

Today concludes our series on the Old Testament character of Joseph. We have learned over the course of these 6 weeks that Joseph was one of 12 sons. We know that he was the favorite of his Dad and that his Dad gave him a special coat. Joseph's brothers became very jealous of him especially after he told them about a dream he had in which they would bow down to him.

The brothers conspired against Joseph. They eventually sold him off into slavery but told their Dad that he had been killed by a wild animal. Joseph ended up working as a slave in Egypt for Potiphar but was wrongly accused of something and ended up in jail. While he was in jail he interpreted a dream for a fellow prisoner but then was forgotten about for a couple of years.

Then Pharaoh, king of Egypt had a dream, where there were 7 good cows followed by 7 weak cows. The seven weak cows ate the 7 good cows. Joseph interpreted this dream to mean that the region would have 7 prosperous years followed by 7 years of drought. Pharaoh trusted Joseph's interpretation and put him in charge of stockpiling grain from the 7 prosperous years so that they could survive the 7 lean years.

Joseph proved to be a very good steward of the harvest. He required all of the Egyptian farmers to give a portion of their harvest to Pharaoh so that he could store these grains. The 7 prosperous years concluded and the 7 lean years began. The drought extended throughout the Middle East and included Israel.

In Israel was where Joseph's family continued to live. As Israel struggled through this drought, word spread to them that there was grain in Egypt that they were selling. So Jacob, Joseph's father, sent his sons to Egypt to buy grain for them. Remember, Jacob thought Joseph was dead and the brothers did not know what happened to Joseph.

So 10 of the 11 brothers travel to Egypt to buy grain. They have to go to meet with Joseph to try to buy grain. When they get to Joseph, they bow down before him for they do not recognize him. Hence, Joseph's original dream comes true. Not giving away his identity, Joseph sells them the grain and sends them back to Israel. But then through a series of transactions eventually Jacob and all 11 sons come to Egypt to buy grain.

It is at this point that Joseph reveals to them that he is the brother that they treated so poorly. But rather than use his power in Egypt to punish his brothers, Joseph instead embraces them. He forgives them and welcomes them to Egypt. Joseph convinces Pharaoh to allow Joseph's family to settle in Egypt and to live on the best land.

So Joseph's family settles in Egypt for several generations until a future Pharaoh does not know the story of Joseph and these Israelites or Hebrews become slaves to the Egyptians until a guy named Moses leads them back to their homeland.

So here we have a story where a human begins to do an unjust and cruel thing to their brother. This brother who had every right to hold a grudge and punish his brothers for what they did instead welcomes them, forgives them, and restores them.

A story where God overcomes human sinfulness to protect and restore a human family. Human sinfulness is overwhelmed by God's grace and God's providence.

Over the last weeks the Junior and Senior Highs have been learning about Joseph. Last week they put together a video of their interpretation of Joseph's story. Today we share their version of Joseph's story.

Show video created by the youth.