

Welcome to Sierra Community Church

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity
under heaven - Eccl. 3:1*

Genesis 41:56 When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt.

⁵⁷ And all the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere.

Genesis 42:1 When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why do you just keep looking at each other?” ² He continued, “I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die.” ³ Then ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt.



⁴ But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph’s brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him.

⁵ So Israel’s sons were among those who went to buy grain, for there was famine in the land of Canaan also. ⁶ Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph’s brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. ⁷ As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. “Where do you come from?” he asked. “From the land of Canaan,” they replied, “to buy food.”



⁸ Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. ⁹ Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, “You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected.” ¹⁰ “No, my lord,” they answered. “Your servants have come to buy food. ¹¹ We are all the sons of one man. Your servants are honest men, not spies.” ¹² “No he said to them. “You have come to see where our land is unprotected.” ¹³ But they replied, “Your servants were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more.”



¹⁴ Joseph said to them, “It is just as I told you: You are spies!

¹⁵ And this is how you will be tested: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. ¹⁶ Send one of your number to get your brother; the rest of you will be kept in prison, so that your words may be tested to see if you are telling the truth. If you are not, then as surely as Pharaoh lives, you are spies!” ¹⁷ And he put them all in custody for three days. ¹⁸ On the third day, Joseph said to them, “Do this and you will live, for I fear God: ¹⁹ If you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here in prison, while the rest of you go and take grain back for your starving households.



²⁰ But you must bring your youngest brother to me, so that your words may be verified and that you may not die.” This they proceeded to do. ²¹ They said to one another, “Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that’s why this distress has come on us.”

²² Reuben replied, “Didn’t I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn’t listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood.” ²³ They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter.



²⁴ He turned away from them and began to weep, but then came back and spoke to them again. He had Simeon taken from them and bound before their eyes. ²⁵ Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, to put each man’s silver back in his sack, and to give them provisions for their journey. After this was done for them, ²⁶ they loaded their grain on their donkeys and left.



Genesis 12:3-3 ² “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”



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1. Joseph and his brothers, only a few generations removed from Abraham, already show serious signs of division. But God does not abandon them.

Hebrews 12:5-8 “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸If you are not disciplined - and everyone undergoes discipline - then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.



2. Joseph demonstrates forgiveness but has not forgotten his brothers treachery. Following Joseph's brothers demonstration of repentance, Joseph initiates reconciliation.

3. Through the example of Joseph and Judah, God is pointing the way to Jesus.

Joseph Points to Jesus

Similarities	Joseph	Jesus
Both are the most loved of their fathers.	Genesis 37:3	Matthew 3:17, 12:18
Joseph's brothers did not recognize him. Jesus' own people didn't either.	Genesis 42:8	John 1:10
Both were falsely accused.	Genesis 39:11-20	Matthew 26:59-61
Both were cut off from their families but became the path of salvation for them.	Genesis 41:57	John 3:26

John 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

*Genesis 44:33 "Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord's slave **in place of the boy**, and let the boy return with his brothers"*

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