

Prisons, Pits, and Palaces

Jim Berg, Dean of Students, Bob Jones University

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Secular thinking about success in any realm (business, family, etc.) emphasizes ways to “climb the ladder,” “think positively,” etc. When God prepares someone for service, however, the “ladder” often leads down before it ever leads up. Such was the case of Joseph in Genesis 37-50. In this narrative, God wanted to show how a man could live honorably before God and others regardless of his heredity or his environment.

A. Joseph’s Roots — Chapter 37

1. The _____ of His Family
 - A child’s family is the most significant molding factor through adolescence.
 - a. His father, Jacob
 - b. His 10 older brothers
2. His _____ in the Family (Gen.37:1-11)
 - a. The Place of _____ (Gen. 35:22; I Chron. 5:1-2)



| The Children of Israel (Jacob) | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Leah | Bilhah (R) | Zilpah (L) | Leah | Rachel |
| Reuben | Dan | Gad | Issachar | Joseph |
| Simeon | Naphtali | Asher | Zebulun | Benjamin |
| Levi | | | Dinah | |
| Judah | | | | |

- b. The Place of _____ (Gen. 37:3-4)

B. Joseph’s Reversals — Chapters 37, 39

1. The _____ of His Brothers
 - a. How was Jacob deceived by his sons? _____
 - b. What decisions were made *for* Joseph by his brothers when they sold him into slavery?

- You are never _____ by someone else’s _____.
You can be _____, however, by *your* own _____.

Chapter 38 — Judah's Self-Indulgence

Why this messy, steamy interlude in the Joseph narrative?

God was arranging a _____ to Egypt.

Joseph was the _____.

The famine was the _____.

Chapter 38 was the _____.

Because Israel refused to separate themselves from the world, God placed them in a situation where the world would separate from them. God could then mold them into the unique nation that would represent Him among other nations.

2. The _____ of Potiphar's wife
 - a. His _____ (39:1-6)
 - b. Her _____ (39:7-12)
 - c. His _____ (39:8-9,12)
 - Joseph had a clear view of _____; she did not _____ belong to him. He focused on . . .
 - 1) His _____ to Potiphar and . . .
 - 2) His _____ to God.
3. The _____ by Potiphar
 - a. Potiphar knew Joseph was _____.
 - b. Potiphar made Joseph the _____.

C. Joseph's Responses — Chapters 40, 41

1. Look how he reacts to _____.
2. Look how he _____.
3. Look how he avoids _____.
4. Look at his willingness to _____.
5. Look at his _____.
6. Look at his _____.
 - I want _____!

D. Joseph's Stability

- Genesis 37-50 is filled with mistreatment, rejection, injustice, and misrepresentation. Yet in spite of all the *reversals*, we see godly *responses*. Joseph exhibits a remarkable absence of fear, anger, and bitterness. How does he maintain his sanity, sweet spirit, stability, and security?

1. What makes man _____?
2. Where did this _____ get its start? (Gen.3:10)
3. What are man's remedies for _____? _____

"I feel safe only when"

4. Observations
 - a. Each of these statements involves a _____.
 - b. Each of these *naturally* produces a measure of _____.
 - c. Each of us _____ what it takes to make us feel safe—what we think we need to make life work.

5. How did Joseph make it?
 - Which of the above remedies did Joseph have at his disposal to make life work?
 - a. Joseph knew he had a _____ of _____ with God.
 - He was a _____, and he knew it.
 - b. Joseph knew God had a _____ for the _____.
 - He was _____ of a _____, and he knew it.
 - God always has a plan, and He is always working His plan!

E. Joseph's Ministry of Reconciliation — Chapters 42-50

1. The Brothers Retested (42-44)

a. Tested through natural _____.

b. Tested in same areas of their previous _____.

1) How would they treat _____?

2) How would they treat _____?

2. The Brothers Reconciled (45-50)

a. Joseph's _____

b. Joseph's _____

- Joseph was not interested in proving that he was _____ but in proving his brothers so they could be _____.