Life of Joseph – Bellevue Church of Christ Auditorium Class - Winter 2018 / 2019

Lesson V - Joseph the Statesman* (Genesis 41:37-57; 47:13-26)

A. Promotion of Joseph (37-41; 50-52)

1. The Selecting of Joseph for Office

Joseph is rewarded and is now the ...

Prince in the Palace

No longer is he the ...

- Hated one in a hole (37:24)
- Stolen one in slavery (39:1)
- Pure one in prison (39:20)
- Forgotten one in fetters (40:23)

The mandate for the selection (40-41)

-Joseph was placed

(a) Pharaoh's house

This is the third time he has been placed over a "house"

Potiphar (39:4)

Prisoners (39:22)

- (b) The people
- (c) The land

The moment of the selection (46)

"thirty years old"

Joseph had spent 13 years as a slave and prisoner (37:2)

The man being selected (38-39)

-Pharaoh recognized that Joseph met the criteria that God had outlined (41:33)

C. Policies of Joseph (41:53-57)(47:13-26)

Genesis 41:37-57 (ESV)

³⁷ This proposal pleased **Pharaoh** and all his servants. ³⁸ And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?" 39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. 40 You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you." 41 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." ⁴² Then **Pharaoh** took his *signet ring* from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. 43 And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, "Bow the *Reputation (45) knee!" Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt ... 45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him in marriage Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On. So Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.

⁴⁶ **Joseph** was **thirty years old** when he entered the service of **Pharaoh** king of **Egypt**. And **Joseph** went out from the presence of **Pharaoh** and went through all the land of Egypt. 47 During the seven plentiful years the earth produced abundantly, ⁴⁸ and he *gathered up* all the food of these seven years ... ⁴⁹ And **Joseph** stored up grain in great abundance ...

⁵⁰ Before the year of famine came, **two sons were born** to Joseph ... 51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house." 52 The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

53 The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of **Egypt** came to an end, ⁵⁴ and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of **Egypt** there was bread. 55 When all the land of **Egypt** was famished, *the people cried* to **Pharaoh** for bread. **Pharaoh** said to all the **Egyptians**, "Go to **Joseph**. What he says to vou, do."

⁵⁶ So when the famine had spread over all the land, **Joseph** opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of **Egypt**. ⁵⁷ Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.

2. The Supplying of Joseph for Office

*Ring (42) This ring Pharaoh's signet ring which when imprinted in wax upon a document made that document the decree of the king and, therefore, the law of the land.

*Robe (42) Joseph was adorned like royalty.

*Ride (43) The people were to bow as Joseph rode by in his chariot

Joseph was given a new name (precise meaning is unknown)

*Romance (45, 50-52) Joseph was given a wife and ultimately had two children:

Manasseh = Forgetting

Ephraim = Fruitfulness

B. Preparations of Joseph (46-49)

1. The Service in the Preparations (46)

-Just like Joseph had always done, he was ready to serve Pharaoh

2. The Swiftness in the Preparations (46)

-Joseph's service began as soon as he had been commissioned

3. The Sweating in the Preparations (46-49)

"went through all the land of Egypt...gathered up...stored up..."

4. The Sufficiency in the Preparations (49)

"great abundance"

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C. Policies
of Joseph
(41:53-56)
(47:13-26)

-When the famine began, the Egyptians soon ran out of food (53-55)

-The people of Egypt ran to the government for help (55)

1. The Selling of Grain During the Famine (41:56-57; 47:13-26)

The prudence of the selling

-The cost kept people from wasting what had been stored.

-Joseph used the 1/5 that had been stored to survive the 7 years of famine

-The Egyptians had used the other 4/5 during the 7 years of plenty

The prices in the selling

*Lucre (41:56)

*Livestock (47:16)

*Land (47:20)

*Lives (47:20-23)

Genesis 47:13-26 (ESV)

¹³ Now there was no food in all the land, for the famine was very severe, so that the land of **Egypt** and the land of **Canaan** languished by reason of the famine. 14 And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, in exchange for the grain that they bought. And Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. 15 And when the money was all spent in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? For our money is gone." 16 And <u>Joseph</u> answered, "Give your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for your livestock, if your money is gone." ¹⁷ So they brought their livestock to **Joseph**, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the herds, and the donkeys. He supplied them with food in exchange for all their *livestock* that year. ¹⁸ And when that year was ended, they came to him the following year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is all spent. The herds of livestock are my lord's. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our land. 19 Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we with our land will be servants to **Pharaoh**. And give us seed that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate."

²⁰ So <u>Joseph</u> bought all the land of <u>Egypt</u> for <u>Pharaoh</u>, for all the <u>Egyptians</u> sold their fields, because the famine was severe on them. The land became <u>Pharaoh's</u>. ²¹ As for the people, *he made servants* of them from one end of <u>Egypt</u> to the other. ²² Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had a fixed allowance from <u>Pharaoh</u> and lived on the allowance that <u>Pharaoh</u> gave them; therefore they did not sell their land.

²³ Then <u>Joseph</u> said to the people, "Behold, I have this day bought you and your land for <u>Pharaoh</u>. Now *here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land*. ²⁴ And at the harvests you shall *give a fifth* to <u>Pharaoh</u>, and *four fifths shall be your own*, as seed for the field and as food for yourselves and your households, and as food for your little ones." ²⁵ And they said, "You have saved our lives; may it please my lord, we will be servants to <u>Pharaoh</u>." ²⁶ So <u>Joseph</u> made it a statute concerning the land of <u>Egypt</u>, and it stands to this day, that <u>Pharaoh</u> should have the fifth; the land of the priests alone did not become <u>Pharaoh's</u>.

2. The Sharing of the Grain After the Famine

Joseph hired the people to serve as sharecroppers (47:23-26)

It provided good work for the people

-Having the people work was healthy for Egyptian society and profitable for both the people and the government

It provided adequate wages for the people (24)

-Joseph allowed the people to keep 4/5 of what they harvested.

It provided sufficient wealth for the government

-The people were to give 1/5 of their crop to Pharaoh.

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Promotion

Genesis 37:24 (ESV)

²⁴ And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Genesis 39:1 (ESV)

¹ Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there.

Genesis 39:20 (ESV)

²⁰ And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.

Genesis 40:23 (ESV)

²³ Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

Over a House

Genesis 39:4 (ESV)

⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.

Genesis 39:22 (ESV)

²² And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.

Thirty Years Old

Genesis 37:2 (ESV)

² These are the generations of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.

Criteria for new Leader

Genesis 41:33 (ESV)

³³ Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt.