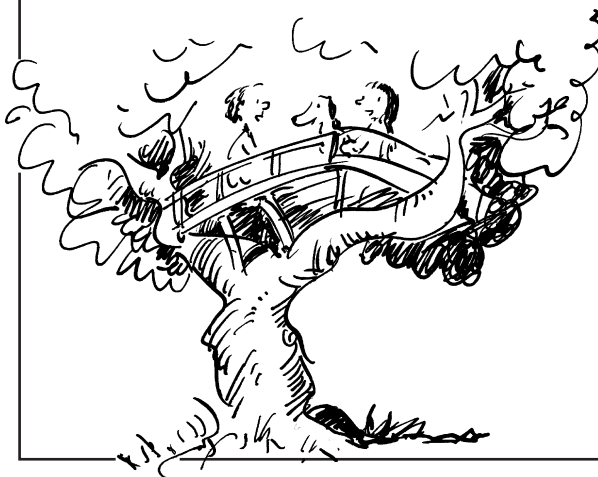
A hero is someone who is known for his acts of courage, who risks or sacrifices his life for other people. A comic-book superhero is someone like Superman, who can do the extraordinary like being faster than a speeding bullet and having X-ray vision.

WHAT makes Joseph God's superhero? Can he run faster than a speeding bullet like Superman? No! Unlike Superman, who is a fictional character with super powers, Joseph is a real person in the Bible who was just an ordinary guy like you and me.

So WHAT makes Joseph special? Does he do anything extraordinary? Is he courageous? WHAT is Joseph really like? You can find out by studying God's Word, the Bible, the source of all truth, and by asking God's Spirit to lead and guide you. You also have this book, which is an inductive Bible study. That word *inductive* means this study will help you investigate the life of Joseph in the Book of Genesis to discover *for yourself* what the Bible means, instead of depending on what someone else says it means.

So are you ready to head to New York City to learn how to make a comic book while you discover WHAT makes Joseph God's superhero?

Great—then pack those bags!
We'll see you at Amazing Comics!



THINGS YOU'LL NEED

NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE
(UPDATED EDITION)—OR PREFERABLY,
THE NEW INDUCTIVE STUDY BIBLE

(NISB)

PEN OR PENCIL

COLORED PENCILS

INDEX CARDS

A DICTIONARY

THIS WORKBOOK



How do you like New York City? Isn't it incredible? Everything is so big! Aunt Sherry is going to give us a tour of Amazing Comics, and then we can get to work discovering what God's Word has to say about a man named Joseph who lived almost 4000 years ago and yet is known today as a superhero.



DISCOVERING OUR SUPERHERO

"Are you ready for your first assignment?" asked Aunt Sherry as we sat around her desk and pulled out our notebooks. "WHAT should we do first before we begin our research on Joseph?"

Max smiled as he replied, "Pray!"

"That's right, Max. Bible study should always begin with prayer. We need God to direct us and teach us by His Spirit so that we can understand what He says in His Word. We need God to be our Master Editor to make sure we handle His Word accurately. So let's pray, and then you can begin your first assignment at Amazing Comics."

Your first assignment will be learning how to be a writer for a comic book by helping Aunt Sherry. Aunt Sherry is a writer. Not only does she think up story ideas to present to the editor, but she also has to think of story ideas that can be illustrated in an interesting way.

As Aunt Sherry writes and plans her story, she has to be able to think in pictures and use words to enhance those pictures. She tells the story by writing a script that looks a lot like a movie script. The script will tell how each page in the comic book should look, and it will also break down the pages into individual panels. Aunt Sherry also writes all the dialogue for the characters. When she is finished, the editor will read the script to check for any mistakes and make any needed changes.

So let's get started by helping Aunt Sherry develop our main character. Turn to the Observation Worksheets on page 119. Observation Worksheets are pages that have the Bible text printed out for you to use as you do your research on the life of Joseph.

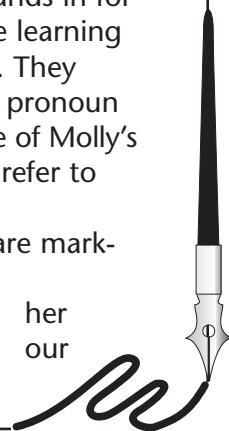
Now read Genesis 37:1-4 and mark every reference to Joseph in a special way by coloring *Joseph* blue, along with any pronouns that also refer to Joseph. WHAT are pronouns? Check out Max and Molly's research notes below.

PRONOUNS


Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns. A noun is a person, place, or thing. A pronoun stands in for a noun! Here's an example: "Molly and Max are learning how to develop the characters in a comic book. They have to do lots of research." The word *they* is a pronoun because in the second sentence it takes the place of Molly's and Max's names. It is another word we use to refer to Molly and Max.

Watch for these other pronouns when you are marking people:

I	you	he	she	me	him	her
mine	yours	his	hers	we	it	our
its	they	them				



Now that you have marked *Joseph*, another thing writers do as they plan their script and research their characters is ask lots of questions. Asking questions helps them decide how to portray the characters in their story. Let's see WHAT we can learn about Joseph by asking the 5 W's and an H questions. What are the 5 W's and an H? They are the WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, and HOW questions.

1. Asking WHO helps you find out:
WHO wrote this? To WHOM was it written?
WHOM are we reading about? WHO said this or did that?
2. WHAT helps you understand:
WHAT is the author talking about?
WHAT are the main things that happen?
3. WHERE helps you learn:
WHERE did something happen?
WHERE did they go?
WHERE was this said?
When we discover a "where" we double-underline the "where" in green.
4. WHEN tells us about time. We mark it with a green clock like this: 
WHEN tells us:
WHEN did this event happen or WHEN will it happen?
WHEN did the main characters do something? It helps us to follow the order of events, which is so important to a writer.
5. WHY asks questions like:
WHY did he say that? WHY did this happen?
WHY did they go there?

6. HOW lets you figure out things like:

HOW is something to be done?

HOW did people know something had happened?

Let's do our research on Joseph by asking the 5 W's and an H. WHAT do these four verses in Genesis 37 on page 119 tell us about Joseph?

Genesis 37:1-2 WHO is Joseph's father?

Genesis 37:1-2 WHERE is Joseph?

In the land of _____

Genesis 37:2 HOW old is Joseph?

Genesis 37:2 WHOM is Joseph with?

Genesis 37:2 WHAT is Joseph's job?

Genesis 37:2 WHAT kind of report does Joseph bring to his father?

Genesis 37:3 HOW does Israel feel about Joseph?

WHY? _____

WHO is Israel? Did you know that Israel and Jacob are the same person? God changed Jacob's name to Israel in Genesis 35:9-10.

Genesis 37:3 WHAT did Israel make for Joseph?

Genesis 37:4 HOW did Joseph's brothers feel about him?

Genesis 37:4 WHY do you think they felt that way about Joseph?

A SPECIAL COAT

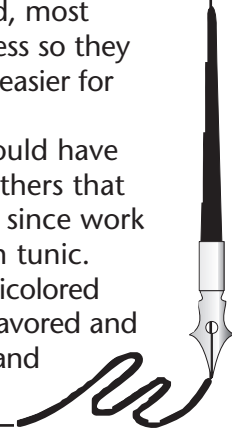
Have you heard Bible stories about Joseph and his coat of many colors? The Bible calls it a *varicolored* tunic. WHAT was this varicolored tunic like? What made it special?

The Hebrew word that is used for varicolored in Genesis 37:3 is *pac*, or *pas*, which means "the palm of the hand or sole of the foot, a long and sleeved tunic."

Now in the time of history when Joseph lived, most workingmen wore short tunics that were sleeveless so they could keep their arms and legs free and make it easier for them to do their jobs.

Bible scholars think that this special tunic could have been a coat of leisure that showed Joseph's brothers that Joseph wasn't expected to work like they were, since work would have been very difficult in this full-length tunic.

By looking at Genesis 37, we see that this varicolored tunic showed Joseph's brothers that their father favored and loved Joseph the most, which caused their envy and hate.



Great research! Did you know that comic books often have a character profile page to help the reader learn important facts about the superhero featured in that comic book? Let's get a character profile started on Joseph, God's superhero. Look at the character profile below and fill in the facts that you have uncovered so far in your research. Don't try to answer all the facts—just the ones you have uncovered today.

CHARACTER PROFILE ON JOSEPH



Real name: _____

Known as (called): the _____

Also called a H _ _ _ e _

Occupations: _____

Base of operations (where he lived): _____

Where he moved: _____

Physical description: _____

Superpowers (special abilities): _____

Source of superpowers: _____

Family: _____

Superhero character traits: _____

Mission: _____

We are off and running, but before we head to the subway, our editor, Miss Lil, has one more assignment for you—your memory verse for the week. We want you to be a superhero just like Joseph, and that means you need to know God’s Word by hiding it in your heart. As part of your superhero training, you will be given a new memory verse each week.

But before you can get started learning this week’s verse, it looks like Miss Lil needs help in the editing department. Some of the words in this week’s verse are all mixed up. Be the editor and unscramble the mixed-up words in the parentheses. Then place the correct word in the blank beside the parentheses. After you have unscrambled the verse, write it on an index card and practice saying it aloud three times in a row, three times each day!

Now Israel (oveld) _____ Joseph (orme) _____ than all his (osns) _____, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a (rivacorlode) _____ (utnic) _____. His (robthres) _____ saw that their (afther) _____ loved him more than all his brothers; and so they (ahetd) _____ him and could not (pseak) _____ to him on friendly terms.

—Genesis 37: 3-4

Great training—see you tomorrow!



DEVELOPING OUR CHARACTERS

“Wow! Look at that skyline, Max. These buildings are so tall!” Molly exclaimed as she looked out Aunt Sherry’s office window.

“I know. I can’t wait until Aunt Sherry takes us sight-seeing,” replied Max.

“How about I take you guys to a very different McDonald’s for lunch today?” asked Aunt Sherry as she walked into her office.

“McDonald’s?” questioned Max. “What’s so different about McDonald’s?”

“You’ll see,” replied Aunt Sherry. “But right now we better get back to work. Yesterday we discovered who Joseph’s father was. We also found out that he had brothers who hated him. Today we need to continue to develop our characters. Let’s do some more research on Joseph’s family.”

But first things first. What is the first thing you need to do? Pray! Spend some time with your Master Editor, God, and then you are ready to search for truth.

As we continue our research on Joseph’s family, we need to put ourselves in context by reviewing the Book of Genesis. WHAT is context? Context is the setting in which something is found. This is very important in Bible study. Context is a combination of two words: *con*, which means “with,” and *text*, which means “what is written.” So when you look for context in the Bible, you look at the verses and chapters surrounding the passage you are studying, such as looking at the whole Book of Genesis, as well as seeing how it fits into the whole Bible.

Context also includes:

- The place something happens. (This is geographical context, such as knowing where Joseph lived. Did he live in the land of Canaan or in the United States?)
- The time in history an event happens. (This is historical context, such as, did Joseph live before Noah and the flood or after the flood?)
- The customs of a group of people. (This is cultural context. For instance, did Joseph wear a tunic or did he wear blue jeans?)

If you have already studied Genesis Part One *God’s Amazing Creation* and Genesis Part Two *Digging Up the Past*,

then you have discovered for yourself that the Book of Genesis is a book of generations. In Genesis 2:4 we see the generations of the heavens and the earth. In Genesis 5:1 we see the generations of Adam. We see Noah's generations in Genesis 6:9; Shem, Ham, and Japheth's generations in Genesis 10:1; Shem's generations in Genesis 11:10; and Terah's generations in Genesis 11:27. Now let's continue to look at the generations.

Look up and read Genesis 11:27. WHOM does Terah become the father of?

Look up and read Genesis 21:1-3. WHOM did Abraham become the father of?

Now read Genesis 25:19-26. WHOM did Isaac become the father of?

And WHO did we discover was one of Jacob's sons?

Good work! Now that we have Joseph's family background, let's take a closer look at Jacob, Joseph's father. Jacob was the son of Isaac and the grandson of Abraham. Jacob had a brother named Esau, and Jacob was called by two names: Jacob and Israel.

Let's find out HOW many sons Jacob had. Look up and read Genesis 35:22. HOW many sons did Jacob have? _____

Now read Genesis 35:22-29 and fill in the chart below of Jacob's sons by listing each son's name beside the name of his mother in order of his birth. Leah's name is listed on the chart

twice because she gives birth to Jacob's first four sons, but her last two sons are numbers 9 and 10 in the birth order.

THE BIRTH ORDER OF JACOB'S SONS

Mother	Son
Leah	1. _____
	2. _____
	3. _____
	4. _____
Bilhah (Rachel's maid)	5. _____
	6. _____
Zilpah (Leah's maid)	7. _____
	8. _____
Leah	9. _____
	10. _____
Rachel	11. _____
	12. _____

Did you know that Jacob's two wives, Leah and Rachel, were sisters? Jacob married both of these sisters because his relative Laban (Leah and Rachel's father) tricked Jacob into marrying Leah when he thought he was marrying Rachel.

Look up and read Genesis 29:30-35.

Genesis 29:30 WHOM did Jacob love? _____

Genesis 29:31 WHY did God open Leah's womb and give her a son?

Genesis 29:31. WHAT happens to Rachel?

Barren means to not be able to have any children.
Read Genesis 30:22. WHAT happens to Rachel here?

Read Genesis 35:16-19. WHAT happens to Rachel?

Now go back and read Genesis 37:3-4 on your
Observation Worksheets on page 119. From all that we
have learned about Jacob, Leah, and Rachel, WHY do
you think Jacob loved Joseph more than all his sons?

WHY do you think Joseph's brothers hated him?

-
- Have you ever felt like your mom and dad loved your brother or sister or favored them more than you?
_____ Yes _____ No
 - WHAT did they do that made you feel that way?
-

- HOW did you feel? Were you angry or hurt? Did you feel left out?

- Did it make you hate your brother or sister so that you could not even speak to them on friendly terms, like Joseph's brothers?
_____ Yes _____ No

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then keep your eyes open. You need to watch and see what happens to Joseph's brothers. Pay close attention to how they handle their feelings of hurt, anger, and jealousy. Do they allow their emotions to rule their behavior? We'll find out.

Now add Joseph's family to his character profile on page 12. You did a great job researching your character. Don't forget to work on your other assignment—your memory verse. Remember to practice it three times today, morning, noon, and night!

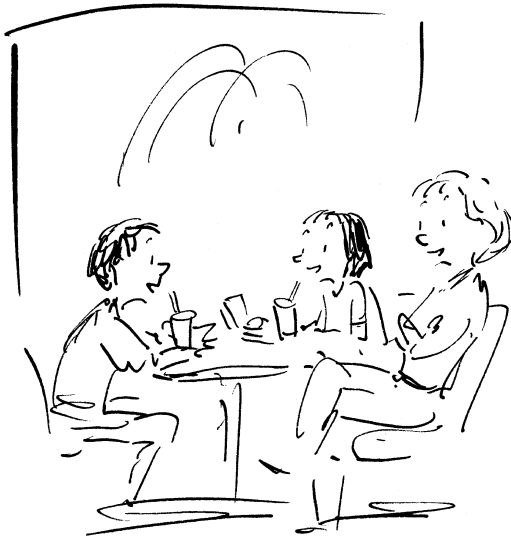


WRITING THE SCRIPT

"Here we are, guys: McDonald's, New York City style," laughed Aunt Sherry.

"This way, young ladies and gentleman," said the tuxedo-clad doorman as he opened the elegant glass door leading inside the neon-decorated McDonald's.

"Look at the flowers and candles on the marble tables, Max. Oh, and look—there's someone playing a piano!" exclaimed Molly as she spotted the maestro playing a Baldwin grand piano.



“What is he playing, Aunt Sherry?” asked Max.

“Chopin,” replied Aunt Sherry.

“Chopin and hamburgers—I can’t believe it!” replied Max. “And look at that! Isn’t that one of those things that tells how the stock market is doing?”

“It sure is, Max. It is a digital ticker tape, and it announces the stock

market prices because this McDonald’s is located in Manhattan’s financial district. Let’s order, and when we’re finished eating we’ll go upstairs to the gift boutique to look for a souvenir.”


“Cool—a store inside McDonald’s! You’re right, Aunt Sherry, we have never seen a McDonald’s quite like this,” laughed Max. “Let’s go eat.”


Now that we have had lunch, it’s time to get back to work. Don’t forget to pray and then head back to Genesis 37. Our background work is complete on Joseph and his family, so we need to start working on the script.


Let’s turn to page 119 of our Observation Worksheets and start looking for key words. What are key words? Key words are words that pop up more than once. They are called key words because they help unlock the meaning of the chapter or book that you are studying and give you clues about what is most important in a passage of Scripture.

- ⊙ Key words are usually used over and over again.
- ⊙ Key words are important.
- ⊙ Key words are used by the writer for a reason.


Once you discover a key word, you need to mark it in a special way using a special color or symbol so that you can immediately spot it in Scripture. Don't forget to mark any pronouns that go with the key words, too! Read Genesis 37 and mark the following key words.

 tunic (draw a brown robe)

 love (draw a red heart)

 hate (draw a black heart with a jagged line through it)

 dream (draw a blue cloud around it)

 pit (draw a brown box around it and color it orange)

Don't forget to mark anything that tells you **WHERE** by double-underlining the **WHERE** in green. And don't forget to mark anything that tells you **WHEN** by drawing a green clock like this:

Your script is looking good! Tomorrow we will get to meet Amazing Comic's penciller as we begin to draw the first panels in our comic book. See you then!

Day Four

SKETCHING THE PANELS

"Come on in, Max and Molly," called out Mr. Hetzel. "Are you ready to start creating the first panels in our comic book?"

"I can't wait," answered Molly. "I love to draw."

"Great. I also want you to meet our editor Miss Lil's son. This is Philip. Philip, this is Max, Miss Sherry's nephew, and this is Max's cousin Molly."

“Hi, Philip! Are you going to learn how to be a penciller, too?” asked Max.

“I sure am!” answered Philip. “I have been so excited that you and Molly were coming to visit. Mom said that I could help out with the comic book while you are here, and that we can also go with you and Miss Sherry as she shows you around New York City!”

“All right! That is so awesome,” replied Max. “Can we bring Sam, too?”

“I think so, but we might have to sweet-talk Mom. She’s heard all about Sam’s adventures with your Uncle Jake,” laughed Philip.

“Okay,” laughed Max and Molly.

“Let’s pray,” said Mr. Hetzel, “and then we are ready to get to work.”

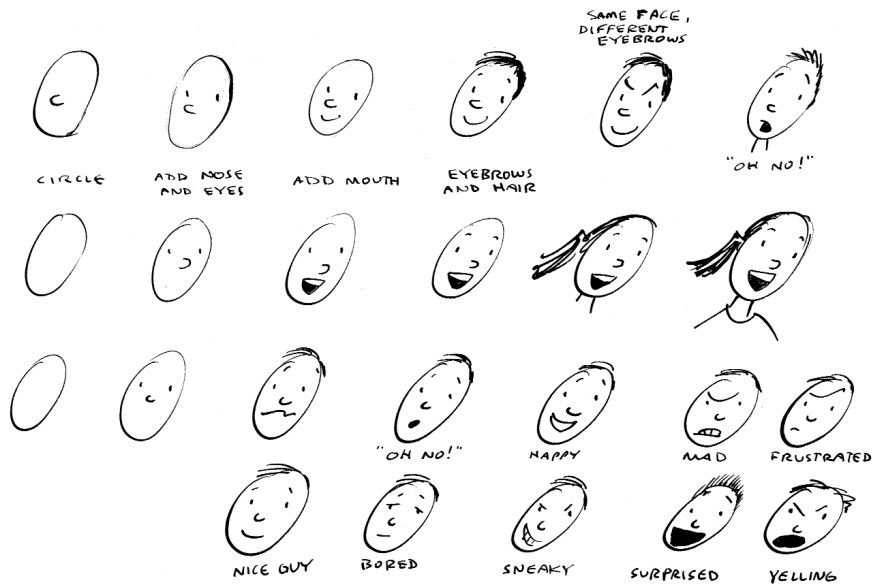
Do you know what a penciller does? A penciller is the artist who draws the comic book in pencil. Every comic book needs a good penciller because the most important thing in a comic book is the drawings. The penciller takes the writer’s ideas and turns them into real images on paper. The only way to become a good penciller is to draw, draw, draw. The more you practice, the better you will be. Pencillers keep a file, known as swipes. Swipes are photographs, drawings, etc., to help them learn how to draw certain objects. They also study other artists’ work while they are learning to develop their own style.



Now each comic book page is broken down into different panels. A panel is a framed drawing that helps develop the story line. So, become the penciller. Grab your pencils, erasers, and swipes to get started as we draw the panels for Genesis 37.

Mr. Hetzel’s Sketching Tips

Turn to pages 119-120 of your Observation Worksheets. Read Genesis 37:5-11 and answer the



5W's and an H to help decide what to draw in your first panel.

WHO are the main characters?

WHAT is the main thing that is happening?

Genesis 37:7 WHAT was Joseph's first dream?

Genesis 37:8 WHAT did the brothers think this dream meant?

Genesis 37:9 WHAT was Joseph's second dream?

Genesis 37:5,8,11 HOW do Joseph's brothers feel about him?

Now sketch it out. Draw the first panel on page 28 to show the main thing in verses 5-11.

Read Genesis 37:12-17.

Genesis 37:13-14 WHAT does Israel do?

Genesis 37:14-17 WHAT does Joseph do?

Turn to page 28 and draw this second panel.

Read Genesis 37:18-24.

Genesis 37:18 WHAT do the brothers do when they see Joseph coming?

Genesis 37:19 WHAT do they call Joseph?

(Add this description to Joseph's character profile under "Known as" on page 12.)

Genesis 37:21 WHO doesn't want to kill Joseph? And which son is he in the birth order (page 16)?

Genesis 37:22 WHAT is this brother's suggestion?

WHY? WHAT was he going to do later?

Genesis 37:23-24 WHAT do the brothers do?

Now before you draw your third panel, take a look at Genesis 42:21.

Genesis 42:21 HOW did Joseph feel when he was thrown into the pit? WHAT did the brothers see?

WHAT did Joseph do?

Draw the third panel on page 28 to show what happens in Genesis 37:18-24.

How could Joseph's brothers be so mean? Have you ever called your brother or sister names?

Yes No

WHAT names did you call them?

WHY? _____

Have you ever been jealous of your brother or sister?

___ Yes ___ No

WHY? _____

Did you notice how they stripped Joseph of the tunic that showed that he was special to their father? Have they allowed jealousy, hurt, and anger to take over? Yes—otherwise how could they plot to kill their own brother?



Can you imagine how hot and thirsty Joseph must have felt being thrown into a pit with no water? Do you think he was scared and confused? ___ Yes ___ No

How would you feel if you were treated like Joseph?

Have you ever treated your brother or sister badly?

___ Yes ___ No

If you have, what should you do? Should you ask your brother or sister to forgive you? ___ Yes ___ No

WHY? _____

We'll find out what Joseph does as we continue our search to find out what made Joseph God's superhero.



Day Five

PENCILING IT IN

Hey, guys, it's back to the drawing board. We have a lot more to learn as we continue to pencil Genesis 37. Mr. Hetzel is giving Max, Molly, and Philip a few more tips on becoming a good penciller.

"Remember, it is very important to make sure your characters always look consistent," said Mr. Hetzel as he examined the kids' sketches. "The characters should look the same in each panel. If a character has long hair in one panel, he shouldn't have short hair in the next. Also remember to leave space in your drawings so the letterer will have room to add the characters' dialogue. Your sketches are getting better and better. Keep up the good work."

Let's get ready to sketch. Don't forget to pray and then turn to page 121 and read Genesis 37:25-28.

WHAT do the brothers do with Joseph?

Turn to page 28 and draw the fourth panel.

Read Genesis 37:29-36.

Genesis 37:29 WHAT did Reuben find when he returned?

Was Reuben there when Joseph was sold?

Genesis 37:31-32 WHAT did the brothers do?

Genesis 37:33-34 WHAT did Jacob do?

Genesis 37:34-35 HOW did Jacob feel?

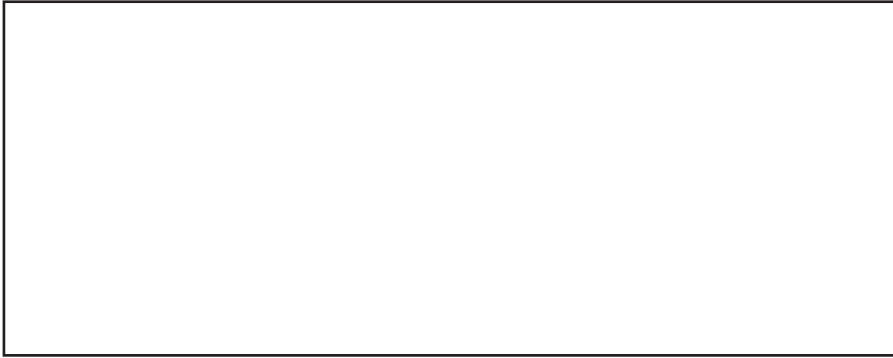
Can you believe the brothers would lie to their father and let him think his favorite son was dead? How could they be so mean and cruel to their own father?

Genesis 37:36 WHAT happened to Joseph?

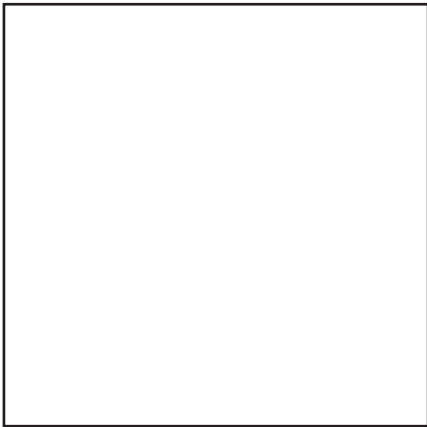
Draw the last panel on page 28.

What do you think it felt like to be a 17-year-old boy who was kidnapped, taken to a foreign country, and sold as a slave by his own brothers? How would you feel: scared, lonely, and rejected, or angry and determined to get even?

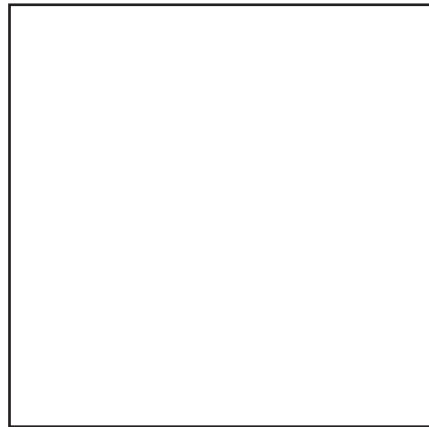
We'll find out how Joseph handles his feelings as we continue our study in God's Word. Now before you head out with Max, Molly, Sam, and Philip for a little weekend fun, don't forget to say your memory verse to a grown-up. Flex those superhero muscles!



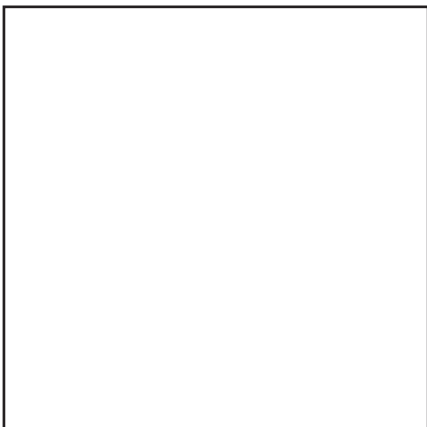
Genesis 37:5-11



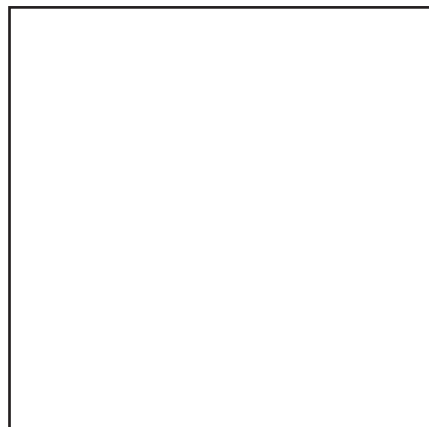
Genesis 37:12-17



Genesis 37:18-24



Genesis 37:25-28



Genesis 37:29-36

OBSERVATION WORKSHEETS

GENESIS 37-50

Chapter 37

1 Now Jacob lived in the land where his father had sojourned, in the land of Canaan.

2 These are the records of the generations of Jacob.

Joseph, when seventeen years of age, was pasturing the flock with his brothers while he was still a youth, along with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father.

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic.

4 His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms.

5 Then Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more.

6 He said to them, "Please listen to this dream which I have had;

7 for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf rose up and also stood erect; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf."

8 Then his brothers said to him, "Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

9 Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, "Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

10 He related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and

your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?"

11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

12 Then his brothers went to pasture their father's flock in Shechem.

13 Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock in Shechem? Come, and I will send you to them." And he said to him, "I will go."

14 Then he said to him, "Go now and see about the welfare of your brothers and the welfare of the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

15 A man found him, and behold, he was wandering in the field; and the man asked him, "What are you looking for?"

16 He said, "I am looking for my brothers; please tell me where they are pasturing the flock."

17 Then the man said, "They have moved from here; for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

18 When they saw him from a distance and before he came close to them, they plotted against him to put him to death.

19 They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer!

20 Now then, come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, 'A wild beast devoured him.' Then let us see what will become of his dreams!"

21 But Reuben heard this and rescued him out of their hands and said, "Let us not take his life."

22 Reuben further said to them, "Shed no blood. Throw him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but do not lay hands on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hands, to restore him to his father.

- 23 So it came about, when Joseph reached his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the varicolored tunic that was on him;
- 24 and they took him and threw him into the pit. Now the pit was empty, without any water in it.
- 25 Then they sat down to eat a meal. And as they raised their eyes and looked, behold, a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing aromatic gum and balm and myrrh, on their way to bring them down to Egypt.
- 26 Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it for us to kill our brother and cover up his blood?"
- 27 "Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him.
- 28 Then some Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled him up and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. Thus they brought Joseph into Egypt.
- 29 Now Reuben returned to the pit, and behold, Joseph was not in the pit; so he tore his garments.
- 30 He returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is not there; as for me, where am I to go?"
- 31 So they took Joseph's tunic, and slaughtered a male goat and dipped the tunic in the blood;
- 32 and they sent the varicolored tunic and brought it to their father and said, "We found this; please examine it to see whether it is your son's tunic or not."
- 33 Then he examined it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him; Joseph has surely been torn to pieces!"
- 34 So Jacob tore his clothes, and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days.

35 Then all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. And he said, "Surely I will go down to Sheol in mourning for my son." So his father wept for him.

36 Meanwhile, the Midianites sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, Pharaoh's officer, the captain of the bodyguard.

Chapter 38

1 And it came about at that time, that Judah departed from his brothers and visited a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah.

2 Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua; and he took her and went in to her.

3 So she conceived and bore a son and he named him Er.

4 Then she conceived again and bore a son and named him Onan.

5 She bore still another son and named him Shelah; and it was at Chezib that she bore him.

6 Now Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar.

7 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was evil in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD took his life.

8 Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife, and perform your duty as a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother."

9 Onan knew that the offspring would not be his; so when he went in to his brother's wife, he wasted his seed on the ground in order not to give offspring to his brother.

10 But what he did was displeasing in the sight of the LORD; so He took his life also.

11 Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Remain a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up"; for he thought, "I am afraid that he too may die like his brothers." So Tamar went and lived in her father's house.

12 Now after a considerable time Shua's daughter, the wife of Judah, died; and when the time of mourning was ended, Judah went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.

13 It was told to Tamar, "Behold, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep."

14 So she removed her widow's garments and covered herself with a veil, and wrapped herself, and sat in the gateway of Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah had grown up, and she had not been given to him as a wife.

15 When Judah saw her, he thought she was a harlot, for she had covered her face.

16 So he turned aside to her by the road, and said, "Here now, let me come in to you"; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. And she said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?"

17 He said, therefore, "I will send you a young goat from the flock." She said, moreover, "Will you give a pledge until you send it?"

18 He said, "What pledge shall I give you?" And she said, "Your seal and your cord, and your staff that is in your hand." So he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him.

19 Then she arose and departed, and removed her veil and put on her widow's garments.

20 When Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite, to receive the pledge from the woman's hand, he did not find her.

21 He asked the men of her place, saying, "Where is the temple prostitute who was by the road at Enaim?" But they said, "There has been no temple prostitute here."

22 So he returned to Judah, and said, "I did not find her; and furthermore, the men of the place said, 'There has been no temple prostitute here.'"

23 Then Judah said, "Let her keep them, otherwise we will become a laughingstock. After all, I sent this young goat, but you did not find her."

24 Now it was about three months later that Judah was informed, "Your daughter-in-law Tamar has played the harlot, and behold, she is also with child by harlotry." Then Judah said, "Bring her out and let her be burned!"

25 It was while she was being brought out that she sent to her father-in-law, saying, "I am with child by the man to whom these things belong." And she said, "Please examine and see, whose signet ring and cords and staff are these?"

26 Judah recognized them, and said, "She is more righteous than I, inasmuch as I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he did not have relations with her again.

27 It came about at the time she was giving birth, that behold, there were twins in her womb.

28 Moreover, it took place while she was giving birth, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, "This one came out first."

29 But it came about as he drew back his hand, that behold, his brother came out. Then she said, "What a breach you have made for yourself!" So he was named Perez.

30 Afterward his brother came out who had the scarlet thread on his hand; and he was named Zerah.

Chapter 39

1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there.

2 The LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian.

3 Now his master saw that the LORD was with him and how the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand.

4 So Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he owned he put in his charge.

5 It came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house and over all that he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; thus the LORD's blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field.

6 So he left everything he owned in Joseph's charge; and with him there he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

7 It came about after these events that his master's wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."

8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, and he has put all that he owns in my charge.

9 "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?"

10 As she spoke to Joseph day after day, he did not listen to her to lie beside her or be with her.

11 Now it happened one day that he went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the household was there inside.

12 She caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me!" And he left his garment in her hand and fled, and went outside.

13 When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside,

14 she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought in a Hebrew to us to make sport of us; he came in to me to lie with me, and I screamed.

15 "When he heard that I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment beside me and fled and went outside."

16 So she left his garment beside her until his master came home.

17 Then she spoke to him with these words, "The Hebrew slave, whom you brought to us, came in to me to make sport of me;

18 and as I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment beside me and fled outside."

19 Now when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spoke to him, saying, "This is what your slave did to me," his anger burned.

20 So Joseph's master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; and he was there in the jail.

21 But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.

22 The chief jailer committed to Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible for it.

23 The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made to prosper.

Chapter 40

1 Then it came about after these things, the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt.

2 Pharaoh was furious with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker.

3 So he put them in confinement in the house of the captain of the bodyguard, in the jail, the same place where Joseph was imprisoned.

4 The captain of the bodyguard put Joseph in charge of them, and he took care of them; and they were in confinement for some time.

5 Then the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt, who were confined in jail, both had a dream the same night, each man with his own dream and each dream with its own interpretation.

6 When Joseph came to them in the morning and observed them, behold, they were dejected.

7 He asked Pharaoh's officials who were with him in confinement in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?"

8 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."

9 So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "In my dream, behold, there was a vine in front of me;

10 and on the vine were three branches. And as it was budding, its blossoms came out, and its clusters produced ripe grapes.

11 "Now Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; so I took the grapes and squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I put the cup into Pharaoh's hand."

12 Then Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: the three branches are three days;

13 within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office; and you will put Pharaoh's cup into his hand according to your former custom when you were his cupbearer.

14 "Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house.

15 "For I was in fact kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing that they should have put me into the dungeon."

16 When the chief baker saw that he had interpreted favorably, he said to Joseph, "I also saw in my dream, and behold, there were three baskets of white bread on my head;

17 and in the top basket there were some of all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, and the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head."

18 Then Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days;

19 within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head from you and will hang you on a tree, and the birds will eat your flesh off you."

20 Thus it came about on the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants.

21 He restored the chief cupbearer to his office, and he put the cup into Pharaoh's hand;

22 but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them.

23 Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

Chapter 41

1 Now it happened at the end of two full years that Pharaoh had a dream, and behold, he was standing by the Nile.

2 And lo, from the Nile there came up seven cows, sleek and fat; and they grazed in the marsh grass.

3 Then behold, seven other cows came up after them from the Nile, ugly and gaunt, and they stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile.

4 The ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven sleek and fat cows. Then Pharaoh awoke.

5 He fell asleep and dreamed a second time; and behold, seven ears of grain came up on a single stalk, plump and good.

6 Then behold, seven ears, thin and scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them.

7 The thin ears swallowed up the seven plump and full ears. Then Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream.

8 Now in the morning his spirit was troubled, so he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

9 Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, "I would make mention today of my own offenses.

10 "Pharaoh was furious with his servants, and he put me in confinement in the house of the captain of the bodyguard, both me and the chief baker.

11 "We had a dream on the same night, he and I; each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his own dream.

12 "Now a Hebrew youth was with us there, a servant of the captain of the bodyguard, and we related them to him, and he interpreted our dreams for us. To each one he interpreted according to his own dream.

13 "And just as he interpreted for us, so it happened; he restored me in my office, but he hanged him."

14 Then Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph, and they hurriedly brought him out of the dungeon; and when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came to Pharaoh.

15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; and I have heard it said about you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

16 Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

17 So Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, "In my dream, behold, I was standing on the bank of the Nile;

18 and behold, seven cows, fat and sleek came up out of the Nile, and they grazed in the marsh grass.

19 “Lo, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and gaunt, such as I had never seen for ugliness in all the land of Egypt;

20 and the lean and ugly cows ate up the first seven fat cows.

21 “Yet when they had devoured them, it could not be detected that they had devoured them, for they were just as ugly as before. Then I awoke.

22 “I saw also in my dream, and behold, seven ears, full and good, came up on a single stalk;

23 and lo, seven ears, withered, thin, and scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them;

24 and the thin ears swallowed the seven good ears. Then I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me.”

25 Now Joseph said to Pharaoh, “Pharaoh’s dreams are one and the same; God has told to Pharaoh what He is about to do.

26 “The seven good cows are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one and the same.

27 “The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven thin ears scorched by the east wind will be seven years of famine.

28 “It is as I have spoken to Pharaoh: God has shown to Pharaoh what He is about to do.

29 “Behold, seven years of great abundance are coming in all the land of Egypt;

30 and after them seven years of famine will come, and all the abundance will be forgotten in the land of Egypt, and the famine will ravage the land.

31 “So the abundance will be unknown in the land because of that subsequent famine; for it will be very severe.

32 “Now as for the repeating of the dream to Pharaoh twice, it means that the matter is determined by God, and God will quickly bring it about.

33 “Now let Pharaoh look for a man discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

34 “Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him exact a fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance.

35 “Then let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and store up the grain for food in the cities under Pharaoh’s authority, and let them guard it.

36 “Let the food become as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which will occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish during the famine.”

37 Now the proposal seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his servants.

38 Then Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom is a divine spirit?”

39 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are.

40 “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.”

41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.”

42 Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck.

43 He had him ride in his second chariot; and they proclaimed before him, “Bow the knee!” And he set him over all the land of Egypt.

44 Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Though I am Pharaoh, yet without your permission no one shall raise his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.”

45 Then Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenath-paneah; and he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, as his wife. And Joseph went forth over the land of Egypt.

46 Now Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt.

47 During the seven years of plenty the land brought forth abundantly.

48 So he gathered all the food of these seven years which occurred in the land of Egypt and placed the food in the cities; he placed in every city the food from its own surrounding fields.

49 Thus Joseph stored up grain in great abundance like the sand of the sea, until he stopped measuring it, for it was beyond measure.

50 Now before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore to him.

51 Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household."

52 He named the second Ephraim, "For," he said, "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

53 When the seven years of plenty which had been in the land of Egypt came to an end,

54 and the seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said, then there was famine in all the lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

55 So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried out to Pharaoh for bread; and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, you shall do."

56 When the famine was spread over all the face of the earth, then Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians; and the famine was severe in the land of Egypt.

57 The people of all the earth came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the earth.

Chapter 42

1 Now Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, and Jacob said to his sons, "Why are you staring at one another?"

2 He said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down there and buy some for us from that place, so that we may live and not die."

3 Then ten brothers of Joseph went down to buy grain from Egypt.

4 But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, "I am afraid that harm may befall him."

5 So the sons of Israel came to buy grain among those who were coming, for the famine was in the land of Canaan also.

6 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.

7 When Joseph saw his brothers he recognized them, but he disguised himself to them and spoke to them harshly. And he said to them, "Where have you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food."

8 But Joseph had recognized his brothers, although they did not recognize him.

9 Joseph remembered the dreams which he had about them, and said to them, "You are spies; you have come to look at the undefended parts of our land."

10 Then they said to him, "No, my lord, but your servants have come to buy food.

11 "We are all sons of one man; we are honest men, your servants are not spies."

12 Yet he said to them, "No, but you have come to look at the undefended parts of our land!"

13 But they said, "Your servants are twelve brothers in all, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and behold, the youngest is with our father today, and one is no longer alive."

14 Joseph said to them, "It is as I said to you, you are spies;

15 by this you will be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here!

16 "Send one of you that he may get your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. But if not, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies."

17 So he put them all together in prison for three days.

18 Now Joseph said to them on the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God:

19 if you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined in your prison; but as for the rest of you, go, carry grain for the famine of your households,

20 and bring your youngest brother to me, so your words may be verified, and you will not die." And they did so.

21 Then they said to one another, "Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us."

22 Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not tell you, 'Do not sin against the boy; and you would not listen? Now comes the reckoning for his blood.'"

23 They did not know, however, that Joseph understood, for there was an interpreter between them.

24 He turned away from them and wept. But when he returned to them and spoke to them, he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

25 Then Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain and to restore every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. And thus it was done for them.

26 So they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed from there.

27 As one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money; and behold, it was in the mouth of his sack.

28 Then he said to his brothers, "My money has been returned, and behold, it is even in my sack." And their hearts sank, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, "What is this that God has done to us?"

29 When they came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying,

30 "The man, the lord of the land, spoke harshly with us, and took us for spies of the country.

31 "But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies.

32 We are twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is no longer alive, and the youngest is with our father today in the land of Canaan.'

33 "The man, the lord of the land, said to us, 'By this I will know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me and take grain for the famine of your households, and go.

34 'But bring your youngest brother to me that I may know that you are not spies, but honest men. I will give your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.'"

35 Now it came about as they were emptying their sacks, that behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack; and when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were dismayed.

36 Their father Jacob said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and you would take Benjamin; all these things are against me."

37 Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "You may put my two sons to death if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my care, and I will return him to you."

38 But Jacob said, "My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he alone is left. If harm should befall him on the journey you are taking, then you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow."

Chapter 43

1 Now the famine was severe in the land.

2 So it came about when they had finished eating the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food."

3 Judah spoke to him, however, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'

4 "If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food.

5 "But if you do not send him, we will not go down; for the man said to us, 'You will not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"

6 Then Israel said, "Why did you treat me so badly by telling the man whether you still had another brother?"

7 But they said, "The man questioned particularly about us and our relatives, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?' So we answered his questions. Could we possibly know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'"

8 Judah said to his father Israel, "Send the lad with me and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, we as well as you and our little ones.

9 “I myself will be surety for him; you may hold me responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame before you forever.

10 “For if we had not delayed, surely by now we could have returned twice.”

11 Then their father Israel said to them, “If it must be so, then do this: take some of the best products of the land in your bags, and carry down to the man as a present, a little balm and a little honey, aromatic gum and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds.

12 “Take double the money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was a mistake.

13 “Take your brother also, and arise, return to the man;

14 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. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.”

15 So the men took this present, and they took double the money in their hand, and Benjamin; then they arose and went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph.

16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to his house steward, “Bring the men into the house, and slay an animal and make ready; for the men are to dine with me at noon.”

17 So the man did as Joseph said, and brought the men to Joseph’s house.

18 Now the men were afraid, because they were brought to Joseph’s house; and they said, “It is because of the money that was returned in our sacks the first time that we are being brought in, that he may seek occasion against us and fall upon us, and take us for slaves with our donkeys.”

- 19 So they came near to Joseph's house steward, and spoke to him at the entrance of the house,
- 20 and said, "Oh, my lord, we indeed came down the first time to buy food,
- 21 and it came about when we came to the lodging place, that we opened our sacks, and behold, each man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full. So we have brought it back in our hand.
- 22 "We have also brought down other money in our hand to buy food; we do not know who put our money in our sacks."
- 23 He said, "Be at ease, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.
- 24 Then the man brought the men into Joseph's house and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys fodder.
- 25 So they prepared the present for Joseph's coming at noon; for they had heard that they were to eat a meal there.
- 26 When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present which was in their hand and bowed to the ground before him.
- 27 Then he asked them about their welfare, and said, "Is your old father well, of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"
- 28 They said, "Your servant our father is well; he is still alive." They bowed down in homage.
- 29 As he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, he said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me?" And he said, "May God be gracious to you, my son."
- 30 Joseph hurried out for he was deeply stirred over his brother, and he sought a place to weep; and he entered his chamber and wept there.
- 31 Then he washed his face and came out; and he controlled himself and said, "Serve the meal."

32 So they served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat bread with the Hebrews, for that is loathsome to the Egyptians.

33 Now they were seated before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth, and the men looked at one another in astonishment.

34 He took portions to them from his own table, but Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs. So they feasted and drank freely with him.

Chapter 44

1 Then he commanded his house steward, saying, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack.

2 "Put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his money for the grain." And he did as Joseph had told him.

3 As soon as it was light, the men were sent away, they with their donkeys.

4 They had just gone out of the city, and were not far off, when Joseph said to his house steward, "Up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good?

5 'Is not this the one from which my lord drinks and which he indeed uses for divination? You have done wrong in doing this.'"

6 So he overtook them and spoke these words to them.

7 They said to him, "Why does my lord speak such words as these? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing.

8 "Behold, the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks we have brought back to you from the land of Canaan. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house?

- 9 "With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves."
- 10 So he said, "Now let it also be according to your words; he with whom it is found shall be my slave, and the rest of you shall be innocent."
- 11 Then they hurried, each man lowered his sack to the ground, and each man opened his sack.
- 12 He searched, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest, and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.
- 13 Then they tore their clothes, and when each man loaded his donkey, they returned to the city.
- 14 When Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, he was still there, and they fell to the ground before him.
- 15 Joseph said to them, "What is this deed that you have done? Do you not know that such a man as I can indeed practice divination?"
- 16 So Judah said, "What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? And how can we justify ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; behold, we are my lord's slaves, both we and the one in whose possession the cup has been found."
- 17 But he said, "Far be it from me to do this. 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."
- 18 Then Judah approached him, and said, "Oh my lord, may your servant please speak a word in my lord's ears, and do not be angry with your servant; for you are equal to Pharaoh.
- 19 "My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father or a brother?'
- 20 "We said to my lord, 'We have an old father and a little child of his old age. Now his brother is dead, so he alone is left of his mother, and his father loves him.'

- 21 “Then you said to your servants, ‘Bring him down to me that I may set my eyes on him.’
- 22 “But we said to my lord, ‘The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.’
- 23 “You said to your servants, however, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you will not see my face again.’
- 24 “Thus it came about when we went up to your servant my father, we told him the words of my lord.
- 25 “Our father said, ‘Go back, buy us a little food.’
- 26 “But we said, ‘We cannot go down. If our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down; for we cannot see the man’s face unless our youngest brother is with us.’
- 27 “Your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore me two sons;
- 28 and the one went out from me, and I said, “Surely he is torn in pieces,” and I have not seen him since.
- 29 If you take this one also from me, and harm befalls him, you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow.’
- 30 “Now, therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad’s life,
- 31 when he sees that the lad is not with us, he will die. Thus your servants will bring the gray hair of your servant our father down to Sheol in sorrow.
- 32 “For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, then let me bear the blame before my father forever.’
- 33 “Now, therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers.
- 34 “For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me—for fear that I see the evil that would overtake my father?”

Chapter 45

1 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried, "Have everyone go out from me." So there was no man with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

2 He wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard of it.

3 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come closer to me." And they came closer. And he said, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.

5 "Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

6 "For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.

7 "God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance.

8 "Now, therefore, 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.

9 "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.

10 "You shall live in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children and your flocks and your herds and all that you have.

11 "There I will also provide for you, for there are still five years of famine to come, and you and your household and all that you have would be impoverished.'"

- 12 “Behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth which is speaking to you.
- 13 “Now you must tell my father of all my splendor in Egypt, and all that you have seen; and you must hurry and bring my father down here.”
- 14 Then he fell on his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck.
- 15 He kissed all his brothers and wept on them, and afterward his brothers talked with him.
- 16 Now when the news was heard in Pharaoh’s house that Joseph’s brothers had come, it pleased Pharaoh and his servants.
- 17 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Say to your brothers, ‘Do this: load your beasts and go to the land of Canaan,
- 18 and take your father and your households and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you will eat the fat of the land.’
- 19 “Now you are ordered, ‘Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father and come.
- 20 ‘Do not concern yourselves with your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.’”
- 21 Then the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them wagons according to the command of Pharaoh, and gave them provisions for the journey.
- 22 To each of them he gave changes of garments, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments.
- 23 To his father he sent as follows: ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and sustenance for his father on the journey.
- 24 So he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, “Do not quarrel on the journey.”

25 Then they went up from Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob.

26 They told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and indeed he is ruler over all the land of Egypt." But he was stunned, for he did not believe them.

27 When they told him all the words of Joseph that he had spoken to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived.

28 Then Israel said, "It is enough; my son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

Chapter 46

1 So Israel set out with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

2 God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am."

3 He said, "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.

4 "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes."

5 Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob and their little ones and their wives in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him.

6 They took their livestock and their property, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and came to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him:

7 his sons and his grandsons with him, his daughters and his granddaughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt.

8 Now these are the names of the sons of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who went to Egypt: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn.

- 9 The sons of Reuben: Hanoch and Pallu and Hezron and Carmi.
- 10 The sons of Simeon: Jemuel and Jamin and Ohad and Jachin and Zohar and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman.
- 11 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.
- 12 The sons of Judah: Er and Onan and Shelah and Perez and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan). And the sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul.
- 13 The sons of Issachar: Tola and Puvvah and Iob and Shimron.
- 14 The sons of Zebulun: Sered and Elon and Jahleel.
- 15 These are the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Paddan-aram, with his daughter Dinah; all his sons and his daughters numbered thirty-three.
- 16 The sons of Gad: Ziphion and Haggi, Shuni and Ezbon, Eri and Arodi and Areli.
- 17 The sons of Asher: Imnah and Ishvah and Ishvi and Beriah and their sister Serah. And the sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel.
- 18 These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to his daughter Leah; and she bore to Jacob these sixteen persons.
- 19 The sons of Jacob's wife Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.
- 20 Now to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore to him.
- 21 The sons of Benjamin: Bela and Becher and Ashbel, Gera and Naaman, Ehi and Rosh, Muppim and Huppim and Ard.
- 22 These are the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob; there were fourteen persons in all.
- 23 The sons of Dan: Hushim.
- 24 The sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel and Guni and Jezer and Shillem.
- 25 These are the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to his daughter Rachel, and she bore these to Jacob; there were seven persons in all.

26 All the persons belonging to Jacob, who came to Egypt, his direct descendants, not including the wives of Jacob's sons, were sixty-six persons in all,

27 and the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt were two; all the persons of the house of Jacob, who came to Egypt, were seventy.

28 Now he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out the way before him to Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen.

29 Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; as soon as he appeared before him, he fell on his neck and wept on his neck a long time.

30 Then Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face, that you are still alive."

31 Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh, and will say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me;

32 and the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock; and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.'

33 "When Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?'

34 you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' that you may live in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is loathsome to the Egyptians."

Chapter 47

1 Then Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, and said, "My father and my brothers and their flocks and their herds and all that they have, have come out of the land of Canaan; and behold, they are in the land of Goshen."

2 He took five men from among his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh.

3 Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" So they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, both we and our fathers."

4 They said to Pharaoh, "We have come to sojourn in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants' flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now, therefore, please let your servants live in the land of Goshen."

5 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you.

6 "The land of Egypt is at your disposal; settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land, let them live in the land of Goshen; and if you know any capable men among them, then put them in charge of my livestock."

7 Then Joseph brought his father Jacob and presented him to Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

8 Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How many years have you lived?"

9 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."

10 And Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from his presence.

11 So Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had ordered.

12 Joseph provided his father and his brothers and all his father's household with food, according to their little ones.

13 Now there was no food in all the land, because the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine.

14 Joseph gathered all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan for the grain which they bought, and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.

15 When the money was all spent in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us food, for why should we die in your presence? For our money is gone."

16 Then Joseph said, "Give up your livestock, and I will give you food for your livestock, since your money is gone."

17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses and the flocks and the herds and the donkeys; and he fed them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year.

18 When that year was ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is all spent, and the cattle are my lord's. There is nothing left for my lord except our bodies and our lands.

19 "Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we and our land will be slaves to Pharaoh. So give us seed, that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate."

20 So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for every Egyptian sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. Thus the land became Pharaoh's.

21 As for the people, he removed them to the cities from one end of Egypt's border to the other.

22 Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had an allotment from Pharaoh, and they lived off the allotment which Pharaoh gave them. Therefore, they did not sell their land.

23 Then Joseph said to the people, "Behold, I have today bought you and your land for Pharaoh; now, here is seed for you, and you may sow the land.

24 "At the harvest you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four-fifths shall be your own for seed of the field and for your food and for those of your households and as food for your little ones."

25 So they said, "You have saved our lives! Let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's slaves."

26 Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt valid to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth; only the land of the priests did not become Pharaoh's.

27 Now Israel lived in the land of Egypt, in Goshen, and they acquired property in it and were fruitful and became very numerous.

28 Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years; so the length of Jacob's life was one hundred and forty-seven years.

29 When the time for Israel to die drew near, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "Please, if I have found favor in your sight, place now your hand under my thigh and deal with me in kindness and faithfulness. Please do not bury me in Egypt,

30 but when I lie down with my fathers, you shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place." And he said, "I will do as you have said."

31 He said, "Swear to me." So he swore to him. Then Israel bowed in worship at the head of the bed.

Chapter 48

1 Now it came about after these things that Joseph was told, "Behold, your father is sick." So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim with him.

2 When it was told to Jacob, "Behold, your son Joseph has come to you," Israel collected his strength and sat up in the bed.

3 Then Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me,

4 and He said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and numerous, and I will make you a company of peoples, and will give this land to your descendants after you for an everlasting possession.'

5 "Now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are.

6 "But your offspring that have been born after them shall be yours; they shall be called by the names of their brothers in their inheritance.

7 "Now as for me, when I came from Paddan, Rachel died, to my sorrow, in the land of Canaan on the journey, when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."

8 When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?"

9 Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." So he said, "Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them."

10 Now the eyes of Israel were so dim from age that he could not see. Then Joseph brought them close to him, and he kissed them and embraced them.

11 Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face, and behold, God has let me see your children as well."

12 Then Joseph took them from his knees, and bowed with his face to the ground.

13 Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right, and brought them close to him.

- 14 But Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, crossing his hands, although Manasseh was the firstborn.
- 15 He blessed Joseph, and said,
 "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and
 Isaac walked,
 The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,
16 The angel who has redeemed me from all evil,
 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."
- 17 When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on Ephraim's head, it displeased him; and he grasped his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.
- 18 Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn. Place your right hand on his head."
- 19 But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know; he also will become a people and he also will be great. However, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations."
- 20 He blessed them that day, saying,
 "By you Israel will pronounce blessing, saying,
 'May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh!'"
 Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh.
- 21 Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you, and bring you back to the land of your fathers.
- 22 "I give you one portion more than your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow."

Chapter 49

1 Then Jacob summoned his sons and said, “Assemble yourselves that I may tell you what will befall you in the days to come.

2 “Gather together and hear, O sons of Jacob;
And listen to Israel your father.

3 “Reuben, you are my firstborn;
My might and the beginning of my strength,
Preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power.

4 “Uncontrolled as water, you shall not have preeminence,
Because you went up to your father’s bed;
Then you defiled it—he went up to my couch.

5 “Simeon and Levi are brothers;
Their swords are implements of violence.

6 “Let my soul not enter into their council;
Let not my glory be united with their assembly;
Because in their anger they slew men,
And in their self-will they lamed oxen.

7 “Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce;
And their wrath, for it is cruel.
I will disperse them in Jacob,
And scatter them in Israel.

8 “Judah, your brothers shall praise you;
Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;
Your father’s sons shall bow down to you.

9 “Judah is a lion’s whelp;
From the prey, my son, you have gone up.
He couches, he lies down as a lion,
And as a lion, who dares rouse him up?

- 10 "The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
Until Shiloh comes,
And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.
- 11 "He ties his foal to the vine,
And his donkey's colt to the choice vine;
He washes his garments in wine,
And his robes in the blood of grapes.
- 12 "His eyes are dull from wine,
And his teeth white from milk.
- 13 "Zebulun will dwell at the seashore;
And he shall be a haven for ships,
And his flank shall be toward Sidon.
- 14 "Issachar is a strong donkey,
Lying down between the sheepfolds.
- 15 "When he saw that a resting place was good
And that the land was pleasant,
He bowed his shoulder to bear burdens,
And became a slave at forced labor.
- 16 "Dan shall judge his people,
As one of the tribes of Israel.
- 17 "Dan shall be a serpent in the way,
A horned snake in the path,
That bites the horse's heels,
So that his rider falls backward.
- 18 "For Your salvation I wait, O LORD.
- 19 "As for Gad, raiders shall raid him,
But he will raid at their heels.

- 20 "As for Asher, his food shall be rich,
And he will yield royal dainties.
- 21 "Naphtali is a doe let loose,
He gives beautiful words.
- 22 "Joseph is a fruitful bough,
A fruitful bough by a spring;
Its branches run over a wall.
- 23 "The archers bitterly attacked him,
And shot at him and harassed him;
- 24 But his bow remained firm,
And his arms were agile,
From the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob
(From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),
- 25 From the God of your father who helps you,
And by the Almighty who blesses you
With blessings of heaven above,
Blessings of the deep that lies beneath,
Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.
- 26 "The blessings of your father
Have surpassed the blessings of my ancestors
Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills;
May they be on the head of Joseph,
And on the crown of the head of the one distinguished among his
brothers.
- 27 "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf;
In the morning he devours the prey,
And in the evening he divides the spoil."
- 28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father
said to them when he blessed them. He blessed them, every one with the
blessing appropriate to him.

- 29 Then he charged them and said to them, "I am about to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,
- 30 in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought along with the field from Ephron the Hittite for a burial site.
- 31 "There they buried Abraham and his wife Sarah, there they buried Isaac and his wife Rebekah, and there I buried Leah—
- 32 the field and the cave that is in it, purchased from the sons of Heth."
- 33 When Jacob finished charging his sons, he drew his feet into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

Chapter 50

- 1 Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him and kissed him.
- 2 Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel.
- 3 Now forty days were required for it, for such is the period required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.
- 4 When the days of mourning for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your sight, please speak to Pharaoh, saying,
- 5 'My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, I am about to die; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me." Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father; then I will return.'"
- 6 Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear."
- 7 So Joseph went up to bury his father, and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household and all the elders of the land of Egypt,

8 and all the household of Joseph and his brothers and his father's household; they left only their little ones and their flocks and their herds in the land of Goshen.

9 There also went up with him both chariots and horsemen; and it was a very great company.

10 When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and sorrowful lamentation; and he observed seven days mourning for his father.

11 Now when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning for the Egyptians." Therefore it was named Abel-mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan.

12 Thus his sons did for him as he had charged them;

13 for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre, which Abraham had bought along with the field for a burial site from Ephron the Hittite.

14 After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers, and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!"

16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father charged before he died, saying,

17 'Thus you shall say to Joseph, "Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

18 Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

- 19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place?"
- 20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.
- 21 "So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.
- 22 Now Joseph stayed in Egypt, he and his father's household, and Joseph lived one hundred and ten years.
- 23 Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim's sons; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were born on Joseph's knees.
- 24 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."
- 25 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."
- 26 So Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years; and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.