Genesis

Bible Study

Part 2

Made for Gardendale church of Christ 2022

College Class Q1 2022 (Ch. 25-50)

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Genesis 25

Jacob and Esau

- 1. How many children did Abraham have with Keturah?
- 2. Who received all of Abraham's possessions?
- 3. What does Abraham command Keturah's children to do? Why?
- 4. Who buried Abraham?
- 5. How many sons did Ishmael have?
- 6. Where did they live?
- Rebekah was barren, but the Lord intervened. Being that this was the same situation that Sarah was in, is there a message here? Can you carry this theme all the way to Mary? (Remember that the promise was that through Eve the serpent would be destroyed.)
- 8. What was Rebekah fearful of while pregnant? What did she do about it?
- 9. What did the Lord tell her?
- 10. What was special about Esau and Jacob's birth?

- 11. Research Question: How old was Abraham when Esau and Jacob were born? (21:5, 25:7, 25:26)
- 12. What was different about Esau and Jacob when they grew up?
- 13. What did Jacob want in exchange for his stew, when Esau asked for it?
- 14. What was Esau's reasoning behind selling his birthright?

[There is more to this story that we learn in Hebrews. Esau regretted selling his birthright later. We will see him beg for it in chapter 27. The writer of Hebrews also suggests that Esau was drowning in his sin at the time. Perhaps he was caught up in fornication. (Heb. 12:16-17)]

15. Optional Research Question: Why was Esau's name changed to Edom?

Genesis 26

Isaac Goes to the Philistines

- 1. Where was Isaac headed during this famine?
- 2. Why does he stop in the land of the Philistines?
- 3. Why is Isaac going to inherit these blessings?
- 4. What did Isaac do to protect himself while in Gerar?
- 5. How did Abimelech figure out this was a lie?
- 6. Why do you think Abimelech rebuked Isaac so harshly?
- 7. What did the Lord do for Isaac while living in Gerar?
- 8. Why did the Philistines stop up the wells that Abraham had dug?
- 9. The Philistines quarreled over every well that Isaac dug up again. Finally, at Rehoboth, Isaac did not have to defend his well. What did Isaac acknowledge about the situation?

- 10. When Abimelech came to Isaac in Beersheba, why was Isaac confused by the visit?
- 11. What did Abimelech want from Isaac?
- 12. Thought Question: Why would Abimelech put so much effort into making a covenant with Isaac?
- Research Question: What is significant about the city Beersheba? (Judg. 20:1, 1 Kings 4:25, 1 Chron. 21:2)
- 14. Who did Esau marry? Is there a difference between these two women and the two women that Jacob would marry?
- 15. What was the grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah? Why?
- 16. In which verse(s) is the Holy Spirit making application for the Israelite/Christian audience?

Genesis 27:1-36

The Stolen Blessing: Part I

- 1. What did Isaac request of Esau?
- 2. What was the purpose of Isaac's request?
- 3. When Rebekah overheard, what did she instruct Jacob to do?
- 4. What was Jacob concerned about in the deception?
- 5. Why was Isaac identifying his sons by their arms? (v.1)
- 6. What did Jacob fear if his father discovered his deception?
- 7. How did Rebekah reassure him?
- 8. Did Rebekah already know that Jacob would receive the blessing over Esau? (Gen. 25:23)
- 9. Does Abraham's family have a history of trying to force God promises to happen on their own personal time-table? If so, who?
- 10. Have we already seen the patriarchs have power to curse their children? If so, where?
- 11. What all did Rebekah do to disguise Jacob as Esa?
- 12. What was the first clue of Jacob's deception that Isaac uncovered? (v.20)

- 13. How did Jacob answer Isaac's question?
- 14. What was the second clue of Jacob's deception that Isaac uncovered? (v.22)
- 15. What were the things that calmed Isaac's suspicion that this was actually Jacob?
- 16. Jacob blatantly lied to Isaac about his identity in v. 24. Jacob's family had a history of lying. Can you name a few instances of lying that we have covered so far?
- 17. What stands out to you as being important in Isaac's blessing for Jacob? How does it relate to the original audience of Genesis?
- 18. How quickly did Esau discover that Isaac had blessed Jacob?
- 19. What did Esau beg of his father?
- 20. What did Esau accuse Jacob of? How does that fit Jacob's name? (Gen. 25:26)

Genesis 27:37-28:22

The Stolen Blessing: Part II

- 1. What did Esau ask Isaac in v.38?
- 2. What are some key differences you notice between Esau's blessing and Jacob's?
- 3. Research Question: The last part of the blessing promises eventual freedom from Jacob's descendants? When does that happen for Esau's descendants?
- 4. So far, we have seen several blessings and curses from the fathers (patriarchs). What can we infer about these blessings, especially after reading this account?
- 5. What did Esau plan to do after receiving his father's blessing?
- 6. What instructions did Rebekah give to Jacob?
- 7. What was Rebekah fearful of happening that same day?
- 8. As Jacob prepared to leave, what did Isaac and Rebekah speak about?
- 9. Why would they be so concerned about this? (26:34-35)

- 10. What did Isaac command Jacob to do while staying with Laban?
- 11. Can you summarize Isaac's second blessing to Jacob in just a sentence or two? How did this blessing prepare Jacob for what was about to happen next? (You can come back to this question after finishing the chapter.)
- 13. After hearing about Isaac's charge to Jacob, how did Esau try to win the approval of his father?
- 14. What did Jacob see in his dream while traveling to Laban's home?
- 15. Excluding verse 15, what promises did the Lord make to Jacob?
- 16. Now looking at verse 15, how does God's promise display His grace towards Jacob, especially in his current situation? (Gen. 35:3)
- 17. What did Jacob call the place? What did he do there?
- 18. What two promises did Jacob make to God?
- 19. Research Question: Who is the ladder that Jacob saw? Who is the ladder that connects Heaven to humanity? (John 1:51)

Genesis 29

Leah and Rachel

- 1. Briefly explain the setting and situation about the well. It will help to read verses 1-12 out of the NIV to understand what Jacob's intentions were.
- 2. When Jacob asked the men about Laban, what did they do?
- 3. Explain why Jacob asked the shepherds to water their sheep now, even though it was not time to water the cattle.
- 4. Why did the men refuse Jacob's request?
- 5. What was Rachel's profession?
- 6. What did Jacob do for Rachel?
- 7. After staying with Laban for a month, what did Laban ask Jacob?
- 8. What was Jacob's answer?
- 9. How are Leah and Rachel described?
- 10. How long did Jacob serve Laban for Rachel? How long did it feel to him?
- 11. Originally, how long was Jacob supposed to stay with Laban? (Gen. 27:44) What did Jacob tell Laban after the seven years were completed?

- 13. What did Jacob discover that morning?
- 14. Who was given to Leah as a maid?
- 15. When Jacob questioned why he had been given Leah instead of Rachel, what was Laban's excuse?
- 16. When did Laban give Rachel to Jacob to be his wife?
- 17. What did Jacob have to do for her?
- 18. Who was Rachel's maid?
- 19. Who was God concerned for? What did He do for her?
- 20. What did Leah say after having her first son, Reuben?
- 21. What did Leah say after having her second son, Simeon?
- 22. What did Leah say after having her third son, Levi?
- 23. What did Leah say after having her fourth son, Judah?

Genesis 30

Jacob's Children

- 1. What did Jacob tell Rachel when she became jealous of Leah?
- 2. What was Rachel's solution?
- 3. What did Rachel name and say about Bilhah's son?
- 4. What did Rachel name and say about Bilhah's second son?
- 5. What did Leah name and say about Zilpah's son?
- 6. What did Leah name and say about Zilpah's second son?
- 7. What did Leah use to bargain with Rachel for time with Jacob?
- 8. Does the Bible show polygamy as a functional family system?
- 9. What did Leah name Jacob's fifth son and sixth son?
- 10. What did Leah name their daughter?

11. God remembered Rachel and gave her a son. What did she name and say about this son?

12. Why did Laban want Jacob to stay?

13. What did Jacob and Laban agree upon for Jacob's wages?

14. Why did Jacob want the speckled goats and lambs? (v.33)

15. When Laban left, how did Jacob create a strong speckled flock for himself?

16. In the end, Jacob had become "exceedingly prosperous." Why did Jacob's plan work? (Hint: Genesis 30 is not teaching us about genetics, it is teaching us something about God.)

Lesson 7 Genesis 31

Jacob Flees from Laban

- 1. What two reasons caused Jacob to flee at that moment?
- 2. Who did Jacob credit for making him so wealthy from Laban's livestock?
- 3. Jacob told Leah and Rachel about is most recent dream. What reasons did God give for helping Jacob acquire so much livestock?
- 4. What were Rachel and Leah concerned about before fleeing?
- 5. How did they reason that concern was no longer an issue?
- 6. What was Jacob doing while Laban was shearing his sheep? What was Rachel doing?
- 7. How long did Laban pursue Jacob? What did God warn Laban of as he caught up?
- 8. Can you summarize what accusations Laban made to Jacob?
- 9. How did Jacob appease Laban's fury?
- 10. How did Rachel hide the idols from Laban?

- 11. Can you summarize Jacob's rebuke to Laban?
- 12. Who did Jacob credit for his protection from Laban for the past 20 years?
- 13. What did Laban suggest doing as a path to reconciliation?
- 14. Who was going to be the mediator and the enforcer of this covenant? (v.49-50)
- 15. What was the purpose of the pillar and the heap?
- 16. What did Jacob do on the mountain?
- 17. Discussion Question: What type of man was Laban? He respected God, but also had family idols. He obviously loved his daughters and grandchildren, but cheated his son-in-law several times. How could we summarize his character?

Genesis 32:1-33:17

The Twins Make Peace

- 1. Looking at verse 32:1 and 32:24, what can we infer the world was like during the age of the Patriarchs?
- 2. Research Question: What does Mahanaim mean?
- 3. What message did Jacob's servants report back after finding Esau?
- 4. What were the three things Jacob did to prepare his meeting for Esau? (v.7-18)

- 5. How many droves of gifts (at least) were to be delivered to Esau before he saw Jacob?
- 6. After sending the gifts, Jacob sent his family over the river and remained on the other side alone. Verse 28 says clearly that Jacob was wrestling with God, or at least God's ambassador or angel. Why did Jacob wrestle with God until daybreak?
- 7. Why was Jacob rewarded and blessed for wrestling with God? (Luke 18:1-8)
- 8. Can we "wrestle" with God today? In what way? (Col. 4:12. Looking at several different translations might help.)
- 9. Research Question: What does Israel mean?

- 10. What did Jacob's blessing cost him? How do the Israelites remember this story?
- 11. How did Jacob approach Esau?
- 12. How did Esau approach Jacob? Where have we seen Esau's type of greeting before in Genesis?
- 13. What two things did Esau inquire about?
- 14. How did Jacob answer both questions? (v.5, 11)
- 15. Why did Jacob want to journey behind Esau? What was the difference between their two groups?

Genesis 33:17-34:31

Shechem

- 1. According the verse 14, Jacob planned to go to Seir and spend some time with Esau. It seems that after he visited Esau, Jacob went to Succoth. What did Jacob do at Succoth that stands apart from the practice of his forefathers?
- 2. Later, Jacob traveled to Shechem to buy land and build an altar. What is significant about this place? What would be the connection to Jacob? (Gen. 12:6-7)
- 3. Did Shechem rape Dinah or was this consensual fornication? (Support your answer with bible passages.)
 - a. It might be helpful to complete your lesson and then come back to this question at the end. It is the teacher's discretion when they would like to cover this at the end or beginning of class. It is also the teacher's discretion of how long the discussion in class should continue.
 - b. Look at different translations of 34:2. Also look at a concordance. Search blueletterbible.org. You will discover that this word is sometimes is translated to "force" and is also translated to "humble."
 - c. Context is often our best informant to understand a passage. We can also compare this event to the rape of Tamar in its context. (2nd Sam. 13:11-12)

- 4. What did Shechem ask his father, Hamor, to do?
- 5. What did Jacob do?
- 6. Even though Hamor comes to Jacob, who comes to the agreement with Hamor for Dinah?
- 7. What conditions did they put on Shechem's family to take Dinah as a wife?

- 8. What does the Holy Spirit say about Shechem in verse 19?
- 9. Why did all the men of the city agree to their terms?
- 10. What did Simeon and Levi do while the men of Shechem were recovering?
- 11. Were Simeon and Levi's anger satisfied after murdering the men of Shechem?
- 12. What did Jacob warn Simeon and Levi of?
- 13. How did they respond?
- 14. Research Question: Is this the end of the story or do Simeon and Levi pay for this action later?

Genesis 35:1-36:43

Back to Bethel

- 1. What did God command Jacob to do? For what purpose?
- 2. What had happened to Jacob previously at Bethel?
- 3. What did Jacob command his family to do before they traveled to Bethel?
- 4. How did the other cities react as Jacob traveled through Canaan?
- 5. Who was buried at Bethel?
- 6. Why is the Holy Spirit and Moses giving us all these different names for the location?
- 7. Thought Question: God officially changed Jacob's name to Israel again after blessing him. Moses will sometimes refer to him as Israel from here on but will mostly continue to call him Jacob. Moses does not do this for Abraham after his name change. Can we suppose there was a purpose for Moses to continue to use the name Jacob while writing to the nation of Israel?
- 8. This is God's blessing: ¹¹ "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body. ¹² The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land."

Can you underline which parts contain the land, nation, and seed promise?

9. Where have we seen the "be fruitful and multiply" command before?

- 10. What did Jacob do after receiving God's blessing?
- 11. How did Rachel die?
- 12. Research Question: What did Rachel name her son? What did it mean? What did Jacob change it to?
- 13. Where did Rachel die?
- 14. Research Question: Rachel is used to prophecy what terrible event? Why is Rachel used opposed to Sarah or Rebekah? (Jer. 31:15, Matt. 2:18)
- 15. What did Rueben do? (This will be important later.)
- 16. How old was Isaac when he died? Who buried him?
- 17. What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit informing the Israelites about the genealogy of the Edomites?

Genesis 37

The Dreamer

Genesis has already answered two questions to the Israelites: "Where did the world come from?" and "Where did we come from?" Beginning here, Genesis answers the final question to its Israelite audience: "Why are we in Egypt?" The answer is the life story of Joseph. Except for a brief account of Judah, we will follow Joseph for the rest of the book.

- 1. When Joseph was seventeen, which brothers did he send a bad report of to his father? (Gen. 30:3-13)
- 2. Why did Jacob love Joseph more than his other sons?
- 3. How did his brothers react to this? What had Jacob given to Joseph that probably did not help alleviate the situation?
- 4. What were the two dreams that Joseph had and told his family about?
- 5. Joseph's brothers hated him and his father, Jacob, rebuked him for his dreams. Because we know these dreams come true at the end of Joseph's story, we can infer that these dreams were from God. What could have Jacob done better to handle this situation? Was Jacob familiar with God's communicating through dreams? Can you think of a Bible account where good advice was given when God began to communicate with a young man?
- 6. Research Question: Can you list all the dreams and visions we have seen so far in Genesis?
- 7. Why did Israel send Joseph to Shechem?
- 8. How did Joseph find his brothers? Where had they gone?

- 9. What nickname had the brothers given Joseph?
- 10. What had his brothers planned to do when they saw Joseph coming from afar?
- 11. Was Joseph a victim of terrible family dynamic or a bully that teased his brothers? Do you see either of those stories in this account? Is Joseph a victim, or is he getting what he deserved? Is there even a simple answer?
- 12. What was the brothers' plan to cover up Joseph's murder?
- 13. Who saved Joseph's life? What did he plan to do?
- 14. What ruined his plan to rescue Joseph? What was his reaction?
- 15. What was Judah's idea upon seeing the Ishmaelites? What reasons did he give for doing this?
- 16. How did the brothers cover up their actions?
- 17. What did Jacob say as he mourned his son?
- 18. Who did the Midianites sell Joseph to?
- 19. Research Question: What is the Hebrew word for grave (NKJV) in verse 35?

You may have noticed that the Ishmaelites are referred to as the Midianites at the end of the chapter. The Ishmaelites were from Abraham's son Ishmael. The Midianites were from Abraham and Keturah's son, Midian. The traditional belief is that the word Ishmaelites was the name of the tribe, named after Ishmael, but they belonged to a confederation of tribes called the Midianites, named after Midian. This is like how we are called Alabamians and Americans. Both of those names come from historical figures.

Genesis 38

<u>Judah</u>

This is another account that is often skipped in class on Genesis. However, God wanted us to know this story for a purpose. As we study this chapter, let us be looking for the purpose of this story. Why would the Lord want Christian and Israelite audiences to have this information?

- 1. Who did Judah marry, and where was she from?
- 2. What was their sons' names?
- 3. Who did Er marry?
- 4. What happened to Er?
- 5. What did Judah command Onan to do?
- 6. Research Question: Is this a foreshadowing of a command in the Law of Moses? If so, where?
- 7. Why did Onan refuse to give Tamar a child?
- 8. Even though Onan refused to father a child with Tamar, he was still willing to have a sexual relationship with her. What does that say about Onan's character?
- 9. How did God feel about Onan's decisions?
- 10. What did Judah tell Tamar to do?
- 11. What was Judah's concern?

- 12. What did Tamar decide to do when she heard that Judah had gone to Timnah? Why?
- 13. Why did Judah think she was a harlot?
- 14. Obviously, there is a cultural aspect to this question, but does our clothing communicate something about us? Can we attract a certain type of person with our clothing?
- 15. Tamar asked for a pledge before she received her payment of a young goat. What word would we use normally instead of the word pledge.
- 16. What did Tamar want as a pledge? Why did she want these items?
- 17. When Judah heard that Tamar had become pregnant by way of fornication, what did he want to do to her? What does this say about Judah?
- 18. How did Tamar save herself?
- 19. Does Judah show some acts of repentance?
- 20. What did Perez do unexpectedly?
- 21. Why does the Holy Spirit want us to know about this event?

Genesis 39

Potiphar's Wife

We can look at this chapter as a contrast to Judah's story. Judah's story showed the brother of selfishness and lack of self-control. Here, Joseph shows us the brother of faith and self-control.

- 1. What was Potiphar's job?
- 2. What position was Joseph eventually given?
- 3. Why was Joseph so successful?
- 4. Does 39:3 remind you of an earlier account in Genesis, having to do with a master profiting off a servant whom the Lord blessed?
- 5. How far did the Lord bless Potiphar for Joseph's sake?
- 6. To what extend did Potiphar give authority to Joseph?
- 7. Why did Potiphar's wife desire Joseph to lie with her?
- 8. What were the two reasons Joseph used in refusing her?
- 9. How often did Potiphar's wife continue to press Joseph?

- 10. What did Potiphar's wife do this last time? Why did she put so much effort into it this time?
- 11. Why did Joseph run? (There should be several good answers.)
- 12. Because she still had his garment in her hand, what did Potiphar's wife do next?
- 13. Thought Question: Why would she accuse Joseph of this when just minutes before she was trying to get him to lie with her? Why the sudden change?
- 14. What did Potiphar do to Joseph after hearing his wife's accusations?
- 15. Do you suppose Potiphar would have regretted losing Joseph? If so, why?
- 16. To what extent did the keeper of the prison trust Joseph?
- 17. Why did Joseph excel everywhere he was?

Genesis 40

The Butler and the Baker

- 1. Why were the butler and baker in prison?
- 2. They were given to the house of the captain of the guard, which was the prison. Who is the only captain of the guard we know in Egypt?
- 3. The captain of the guard put the prisoners in the charge of Joseph. If this is the same captain of the guard from 39:1, what does this say about the result of chapter 39?
- 4. What made Joseph discover that the butler and baker had dreams? What does this say about Joseph's character?
- 5. Who did interpretations belong to?
- 6. Briefly describe the butler's dream.
- 7. What was its interpretation?
- 8. What did Joseph ask of the butler?
- 9. Briefly describe the baker's dream.
- 10. What was its interpretation?

- 11. How did the baker's story end?
- 12. How did the butler's story end?
- 13. When God communicated to people through dreams during the lives of Joseph and Daniel, was it possible to guess what the interpretations of those dreams were?
- 14. What was God's purpose in sending these dreams?
- 15. What could Joseph have concluded about his own dreams when he saw the baker's and butler's come to pass?

Lesson 15 Genesis 41

Pharaoh's Dream

- 1. How long had it been since the events of the last chapter?
- 2. Briefly describe Pharaoh's first dream.
- 3. Briefly describe Pharaoh's second dream.
- 4. When Pharaoh got up in the morning, he called for his magicians and wise men to interpret his dreams. In the age of Genesis, was it strange for a national leader to receive dreams from God?
- 5. After the wise men failed to interpret the dream what did the chief butler say?

(Notice 41:13. The pronoun he used at the end of the bulter's sentence to Pharaoh has made some conclude that there had been a change of Pharaohs in the past two years: "He hanged him." However, the he used is probably referring to Joseph. Perhaps the butler is saying that Joseph's prophecies were so accurate it was as if he restored the butler and hanged the baker as soon as he gave the prophecy. It was as good as done.)

- 6. What did Joseph do before he appeared before Pharaoh?
- 7. How did Joseph answer Pharaoh?
- 8. What was God's interpretation of the dream?
- 9. Thought question: Why was God going to send these years of plenty and these years of famine? (Gen. 15:13-16)

- 10. Why did God repeat this dream twice to Pharaoh?
- 11. What did Joseph tell Pharaoh to do?
- 12. Why did Pharaoh appoint Joseph to this position?
- 13. What all did Pharaoh do to elevate Joseph's authority?
- 14. Research Question: What does Zaphnath-Paaneah mean?
- 15. How old was Joseph when he stood before Pharaoh? How old was he when we first met him in the book?
- 16. How much grain did Joseph store up?
- 17. What did Joseph name his two sons?
- 18. How widespread was the famine?
- 19. Now after reading this whole account, why did God communicate to Pharaoh through symbolic dreams? Why did not God speak to him plainly like he did for King Abimelech or Abraham?
- 20. Research Question: When is God going to use this tactic again to put one of His prophets in an influential position?

Genesis 42

The Brothers Come to Egypt

- 1. Why did Jacob not allow Benjamin to travel to Egypt for food?
- 2. How did Joseph act when he recognized his brothers?
- 3. Why, perhaps, did the brothers not recognized Joseph?
- 4. What did Joseph remember as his brothers bowed down before him?
- 5. What did Joseph accuse them of? What did he hope to accomplish by this accusation?
- 6. After three days in prison, Joseph released his brothers under the condition that he would keep one of them as a hostage until they brought back Benjamin. What did the brothers conclude about their current distress?
- 7. What did Joseph overhear Reuben say? Did the brothers know that Joseph understood?
- 8. How did Joseph react to Reuben's words?
- 9. What did Joseph do while packing their sacks full of grain?
- 10. What did one brother discover when he fed his donkey? How did the brothers respond?

- 11. What did they all discover when they arrived home? How did they respond? Why did they respond this way?
- 12. What did Jacob say to them about taking Benjamin to Egypt with them when they returned?
- 13. How did Reuben try to appease Jacob?
- 14. Did Jacob agree with the trade?
- 15. In which verse(s) is the Holy Spirit making application for the Israelite/Christian audience?

Genesis 43

The Brothers' Second Trip to Egypt

- 1. What was Judah concerned about when Israel sent them back to Egypt.
- 2. What did Judah refuse to do if Israel did not allow Benjamin to go?
- 3. What did Israel accuse Judah of doing wrongfully?
- 4. How did Judah appease his father's fear?
- 5. Thought Question: Now after seeing what Judah did to Joseph and later for Benjamin, what inference can be made about Judah?
- 6. What was Judah's argument in verse 10?
- 7. During this whole time who was still being held a prisoner in Egypt?
- 8. Why did Israel instruct them to carry double the money?
- 9. What was the last part of Israel's plan? (v. 14)
- 10. When did Joseph call for his servants to invite the brothers to his home to eat?

- 11. Why were the brothers afraid? Why did they conclude that Joseph was angry with them?
- 12. What was the first thing the brothers explained to Joseph at his door?
- 13. What reason did Joseph's steward give for the money found in their sacks on the first trip?
- 14. Why did Joseph have to run out of the room?
- 15. What could the Egyptians not do? How did this apply to Moses' audience during the Exodus?
- 16. How did Joseph seat them? What did he do for Benjamin's plate?
- 17. In which verses is the Holy Spirit making application for the Israelite/Christian audience?

Genesis 44:1 -45:8

Joseph's Cup

- 1. What did Joseph command his steward to do while replacing the money in his brother's sacks?
- 2. Thought Question: Looking at the whole chapter, what was the purpose of this?
- 3. What did Joseph instruct his steward to say when he catches the brothers?

Let's talk about the cup. Joseph referred to his cup as his silver cup, but he instructed his steward to call it his "cup of divination" when he accused the brothers of stealing it. Some have claimed that Joseph had forsaken God and gone into full paganism. This is unlikely because it does not fit the account of Joseph's character. Here are some options to explain why Joseph has a cup of divination.

- a. Most likely, this is another part of Joseph's disguise to make the brothers believe that he is an Egyptian. He has been only speaking to them through a translator. He has been accusing them of spying on Egypt. Why not make them believe that he is a pagan priest or prophet?
- b. Less likely, Joseph may have had a special item that he worked miracles and prophecies through. He is a prophet serving a Gentile nation. The word divination is nâchash. It is mostly used as something evil (Lev. 19:26). But it is sometimes used to describe learning something from the divine (Gen. 30:27). It is not strange to think that a prophet had a special item that God worked through. Examples: Moses' staff, Aaron's rod, Elijah's mantle.
- 4. What did the brothers agree to if one of them was found guilty of stealing the cup?
- 5. What did the brothers do when the cup was found in Benjamin's sack?
- 6. What did Judah offer first to appease Joseph's wrath? What, however, does Joseph insist upon?

- 7. Like question 2, why did Joseph insist on this?
- 8. What story did Judah tell Joseph first? (v.24-29)
- 9. What was Judah fearful of?
- 10. What did Judah offer as a compromise for the sake of his father, Israel?
- 11. Thought Question: At Judah's response, Joseph was overwhelmed and decided to reveal himself. What factors motivated Joseph to reveal himself?
- 12. Joseph wept so loudly that....
- 13. Joseph's first question was, "Does my father still live?" However, he had already asked them this (43:27). Why does he ask again?
- 14. Why did Joseph tell his brothers not to be grieved?
- 15. How did the brothers' respond?

Genesis 45:9-46:34

"God has made me lord of all Egypt."

- 1. Why did Joseph urge the brothers to bring the whole family to Egypt?
- 2. Where does Joseph plan for them to live?
- 3. Joseph instructs his brothers to inform his father of all his glory in Egypt. When the brothers report this to their father, what will they also have to tell him?
- 4. Did Joseph only hug and weep over Benjamin?
- 5. What did Pharaoh contribute when he heard of Joseph's reveal to his brothers?
- 6. What did Joseph give to Benjamin?
- 7. Why did Jacob believe that Joseph was alive in Egypt?
- 8. Thought Question: Would have Jacob been eager to get to Egypt, why or why not? Consider his or his family's experiences with foreign nations.
- 9. What does God confirm to Israel in his night vision?
- 10. How many persons of the house of Jacob traveled to Egypt? Around how many would leave Egypt? (Ex. 12:37)
- 11. Why was Judah sent out before?

- 12. What does Israel say after seeing Joseph?
- 13. What is Joseph's plan to ensure that the family stays in the land of Goshen?
- 14. In which verse(s) is the Holy Spirit making application for the Israelite/Christian audience?

Genesis 47:1-48:7

Joseph Saves Egypt

- 1. What does Pharaoh ask of Joseph?
- 2. How does Jacob reply to Pharaoh's question?
- 3. How was Jacob's life not like the days of his fathers?

- 4. Why did the money fail in the land of Egypt and Canaan?
- 5. What was Joseph's first course of action since the money had failed?
- 6. What was Joseph's second solution since the money failed?
- 7. Why did Joseph not buy the priests' land?
- 8. How did Joseph "give" the Egyptians back their land?
- 9. How long did Jacob live in Egypt?

- 10. What did Jacob make Joseph swear to him?
- 11. What did Jacob decide to do for Joseph?
- 12. What will happen to Joseph's other offspring after Ephraim and Manasseh?
- 13. Where was Rachel buried?
- 14. In which verse(s) is the Holy Spirit making application for the Israelite/Christian audience?

Genesis 48:8-49:12

The Blessings: Part I

Throughout Genesis, we have seen the patriarchs bless and curse others. The book is not clear as to rather these blessings are the decisions of the father, the decisions of God, or a combination of both. Many of them, such as this one, look more like prophecies than personal blessings, therefore God would have a great hand in them.

- 1. Like Isaac, what was Jacob's condition?
- 2. How had God surpassed Jacob's expectations?
- 3. How had God fed Jacob his whole life?
- 4. How had the Angel redeemed Jacob from all evil?
- 5. What did Joseph try to correct? Why did Jacob insist?
- 6. What does Jacob assure Joseph of?
- 7. Research Question: When did Jacob take from the hand of an Amorite?
- 8. Even though Reuben was mighty, what was his downfall?

- 9. What had Simeon and Levi done to be called "instruments of cruelty?"
- 10. Research Question: How would Simeon and Levi be divided and scattered in Israel?
- 11. When will the "father's children" bow down to Judah? (There are multiple answers.)
- 12. What famous messianic phrase comes from 49:9?
- 13. What is implied about Judah's descendants from v.10-11?
- 14. Research question: What does "until Shiloh comes" mean?

15. Thought question: How does it connect to the next phrase, "And to Him shall be the obedience of the people?

Genesis 49:13-50:26

The Blessings: Part II

- 1. Research Question: Where would Zebulun dwell? (Matthew 4:13-15)
- 2. Is Issachar given a good blessing? Why or why not?
- Dan is given an interesting blessing. Who could Jacob be possibly talking about? (Judges 13)
- 4. How have the archers' hated Joseph?
- 5. 49:24 is the first place in the bible that God is called Shepherd. Why would Jacob see God as a Shepherd?
- 6. How was Joseph blessed beyond his brothers?
- 7. What did Jacob charge his sons to do with his body?
- 8. What is said of Jacob and he breathed his last?

- 9. What did Joseph have done to his body?
- 10. Who all went with Joseph to bury Jacob in Canaan?
- 11. What were the Canaanites impressed with at Jacob's "funeral?"
- 12. What were the brothers concerned with?
- 13. What was Joseph's reaction after hearing their message?
- 14. What was Joseph's outlook on his painful past?
- 15. Right before Joseph died, what did he assure his sons of? What did he make them promise to do?
- 16. In which verse(s) is the Holy Spirit making application for the Israelite/Christian audience?