

From the pit to the palace

A journey through the life of joseph

Joseph was a man
who was open to God
And who makes me
think of jesus (yeshua)

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Foreword:

A warm greeting to you who have this booklet about Joseph. I am thankful for that. I never experienced so much satisfaction in my heart than by studying Joseph's life. As I have spent and am spending time with him, it seems that I get to know him better, but above all else his character and his ways remind me of the Lord Jesus of whom he is a clear type. Let me write a few lines about myself. I was born in Holland but at the age of 21 years old went to Israël. After several months I found my own small Bible in my backpack. My mother had put it there. I had received that Bible from my parents when I was 12 years of age. I had hardly ever read in it. Now was the time to read for me because I came to myself and wandered deeply: Why am I alive, What is the purpose of my life and what happens to me when I die? There was a longing to get to know God as I lived in the desert. After much reading I read the word "freedom". That was the slogan of my life but now I read the word "Freedom in the same verse as the Lord Jesus Christ" (Gal.5:1). I had never put these two words together. It was through the reading of this verse and the verse of Jacob whose life became so light because he was in love (Gen. 29:20) that I made the decision to receive the Lord Jesus in my heart as my Lord and Savior. I knew that my life was not my own any longer because I had surrendered my life to the one who died and rose again (2 Kor.5:14,15). From that moment I became a **brand new creation** His name came on my lips for the first time in my life and until today His name is the sweetest Name that I speak about. For the next 33 years I lived and witnessed in Israël. It was in Israël that I realized that the Jewish people do not read the New Testament. I realized that the Lord Jesus and Paul also did not have a New Testament but they had enough to speak about. It was an eye opener to find that there is one subject in the Bible:

The testimony of Jesus.

You find Him on every page (Rev. 19:10b). Paul did not only preach but also proved that the Lord Jesus is the Messiah (Acts. 9:20-22). We find many clear prophecies. For example Isaiah 53 where you find 29 prophecies fulfilled in one day. You also find people who are types of the Lord Jesus. Paul wrote that to us about Adam as a type and an anti type of the Lord Jesus (Rom. 5:14). Of course they all came short but they are a picture of the reality (Kol.2:16,17). Let me make this clear with Adam:

Adam came from earth. Jesus came from heaven

(1.Kor.15:47). Adam was tested in a garden, surrounded by beauty and love. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, and He died on a cruel cross surrounded by hatred and ugliness. Adam was a thief and was cast out of paradise; but Jesus Christ turned to a thief and said: Today you shall be with Me in paradise (Luk. 23:43). The Old or temporal Testament is the book of the Generations of Adam (Gen.5:1) and it ends with **a curse** (Mal.4:6). The New or eternal Testament is the book of the generations of Jesus Christ (Matt.1:1) and it ends with "**no more curse**"(Rev.22:3). You cannot help from being in Adam for this came by your and my first birth over which we had no

control. You can help staying in Adam for you and me can experience a second birth from above that birth will put you in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is why Jesus said to a religious Jew: **You must be born again (Joh.3:7)**. Our birth right was to have dominion (Gen.2:18). We were handed a birthright to reign on planet Earth. At the fall that privilege was stolen from us (Gen.3). The Lord Jesus brought GRACE into this world (Joh.1:17). Grace means: What God wants to do for me. Accept His offer for your salvation and for the rest of your life there is enough (Eph.2:8,9, Joh.1:16). I made that choice at the age of 21 years of age and as I write this to you I am 63 years of age. This has been the best choice in my life and the Lord Jesus has proven Himself always so very faithful (2 Tim.2:11-13; Joshua 23:14).

Grace restores our inheritance to us (Rom. 5:17). Reigning is a daily choice. It is a moment by moment decision. There are only two options. We will either reign or be reigned over. Let us not make the mistake of trying to get the victory in your own strength. **The Lord Jesus has already won the victory.** It is finished. Let Him be preeminent in your heart and live His life through you (Kol.3:4). With the Lord there is no respecter of person and He is the Same for us all through each generation (Acts. 11:34; Hebr.13:8). With love can I offer you this reading on a c.d. I teach to the students of one of the Torchbearer Bible schools. On this c.d. you also find the life of David, who is also a man after Gods heart, but he did not always let His Grace reign in his heart (1 Kings. 15:5).

At the age of 54 years the Lord also gave me a wonderful wife called Linda, who had become a widow. Her husband died of an unknown cancer, but accepted God's offer of Grace two weeks before his death. His acceptance of the Lord Jesus had a great effect on Linda and she made a new commitment to the Lord Jesus. When I asked her to marry me I directly told her that the Lord Jesus is preeminent in my life. She said: I shall commit myself for 200 % to this life together. After nearly ten years I did not know what a blessing this would become. Marriage is such a wonderful gift from the Lord and has given us a new freedom and His own strength as we serve Him side by side and keep our garden closed (Kol. 1:28,29; Song of Songs. 4:12). We long to serve you and pray that you like Joseph also enjoy this abundant life. Here is our e-mail when you want to order that c.d. from us: johan.linda.schep@gmail.com Just one more word from heart to heart. **Do not let your past cripple you any longer!** The Lord said to the children of Israël. You have been at the foot of this mountain long enough (Deut.2:3). The Lord want to do always something new in our lives (Isaiah. 43:19). The word "new" is a verb in the Hebrew language. Abraham who is our father teaches us: The Christian life is a sery of new starts!

Introduction: Joseph makes me think of Jesus(Yeshua)

It is a privilege that I received the assignment to teach about the life of Joseph. Every year when I prepare myself to teach this, my heart is overwhelmed again! In **Luke 12:11,12** we have the promise that the indwelling Holy Spirit will teach us what we ought to say. Stephen was the first person who was filled with the Holy Spirit who reviewed the Old Testament. He uses the life of Joseph of bitter rejection as a shadow of what they had also done to the Lord Jesus. **Joh. 5:39; Luk. 24:27.** The Lord Jesus testifies that the Scriptures speak of Him. **Jacob and Joseph** are closely related. In Hebrew the word for son is: Ben. That is also the word for **to build**. **The son builds the life of the father. Jacob means someone who cheats.** God had shown His grace in his life and he is not ashamed to call Himself the God of Jacob (**Ps. 114:5**). In his heart Jacob puts his hope in the Lord. The Lord who never left him (**Gen.48:15,16**). God found Jacob at Bethel. Jacob testified, that he saw the Lord (**Gen 32:24; Hebr.11:21; Gen 49:24**). When Jacob is dying he blesses the sons of Joseph and leans on his staff worshipping and calls the Lord: **The Mighty God of Jacob.** **Isaiah** speaks also about the **Mighty One of Jacob (49:26;60:16)** as a type of Israel before the nation is restored to her Glory. In **Isaiah 1:24** God is called the **Mighty one of Israel.** That is the time after Israel repents and is fully restored. The God of all Grace will reveal His power to everyone (**Isaiah 60:16; 49:26**). We also find the full power of God's Grace in the life of his beloved son Joseph (**Gen. 30:22,23**).



Chapter 1. The testimony of the early life of Joseph.

The birth of Joseph was an act of God's Grace. God listened to Rachel and opened her womb. She said: **God has taken away my reproach.** Joseph like Isaac and Jacob were all born after much waiting and after much prayer. **Let us give Joseph a moment to share his own testimony until he is 17 years old.** Let us ask Joseph? In what kind of an



environment did you grow up? Do you think about your youth as being a positive or a negative time? Have you ever felt rejected? Joseph might have said: **"I hope that you have some time?"** **Gen. 28:5; 31:18.** Joseph said: I was born in Padan Aram (Syria near Turkey). My mother is a beautiful woman (**29:17**). She is the daughter of my grandfather Laban (**Gen.11:31,32**). My great grandfather Abraham lived for a while in Haran and maybe that's why he lived there? My father Jacob came to Haran, because he had to flee from his brother Esau. My father had tricked

him and his father. **As soon as he saw my mother, he loved her and my grandfather profited from his love for her (Gen.19:18).** My father who cheated others was also cheated by my grandfather Laban (**Gen.31:7**). My father only wanted to marry Rachel. Now he has four wives. My half brothers are from the other women. **Gen.31:23,25. My birth had an inner effect to my father and to my mother.** My name Joseph means: **May the Lord add another son.** My father and me are very close. When I was **six years of age** they put me on a camel and the whole family fled in the night. **I learned that running away is never the right solution!** The Lord had told my father, that it was the right time to return (**28:13; 31:3**). I have to say something that hurts me, but my mother has the same character as my grandfather. She is jealous (**30:1**) and not always trustworthy (**31:35**). She can also be very sharp to my father. They are a good match for each other. I learned that our God who has a plan with our family is bigger than our sins, because God had met my grandfather and he was told not to harm us (31:24). My father was afraid of his older brother Esau (**27:41**). Esau hated my father because he had stolen his blessing. He should not have done that, because the Lord had promised by his birth that his brother would serve him (**25:23**). When my father finally met up with Esau it was not so bad at all. I actually liked my uncle because he had forgiven my father and kissed him and wept (**33:4; 32:24-32**). The night before something happened to my father, when he was all alone. He had a meeting with the Lord and The Lord wrestled with him and gave him a new name: **Israel (Prince of God).** My father was excited about this but limped the rest of his life. Once the sun set in his life (**28:11**). Now the sun rose (**32:31**). It was beautiful to hear the testimonies of those two brothers when they met each other. Esau said: I have enough (**9-11**). My father said: I have everything! My father was clearly told by the Lord to go back to Bethel (**28:13,15,20; 35:1**). I learned that the only place where we are safe is in the centre of God's will. My father stopped in Shechem, bought a piece of

Land and built an altar in the wrong place. (**Gen.33:19,20;34**). My half sister, Dinah was raped in Shechem and Simeon and Levi became mass murderers. It was so terrible and again the Lord God protected our family (**35:5**) otherwise we would all have been destroyed. **34:30**. My father's reaction was very self-centered. He said: **me, I and myself. I also learned that the life of a believer has many new starting moments. 35:1-8**. We returned to Bethel where the Lord reminds my father of his vows. We experience a family renewal and the Lord's name is mentioned 20 times. A new altar and a new set of clothes. My father became occupied with the God who kept His promises. They had gone a full circle and the Lord blessed them. **I was 16 years** when my nurse Deborah (**35:8**), my mother Rachel (**19**) and my grandfather Isaac died (**29**). **My life is always balanced between grief and joy**. During these sad times I received a younger brother called: **Benjamin**. My brother received in Bethlehem two names: My mother called him: Ben Oni (Son of Sorrows) and my father called him Ben Jamin (Son of my right hand). **This is a beautiful foreshadowing of Jesus who was also born in Bethlehem**. Rachel's tomb is still there and for those Jews who do not believe in the Lord Jesus, Bethlehem is a place of death. For the believers Bethlehem is the place of life!

The story continues. Joseph was a shepherd and not an hireling.

Ps. 138:8: A time of preparation. The Lord will perfect that which concerns me! **37:14**. Jacob lives in Hebron (Fellowship) and Joseph works with his brothers as a shepherd. He cared for the animals and learned lessons that would serve him in the years to come lessons of patience, tenderness, sympathy, faithfulness. Jesus who is **loved** as the Good Shepherd giving His life for the sheep. We know Him also as the Great and the Chief Shepherd who returns as the King of Kings. Jacob had a special love for Rachel and he passed that love down to Joseph. When his other sons turn away from God. Joseph has a deep understanding with his father Jacob. **They were one in the Spirit**. This special love reminds us of the love of the Heavenly Father for His unique Son. God opened heaven and said twice "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased (**Matt.3:17; 17:5**) Wonderful to know that God loves us equally, as He loves His Son (**Joh. 17:23**). **It is not written that his Son loves his father, but his actions speak loudly (50:1; 43:27; 45:9)**. Joseph was the son of His old age. It was late in the history of Israel (Jacob's God-given name) when Joseph was born. All the hope seemed to be gone until Jesus came in the fullness of time (**Gal.4:4**). One of the many names of God is: **Ancient of days**. Jesus is also the Son of the Ancient of Days. We see a balance between the love of His father and the hatred of His brothers

Jacob gave to Joseph a coat of **many colors**, expressing his special love for him. The coat was a witness of Jacobs's love and above all also a sign to reign once. **This privilege brought jealousy and hatred in the hearts of his half brothers**. We may argue that it was unwise for



Jacob to do this, but the Holy Spirit would use this to point forward to another Beloved Son at whose death another robe would figure prominently. The scene was Calvary where the Lamb of God was nailed to the cross. The Lord Jesus wore a seamless robe which could not be divided without destroying its usefulness. So, they gambled for it. **The greatest life ever lived on this earth and He left nothing, but the clothes that He wore.** Josephs multicolored robe was soon changed into the robe of a Jewish slave. Joseph would soon go from riches to rags just like Jesus (**2.Cor.8:9; Phil.2:5-8**). A tunic of many colors, a tunic of a slave, a tunic of prisoner a tunic of a ruler. His life was a prophetic life and with such a life death always hangs over you. It was not so wise to give Joseph such a tunic with many colors (**James.2:19**). It was not so wise from Joseph to tell his two dreams, **but it put everything in motion.** Foretold (**Gen. 15:13-18**).The brothers said: We shall never bow! **Never say never!** (**42:6; 43:28; 44:14; 50:18**) **Ps.138:8** The Lord perfects that which concerns me! **One day all the people will bow down for Jesus (Matt. 24:30;26:64, Phil. 2:11).** Joseph gave his father something to think about. This was foretold (**Gen.15:13**). **Ruben** was Jacob's firstborn by Leah (**1 Chron.5:1,2b**) He should have inherited a double portion of his father's estate as well as the head of his tribe. He sinned by sleeping with his father's concubine and lost the birthright and it was given to Joseph. When the Land of Canaan was divided among all the tribes of Israel, Joseph received a double portion one for his Ephraim and one for Manasseh. A foreshadowing of the Lord Jesus who (**Rom. 8:29**) is our oldest brother and who is appointed the Heir of all things (**Heb.1:2**)

If Joseph was such a good son, why did his brothers hate him with a passion? **His righteous life was a rebuke and convicted them of their unrighteousness.** This happened also to the Lord Jesus Christ (**Mark.3:21; Matt.27:18; Joh.3:20**). **Joseph had two dreams from God,** but his half brothers could not hear them. Even for Jacob was the second dream too much but he treasured it in his heart. His brothers said then that they would never bow for him, but circumstances later forced them to do it three times (**42:6; 43:28; 44:14**) and finally they did it willingly (**50:18**). They called themselves: **Your servants.** This will happen when they will see the Lord Jesus the second time (**Matt.24:30; 26:64; Phil.2:10,11**). As Jacob kept these words in his heart so did Mary many years later (**Luk.2:19**). There was something about both these childrens lives that made their parents think! **37:13.** His father sent His Son Joseph on a special mission. His Father said: Go and he went! Over 40 times in the gospel of John we read that Jesus was sent. Joseph knew that they hated him but he goes with good intentions. **1.Sam. 17.** David was also sent to his brothers by his father and said: **Hineni! They did not know what would happen to them, but the Lord Jesus knew!** **Hebr.10:7.** The obedience of His Son, shines out in His noble words: In the volume of

the Book: It is written of Me to do your will oh, God. Just as Joseph left Hebron (Fellowship) to go to Shechem (A place of danger: **Gen 34:25-30**). The Lord Jesus left the peace and fellowship of heaven to come



down to earth. **37:15. A certain man found Joseph wandering in the field**". A man without a name, but he was the right man at the right time. These people without names are like hinges in the door in the Bible. It means that Joseph had to look for his brothers because they were not where they should have been. That's the way it also was when the Lord Jesus came to his own nation of Israel. A few like Simeon and Anna waited for His coming. **The field is the world.** Jesus wandered around seeking the lost sheep of the house of Israel who were so far from God. **37:18-20.** Instead of being pleased to see Joseph his brothers were angry and they did not receive him graciously but taunted him as an impractical dreamer. Joseph was asked to give an accurate report about his brothers and their flocks. **37:2. I used to think that the bad report that Joseph brought about his brothers to his father was a negative thing, but when you see Joseph and his harmony with his father Jacob then I see again the shadow of Jesus and His own Father.** A greater than Joseph came from Heaven's glory in obedience to His father to save those who were lost. What kind of reception did He receive? He came to His own and his own received Him not (**Joh.1:11**). It was their God that they did not receive. It was the One who created them (**Col.1:16,17**) and on whom they depended on for their life at any moment. There was the "**No place in the Inn**" sign was a foreshadowing of his: **Not welcome.** They killed Joseph, figuratively. Those two dreams really bathered them. History repeats itself in the life of the Lord Jesus. The plots began soon after He was born. Herod sought his life. The religious leaders of Israel considered Him a threat. They repeatedly plotted to kill Him (**Matt. 12:14; 26:3,4; 21:33-46**) and said "We will not have this Man to reign over us (**Luk.19:14**). **God used Ruben and Judah.** They suffered (**44:34**). **37:21-27.** Reuben urged his brothers not to kill Joseph, but to throw him in the pit hoping he would escape and return to his father. Judah also argued against killing him, but said that there would be no profit for them in simply throwing him into a pit. The Lord Jesus also had some people who raised their voices on His behalf. Pilate's wife (**Matt. 27:19**) Pilate (**Luk. 23:15**) Herod (**Luk. 23:15**) The dying thief (**Luk.23:41**) The centurion (**Luk. 23:47**) and even Judas (**Matt. 27:4**). In Joseph's case they pulled off the offensive coat of many colors, threw him in a pit and they sat down for a meal, totally unconcerned of the cries of Joseph **42:21.** They heard him all clearly and that haunted them for years afterwards. Amos also wrote this: They were not grieved for the affliction of Joseph (**6:6**). In the Savior's case, the soldiers undressed Him and put a purple robe on Him in mockery of the Kingship He claimed (**Matt. 27:28**). They crucified Him and sat down without concern (**27:36**). Once the show was over the people went into the city, sat down and ate the Passover meal having killed the Passover Lamb. David spoke about the Lord Jesus as thrown into a pit (**Ps. 40:1,2**). **Joseph died figuratively. Jesus really died.** The pit (Jewish brothers) and the prison (the gentiles) speak about His death, burial and resurrection. If Joseph had actually died, he would not have been able to go to Egypt and become the Savior of his people (**Gen50:20**). Jesus tasted death to the full to become the Savior of the world. The religious leaders said: **Not during the Passover Feast (Matt. 26:5).** We see that the Lord Jesus is **Sovereign** because that's

exactly when He died as their Passover Lamb. The Lord used the jealousy of the brothers. Joseph had to be sent ahead of them to Egypt (**Ps.105:17**) The Lord Jesus looked with joy to His own suffering because He knew that this was the only way to save all the people of their sins. **Ps. 76:10**. There is a beautiful verse: **Surely the wrath of men shall praise You!**

Chapter 2. Joseph is a type of Jesus (Yeshua).

It was Judah who initiated to sell Joseph. Later we see that Judah voluntarily departs from his brothers (**Gen.38**). **The Lord is not with him. He gives away his ring to Tamar.** A ring is the sign of authority (**18**). It was Judah (Two tribes) who mainly rejected Jesus. They gave away their authority. Judah repents (**38:26; 43:8,9;44:14-34**) and becomes a blessing (Jesus as King is the Lion of Judah). His speeches are very moving and they brought tears to Joseph. So it will be with Israel. What a glorious day it will be when the Lord Jesus reveals Himself! The only recorded time that Joseph spoke out in his defense was in the pit (**42:21**). In the coming years he never criticizes or blames his brothers: **God was with him!** So it was with the Lord Jesus. Isaiah the prophet speaks about that (**53:7**). On trial before the high priest, He kept silent (**Matt. 26:63; 27:12**) Pilate was surprised that Jesus did not answer him. Herod too (**Luk. 23:9**). Only when the high priest put Him under oath and asked: **” Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God?** Jesus answered and said: **It is as you said!** Nevertheless, I say to you that you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven (**Matt. 26:64**). They forsook Joseph. A much better man than Joseph endured a similar treatment (**Mark.14:50**). Our precious Lord Jesus endured a forsaking that Joseph and all of us will never experience. It was during those three hours of darkness, when His God forsook Him as He paid the penalty of our sins. He cried: **My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? (Matt.27:46)**. God forsook the Lord Jesus so that we will never be forsaken. Now we hear the Savior assure us. “I shall never leave you nor forsake you (**Hebr.13:5**). For Joseph too: **The Lord was with him. Joseph found safety in Egypt. Jesus also found safety in Egypt (Matt. 2:14-16)**. Joseph was their own brother, but they betrayed that intimate relationship. The Lord Jesus was betrayed by one of His disciples (**Ps.41:9; 55:12-14,20,21**). Judas is an example of how close a person can be to Jesus and yet still be lost! **37:28**. Ishmael was born in the flesh from the slave woman Hagar. God uses them! The descendents of Ishmael were the “taxi” to bring Joseph safely to Egypt. This encourages me. Whatever your past is. You are woven by the Lord Himself.

They left exactly at the right time and bought Joseph. We see the hand of God. He controlled the minds of these traders and they went to Egypt. They said: Why kill him when you can make a profit of him. Joseph was not yet a mature man. They paid 20 pieces of silver. The price of the mature Savior was 30 pieces of silver (**Ex. 21:32**). It was the redemption price of a slave. Judah arranged the sale. Judah and Judas both mean: Praise which here seems terrible out of place.

37:29. Reuben returned to the pit and he saw that it was empty. Figuratively Joseph had risen from the dead. This also is a shadow the Lord Jesus (**Luk. 24**). **Joseph was saved from dying but Jesus was saved out of death (Acts. 2:27)**. Joseph’s grave (pit) was borrowed. He did not need it very long. Thank God that it was dry. So it was with the garden tomb. It was on loan for three days and three nights from Joseph of

Arimathea. **There just are no secondhand graves.** Jesus did not need the gift of a grave. A borrowed one would do Him very well. **37:31-33.** The brothers presented **the blood on the coat** to their father Jacob. It was a plot to make the old man think, that Joseph was eaten by an animal. The difference here is one of contrast, not comparison. The blood of the Lord Jesus has been presented to the Father (**Hebr.9:12**). The value of that blood is what He took in the Most Holy Place and that precious blood cleanses us all. **37:32,33.** True that there was **blood** on that coat, but how did the animal kill Joseph without destroying that coat? It did not make sense, but Jacob believed!

The denial that did not make sense is believed until this day is, that they stole the body (**Matt. 28:13,15**). To sleep was a capital punishment! The other lie is that Jesus did not really die or the women went to the wrong tomb. Solomon said it right: The legs of the lame are not equal (**Prov. 26:7**). The theories do not conform to all the facts. Joseph went to Egypt and Jesus rose from the dead.

The conclusion is very clear that the story of Joseph reveals the finger of God.

Chapter 3. Joseph blooms where he is planted!

Joseph is rejected by his Jewish brothers and is delivered over to the gentiles. Stephen says that Joseph a type is of the Lord Jesus. Judah is a type of Israel. Until today Israel has not repented as a Nation, but that will happen one day! **39:2**. On the way to Egypt something happens deep in the heart of Joseph. He arrives safely in Egypt. We read from now on: **The Lord is with him**. On the market was one man who is called **Potiphar** (Not anti-Semitic). He buys Joseph as his slave and Joseph becomes a great blessing for the house of Potiphar. **Joseph blossoms where he is planted and chooses to be a part of the solution. Gal. 3:14**. We are given the blessing of Abraham to be a blessing where we are. **Ps. 105:16-22**. Joseph was sent ahead of his family as a forerunner. The Lord Jesus is our Forerunner (**Hebr. 6:20**). Wherever Joseph is, there is blessing. **Potiphar** noticed that the Lord was with Joseph and gave him responsibility. **Joseph** served the Lord first and Potiphar was also blessed. Joseph was independent. **In contrast:** We do not read that the Lord was with the brothers of Joseph. **Joseph** came to a country where they did not understand the Hebrew language. The Lord Jesus was misunderstood (**Joh. 2:19; 14:9**). **Joseph** and Jesus were joyful in the midst of their circumstances (**Luk.10:21**). **Joseph** and Jesus were both total strangers on this planet earth (**Hebr. 13:14**). **Joseph** and Jesus were surrounded by idol worship (Their joy is in the Father). **Joseph** and Jesus were lonely but they were both comforted (**Joh. 8:29; 4:34**). **Joseph** was a beautiful young man on the outside and the inside (**Ps. 103:4,5**). **Jesus** was despised and rejected but He is the radiance of His glory (**Hebr. 1:3**). **This beauty of Jesus inside is found in each born again believer? (Gal.4:19)**. **Grace is a beautiful thing and Grace also loves a beautiful vessel (Acts 11:23)**. **Joseph** did not look to the past but lived in the presence and served (**Luk. 9:62**). **Joseph** is a silent witness. Potiphar is blessed. We are light and salt (**Joh. 7:38**). I am here by God's appointment in His keeping under His training, for His time. **Joseph** and Jesus became bondservants (**Ex. 21:5**). The hired servant works for pay. The bondservant works, because he belongs to His master (**Deut. 15:18**) **Joseph** and Jesus were hated by their own brothers without a cause, but both were received by the gentiles. The wise men. The Roman centurion (**Luk. 7:9**). After the Lord Jesus healed ten lepers only one of them returned to thank Him and that one was a Samaritan (**Luk. 17:16**). The Roman centurion (**Matt. 27:54**). I am sure that Joseph enjoyed this new position, but the Lord has bigger plans for Joseph. The Lord wants to bless thousands through the Godly life of Joseph.

Years later Joseph saw this also and shares this with his brothers (Gen. 45:7). The palace comes in sight. Joseph serves Potifar who is connected to the palace When Joseph entered Egypt a few people noticed him, but all the attention of heaven was on this Jewish slave who would soon rescue Egypt from starvation.

Chapter 4. The only way to go up is down.

For three chapters all goes downhill, but ten chapters speak of his exaltation. **Joseph** is a type of the Lord Jesus in His humiliation and also in His exaltation. 39:5. The Lord God blessed not only Joseph but also the whole house of Potifar **39:7**. It came to pass but not to stay. As in the life of Jesus (**Luk. 2:1**). In our lives all kind of events come and go. It is good to realize that they come to pass! The blessed time in Potiphar's house did not last long. The innocent suffering of Joseph was not yet come to an end. Joseph had to be humbled much deeper. **Deut. 32:11**. When your nest is stirred up like that of the eaglets this is not to destroy you but to develop you. The only thing that the three friends of Daniel lost when they were in that hot fire, where those cheap ropes (**Daniel 3:25**). We always need to focus on the Lord's promises and on His Almighty power. Let us think now about the wife of Potiphar. You can think of her as a spoiled lady who gets her way all the time and she has too much free time and does not get enough attention from Potiphar who is gone away often. She longed for some adventure. When this is true the temptation is not so strong. You can also think of a beautiful lady who is caught by the beauty of Joseph (**39:6**). Joseph was loving, attentive and kind. He had a wonderful relationship with her husband and must have included her in this as well. Feelings grow in her heart and she is not able to control them any longer and she longs to give herself completely to Joseph. His resistance stirs her up even more. When she has done her utmost, her feelings get hurt when Joseph runs away. Her desires change in hatred because she feels rejected. She saves herself now by accusing Joseph. She must have felt bad in her heart, when she heard that Joseph was put in prison. There came a day that Potiphar's wife had **to bow down** for Joseph. He did not retaliate, but was silent. You can choose for yourself which woman you want to have in your mind. The temptation of the second picture is much stronger, because Joseph is a young man of flesh and blood. The sweetness of innocence is infinitely greater than the sweetness of forgiveness.

David gave in and he suffered. Joseph did not given in and he also suffered.

People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind the people may accuse you of wrong motives. Be kind anyway. If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway. If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the Best. It may never be enough. Give the Best anyway. Your life is a relationship between you and **Jesus in you**. Not between you and people. This right reaction of Joseph cost him his coat, but he kept his integrity. When you are falsely accused: Say: **Jesus knoweth!** When Potifar would have believed his wife. Joseph would have died. Potifar reminds me of **Pilate**. They both knew better, but would not lose their faces.

Chapter 5. The balance between Joy and Grief.

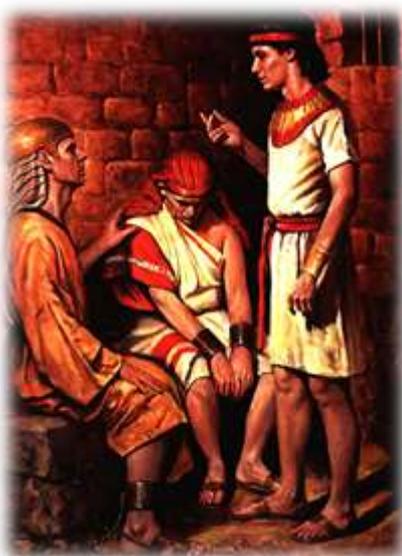
Let us look at the balance between **joy and grief** in the life of Joseph. He was loved by his father and hated by his brothers. There was a moment of joy when he was pulled out of the pit. There was a moment of disappointment when he was sold to Egypt. In Egypt he did not experience the hatred and jealousy of his brothers anymore but was sold as a Hebrew slave. Potiphar bought him and that is painful but **the Lord is with him**. Joseph became successful and enjoyed Potiphar's favor. He was treated badly by his wife and thrown innocently into a prison. **40:15 Learn that God is with us in the good times and the bad times.** When the Lord chooses us to be a blessing for others it means also suffering We all have our own cup to drink. **It was the shortest way to the Kings palace!**

Joseph lived with two dreams and an open heaven. His father, grandfather and great grandfather had all experienced the same (**Acts 7:2; Gen: 12:13; 26:24**). **"The power of revelation was and is stronger than the power of temptation"**.

There are three temptations we do need to watch: **Power, money and women.** Solomon warns his sons (**Prov. 5,6,7; 6:26,27; 7:22**). David the man after God's own heart has this in the Bible (**1 Kings. 15:5**) **Except in the matter of Uriah! Victory over sin is possible but it is good to be humble about this! (Rom. 8:37)**

Joseph in the pit in Canaan typifies the Savior's crucifixion at the hand of his own Jewish brothers. Joseph in the prison in Egypt is our Lord's suffering at the hands of the Gentiles (**Acts 4:27**). These rulers were not convinced of His guilt. Jesus was taken from prison and judgment (**Is. 53:8**). He was hurried away from justice. His enemies made it impossible for Jesus to have a fair trial (**1.Cor. 2:8**). **Gen. 39:20 ; Ps. 105:18.** One moment you have a wonderful position. The next moment you are thrown in a prison with your feet in the blocks. The life of a believer is never dull. The Bible tells us that the Lord was with Joseph and again he blossomed where he was planted. Joseph teaches me to live in my position.

Isaiah 53:12. Joseph and Jesus were both numbered with the transgressors.



The butler and the baker make me think of the Lord Jesus and the two thieves. Joseph was the right man in the right place in the right time with the right attitude. Joseph was not sitting in a corner feeling sorry for himself. **He serves! 40:4.** For a very long time, nothing happens but the Lord's wheels are turning. **40:6.** Joseph also showed interest in these men and saw that they were so sad. The butler and the baker did not protest their innocence but Joseph did (**40:15**) In that case of the transgressors, who were crucified with our innocent Lord, Matthew, Mark and Luke say that they were both robbers and criminals (**Matt. 27:38; Mark 15:27,28; Luk. 23:32**). One of them

admits that they were receiving the just rewards of their deeds. **That man was saved, the other man died. It is not Josephs fault that the baker was hung. It is also not Jesus fault!** Ask yourself: Am I saved or am I perishing? The butler and the baker both had dreams about Pharaoh and their services for him. They needed someone to interpret their dreams. Joseph says: **Do not interpretations belong to God?** He was not claiming to be God. He meant: **God is the one who interprets dreams.** Just as Joseph foretold the future, so the Lord Jesus reveals what lies ahead: **The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophesy (Rev. 19:10b).** Jesus makes it very clear to everyone where he or she will spend eternity. Heaven for all those who believe in Jesus and hell for all those who don't. Jesus was an interpreter of God the father. John made this very clear (**Joh. 1:18; 12:49,50; 15:15; 14:9**). They both give the honor to God. Joseph was in prison because of the sins of others. Jesus was on the cross for our sins. Potiphar accepted the testimony of one person. He should have listened to the words of two or three witnesses. **Matt. 18:16.** I am thankful that Jesus judges righteously (**Isaiah. 11:3**). **Not by what He sees or what He hears!** Joseph testifies about His God in a land where they worship idols. He did that to Potiphar and his wife and now also to the butler and the baker. Joseph said: Please do tell me your dream (**40:8b**). This tells me that the relationship of the Lord and Joseph was very close in prison. **40:13.** Joseph was not able to use his gift for a long time. **God made it happen. He serves only two men. Zach. 4:10. Do not despise the day of small things!** The result of the dream of the cupbearer is wonderful and terrible for the baker. Joseph must have felt a deep pain in his heart, that the cupbearer is restored and he stays behind. You do hear it in his request: **Remember Me, when it is well with you (40:14).** **Joseph tried to squeeze the arm of providence.** This request was not too much considering all that Joseph had done for him. This reminds me of the bread and the wine as symbols of His remembrance. (**Luk. 22:19; 1.Cor. 11:23**). Amazing how quickly we forget Jesus. **Ps. 22:16.** Joseph enjoyed fellowship with the sufferings of the coming Messiah. **Ps. 105:19.** How did the Word test Joseph? The Lord had promised in the dreams of the sheaves and solar system that he would be master over his brothers and parents. The chances of his ever ruling seemed impossible. It was a test of his faith in God's promises. The fact that the cupbearer forgot him was also a part of Gods plan. This has a beautiful parallel with Jesus. God promised that Jesus will have a universal dominion (**Ps. 2:8; Zach. 9:10**). His life here gave little to confirm this promise. **Joseph was three years in Prison.** God's clock is exactly on time. We learn that each day is as big as God. We have to be ready for action. Joseph was in the morning still forgotten in the prison. That evening he was shaved with new clothes in the palace. Pharaoh listened to him saying: **You are the man and** Joseph was ready to meet the new challenge and he started to serve millions. One day the Lord Jesus will return and be ready to receive the reign over this world (**Rev.11:15**). **Nothing is impossible with God.**

Chapter 6. Joseph serves wholeheartedly!

We should not get upset when people forget us. Imagine that the cupbearer had not forgotten Joseph. He might have been released and gone back home and then they had died of starvation a few years later. Be always good to the jealous brothers, to the Potiphar's and their wives and the cupbearers in your life, because they are also a vital part to fulfill God's purpose in your life. They are not against you but for you. **Ps. 105:17. Men put iron on his body but the Lord put iron in his soul.** It took time for Joseph to learn these valuable lessons. There is always a time limit! At the age of 30 Joseph graduates like the Lord Jesus. They were ready because they had taken the school of suffering serious. You can never put a man down who is in touch with the living God (**2. Cor. 4:9**). **Lam. 3:27.** It is good for a man to bear a yoke in his youth. Joseph stands tall! The next 80 years Joseph becomes the ruler. He experienced many days of small things (**Zach. 4:10a**). Let us also rejoice in the common days. He sits on a bench in the prison in the morning and on that same day on the throne. I do think of that great day when Jesus becomes the King of the Universe (**Rev. 1:7**). Pharaoh tells the two dreams to Joseph and he gives the answer straight away. **41:18-24; 28,31-33.** Joseph also gives Pharaoh good advice how to deal wisely. **41:38,39.** Remember Joseph was a Hebrew slave, who just came out of prison. Joseph found favor in the eyes of Potiphar and now also in the eyes of Pharaoh. Joseph had not spent those two years extra in prison for nothing. He learned in greater depth the ways of God. **To know Him, is most important (Fil. 3:10). 41:42.** Everything goes fast and Joseph receives a ring (The sign of authority). **45:9.** Joseph becomes the Lord of all Egypt. This foreshadows the rise of Jesus. **From the cross to the throne (Is. 9:6; Ps. 22:27; Acts 2:36; 5:31; Eph. 1:20-23).** Joseph and Pharaoh both give the honor to God (**41:38,39**). Joseph receives a new name Zaphnath-Paaneah. Josephus Flavius understood it to mean: **Savior of the world.** Joseph receives a gentile bride: Asenath. This is before the time of drought came into the world. The Lord Jesus was rejected by his own and **He received a bride from mostly Gentiles (Acts 15:14).** There is still a time of tribulation coming in the world and a famine after God's Word (**Amos.8:11**). Let us be like the wise virgins and have enough oil in our lamps (**Matt. 25:1-13**)

Chapter 7. Joseph lives in full view of the Lord.

When Joseph came to Egypt hardly anyone noticed him. Joseph lived no longer in the presence of his father and he was cut off from his past. This too makes me think of Jesus when He left His father and the Glories of Heaven. There was no place in the inn and only a remnant noticed Him. **Joseph is noticed by God and he walks in the light and he flees youthful lusts (2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Cor. 6:18).** In prison a few people noticed him, but for God he was the most important person in the world. **The shortest way to the palace was through the prison.**

In prison the Lord was with Joseph and he thought of others and helped them.

The greatest thing you can do for the Lord is to be kind to one of His children. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience but shouts to us in our pain. **Joseph's steps and Joseph stops are ordained by the Lord.** No one else can mess up your life. Only you can! Joseph came out as a Victor! **41:8,9.** The spirit of Pharaoh is restless. All the wise of the world do have no answer! There is acknowledgment of sin (The cupbearer). They call for Joseph. The time is always right for the world to call for Jesus. He is our Counselor (**Isaiah. 9:6).** **41:38.** Pharaoh recognizes and appreciates Joseph in whom is the Spirit of God. When God does something really big, that is always the work of the Holy Spirit.

Joseph marries a gentile wife called Asenath and they receive two sons. In their names we find that Joseph does let go of his past. Manasseh (To forget). His second son is called: Ephraim (Double fruitfulness). His bride is glorious and bears him fruit (**Eph. 5:27; Joh. 15:16).** **Asenath is the fullness of Joseph. Eph. 1:23.** He starts as a slave but ends as a ruler. God is not in a hurry to build character! **Joseph tells the whole truth to Pharaoh.** Jesus is the personification of truth. Joseph tells good and bad news. The two dreams means that this will surely happen. The dreams were in line with the gods of Egypt (The Nile, the cows, the wheat) **45:8.** The wonderful unity between Pharaoh and Joseph reminds me of Jesus and His Father. **Because of Pharaoh everything, becomes subject to Joseph.** Joseph became the face of Pharaoh there. Jesus became the face of God here. **41:49.** Joseph took care of everything and nothing got lost. That's why he could buy their money, possessions and bodies for the food to live (**47:13-20; 41:55**). Pharaoh always spoke about Joseph and said. Go, to Joseph and do what he says! It was not hard, but good. 47:20,23-25,21. Joseph did not put burdens on them but they became Pharaoh's servants. Joseph gave everything to Pharaoh. **Jesus gave everything to his Father so that God may be all in all (1.Kor.15:28).**



Joseph lived in the wonderful presence of God, without a Bible and fellowship. The word impossible does not exist, when we surrender everything to God.

. **Every day is as big as the Lord God.**

Chapter 8. The Lord brings the past to the surface.

The famine also affected Israel and the family of Jacob started to be in need! Many people went to Egypt for food and the initiative came from Jacob to go. Years before Jacob sent Joseph to his brothers. Now Jacob sends his brothers to Joseph. Of course Jacob does not know this yet, but we can see God's hand. Hunger drove those brothers to Egypt. Hunger drove the lost Son to his father. "Time does not solve all your problems, but time is often your best friend." The mentioning of Egypt brought back memories of Joseph with the brothers. **42:2.** The subject of the conversation of the brothers going to Egypt is "food". It is a matter of life and death. We all need Jesus: The living bread (**1 Joh. 5:12**). **42:3.** There was only one place to get food. **Only there where Joseph rules!** For them it was Egypt. For us it is the cross. We all have to walk that direction! **42:5,6.** The brothers travelled with many other Jews, but finally they stood alone in front of Joseph. Joseph recognized them but they did not recognize him at all.

Isaiah 57:15. The brothers looked for bread, but that involves broken hearts.

42:9. All the brothers bowed down and Joseph remembered his two dreams.

42:9,12,14. Joseph accused them three times. He was hard and tested them! **Those brothers were on their way to hell and they needed to see their sin(s).**

44:16. They were cruel people and their minds were hardened (**2 Cor. 3:14,15**).

Amos 6:6. Woe to those who are not grieved, for all the afflictions of Joseph. **42:13.**

Remarkable that they speak of **12 brothers**. They had not forgotten him. **2:17;21.** In prison we hear another conversation. They do not speak about bread, but about Joseph. **Our conscience has a way of digging up that past.** They were all confronted with the sufferings of their half brother Joseph. The brothers knew about the suffering of Joseph. They heard his plea and saw his tears. This had not touched them until now.

Does the cross of Jesus move you? Those brothers did not know that they would be released. Joseph let them feel the awareness of hopelessness and being accused falsely and treated wrongly. **42:18.** The testimony of Joseph is wonderful and he chooses life in abundance! Joseph acted in the power of the Holy Spirit and was able to control his feelings

42:24. Joseph acted in public tough, but in private. He wept and was tender. 42: 24;

34:25. Joseph put Simeon in prison. Simeon initiated the murder on those men in Sichem. It is an act of grace to be alone and come to your senses. **42:28,29.** The brothers mention "God" for the first time. Through the tests of Joseph grows an awareness of sin. **The first test is a success: They have a conscience!** Here is the fruit because, they also become honest to their father. **From Joseph's throne in far Egypt all the brothers and even Jacob was judged.** Jacob was holding on to Rachel, Joseph and to Benjamin. **He had to let go of it.** The eagle cannot let go of his prey and drowns. **We all can let go of everything!**

Chapter 9. Joseph longs for true fellowship

42:37. The tension back home grew when father Jacob heard that the ruler of Egypt wanted to see Benjamin. Joseph knew exactly what he had requested. **The words of Ruben had no effect.** I do not think that he discussed his offer with his wife to sacrifice their sons. That offer did not have an effect on Jacob. **Footnote:** I feel compelled to share about Joseph who recognized his brothers but they did not recognize Him. The problem is much deeper because they all carried hidden sins. Joseph wanted to bring this to the surface and come to a real inner recognition and fellowship with each other. Without holiness no one will see the Lord (**Hebr. 12:14**): Blessed are the pure in heart because they will see God. The brothers are precious to Joseph and he wants to see them freed. His longing. **Ps. 133:1.** Behold how good and how pleasant it is to dwell in unity. **He gives them three tests: Their conscience, jealousy and love for each other. 43:1** One meeting with Joseph is not enough. We are all called for fellowship. Jacob wanted Benjamin and Jacob wanted Bread. This does not bring a solution Jacob is between a rock and a hard place. If he chooses Benjamin then they will die (Benjamin too). If he chooses to eat bread, he has to let go of Benjamin.

Chapter 43 starts with a great need and it ends with a great abundance!

We saw that Judah was a type of Israel. Here he is also a type of Jesus as the Mediator. Judah is the **only person** who is able to change the heart of Jacob. **43:3-15.** The heart of the message is that they can only receive bread when they obey the requests of that harsh ruler in Egypt. Judah solves the problem! **43:9.** For a moment Joseph is the shadow type of God the father. **Judah says:** I shall stand in the gap for Benjamin. I shall take the responsibility of Benjamin! Because of these words Jacob gave in. The road to Joseph is now open again! Later John had a vision of a scroll with the title deed of this world. **No one** was found worthy to open the scroll. All of a sudden **the lion of Judah** steps forward

Rev. 5:5. He is also **the Lamb that is slain. Only He is worthy to open the scroll!**

Only **one man** is able to open ways again that led you to a dead end (**YESHUA**). **Gen 49:10; Hebr. 7:14.** It is true that Jesus is a descendant of the tribe of Judah. Very often the word: **House of Joseph** is used in this chapter. Jesus says in my **Father's house** are

many mansions (**Joh. 14:3**). A type of our Heavenly home. **43:11,25.** The important thing to the brothers were their gifts. Joseph's heart goes out to people not to things. He says: Is your father well? Is he still alive? **Joseph was not interested in the gift but in the Giver.** The



brothers wondered how this Ruler knew exactly who was the oldest and who was the youngest. **The second test came.** He gave Benjamin five times as much. The brothers are not jealous but enjoy the meal and the wine. Joseph is weeping increasingly **(42:24;43:30;45:2;46:29)**. As time goes on and this world becomes a darker place. We should also become more homesick for Jesus **(Rev. 22:20b)**.

Chapter 10. Joseph's house makes me think of Heaven

43:16: Joseph was a man who was filled with the Spirit of God. He did not walk around boasting about that, but others noticed that. A fruit of the Holy Spirit is self-control (**Gal. 5:22,23**). We can clearly see that when Joseph saw Benjamin. His heart was overwhelmed with joy and he expresses that with a festive meal. **43:18:** The brothers are afraid when they are led to Joseph's house. They felt guilty because they had not paid for the corn. Their father had given them all the money plus presents (**43:11**). They did not understand that the bread was free (**Is. 55:1,2**). Joseph makes us think of Jesus. He brought Grace (**Joh. 1:17**). **The steward to Joseph** who stood at the entrance of the door to the house of Joseph was easy to approach for the brothers. He spoke peace to them and told them that someone else had paid for the grain (**43:23**). He spoke in the Spirit of Joseph and also spoke about God and the God of their father. He gave evidence of the goodwill of Joseph by bringing Simeon in good health to them. **Joseph's house is a signpost of our heavenly home.** It was the initiative of Joseph to bring the brothers to his house. This tells me how homesick the Lord Jesus is to have us with Him in His House. We can only enter because someone else paid for us. There is no place for fear. Benjamin watched his brothers who were so busy with their gifts and they explained everything in a negative way. **Footnote:** When Judah spoke that he would stand for Benjamin, Jacob gave in. Jacob was sure that they would take presents (**43:8-12**). Jacob was honest with the giving back of all the money. He spoke so differently now than when he gave the gifts to Esau (**32:20**). Now he says: **God Almighty** grant you compassion in the sight of the man. Jacob learned to entrust himself to the mercies of the Almighty. He had to let go of everything! The Almighty was everything to him. The brothers went with the same gifts that the Ishmaelites had (**37:25; 43:11**). ...The adding of **a little honey** is very important in our dealings with people... **44:3: The next day** they left peacefully. The atmosphere was different now compared to when they came. The peace was because of different circumstances. This soon changed into great fear. All of a sudden they were overtaken by that steward of the house. Now he spoke harshly and said: You have repaid evil for good. They were accused of stealing the cup of the man. He softened his verdict by telling them that only the one where the cup was found had to die. The cup was found in the sack of Benjamin. The cup was closest to that man. Joseph was so close to his father. He was stolen from him. The others could all have travelled home. They succeed the last test. **The test of love**, because they all return to the man. They all fall down and Judah gave one of the most moving and emotional speeches in the whole of the Bible. He says: **We have nothing to say** (**44:16; Rom. 3:19**). This was the moment that Joseph (Jesus) waited for so long. Now he reveals Himself. **This day is coming!**

Chapter 11. Joseph sees the good hand of the Lord.

Joseph was convinced that his brothers have a conscience. They are not jealous and they love one another so much. Judah who initiated selling Joseph years ago was also changed. He pleads now with Joseph as the mediator. He cannot see the grief in the eyes of his father any longer. All those years the Lord was with Joseph but not with his brothers. Jesus explained that His presence would also bring division (**Luk. 12:51**). This division was finally over. Until that moment the brothers had knock after knock to come to this full surrender (**Amos 5:19**). This was the first time that Joseph could finally reveal himself to his brothers. Now they could enjoy his fellowship. Joseph and Jesus enjoyed this fellowship with their Father's. This unity was His only prayer for His disciples in the upper room (**Joh. 17:21; 1 Cor. 1:9**) Our calling is also to live in this sweet fellowship. Joseph had held himself for so long. His love might have come over as hard and his wisdom might be misunderstood, but Joseph led them to full repentance. Now he allows all his love to flow freely over to them. Jesus longs more for us! **43:27; 45:2**. **Then** Joseph said to his brothers, I am Joseph does my father live? His heart had constantly gone out to his father and he always asks after him. **37:18; 50:1**. Joseph made himself known to his Jewish brothers. This is also a picture of his first and second coming. The first time they did not recognize him **Zach. 12:10**. The day comes when He return in Glory. They will recognize Him: The Scripture says this clearly : **They will look on Me whom they have pierced. 45:2**. Joseph wept so loudly that all the Egyptians heard him. Joseph asked his brothers to come closer. Straight away they find comfort (**Joh. 14:26**). It was easy for Joseph to forgive, because he realized that it was God who sent him. **Ps. 105:17-19**. David reveals that The Lord sent Joseph ahead of his brothers. **42:5,7-15**. Joseph said: **God sent me**. Without any Bible in his hand and without any fellowship. Joseph lived with (**Rom. 8:28**). All things work together for good

to those who love God and who are called according to His purpose. It was not you who sent me here, but God. **That's why it was easy for Joseph to forgive!** David has exactly that same heart when Shimei cursed him (**2. Sam. 16:10,12**) We should never allow people who hurt us, to enter negatively in our hearts! Joseph and also David did not fight with God when painful things happened to them. Jesus said to His disciples. The cup that the Father has given to me. Shall I not drink it? He did not say: The evil that Judas has done to me (**John. 18:11**). Joseph said: **He made me a father to Pharaoh**. What a wonderful work had the Lord done in his heart. God who gave Joseph this position used it to comfort and serve others. Joseph did not want to enjoy anything without his father and his half brothers. That is the Spirit of the Lord Jesus and so opposite of Adam. He was rich, but made Himself poor to make us all as rich as Jesus (**2 Cor. 8:9**).

Chapter 12. Joseph (Jesus) always gives us the best!

Joseph's dreams came out. It is so wonderful to believe all God's promises! When I was young I often heard: **Yes, but...** That is the language of the devil. The devil always tries to put doubts of God's goodness in your mind (**Gen. 3:1**). My life was drastically changed when I accepted God's promises by faith and answered in my heart with the following words: "**Yes and Amen**" (**2 Cor. 1:20**). We read something special. The brothers speak to their brother Joseph. (**37:4**). This is the first time for Joseph and his half brothers. I can testify after many years of sharing the Lord Jesus with the Jewish people that most of them do not have a kind word to say about Him. They even changed His name from Yeshua to Yeshu which means: **That His name be blotted out of our memories. 45:19. Now you are ordered:** Joseph reveals His Authority and love to them. The half brothers must have felt so ashamed when they realize the way that they had treated Joseph. They have to forgive themselves. This is important because: **Happy is the man, who does not condemn himself (Rom. 14:22b).** **Footnote:** The believers in Babylon were four men. In Egypt was one faithful man. **Let us never impress people with numbers.** God needed one faithful and humble man who accomplished much for God. Joseph says: **God has sent me** and has given me this position to influence people for God. He has sent me to preserve a remnant on the earth and keep you alive by a great deliverance. Man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks to the heart (**1 Sam. 16:7**). Through the faithfulness of Joseph others were so blessed. Pharaoh was in total harmony with Joseph and he gives him his wagons. It was not the testimony of the brothers, but for Jacob to see those wagons changed his heart (**45:27**). **45:20-25.** The instructions are clear not to cling to the past (**Phil. 3:13**). Joseph was going to give them the very best of Egypt. Joseph wanted to give the best to those who when they had the power over him gave him the worst. 43:11. The brothers thought that they had brought precious gifts of the best they had. A little bit of balm a little bit of honey. Now they realize that this has little value Pharaoh had told them The best of the Land is for you. We can enjoy that sweet fellowship of Jesus and look forward to the Glories of Heaven. Corrie ten Boom said: The best is yet to come. **We have His pledge (Eph. 1:14).** Joseph promised them the best of the Land to live in the future. He had also given them wagons for the journey (The Lord Jesus carries us) Food (The Lord Jesus sustains for us) New clothes (The Lord Jesus must be seen in us: **Gal. 3:27**)

45:24. The brothers were sent back to their father. Their lie would come out that they had deceived their father for years. Joseph says: **Do not quarrel on the journey.** Joseph knew their hearts. **Let us not be people who quarrel.** The attention of Jacob went to the Egyptian wagons and that changed his heart.

Chapter 13. The wonderful reunion of the family.

Good news at last for the whole family of Jacob. That news came from Joseph who is alive. Jesus is alive. That is what the disciples proclaimed (**Acts 2:24**). The news that Joseph was alive put the brothers in an embarrassing position. Their lie would be revealed now. How could they explain his existence without condemning themselves for their sinfulness? The empty tomb also gave the religious people a problem. They bribed the guards (**Matt. 28:12,13**). Some Jewish people realize that they have been lied to for centuries about Jesus. **Where there is true conversion there is no resistance of being exposed!** True confession does not hide or excuse sin. It longs to make a clean break with the past and marvels at the Grace that can forgive such a weight of sin. You can see that in the reaction of Judah (**44:16**). He does not defend himself but confesses. **Job 33:27,28. I have sinned and perverted what was right. It did not profit me.** He will redeem his soul from going down to the pit. His life shall see the light. **45:26**. The first words of the brothers to their father was: **Joseph is alive!** Jacob's heart is revived. He wasted many years in unbelief and even thought that everything was against him. He confesses that later to Pharaoh (**47:9**). Jacob walks in the light again and leaves immediately. Jacob makes time for God in Beersheba and God spoke back to him. **Jacob was confirmed to go!** The important thing is: **"I shall go with you"**.

Jacob walks very carefully because Abraham got into problems in Egypt. Father Isaac was told not to go (**26:2**). What shall I do? God said: **Go!** We all need personal contact with God. Jacob even hears that Joseph would **close his eyes**. Jacob sends Judah as a guiding scout. Now Joseph is the one who is waiting. After a long time Judah arrives. **46:28**: Good old Judah. What a change



Joseph had seen in this brother. How he had pleaded for his brother Benjamin and for his father Jacob. Judah became so precious to Jacob and to Joseph. Judah tells Joseph that his father is on his way. Not long afterwards Father and Son are united and they weep for a long time. Jacob said: **I am ready to die now!** Those words were later also said by Simon when he held Jesus in his arms (**Luk. 2:29-32**). The Mighty one of Jacob had carried Joseph until today and would carry him for more 70 years (**47:28**). Joseph worked out a strategy to secure Goshen as a property for His family. He told Pharaoh that his father and family had arrived. He was very careful to mention that they were **Shepherds**. Shepherds were an abomination to the Egyptians. The Lord Jesus is our oldest brother and He is not ashamed of us **46:34**. This is important because the Egyptians had no dealings with shepherds. Now we understand why the family of Jacob had to go to Egypt. In Egypt they were left by themselves. Their girls would not be raped in Egypt (**34:2**). **There** they had the time to grow from a family into a

powerful nation (**Exodus 1:9**). **A home is not where but a home is when!** The family was totally united in harmony in Egypt!

Chapter 14. Joseph reigns with integrity of heart.

46:8-27. Here we find a long list of names. **Not one of them is forgotten.** In the Second World War the Jewish people received a number. The Lord knows us by name. The book Exodus is called **Names** in Hebrew. Jacob's house needs to be complete. The Lord knows us by **Name**. His eye is on all of us as individuals. **Nah. 1:7.** The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble. He knows those by name who trust in Him. The Lord knows all the stars by name (**Ps. 147:3,4**). All those who left Canaan arrived safely in Egypt. We have so much reason to rejoice, when we know that our Names are written in heaven (**Luk. 10:20**). The Lord has not promised us an easy journey but a safe arrival. He who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. **66** people left Canaan (**46:27**). Joseph and his wife have **2** sons. That brings us to **70** people. **7** is the number of completeness. **6** is the number of man. Incomplete and weak. **With Jesus in us we are in His eyes righteous, perfect and complete (Col. 2:10)** Joseph came with his own wife (**Acts.15:14**). A picture of Jesus and the church. Jacob came with his own sons **after** they repented. Repented Israel and the church meet one day and they will weep. What a day of reunion that will be! **Footnote:** Jacob lived in the light and the will of the Mighty one of Jacob. When the Lord spoke to him he said "**Hineni**" (**Here I am totally available**). So, was the walk of Abraham also. Sometimes the Lord did not speak for a long time to Abraham, but when the Lord



spoke. Abraham was available and said "**Hineni**". Joseph prepared a place for them. Jesus is preparing a place for us (**Joh. 14:3**). I was once at a memorial service of a faithful brother. They used **Luke 1:23**: As soon as the days of his service were completed, he departed to his own house. **47:7 This brings us to this impressive meeting between Pharaoh and Jacob!** Joseph introduces his father to Pharaoh. What a beautiful moment. An old man leaning on his staff, blessing the most powerful man in the world. In the measurements of God the

believers in Jesus have a higher position (**Hebr. 7:7**). It saddens me that Jacob complains about his past and does not give him the promise that the Lord had given to his grandfather. He should have told him also that the Lord foretold this moment, when he had no children (**Gen. 15:13**). **Ex. 20:12.** A man who honors his father and his mother lives with a promise! **47:11; Num. 23:9.** The nation lived in separation. We are in the world but not from this world (**Joh. 17:4**). We are from the coming new world (**Rev. 21:6**). **47:13-22.** There was no food and finally the people sold themselves as slaves. The people had to give up everything to gain a life and a future (**Rom. 12:2**). **Joseph was free of corruption. Joseph gave everything to Pharaoh.** He did not take advantage to gain anything for himself. This is another picture of the Lord Jesus who will give everything to His Father. God may be all in all (**1 Cor.15:28**) Let us follow in this.

Chapter 15. The Hebrew families enjoy a fruitful life.

47:27- 29. Under the protection of Joseph they lived 12 years after the famine joyfully with their families. The brothers did not speak of going back to Canaan **48:1. The life of Jacob is coming to an end now.** He confesses to Pharaoh that his days were few and evil (**47:9**). I have a very warm heart for Jacob. I see the Grace of God as a rainbow over his life. The Lord's dealing with Jacob is tough and tender. **Jacob ends his pilgrimage here leaning on his staff and worshipping Hebr. 11:21.** His walk with the Lord had never been so good as after he limped. At the end his eyes like his father's were weak but his Spiritual eyes were clear. **Isaac's** eyes were also weak but his spiritual eyes too. He only thought of food. Joseph knew that his father did not have long to live so he brought his sons to him. Joseph knew that his father had blessed him when he left his home (**28:3**). Joseph also saw how his father blessed Pharaoh. It is important to Joseph that Jacob blesses both his sons (**48:5**). He rejoices when he hears his father say: **Your sons are mine.** They did not have a Jewish mother, but were accepted. **Jacob accepted the sons of Joseph as his own two sons, not as his grandsons.48:10.** Joseph must have felt joy when his father kissed and embraced them. **48:12.** Out of gratitude Joseph bows down. I think he bows down for both his Fathers. His earthly and his heavenly father (**48:14**). Jacob **crosses** his hands on the heads of Joseph's sons. Joseph thinks that Jacob makes a mistake but not so. Isaac had nothing to prophesy (A comfortable life) but Jacob went through a tough Bible school conducted by God. His prophetic words were very brief. He was a broken man and everyone could see him limping. Jacob did not want to be buried in Egypt but be brought back to his family in the Promised Land. After the blessings, he drew his feet and died (**49:33**). There is no partiality with God. We too can live such a blessed life, but we have to be honest and broken. **Footnote:** Joseph did not yet have the discernment about his sons as his father. Jacob answered: **I know my Son. This is the only wrong reaction of Joseph. The ten tribes were called Ephraim.** Manasseh stayed on the other side of the Jordan. Jacob was very right. Jacob blesses his sons and most of them receive a blessing, but Simeon and Levi receive a curse. Later Levi repents and receives the Lord as his inheritance (**Ex. 32:26; Jos.13:14**) Some receive more than the others. Rubens blessing goes to Joseph, because he slept with his father's wife. The blessing of Judah is the Kingly line (**49:10**) leading up to the King of Judah **49:22-24** Joseph's life was a tree full of good fruit which went over the wall. His tree is close to the well (**Ps.1:3**). A fountain of life and full of fruit (**Ps. 36:10; Jer. 17:7,8**). He was shot at with many arrows. High trees catch much wind. Their biggest blessing is like with his father that God led them like a Shepherd. **Deut. 29:29. It is so good to remember that the secret things belong to God.**

Chapter 16. The final chapter, is not yet written.

50:1-14 Jacob was buried in Canaan and Pharaoh supported their decision. Joseph was not ashamed to go to Pharaoh and tell him that his home is not in Egypt but in Canaan. Joseph's bones were brought there later too (**Jos. 24:32**). **Finally we come to one more very painful moment after the burial of Jacob. 50:15 Joseph's brothers suffer from a guilty conscience deep in their heart. Prov. 27:19** As in water face reflects face. So a man's heart reveals the man. **A bad conscience brings fears.** The brothers came again with a strange story! **50:17** This reveals their hearts. They had not fully received Joseph's forgiveness Joseph is so far from those thoughts and did not have revenge in his heart at all. They made Joseph **weep**. How can you think such evil thoughts about me? **50:19.** Joseph said something very beautiful. **Am I in God's place?** When I take revenge: **I take God's place. Deut. 32:25. Vengeance is mine.** Joseph knew that before Moses wrote this. Joseph has the Spirit of God. **Vengeance is the spirit of Satan.** Vengeance is always God's business. Joseph said: I shall never Lord over people. We need to say the same. There is a tremendous lust in our flesh to lord over other people. There is also a lust in us to revenge ourselves. With the Spirit of God you can see the God of the Spirit in your life (**Rom. 8:28**). **50:21.** Joseph did not remind them again of their past. He told them again that he would provide for them and for their children. **No accusations but comfort!** Jesus calls us all to press on and not to look back. Let us not make Jesus weep! When Jacob blessed Joseph he called him the Stone and the Shepherd of Israel. This is what Joseph was to them. He was their stone. He stood as a rock during the famine. Their story is actually Joseph's story (**37:2**). Joseph is also the shepherd He thought about their children and the children of the Egyptians (**47:24**). Jesus is the cornerstone and the Good Shepherd forever (Mark 10:16) **50:26. Joseph died before his older brothers and was laid in a coffin in Egypt. The life of Joseph ended in a grave in Egypt. History which is His Story goes on. Our faith start with an empty grave. We are witnesses of His resurrection!**

What a difference with the beginning of **Genesis 1:1**. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. God says before sin came: The morning stars sang together and all the Sons of God shouted for joy (**Job 38:7**). Genesis closes so dramatically. This is because sin came into this world and sin brought forth death. Sin went on to all men (**Rom. 5:12**). **When Joseph was dying he foretold their exile by asking his brothers that their descendants should take his bones back to the promised Land. That promise was kept (Jos. 24:32). Heb. 11:22,23; Gen.15:13.** The parents of Moses had **no fear of Pharaoh** when they married and started a family. They lived with the promise and the bones. 1. Pet. 1:3. We have a long hope because of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. **Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16.** This is written for our instruction and for our comfort. The deliverance starts with two midwives who chose life and are rewarded with families. **This teaches us that we do not need to live by fear but by faith. Moses was the only Jew who never was a slave and a type of the Lord Jesus. He also had to learn the exchanged life. This happened at the age of eighty.**

Ex. 3:3,4. Any old bush will do as long as God is in the bush.

Moses brought them out of Egypt and Joshua brought them into the Land. Joshua means God Saves and that is the same meaning of the name Yeshua who alone can bring us into a Life of abundance. A characteristic of Israël is that they always reject their leaders the first time but accept them the second time.

Precious Lessons that we can learn from the history of Israël for our own lives

- (1). Sometimes the best people are the least appreciated.
- (2). Bad things can also happen to good people.
- (3). Man has his wickedness, but God has His ways.
- (4). You always reap what you sow (Gal. 6:7).
- (5). God honors those who honor Him (1 Sam. 2:30).
- (6). We are tempted, but not beyond what we can bear (1.Cor.10:13).
- (7). We might lose a coat but we shall gain a crown.
- (8). We cannot always trace His hand but we can trust His heart.
- (9). A life time of training gives us an eternity of reigning.
- (10). Joseph speaks: They ment it for evil, but God ment if for good!

With joy do I invest studying the Bible. The Bible is “**God breathed**” and trains us and builds us up (2 Tim. 3:16,17). When I started to read the Bible years ago **I did and do not read the Bible to teach others but it was and is for myself**. I have a much better understanding of right and wrong! Through the acceptance of the written and the living Word in my life I have and am learning how to live. I do not know what the future holds, but I do know who holds the future. It is the most beautiful life and the best is yet to come. Follow me as I follow Christ!