

## **Dreamer: The Life of Joseph** **A Study in Genesis 37-50**

Israel in Egypt  
Genesis 47:1-31  
August 22, 2021

“...Do not bury me in Egypt, but let me lie with my fathers.  
Carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place.”  
- Genesis 47:29-30

### **I. LET ME REST WITH MY FATHERS**

- Jacob realizes, as does Joseph, that Egypt is only a temporary home. The people of Israel belong in the Promised Land (Gen. 47:29-31, 50:24).
- Joseph’s promise is all Jacob needs to hear. He is now ready to die, and his heart is prone to worship (Gen. 47:31).

### **II. SHREWD YET WISE ADMINISTRATION**

- While maintaining his honesty, Joseph managed to place his family in the most fertile land in Egypt (Gen. 46:31-47:6).
- Joseph made his master (Pharaoh) wealthy while providing for the people of Egypt.
- Although the people were reduced to serfdom, they were provided for and taxed a relatively meager 20% (Gen. 47:23-26).
- God’s promise to Joseph is fulfilled abundantly. He has risen to great heights of power and wisdom (Psalm 105:16-22).

### **III. MAKING THE MOST OF WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US**

- We must understand that God makes us what we are, and puts us where he wants (Acts 17:24-28; Rom. 9:21; 1 Cor. 7:20-21).
- Whatever we do, we must do for the glory of God. Which means we do our best (1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17, 23).
- Our goal should not be great things for ourselves, but to live in conformity to the will of God. Sometimes that means contentment, sometimes that means we will be stretched (Jer. 45; 1 Thess. 4:10-12; Ex. 3-4; Jer. 1:4-10; Acts 9:15-16).
- Be willing. Be available. Work hard. Obtain and utilize wisdom, and follow God’s commands.

**KNOW:** We all have work to do in life. We are called to do it, inasmuch as it honors the Lord, to the best of our ability. Joseph’s role was to protect God’s seed (Gen. 3:15). He did that by using God’s gifts to him to their utmost.

**DO:** What you have been given to do, do well.

#### **Suggested Reading:**

*You Are What You Love* by James K.A. Smith (LifePoint Library #248.4 SMI)

#### **Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families**

##### **Please Read Genesis 47:1-31**

1. Summarize this chapter. What does it tell us about Joseph? Jacob?
2. From where do we acquire wisdom?
3. Is it okay to be “shrewd?” How do we distinguish it from dishonesty or cheating?
4. How do we “reach our potential” as Christ followers?
5. Does God want us to work hard? How hard?
6. Jacob will live the rest of his life in Egypt. Why does he want his bones in Canaan? What was he hoping for?
7. What application points from this text/message do you draw for your own life?