

Joseph, the Favorite Son of Jacob

(Genesis 37-50)

- 11th Son to Jacob (Israel), grandson to Isaac, great-grandson to Abraham
- One of two sons born to Rachel, the true love of his father; his only full brother is Benjamin (35:18)
- Loved by his father more than any of his other brothers; given a coat of many colors to show this favor (37:3)
- Helped his father and brothers pasture flocks of sheep and herds of goats
- Dreamed two dreams about future submission to him
 - The brothers' sheaves of grain bow down to Joseph's sheaf (fulfilled in 42:6)
 - Sun, moon, and 11 stars bow down to Joseph
- Hated and envied by his older brothers; stripped of his robe and left to die in a pit without water
- At 17 years old, pulled from the pit and sold to Ishmaelite/Midianite traders who took him to Egypt as a slave
- Brothers led his father into thinking Joseph was killed by a wild animal
- Purchased by Potiphar, an officer of the Pharaoh; Yahweh made Joseph successful in Potiphar's household
- Well-built and handsome; relentlessly sought after by Potiphar's wife to be intimate with her
- Refused to sin against God by engaging in sexually immoral behavior with his master's wife
- Falsely accused of a sin he did not commit and put in prison where the king's prisoners were confined
- Elevated to a position of authority in prison. Yahweh was with him and brought success to Joseph in prison
- Correctly interpreted two prisoners' dreams creating a reputation for being able to interpret dreams
 - Gives God credit for all dream interpretation
 - Promises the cupbearer he would be restored to his place in the palace in three days
 - Informs the baker that he will be hung to death in three days
 - Begs the cupbearer to remember him when he is released for he has been falsely imprisoned
 - Spent two whole additional years in prison until another opportunity to be released occurred
- Brought before Pharaoh King of Egypt and Yahweh gives Joseph the insight to interpret Pharaoh's two dreams
- Explained the two dreams are one: Egypt will experience 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of severe famine
- Proposed a plan to Pharaoh concerning wisely preparing for the severe of famine during the years of plenty
- Said to have had the Spirit of God in him; described as discerning and wise and released from prison
- At 30 years old, entered the service of Pharaoh as governor or ruler of the land (42:6); second only to Pharaoh
- Given an Egyptian (Gentile) bride: Asenath who gives Joseph two sons: 1) Manasseh and 2) Ephraim
- Tested his brothers concerning their words and actions when they came to Egypt for food
- Imprisoned Simeon to force the brothers to bring Benjamin back to Egypt
- Tested his brothers a 2nd time concerning a stolen silver cup and then revealed himself to his dismayed brothers
- Understood and communicated that God sent him to Egypt to save his family and posterity from death (49:5)
- Insisted that Jacob's entire house must move to Egypt, in wagons provided by Pharaoh, to survive the famine
- Reunited with his father after 22 years of separation; Pharaoh gives Israel the land of Goshen to raise livestock
- Secured the blessing of Jacob upon first Ephraim and then Manasseh: great-great-grandsons of Abraham
- Buried his father, Israel, at 147 years old in the cave that Abraham bought and was buried in Canaan (23)
- Assured his brothers, after Jacob's death, that he knew God took their evil plans and "meant it for good" (50:20)
- Lived long enough to see great grandchildren from Manasseh's son Machir; died at 110 years old in Egypt
- Made the sons of Israel take an oath to carry his bones back to the promised land when God rescued Israel
- Bones of Joseph were carried out of Egypt by Moses during the Exodus (Exo 13:19)
- Greatest type of Christ in Genesis: thoroughly foreshadows the totality of Jesus' ministry on earth and in heaven

Joseph's Six Dreams					
Joseph		Cupbearer	Baker	Pharaoh	
Brothers' sheaves bow down to Joseph's sheaf	Sun, moon and 11 stars bow down to Joseph	Vine with 3 branches that budded, blossomed, and ripened into grapes; cupbearer lives and is restored	3 cake baskets of baked food for Pharaoh; baker loses his head, hung on a tree and birds eat his flesh	7 ugly and thin cows eat the 7 plump cows	7 thin and blighted ears of grain swallowed 7 plump ears of grain