

Lessons from Torah – Genesis 37-50

Joseph and Jesus

1. Genesis 37-50 is the story of Joseph
2. Joseph is mentioned by name more often, and his story takes up as many chapters, as Abraham himself
3. What makes Joseph so important?
 - a. His story explains how Israel ended up in Egypt as prophesied by God in Genesis 15:13
 - b. The story teaches spiritual lessons such as:
 - i. How our actions affect others
 - ii. The dangers of favoritism
 - iii. The need for accountability
 - iv. The importance of forgiveness
 - v. How God works through painful experiences if we let go of bitterness and vengeance
 - vi. Though forgiven, there is a price we pay for sin
 - c. Most important of all, Joseph is an amazing example of the person and life of Jesus
4. Over 100 parallels have been identified between the life of Joseph and the life of Jesus – what follows are just a few {Jesus' 'brothers' are the Jews who lived when he ministered, but also those who claim to believe in him (Christians)}
5. Genesis 37 parallels - both Joseph and Jesus are:
 - a. Loved by their father with a special love
 - b. Destined to rule over their brothers
 - c. Envied and hated by their brothers
 - d. Willing and obedient sons
 - e. Had to seek their brothers
 - f. Sold by their 'brothers' for pieces of silver
6. Genesis 38-39 parallels - both are:
 - a. More morally pure than their brothers
 - b. View how they treat others as an expression of their devotion to God
 - c. Falsely accused
 - d. Servants of others
 - e. Punished for the sins of others
7. Chapter 40 parallels – both are:
 - a. Sentenced with two others, one of whom died and the other 'lives'
 - b. Both are forgotten by those who have been blessed by them
8. Chapter 41 parallels – both are:
 - a. Thirty years old when they begin their mission of saving others
 - b. Praised for their wisdom and insight
 - c. After their humiliation they are lifted to honor and authority second only to one other
 - d. Brings salvation – one through grain, the other through the gift of eternal life
9. Chapter 42-43 parallels – both are:
 - a. Not recognized when they meet their brothers
 - b. Give life (grain) to their brothers free of charge (brothers' silver is returned to them)
 - c. Test the sincerity of their brothers
10. Chapter 44 parallels – both are:
 - a. Offer the brothers an opportunity to repent
 - b. Judah shows how love can change a heart, as our hearts are changed by the love of Jesus
 - c. When love is found to be genuine, they 'reveal' themselves to their brothers
 - d. Their brothers now accept the one they had rejected, when he appears in glory
11. Genesis 45 parallels –
 - a. Both wept with joy when his brothers repented
 - b. Both brought his brothers into a place 'prepared for them', with the approval of the One in authority
12. Genesis 46-49 parallels –
 - a. Joseph's two sons remind us of the two families made one through Jesus, Israel and the Gentiles (Ephesians 2:11-3:6)
 - b. The twelve tribes are blessed through them
13. Genesis 50:15-21 –
 - a. Freely offer brothers forgiveness
 - b. Brothers' hatred used by God to bring about His will
14. Perhaps you can think of other ways in which Joseph's life is similar to Jesus and helps us understand and appreciate Jesus more