

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03 Mar.....Genesis 21-23.....A Substitute
- 2) 10 Mar.....Genesis 24.....Guidance Needed
- 3) 17 Mar.....Genesis 25-27.....A Deceiver
- 4) 24 Mar.....Genesis 28-30.....A Stairway
- 5) 31 Mar.....John 20.....Believe!
- 6) 07 Apr.....Genesis 30-31.....Blessed
- 7) 14 Apr.....Genesis 32-33.....Wrestled
- 8) 21 Apr.....Genesis 34-36.....Renewed
- 9) 28 Apr.....Genesis 37.....Dreamer
- 10) 05 May.....Genesis 38-39.....Accused
- 11) 12 May.....Genesis 40-41.....Revealed
- 12) 19 May.....Genesis 42-46.....Reconcile
- 13) 26 May.....Genesis 47-50.....Revenge?

INTRODUCTION

- A grandiose family reunion occurs with drama to the bitter end. God's special envoys (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and all their wives and kids) are just as normal as the rest of us and just as messed up. What a great God we have. If God can accomplish His will with such malcontents and dysfunctional people as them, then He can accomplish great things through us as well

Passage	Comments
Genesis 42:1-5	<p>Joseph's Brothers Come to Egypt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacob sends 10 sons to Egypt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jacob probably had 100s of servants and hired hands to feed, along with his herds & flocks ♦ It would take a small army to head off to Egypt and haul back enough supplies to feed everyone and everything for months to come ♦ If Jacob gave tons of money to his servants to buy grain, they may leave & never come back. So, Jacob had to send as many of his sons as he could spare – He only held one son back – Benjamin
42:6-14	<p>Joseph Concealed His Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is deception/lying always wrong? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • What is the difference between this type of deception (concealing identity) and the deception that caused Ananias and Sapphira to fall down dead in Acts 5? • There are over 90 passages about lying in the OT • Sometimes lying seemed good, other times – not
Some Major OT Lies Which ones are Good?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It begins with the Serpent lying to Eve Gen 3 • Abraham & Sarah lied to Egyptians and to Abimilech – and they are blessed • Isaac & Rebekah deceived Abimilech and are blessed • Rebekah & Jacob deceived Isaac, and trouble flares • Laban deceived Jacob with Leah, and drama endures • Rachel deceived her dad about the idols she took • Jacob's sons deceived the town of Shechem to destroy it • Jacob's sons deceived him by telling him Joseph died • Hebrew midwives lied to Pharaoh and reaped blessings/houses from God Ex 1:15-21 • Rahab lied about the 2 spies, & she saved her family & became an ancestor of Jesus Christ Josh 2 • King David feigned insanity to protect his life – and he was successful 1Sam 21:13 • King David lied about Bathsheba to save his reputation – BUT he ruined the rest of his life 2Sam 11 • God sent a lying spirit to deceive King Ahab, & God's will was accomplished 1King 22:19-22 • Do you want to live long? Don't tell lies Ps 34:12,13 • Israel became a nation of liars Mic 6:12

Passage	Comments
Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It seems OK to conceal the truth for a higher purpose – not to harm, not to achieve gain – but to protect lives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This is the differentiator from malicious lying
42:15-20	<p>The Test – Bring Benjamin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph changed his approach from sending 1 brother home and holding 9 in jail to sending 9 home and holding 1 back (Simeon) Why the change in heart? • Don't be too proud to revise rash / impulsive decisions
42:21-24	<p>The Blame Game Begins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v21. The brothers equated their dilemma to their mistreatment of Joseph more than 20 years before • vv22-24. Joseph learned that Reuben tried to bring reason into a bad situation, therefore, Simeon, the 2nd born, was chosen to stay behind..... WHY? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Assumedly, Joseph thought Reuben would continue to be rationale, and since older siblings have strong family influence, remove the oldest malcontent ♦ Family politics is a reality & Joseph was discerning
Note	<p>Reuben – Man of Perversion Lost His Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recall that Reuben slept with his Dad's 4th wife (who was also one of his step-moms – Bilhah)..... Gen 35:22 • Reuben tried to keep his brothers from killing or selling Joseph, but he was not effective..... Gen 37:21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Would you listen to a half-brother about anything after he slept with your mom or step-mom? ♦ Later, the Mosaic Law instituted the death penalty for such familial sexual relationships..... Lev 20:11
42:25-38	<p>Dad – Guess What We Did?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sons return home and recant events to their Dad <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jacob's response – Let's cut our losses short and lose no more sons ♦ If you are caught in a situation where untruthful or hasty words slip out of your mouth to cover up an indiscretion – take time to deliberate and make things right – and the sooner the better ... Prov 12:18



Not All of Joseph's Dreams Were Prophetic

Passage	Comments
A Note on Reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does time heal all wounds or does bitterness sit in over time? Do we always have to reconcile with family, friends, enemies? Joseph gave 1 more hard test to his brothers. Will they come through the fire, or will they crash & burn? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principle: If his brothers are still scoundrels, there is no need for Joseph to reconcile and reveal himself to them <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Let the dead bury the dead' and move on with life Even Jesus did not seek reconciliation with the Sadducees, Pharisees, & priests of His day. They were not ready or willing A tough test proves one's true character – but what would it take? Answer: Threaten to remove their most precious commodity → not their money, not their lives, but their baby brother, Benjamin What precious things can God take from us to test us?
43:1-34	<p>Joseph Sees Benjamin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The famine goes from bad to life-threatening vv3-9. Jacob relents and allows Benjamin to head for Egypt – under Judah's watchful eye vv10-14. Principle: Procrastination often worsens a situation v32. The brothers still didn't catch on that Joseph was different from other Egyptians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v33. They were astonished to be seated by order of oldest to youngest v34. But they partied hard – "getting drunk with Joseph" (HCSB). Their wits were dimmed for Joseph to fool them one more time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Another hard lesson to avoid alcohol
44:1-34	<p>The Brothers Contend with Joseph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv1-12. The Last Test – 'Where is my cup?' v9. Brother's response – let the thief die v10. Egyptian servant's response – enslavement v13. Joseph's brothers stay together – they don't flee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We now see a positive change in character vv16-34. Judah admits guilt and gives the longest speech in Genesis. Judah is proof that people sometimes do grow up and change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judah went from a jealous, hateful, deceptive, murderous, greedy, immoral scoundrel to self-sacrificing, caring, humble and accountable
45:1-28	<p>Joseph Reveals Himself & Seeks Reconciliation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joseph sees mature change in his brothers and reconciliation now becomes possible v3. Brothers are shocked & dumbfounded v5-8. Joseph realizes God's hand in the situation vv14-28. Brothers wept for joy, and they head back to tell Dad, and they were not to argue on the way home Was this going to be an easy task? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Joseph was the wronged party, but he took the initiative to seek reconciliation. We have the ministry of reconciliation from Christ, so we need to seek ways and initiate reconciliation whether we have been wronged or we wronged others..... 2Cor 5:18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BUT – we do not need to reconcile with those who don't want to be reconciled with, or are not ready to reconcile..... Rom 12:18
46:1-7	<p>Jacob Moves to Egypt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you found yourself suddenly without a job what do you do? How long do you wait on God to do something, or do you pack the family up and move in with more well-to-do relatives? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe <input type="checkbox"/> Depends v1. Israel is forced to move but stops in Beersheba to worship God for the last time in the Promised Land

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beersheba (7-wells) was near the southern border of the Promised Land; It was a favorite place of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to worship God v2. God takes the opportunity to appear to Jacob one last time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wouldn't it be nice if God conveyed His will to us in explicit ways such as via emails, phone calls, text messages, or even in dreams? Or would it? v3. Israel must be afraid because God tells Israel "Don't be afraid" to migrate to Egypt; God's promise to make him a great nation still stands v4. And God gives 3 new promises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God will be with Israel in Egypt God will bring Israel back to the Promise Land Joseph will be with him when Israel dies vv5-7. Finally, the family and livestock head for Egypt
46:8-27	<p>What's in a Number?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whenever you have a list of names in the Bible, we stand the risk of having transcription errors, or confusion with differences in other listings or versions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv26-27. Was it 66, 70 or 75? (cf Acts 7:14) v26. ...and why weren't the wives included? Differences in listings or versions are easily resolved, so no loss of scriptural integrity v21. Notice Benjamin, the youngest son had 10 sons at this time. He was probably a few years younger than Joseph, who was about 39-40 years old.
46:28-34	<p>Joseph Meets Dad after 20+ yrs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv31-34. Joseph stated the protocol to use when meeting Pharaoh – "Keep it short & sweet, Dad" How would you play catch up after not seeing a loved one for quite a few years?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- If God can accomplish His will with dysfunctional malcontents as the clan of Abraham – Isaac – Jacob, then He can accomplish great things through us as well. It all depends how humble & willing we are
 - As Joseph did, let's wear whatever robes we are given faithfully

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 47-50. Jacob's stay in Egypt was to be a temporary sojourn – so everyone thought. 430 years later....

