

The First Plan Completed.

This week we learn of how God used Joseph to bring his brothers to repentance.

Joseph said, “It was not you that sent me hither (here), but God; and He hath made me ... ruler over all the land of Egypt.”
Genesis 45v8.

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Genesis 43v1-17 (The brothers return with Benjamin)	
Monday	Genesis 43v18-34 (Joseph weeps, privately)	
Tuesday	Genesis 44v1-14 (He tests his brothers again)	
Wednesday	Genesis 44v15-34 (Judah stands as hostage)	
Thursday	Genesis 45v1-15 ('I am Joseph, your brother')	
Friday	Genesis 45v16-24 (Joseph forgives his brothers)	
Saturday	Genesis 46v1-7,26-34 (Israel moves into Egypt)	

Important Lesson for us Today: *Joseph is a ‘picture’ of the Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ.*

Remember - Joseph was hated for his integrity and faithfulness to God, many hate Christ’s Holiness; Joseph was sold for 30 pieces of silver, the Lord was betrayed by Judas for this amount; Joseph was falsely accused by Potiphar’s wife, as was Christ before Pilate; Joseph suffered much, but Christ suffered so much more on Calvary, reminding us of what it cost Him to die to save sinners like us.

If God had not sent Joseph down into Egypt, raising him up to be the ‘King’ next to Pharaoh, **Then**, there would have been no way that Israel (Jacob and his family) could have been saved. **Likewise, if God had not sent His Only Begotten Son down to earth to die on Calvary** to take away the guilt of all our sin, raising Him to life again on the third day, **Then**, there would have been no way that sinners such as us could be saved. **This is the heart of the Gospel message. Has your soul heard it?**

Have you repented and believed in Christ as your own personal Saviour and Lord?

Hymn 498 - Highlighting our need to follow God’s way and Sovereign plan for us: -

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| 1. Heavenly Father! To Whose eye,
Future things unfolded lie;
Through the desert where I stray,
Let Thy counsels guide my way. | 5. Let me neither faint nor fear,
Knowing still that Thou art near;
In the course my Saviour trod,
Travelling home to Thee, my God. |
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EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

God Causes Jacob (Israel) To Move Into Egypt.

• **Background to Today’s Lesson.**

- God’s Sovereign Plan had raised Joseph up to be 2nd ruler to Pharaoh in Egypt.
- Joseph managed the food supply during 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine.
- Joseph’s dreams had come true. His brothers had now bowed to him in Egypt.
- Joseph forgave his brothers, testing their consciences for repentance.

• **Joseph, Continuing to Hide His Identity, Tests His Brothers Again.**

- Jacob sends the brothers and Benjamin to buy more food, returning the money.
- Joseph continues to hide his identity from his brothers.
 When Joseph sees his younger brother, Benjamin, he is moved to secret tears.
- Joseph sends them off, placing money in their sacks, and his cup in Benjamin’s.
- They have to return to face Joseph. Benjamin is accused of theft.

• **Judah Pleads For Benjamin, Offering to Take His Place.**

- Joseph, tests them – Would they treat Benjamin like they did him, years earlier?
- Judah intervenes, offering himself to be made a slave if Benjamin is released.
- Joseph is pleased to see a ‘change of heart’ in his brothers.

• **Joseph Reveals to His Brothers Who He is. They are Fearful.**

- *“I am Joseph, your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt”.* Genesis 45v4.
- On hearing this, his brothers show great joy and relief, **but** were also ‘dismayed in his presence’, in ‘fear and apprehension’, expecting punishment from Joseph.

Can we look forward to seeing the Lord Jesus Christ one day? Will we recognise Him as our dear Saviour? Or will we be dismayed ‘in the presence’ of the Righteous Judge of all the earth? Behold, now is the time to repent and be saved.

• **Joseph Is Satisfied With Their Repentance. A Happy Ending For All.**

- Joseph shows mercy, saying that he knew it was God’s Plan that he should be sent ahead for this time of famine. *“It was not you who sent me here, but God.”*
- Joseph, with Pharaoh’s agreement, sends for his father, his family, servants, and animals to live in Goshen, a choice part of Egypt. **What a happy re-union!**
- On the way, God repeats His Great Promise to Jacob at Beersheba. Genesis 46v3-4.
- Joseph looks back in faith over all the years of his painful experiences, seeing the hand of His Sovereign God **‘working all things for good’.** Romans 8v28.

• **Will There Be A Happy Ending of Life for Us?**

- God’s condition to receive His goodness is that we love and obey Him.
Trust Him as Saviour while you are young, as Joseph did, then you can look forward, with confidence, to Eternal Heaven with the Lord.
God, who is immutable (unchanging), has faithfully promised this.

The Apostle Paul wrote, *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose”.* Romans 8v28.