

THE STORY... HIS STORY

Chapter 3

Joseph: From Slave
to Deputy Pharaoh



THE STORY

Plot Points

- Through the story of Joseph we see that God continues to have mercy on his people and that His plans of salvation are better than any of our plans.
- God works through means to bring salvation to His people.



Cast of Characters

- **Joseph**

- Israel's (Jacob) favored son, the first child born to Rachel; interpreter of dreams; sold into slavery by his brothers; raised to second in command (house, prison, nation); through Joseph, many are saved.



Cast of Characters

- **Israel-**

- a.k.a. Jacob (“he who takes by the heel”); name means “he who wrestles with God”; married to Leah and Rachel; father of 12 sons; distraught after Joseph, his favorite son is apparently killed.



Cast of Characters

- **Benjamin**

- Israel and Rachel’s second-born son; name means “son of the right hand,” indicating a blessed child.



Cast of Characters

- **Pharaoh**

- May have been Sesotris III, a ruler in the Middle Kingdom period

- **Potiphar**

- Held an important position in Pharaoh's court, oversaw the imprisonment of high officials; name means "bull of Africa."



Cast of Characters

- **Reuben**

- Oldest son; wanted to rescue Joseph from his brothers but was unsuccessful

- **Simeon**

- Held in Egypt until his brothers returned a second time.

- **Manasseh and Ephraim**

- Joseph's sons, adopted by Israel.



God Builds a Family

- *“...before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. ‘Here comes that dreamer!’ they said to each other.”* (p. 29)
- *“...they stripped him of his robe...and threw him into the cistern.”* (p. 30)
- *“As they sat down to eat their meal...”* (p. 30)
- This is a dysfunctional family!



Romans 8:28

- *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*
- In the midst of dysfunction, God still works for good.



God works through means

- God used a bad situation to bring about salvation.
- A dream brought Joseph to Pharaoh.
- A famine brought the brothers to Egypt.



Why did Joseph go to Egypt?

- *“...because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.” (p. 39)*
- *“But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.” (p. 39)*
- *“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God.” (p. 39)*



Why did Joseph go to Egypt?

- God will protect his people and his promise in the land of Egypt.
- God spoke to Israel, *“Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again.”* (p. 40)



Biblical Typology

- *“The Bible is an amazing book. But something not too commonly known is that the Bible contains a unique kind of prophecy that no other book contains or could contain, namely, Typology. In Romans 5:14b St. Paul says that “Adam...was a type of the one who was to come.” (That is Adam was a type of Christ). In I Peter 3:21 Peter tells us that Baptism “corresponds” to Noah’s ark in which 8 persons were saved through water. The word translated “corresponds” in the Revised Standard Version is antitype in Greek. There are many such “types” and “antitypes” in the Bible.*



Biblical Typology

- *For example the Passover Lamb and the scapegoat, who bore the sins of the people, are types of Jesus; and the work of the High Priest in making sacrifice for the sins of the people is a type of his saving work. Types, copies, shadows, miniatures, scale model, partial, earthly, temporal, limited, imperfect—these are the people, observances and events of the Old Testament. Fulfillment, spiritual, eternal, perfect, unlimited—these are the realities, the completion, the fulfillment brought into being through Jesus and the New Covenant.*



Biblical Typology

- *This is the way Jesus and the Apostles understood the Old Testament and its fulfillment in the New. Only God who knows the future and also brings it to pass, could so thoroughly detail through prophecy and types all that would transpire through John the Baptist, Jesus, and the beginning of the New Covenant.”*
 - From: “Fellowship With God” written by Rev. Henry F. Fingerlin



Biblical Typology

- There is much to say about Biblical typology but one thing to remember is that Old Testament Biblical types are always less than the New Testament antitype. As Paul writes in Colossians 2:17,
 - *“These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.”*
- How does this relate to the story of Joseph? Some theologians see Joseph as a “type” of Christ.



Joseph as a Type of Christ

- Joseph is the “beloved” son of his Father
 - (Gen. 37:3)
- Jesus is the Father’s “beloved” son
 - (Matt. 3:17)



Joseph as a Type of Christ

- Joseph is sent by his father on a mission to his brothers who reject him
 - (Gen. 37-5-11)
- Jesus is sent by his father on a mission to his own, who reject him
 - (John 1:11)



Joseph as a Type of Christ

- Though innocent, Joseph is sold for silver
 - (Gen. 37:28)
- Jesus is betrayed and sold for silver
 - (Matt. 26:15)



Joseph as a Type of Christ

- Joseph finds himself in prison with two other criminals
 - (Gen. 40)
- Jesus suffered death (a kind of prison) between two criminals
 - (Luke 23:32-33)



Joseph as a Type of Christ

- Joseph foretells death to one prisoner and release and restoration of the other
 - (Gen. 40:9-19)
- Jesus tells one of the thieves that he will be with him in paradise while the other dies in his sins
 - (Luke 23:42)



Joseph as a Type of Christ

- Joseph is freed from prison by a decree of Pharaoh
 - (Gen. 41:37-41)
- Jesus is freed from the prison of death by the Fathers decree of Life, Resurrection, for His Son
 - (Acts 2:24)



Joseph as a Type of Christ

- Joseph is exalted at Pharaoh's right hand and given a name that is above all names
 - (Gen. 41)
- Jesus is exalted to his father's right hand and given a name that is above every other name
 - (Phil. 2:9-11, Acts 2:33-36)



Joseph as a Type of Christ

- Joseph was 30 years old when he entered Pharaoh's service and he went through all the land of Egypt
 - (Genesis 41:46-47)
- Jesus at age 30, enters His public ministry and begins to serve God's people
 - (Luke 3:23)



Joseph as a Type of Christ

- Through the person of Joseph, many are saved from death
 - (Genesis 50:20)
- Through the person of Jesus, many are saved from eternal death
 - (John 3:16)



We need to be reminded

- Joseph's brothers still didn't get it. After their father died, they were afraid that Joseph would seek revenge.
- *"Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."* (p. 42)



A guilty conscience...

- The end of this chapter should remind us how we should deal with sin.
- Sin is a disruptive force in human existence.
- Joseph's brothers still held the sin that festered in them like a hidden infection.
- The brothers pain was unnecessary.
- God had provided salvation with their brother and he provides the ultimate solution in Christ.



Sin

- Confess sin honestly.
 - “He who conceals his sin does not prosper”
 - Proverbs 28:13
 - You don’t solve the problem of sin by denying it or by excusing it or by trying to cover it up. You take it to the cross and leave it at the feet of the savior and confess, “Father, I have sinned.”



Sin

- Although Joseph had assured his brothers he had forgiven them (p. 39), they couldn't bring themselves to believe him. God has promised us that through Christ he has *“trodden our sins underfoot and hurled all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.”* (Micah 7:19)



Sin

- The remembrance of our past sins is painful, but it will be beneficial if it drives us back to the Savior's repeated offer of forgiveness.
- God wants us to believe the promise and then live in the joy of his forgiveness.
- We also must be reminded of God's grace and mercy.



How are we reminded?

- In Worship
- In the Word
 - Proclaimed
 - Studied
- In Baptism and Communion
- God still works through means and we are reminded that God does not desire to get revenge upon us but to bring us salvation.

