

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 02 Dec '18.....Genesis 25-27.....The Deceiver
- 2) 09 Dec.....Genesis 28.....Not Alone
- 3) 16 Dec.....Genesis 29-30.....Family?
- 4) 23 Dec.....Luke 1 – Christmas Message.....Promise Kept
- 5) 30 Dec.....Genesis 30-31.....Home!
- 6) 06 Jan '19.....Genesis 32.....Transformed
- 7) 13 Jan.....Genesis 33.....Reconciled – Sort of
- 8) 20 Jan.....Sanctity of Life 2019.....Protect and Save
- 9) 27 Jan.....Genesis 34-36.....Assurance
- 10) 03 Feb.....Genesis 37.....Accept It
- 11) 10 Feb.....Genesis 38-39.....Tempted
- 12) 17 Feb.....Genesis 40-41.....Opportunity Knocks
- 13) 24 Feb.....Genesis 42-50.....Reunited

**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 messed up as the rest of us

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

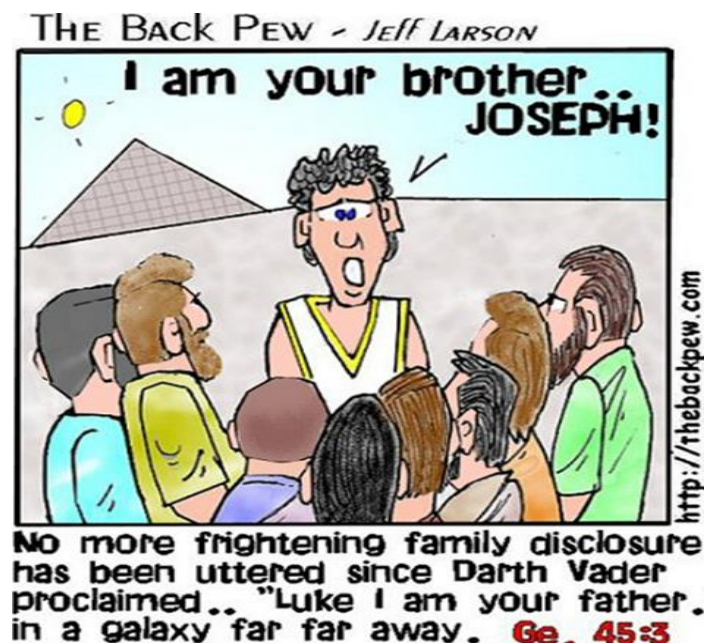
Passage	Comments
42:15-20	<p><b>The Test – Bring Benjamin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph changed his approach from sending 1 brother home and holding 9 in jail to sending 9 home and holding 1 back (Simeon) ..... Why the change in heart?</li> <li>• Don't be too proud to revise rash / impulsive decisions</li> </ul>
42:21-24	<p><b>The Blame Game Begins</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v21. The brothers equated their dilemma to their mistreatment of Joseph more than 20 years before</li> <li>• vv22-24. Joseph learned that Reuben tried to bring reason into a bad situation, therefore, Simeon, the 2<sup>nd</sup> born, was chosen to stay behind..... WHY?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Assumedly, Joseph thought Reuben would continue to be rationale, and since older siblings have strong family influence, remove the oldest malcontent</li> <li>♦ Family politics is a reality &amp; Joseph was discerning</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Note	<p><b>Reuben – Man of Perversion Lost His Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recall that Reuben slept with his Dad's 4<sup>th</sup> wife (who was also one of his step-moms – Bilhah)..... Gen 35:22</li> <li>• 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"> <li>♦ Would you listen to a half-brother about anything after he slept with your mom or step-mom?</li> <li>♦ Later, the Mosaic Law instituted the death penalty for such familial sexual relationships..... Lev 20:11</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
42:25-38	<p><b>Dad – Guess What We Did?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sons return home and recant events to their Dad                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Jacob's response – Let's cut our losses short and lose no more sons</li> <li>♦ 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</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Not All of Joseph's Dreams Were Prophetic

Passage	Comments
A Note on Reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does time heal all wounds or does bitterness sit in over time?</li> <li>Do we always have to reconcile with family, friends, enemies?</li> <li>Joseph gave 1 more hard test to his brothers. Will they come through the fire or will they crash &amp; burn?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Principle:</b> 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"> <li>'Let the dead bury the dead' and move on with life</li> <li>Even Jesus did not seek reconciliation with the Sadducees, Pharisees, &amp; priests of His day. They were not ready or willing</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>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</li> <li>What precious things can God take from us to test us?</li> </ul>
43:1-34	<p><b>Joseph Sees Benjamin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The famine goes from bad to life-threatening</li> <li>vv3-9. Jacob relents and allows Benjamin to head for Egypt – under Judah's watchful eye</li> <li>vv10-14. <b>Principle:</b> Procrastination often worsens a situation</li> <li>v32. The brothers still didn't catch on that Joseph was different from other Egyptians                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v33. They were astonished to be seated by order of oldest to youngest</li> <li>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"> <li>Another hard lesson to avoid alcohol</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
44:1-34	<p><b>The Brothers Contend with Joseph</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vv1-12. The Last Test – 'Where is my cup?'</li> <li>v9. Brother's response – let the thief die</li> <li>v10. Egyptian servant's response – enslavement</li> <li>v13. Joseph's brothers stay together – they don't flee                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We now see a positive change in character</li> </ul> </li> <li>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"> <li>Judah went from a jealous, hateful, deceptive, murderous, greedy, immoral scoundrel to self-sacrificing, caring, humble and accountable</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
45:1-28	<p><b>Joseph Reveals Himself &amp; Seeks Reconciliation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joseph sees mature change in his brothers and reconciliation now becomes possible</li> <li>v3. Brothers are shocked &amp; dumbfounded</li> <li>v5-8. Joseph realizes God's hand in the situation</li> <li>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</li> <li>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 ..... <a href="#">2Cor 5:18</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BUT – we do not need to reconcile with those who don't want to be reconciled with, or are not ready to reconcile ..... <a href="#">Rom 12:18</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
46:1-7	<p><b>Jacob Moves to Egypt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No   <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe   <input type="checkbox"/> Depends</li> </ul> </li> <li>v1. Israel is forced to move but stops in Beersheba to worship God for the last time in the Promised Land                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul> </li> <li>v2. God takes the opportunity to appear to Jacob one last time.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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?</li> </ul> </li> <li>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</li> <li>v4. And God gives 3 new promises:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God will be with Israel in Egypt</li> <li>God will bring Israel back to the Promise Land</li> <li>Joseph will be with him when Israel dies</li> </ul> </li> <li>vv5-7. Finally the family and livestock head for Egypt</li> </ul>
46:8-27	<p><b>What's in a Number?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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"> <li>vv26-27. Was it 66, 70 or 75? (cf <a href="#">Acts 7:14</a>)</li> <li>v26. ...and why weren't the wives included?</li> <li>Differences in listings or versions are easily resolved, so no loss of scriptural integrity</li> </ul> </li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
46:28-34	<p><b>Joseph Meets Dad after 20+ yrs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vv31-34. Joseph stated the protocol to use when meeting Pharaoh – "Keep it short &amp; sweet, Dad"</li> <li>How would you play catch up after not seeing a loved one for quite a few years?</li> </ul>



Passage	Comments
47:1-12	<p><b>Israel Settles in Goshen &amp; Becomes Indispensable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-6. Five brothers out of 11 meet Pharaoh. Large families can be cumbersome to manage in high-profile places. Try taking a large family to the supermarket.</li> <li>• v4. Jacob's stay in Egypt was to be a temporary sojourn – so everyone thought. 430 years later...</li> <li>• v6. Pharaoh asks help from Israelites to take charge of Egypt's livestock. What a precedence – foreign immigrants put in charge of a major industry.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Could this type of policy be a problem for Egypt or for any nation? For example, what if Muslims were put in control of America's food supply?</li> <li>♦ This would not be a problem if the Israelites, who oversaw the livestock, behaved like Joseph in all aspects – Honest, God-fearing, and Loyal to their host nation. But what displaced people group(s) have been Honest, God-fearing, &amp; Loyal to their host nations in recent years?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv7-10. Jacob blessed Pharaoh ..... HOW?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Did Jacob only bless with a few words or with actions (i.e., honest, hard-working service) .. <a href="#">Jer 29:7</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv11-12. Joseph settles his family &amp; feeds them                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Powerful principle to take care of family ..... <a href="#">1Tim 5:8</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
47:13-26	<p><b>Egypt Grows Immensely Under Joseph's Rule</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the famine gets worse, Joseph acquires money, livestock, land, and servants for Pharaoh</li> <li>• vv24-25. Joseph taxes the people 20%, and the people are grateful. What is our typical tax rate here in America today? <input type="checkbox"/> 25%   <input type="checkbox"/> 30%?   <input type="checkbox"/> 35%   <input type="checkbox"/> 40%                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Are we grateful for our freedoms which are not free?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Egypt now has the wealth to build bigger and better pyramid structures in future generations; to enslave the Hebrews for labor; and to be eventually plundered by rival nations – ALL with God's foreknowledge</li> </ul>
47:27-31 48:1-22	<p><b>Israel's Last Days</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 47:27. Israel acquired additional property (probably outside of Goshen) as an investment for a long stay</li> <li>• 47:28. Jacob is in Egypt for 17 yrs and dies at 147</li> <li>• 48:5-6. Jacob adopts Ephraim and Manasseh as his own sons. Future grandsons of Joseph are Joseph's but they will be called Ephraimites or Manassites</li> <li>• 48:14, 19. Jacob gives the greater blessing to Ephraim                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Ephraim's name will later be used to represent the northern 10 tribes of Israel who became idolatrous before the southern tribes of Judah &amp; Benjamin</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 48:22. Joseph receives one portion more than his brothers, a special piece of property – possibly Shechem ("portion" ~ shoulder), which was probably Reuben's forfeited inheritance ..... cf <a href="#">49:3-4</a></li> </ul>
49:1-33	<p><b>Israel's Prophecies of His Kids Before His Death</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reuben – the right of the 1<sup>st</sup> born was given away</li> <li>• Simeon &amp; Levi to be scattered throughout Israel                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Levites had only cities, no allotted land</li> <li>♦ Simeonites were given cities w/in Judah ..... <a href="#">Josh 19</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the Jerusalem Targum, "I will divide the tribe of Simeon, that they may be scribes and teachers of the Law in the congregation of Jacob"</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• v10. Judah becomes the leading clan of Israel, and a special person would arise to lead Israel continuously                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Possibly King David, possibly the Messiah</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v17. Dan will be a serpent. In <a href="#">Rev 7</a>, Dan and Ephraim are missing from the listing of Israel's 12 tribes, replaced by Manasseh and Levi, probably due to their deplorable idolatries and apostasies recorded prior to Israel's Babylonian captivity</li> <li>• v20. Asher shall be rich, possibly from oil .... <a href="#">Deut 33:24</a></li> </ul>
50:1-26	<p><b>The Death of Israel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-14. Burial of Jacob (he lived 147 years)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ v1, 17. Joseph weeps for the 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> times</li> <li>♦ vv7-8. What a great time for all of Israel to return to the Promise Land – but only the leaders went</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv15-21. Lingering concerns force the final and lasting reconciliation between the brothers. Reconciliation may not be a one-time incident, but occurs over time.</li> <li>• vv22-26. Death of Joseph at 110 years of age                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Notice the ages of the patriarchs has declined considerably since the days of Noah (950 years)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**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
- Sometimes we have to play out the hand that God dealt to us as Joseph did. He wore 3 robes during his lifetime
  1. Teen years – A robe of many colors..... [Gen 37:3](#)
  2. Prime years – A robe of slavery ..... [Gen 39:11](#)
  3. Senior years – A robe of nobility..... [Gen 41:42](#)
  - ♦ As Joseph did, let's wear whatever robes we are given faithfully

**NEXT WEEK: Mark 1.** The Gospel of Mark seems to be the 1st of the Gospels to be written. The other synoptic gospels (Matthew and Luke) seem to use Mark's narratives to develop some of their story lines. Mark emphasizes that Jesus was the Messiah, God in the flesh, as attested to by His varied miracles.



Why God Was Silent for 430 Years...[Exodus 12:40](#)