

## Joseph Revels Himself & His Kindness

### Genesis Study #7

#### Genesis 38:

- Judah leaves his brothers
- Judah marries Shua, she gives birth to Er, Onan, Shelah
- Er marries Tamar, because Er was wicked "the Lord put him to death"
- Onan is commanded to fulfill the "Leverate Law" that if a husband died his brother could marry his wife to continue his line - he refuses and dies also.
- Judah withholds Shelah in fear that he would die also.
- Tamar lives as a widow with Judah.
- Tamar disguised as a prostitute is propositioned by Judah. He give her a ring as a pledge that he will give to her a goat for her services.
- She became pregnant by Judah
- Tamar is found guilty of prostitution and Judah orders that she be burned.
- She reveals that he was the father and Judah proclaims:

**"She is more righteous than I, since I would not give her to my son Shelah." (Gen 38:26)**

**"By a ring the uprightness of Tamar was manifested" (Service of betrothal) - Tamar gives birth to twins Perez & Zerah**

#### Genesis 39

- Joseph is prospering in Egypt
- Joseph is propositioned by his masters wife and he refuses her.
- She accuses him of attempted rape.
- Joseph is placed in prison
- Joseph is placed in charge of the prisoners.

#### Genesis 40 "Joseph the Prophet"

- The cup bearer and the baker have dreams they can't interpret
- "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams." (Gen 40:8)
- Joseph interprets both dreams.

#### Genesis 41

- Two years later Pharaoh had two dreams.
- No one was found to interpret the dreams.
- "I cannot do it, Joseph replies to Pharaoh, "But God will give you the answer he desires." (Gen 40:16)
- seven years of harvest will be followed by seven years of famine.
- Joseph was put in charge of the whole land of Egypt second only to Pharaoh.

### **"By a ring authority was given to Joseph in Egypt" (Betrothal service)**

Joseph was given Aseneth as his wife.

**"Joining Joseph and Asenath, you granted them Ephraim and Manasseh as fruit of their union. (First prayer of the Crowning)**

**"Bless them , Lord God as you blessed Joseph and Asenath" (2nd prayer of crowning)**

Manasseh = "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." (Gen 41:51)

Ephraim = "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering." (Gen 41:52)

- All came to Joseph to buy grain during the famine.

### **Genesis 42**

- Jacob hears about the grain in Egypt and he send his sons to buy some.
- Benjamin stays with his father.
- Joseph sends his brothers to prison until the youngest comes. Jacob is informed and Reuben offers to take Benjamin.

### **Genesis 43**

- Judah returns with Benjamin to buy more grain from Joseph
- Joseph entertains his brothers
- Benjamin was his brother by his same mother.

### **Genesis 44**

- Joseph plants his silver cup in Benjamin's sack
- Benjamin is taken from them.

## **I. Genesis 45:1-28 Joseph reveals himself**

**Gen 45:1 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him; and he cried, "Make every one go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.:2 And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. 3 And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; is my father still alive?"**

*The psychological torment of Joseph*

"I cannot but be amazed here at this blessed man's remarkable fortitude in putting up with the strain of concealing his identity to this point and not letting on, and am particularly surprised at the way they could stand there without their soul parting company with their body, without their going out of their mind or hiding themselves in the ground." (Chrys. H. 64:27, p. 238)

**But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. 4 So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, I pray you." And they came near. And**

he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed, 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 yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7 And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

**1. God's hand directs all the confusion of human guilt ultimately toward a gracious goal (Von Rad) "**

. . ultimately it was not the brothers' hate but God who brought Joseph to Egypt." (Von Rad, Genesis, p. 398)

**A.) A lesson is "Divine Providence"**

" . . . that distress proved the occasion of this honor for me; that envy produced this glory for me. Let us not simply hear this but also emulate it, and in the same way let us comfort those badly disposed to us, relieving them of responsibility for what has been done to us and putting up with everything with great composure, like this remarkable man." (Chry. H 64:29, p. 239)

**B.) Joseph as an example of the love of Christ**

"Who could adequately admire the virtue of this good man who fulfilled in generous measure the moral values of the New Testament? What Christ recommends to the apostles in these words, "Love your enemies; pray for those who abuse you," (Matt 5:44) this man even surpassed. I mean, not only did he give evidence of such wonderful love for those who did away with him as far as they could, but he did everything to convince them that they had not sinned against him." (Chrys. H 64: 32, p. 241)

**C.) Col 3:17**

*"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

"Accordingly, let us not make ease and security the object of our every endeavor, but, even when we find ourselves in trouble and distress, let us likewise offer thanks to the Lord so that, on seeing our gratitude, he may give evidence of more generous care in our regard. May it be the good fortune of us all to attain this..." (Chrys. H 64:33, p. 242)

**2. The major theme of Genesis is that God rescues his people.**

- a.) Noah rescued from the flood
- b.) Abraham's departure from his family verses God's judgment on the nations
- c.) Lot's rescue from Sodom

**45:8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God; and he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.**

Father = is the title of a high court official

**25 So they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. 26 And they told him, "Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt." And his heart fainted, for he did not believe them. 27 But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived; 28 and Israel said, "It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive; I will go and see him before I die."**

#### **Genesis 47**

- The Pharaoh gives them land to settle in
- Jacob blesses Pharaoh
- The Egyptians sell their livestock in exchange for grain, and then they sold their land and became slaves of Pharaoh

#### **Genesis 48:1-50:21 Joseph's Kindness**

Gen 48:1 After this Joseph was told, "Behold, your father is ill"; so he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. And it was told to Jacob, "Your son Joseph has come to you"; then Israel summoned his strength, and sat up in bed. 3 And Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful, and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples, and will give this land to your descendants after you for an everlasting possession.' 5 And 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 And the offspring born to you after them shall be yours; they shall be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance. 7 For when I came from Paddan, Rachel to my sorrow died in the land of Canaan on the way, 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." And he said, "Bring them to me, I pray you, that I may bless them." 10 Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near him; and he kissed them and embraced them. 11 And Israel said to Joseph, "I had not thought to see your face; and lo, God has let me see your children also." 12 Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. 13 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him. 14 And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it upon the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand upon the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands, for Manasseh was the first-born.

**A pre-figurement of the Cross: "An when he blessed Joseph's sons with his hands crossed, he most clearly described the sign of the cross." (St. John of Damaskos, Book Four, p. 353)**

15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has led me all my life long to this day, 16 the angel who has

redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and in them let my name be perpetuated, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

### **The Theological statements about the God of Israel (Von Rad)**

A.) God is the "God of his fathers" - the very same God!

B.) God as the good shepherd of Israel leading them

C.) In the "angel" Israel has a "Redeemer" in God.

Gen 48:17 When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; and he took his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. 18 And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father; for this one is the first-born; put your right hand upon his head." 19 But his father refused, and said, "I know, my son, I know; he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; nevertheless his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations."

Gen 48:20 So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying, 'God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh'; and 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 will bring you again to the land of your fathers. 22 Moreover I have given to you rather than to your brothers one mountain slope which I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and with my bow."

### **What will we pass on to our children?**

"Let us therefore, not be anxious to amass money and bequeath it to our children; rather, let us teach them virtue and call down blessings from God on them. This, you see, this is the greatest wealth; this wealth is beyond counting, proof against consumption, leading to greater wealth as each day passes. Nothing in fact is equal to virtue; nothing more potent than it." Chrys. H. 66:14, p. 262)

**Gen 49:1 Then Jacob called his sons, and said, "Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in days to come. 2 Assemble and hear, O sons of Jacob, and hearken to Israel your father. 3 Reuben, you are my first-born, my might, and the first fruits of my strength, pre-eminent in pride and pre-eminent in power. 4 Unstable as water, you shall not have pre-eminence because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it -- you went up to my couch!**

1. All blessings are the results of good deeds done and are not given based on status.  
- Later, incest is to be condemned by Moses.

**5 Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords. 6 O my soul, come not into their council; O my spirit, be not joined to their company; for in their**

**anger they slay men, and in their wantonness they hamstring oxen. 7 Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.**

- They are to be punished for their crimes of pillaging and killing out of vengeance against those who violated their sister.

**8 Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. 9 Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as a lioness; who dares rouse him up? 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. 11 Binding his foal to the vine and his ass's colt to the choice vine, he washes his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes; 12 his eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.**

**- From the tribe of Judah comes the Christ.**

- a.) An everlasting Kingship
- b.) The cross (at rest as a lion), the burial (who will raise him), the resurrection of Christ (Chrysostom)
- c.) The incorporation of the Gentiles (binding his foal to the vine)
- d.) Christ is the true vine.

**13 Zebulun shall dwell at the shore of the sea; he shall become a haven for ships, and his border shall be at Sidon. 14 Issachar is a strong ass, crouching between the sheepfolds 15 he saw that a resting place was good, and that the land was pleasant; so he bowed his shoulder to bear, 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 viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward. 18 I wait for thy salvation, O LORD. 19 Raiders shall raid Gad, but he shall raid at their heels. 20 Asher's food shall be rich, and he shall yield royal dainties. 21 Naphtali is a hind let loose, that bears comely fawns.**

**Gen 49:22 Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; his branches run over the wall. 23 The archers fiercely attacked him, shot at him, and harassed him sorely; 24 yet his bow remained unmoved, his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (by the name of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel), 25 by the God of your father who will help you, by God Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that couches beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. 26 The blessings of your father are mighty beyond the blessings of the eternal mountains, the bounties of the everlasting hills; may they be on the head of Joseph, and on the brow of him who was separate from his brothers.**

**Gen 49:27 Benjamin is a ravenous wolf, in the morning devouring the prey, and at even dividing the spoil." 28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel; and this is what**

their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him.

**Gen 49:29** Then he charged them, and said to them, "I am 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 at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. **31** There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah-- **32** the field and the cave that is in it were purchased from the Hittites." **33** When Jacob finished charging his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed, and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

**Gen 50:1** Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him, and kissed him. **2** And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel; **3** forty days were required for it, for so many are required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days. **4** And when the days of weeping for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, speak, I pray you, in the ears of Pharaoh, saying.

Prior to the victory of Christ is this weeping is to be understood. (Chrys)

**Gen 50:5** My father made me swear, saying, 'I am about to die: in my tomb which I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall you bury me.' Now therefore let me go up, I pray you, and bury my father; then I will return." **6** And Pharaoh answered, "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** as well as all the household of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's household; only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the land of Goshen. **9** And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen; it was a very great company.

**Gen 50:10** 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 made a mourning for his father seven days. **11** When the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning on the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning to the Egyptians." Therefore the place was named Abelmizraim; it is beyond the Jordan. **12** Thus his sons did for him as he had commanded them; **13** for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite, to possess as a burying place.

**Gen 50:14** After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with 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, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil which we did to him." 16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, 17 'Say to Joseph, Forgive, I pray you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, we pray you, forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 His brothers also came and fell down before him, and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

Gen 50:19 But Joseph said to them, "Fear not, for am I in the place of God? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. 21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he reassured them and comforted them.

Rom 8:28 We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren.

Gen 50:22 So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's house; and Joseph lived a hundred and ten years. 23 And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation; the children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were born upon Joseph's knees. 24 And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die; but God will visit you, and bring you up out of this land to the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." 25 Then Joseph took an oath of the sons of Israel, saying, "God will visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." 26 So Joseph died, being a hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.