

Hebrews 11

JOSEPH

Hebrews 11:22

Introduction

1. Considering all the events that transpired in Joseph's life, it's interesting that the Lord has chosen to focus on Joseph's "last words" as a demonstration of faith. There's something about Joseph's demonstration that the Lord would have us to learn when it comes to the area of faith. This lesson will focus mainly on the commendation in Hebrews 11:22.

| | |
|--|---|
| Born: | ➤ 1782 BC. Genesis 30:22-24 |
| Joseph's account is Found: | ➤ Genesis 37,39-50 |
| Other Places Joseph is Mentioned: | ➤ Genesis 30:24,25; 33:2,7; 35:24 Exodus 1:5-8; 13:19 Joshua 24:32 1 Chronicles 5:1,2 Psalm 80:1; 81:5; 105:16-22 John 4:5,6 Acts 7:8-19 |
| Some points of character: | ➤ Honest(<i>Gen 37:2</i>) Faithful(<i>Gen 39:8</i>) Upright(<i>Gen 39:9</i>) Diligent(<i>Gen 39:22</i>) Longsuffering(<i>Gen 40:23; 41:1</i>) Wise (<i>Gen 41:39</i>) Forgiving(<i>Gen 45:5; 50:19,21</i>) Spiritual(<i>Gen 50:20</i>) |
| Death | ➤ 1672 BC Genesis 50:26 |
| Key Verses | ➤ Genesis 45:5 Genesis 50:20,24,25 |

2. There are no details of the first 17 years of Joseph's life recorded in the Scriptures from Joseph's perspective or involvement. Only the details concerning Jacob give us a glimpse of certain events that may have affected Joseph's life since his birth in Genesis 30:22-24.

3. The majority of detail recorded in Scripture concerning Joseph covers only 33 years of his life from the age of 17 (Genesis 37:2) to the age of 50 (Genesis 47:28), then summarising the last 60 years of his life, up to his death, in Genesis 50:22-26.

4. It is amazing to note that all the authorities in Joseph's life favoured and exalted him (God, Jacob, Potiphar, Pharaoh) and because of the envy and lusts of others (his brethren, Potiphar's wife), he was brought low and dealt with unjustly. However, in all the injustice and evil that was purposed toward him, even the affliction he suffered, the LORD was him and meant it all for good.

OUTLINE SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE ACCOUNT OF JOSEPH

Genesis 37:

- 1-4 Joseph is favoured by Jacob and given a coat of many colours
- 5-8 Joseph's First dream
- 9-11 Joseph's Second dream
- 12-24 Joseph cast into a pit by his brothers
- 25-28 Joseph sold into slavery at 17 years old for 20 pieces of silver
- 29-35 Joseph's brother lie to Jacob about Joseph's death
- 36 Joseph sold to Potiphar

Genesis 39:

- 1-6 Joseph is made an overseer in Potiphar's house
- 7-10 Joseph is seduced by Potiphar's wife
- 11-19 Joseph falsely accused by Potiphar's wife
- 20-23 Joseph is unjustly imprisoned

Genesis 40:

- 1-8 Joseph put in charge to care for chief butler and chief baker in prison
- 9-15 Joseph interprets the chief butler's dream
- 16-19 Joseph interprets the chief baker's dream
- 20-22 Joseph's interpretations come to pass
- 23 Joseph is forgotten by the chief butler

Genesis 41:

- 1-8 Pharaoh dreams two dreams after two full years of Joseph's imprisonment
- 9-13 The chief butler remembers Joseph
- 14-36 Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams and foretells of the famine
- 37-57 Joseph is made second most powerful ruler after Pharaoh at 30 years old

Genesis 42:

- 1-5 Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt
- 6 Joseph's First dream comes to pass
- 7-38 Joseph imprisons Simeon and charges his brothers to bring Benjamin

Genesis 43:

- 1-27 Joseph's Brothers Return to Egypt with Benjamin
- 28 Joseph's Second dream comes to pass
- 29-34 Joseph feasts with his brothers

Genesis 44:

- 1-17 Joseph tests his brothers by hiding his cup in Benjamin's sack
- 18-34 Judah pleads with Joseph to release Benjamin and take him instead

Genesis 45:

- 1-4 Joseph reveals himself to his brothers
- 5-8 Joseph gives God the glory for everything that had transpired for the last 15 years
- 9-13 Joseph tell his brethren to notify his dad and bring him to Egypt to see him
- 14-16 All of Pharaoh's house heard about Joseph and his brethren
- 17-24 Pharaoh gave charge to bring Jacob and his whole family and sent means along to help
- 25-28 Joseph's brethren tell their father everything and he desires go and see Joseph

Genesis 46:

- 1-4 God speaks to Jacob and tells him to go into Egypt, and will make of him a great a nation
- 5-28 Jacob takes his whole family and leaves Beersheba and goes to Goshen in Egypt
- 29-34 Joseph is reunited with Jacob, his father

Genesis 47:

- 1-6 Joseph's brethren meet Pharaoh
- 7-10 Jacob meets Pharaoh and shares his testimony
- 11-12 Joseph's brethren settle in Goshen and Joseph takes care of them all
- 13-26 Joseph caused Pharaoh kingdom to increase
- 27 Israel grew and multiplied in the country of Goshen
- 28-31 Jacob made Joseph sware him that he would bury him with Abraham and Isaac in Canaan

Genesis 48:

- 1-7 Jacob tells Joseph about God's promise to multiply them in Egypt
- 8-22 Jacob blesses Ephraim and Manasseh before he dies

Genesis 49:

- 1-2 Jacob gathers his sons to speak to them before he dies
- 3-4 Jacob speaks to Ruben
- 5-7 Jacob speaks to Simeon and Levi
- 8-12 Jacob speaks to Judah
- 13 Jacob speaks to Zebulun
- 14-15 Jacob speaks to Issachar
- 16-18 Jacob speaks to Dan
- 19 Jacob speaks to Gad
- 20 Jacob speaks to Asher
- 21 Jacob speaks to Naphtali
- 22-26 Jacob speaks to Joseph
- 27 Jacob speaks to Benjamin
- 28-33 Jacob gave all his sons charge to bury him in Canaan then died

Genesis 50:

- 1-2 Joseph wept, kissed his father, and had Jacob's body embalmed for 40 days
- 3 The Egyptians mourned over Jacob's death 70 days
- 4-14 Joseph received permission from Pharaoh to take Jacob's body and bury him in Canaan
- 15-18 Joseph's brethren fear that Joseph will take revenge on them now that Jacob is dead
- 19-21 **Joseph reminds his brethren though they meant evil, God meant it unto good**
- 22-23 Joseph was blest to see his children seed increase
- 24-25 **Joseph's statement demonstrating his amazing faith**
- 26 Joseph died 110 years old

In this lesson (By Faith Joseph) we will look at three things:

1. A Proven Faith – Hebrews 11:22a – *Joseph trusted the Lord*
2. A Pointed Faith – Hebrews 11:22b – *Joseph took the Lord at His Word*
3. A Persistent Faith – Hebrews 11:22c – *Joseph testified of the Lord*

Memory verse: Hebrews 11:22

1. A **PROVEN FAITH**

By faith Joseph,...

In all of Joseph's unexpected, uncontrollable, and unjust circumstances/events, there's not one mention in Scripture of Joseph ever doubting God.

I) JOSEPH'S TEST OF FAITH

- a. He was the favoured son which caused his brothers to hate him
(*Genesis 37:4,5,8*)
- b. He was sent to check on his brothers who tried to get rid of him.
(*Genesis 37:14,18*)
- c. He was thrown in a pit/well and was going to be left there to die.
(*Genesis 37:22,24*)
- d. He was sold into slavery to for 20 pieces of silver.
(*Genesis 37:28*)
- e. He was sold again to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officers.
(*Genesis 37:36; 39:1*)
- f. He was seduced by Potiphar's wife and tempted to sin against God
(*Genesis 39:7-12*)
- g. He was imprisoned on the basis of a false accusation
(*Genesis 39:13-20*)
- h. He was a servant even in prison, serving and watching other prisoners
(*Genesis 39:22*)
- i. He was forgotten by the chief butler whom he asked to make mention
(*Genesis 40:14,15,23*)
- j. He was in prison for two whole years because of his decision to do right
(*Genesis 41:1*)

He went from:

- a favoured child to a forsaken child
- a sheltered boy to a servant boy
- a promising position to a prisoner

II) JOSEPH'S TRIUMPH THROUGH FAITH

- a. Although he was sold into Egypt, the Lord was with him.

Gen 39:2 **And the LORD was with Joseph**, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

Gen 39:3 **And his master saw that the LORD was with him**, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

Gen 39:4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all *that* he had he put into his hand.

Gen 39:5 And it came to pass from the time *that* he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that **the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake**; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

- b. Although he was unjustly imprisoned, the Lord was with him.

Gen 39:20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners *were* bound: and he was there in the prison.

Gen 39:21 **But the LORD was with Joseph**, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Gen 39:22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that *were* in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer *of it*.

Gen 39:23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing *that was* under his hand; **because the LORD was with him**, and *that* which he did, the LORD made *it* to prosper.

- c. Although the butler forgot him, the Lord did had His perfect timing.

Psa 105:17 He sent a man before them, *even* Joseph, *who* was sold for a servant:

Psa 105:18 Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron:

Psa 105:19 **Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him.**

Psa 105:20 The king sent and loosed him; *even* the ruler of the people, and let him go free.

Gen 41:1 And it came to pass at **the end of two full years**, that Pharaoh dreamed:
....

Gen 41:9 **Then spake the chief butler** unto Pharaoh, saying, **I do remember my faults this day**:

d. Although his brothers wanted him dead and gone, God worked it all for good.

Gen 45:5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: **for God did send me before you to preserve life.**

Gen 50:20 But as for you, **ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good**, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

e. Nothing takes God by surprise. He knows the end from the beginning. Trusting the Lord is often the only option we have to get through many of even our personal circumstances, and it ought to be our first and only option that we should endeavour to take. Trying to work out what the unexpected circumstances may be will almost always drown you in the “what ifs”. Trying to control things that are out of your control will cause you to fret and be anxious and not trust the Lord. Attempting to make justice prevail in your way and in your timing will send you down a vain pursuit that will rob your affections and your focus on what the Lord would have you to do.

f. The best thing to do is: “*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths*” (Proverbs 3:5,6).

Conclusion: JOSEPH TRUSTED THE LORD

Application: FAITH IS TRUSTING THE LORD

2. A POINTED FAITH

...when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel;...

Note: Joseph remembered the promise that God made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, his father, and to their seed and he reiterated the promise of God to his brethren because Joseph believed in the pointed/specific promise of God and that he knew God will surely do. Joseph took the Lord at His Word.

I) JOSEPH REMEMBERED THE PROMISE OF GOD

a. God promised Abraham and his seed

Gen 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Gen 13:15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

Gen 15:18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Gen 17:8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

b. God promised Isaac and his seed

Gen 26:3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father;

Gen 28:4 And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.

c. God promised Jacob and his seed

Gen 35:12 And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land.

Gen 48:3 And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me,

Gen 48:4 And said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee *for* an everlasting possession.

II) JOSEPH REITERATED THE PROMISE OF GOD

Gen 50:24 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will **surely** visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land **which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.**

- a. The fact that Joseph, having never seen God deliver a nation of people and lead them to a specific location that He had promised, believed the promise of God that He made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and to their seed and is commended and used as a demonstration of faith. One of the evidences that Joseph believed God with all his heart that he would perform that which He spoke is shown when he reiterated the pointed/specific promise of God to his brethren. Joseph knew that God will surely do it, simply because He said He would, and the Bible essentially points to that demonstration as faith. Joseph did not just believe anyone or just anything, he believed God.
- b. The Egyptians, especially those in high position or royalty, were well educated and also schooled in their philosophies and paganism. You can perhaps see a glimpse of this in the life of Moses who was raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter but knowing the call of God upon his life to deliver His people from Egypt, he attempted to do it himself using the methods that he was taught in Egypt, and it got him into big trouble. He then had to flee and spent 40 years in the backside of the desert before the Lord met him and confirmed the timing of his call is come. Only now, Moses wasn't as confident in himself anymore, like when he first began in Egypt. I say that to point out that this kind of attitude and thinking that is taught and learnt by the Egyptians, Joseph did not follow after nor did he believe it. As a matter of fact, because Joseph only sought to have his heart and mind influenced by God and His Word, Pharaoh even marvelled.

Gen 41:38 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find *such a one* as this *is*, a man in whom the Spirit of God *is*?

Gen 41:39 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, *there is none* so discreet and wise as thou *art*:

- c. So what is it, in essence, that Joseph did that God wants to draw our attention to?

Conclusion: JOSEPH TOOK THE LORD AT HIS WORD

Application: FAITH IS TAKING THE LORD AT HIS WORD

3. A PERSISTENT FAITH

...and gave commandment concerning his bones.

- a. Joseph's dying request was no doubt an interesting one. With the background of having a Proven Faith and knew that there was no other way than to have a Pointed Faith, the result can only be a Persistent Faith because the Word of the Lord has been tested and tried and it stands to be true, and God stands to be faithful to His Word and His promises. So, for Joseph to make this request and cause his brethren to take an oath by him that they will do it, he in affect is testifying not only of God's faithfulness to His Word, but also of his unwavering faith in the promise of God.

Gen 50:25 And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.

- b. Such faith is also shown by Paul in his assurance that he will be with the Lord one day:

2Co 5:6 Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

2Co 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

2Co 5:8 We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

- c. It's also interesting to note that Joseph's request was not quite like his father Jacob's request to be buried in Canaan (Genesis 47:28-31; 49:28-33), because his father knew Joseph had the ability and favour with Pharaoh that would easily allow that to happen. Whereas Joseph is not only resting solely and wholly by faith in God's Word, he asked specifically that his bones, not his body, would be taken with them when, not if, the Lord visits them and takes them to the promise land as He said He would. Joseph's bones were a testimony of God's faithfulness and integrity to keep His Word. One commentary says:

“ When Joseph died, he was never buried. His coffin laid above ground for the 400 or so years until it was taken back to Canaan. It was a silent witness all those years that Israel *was* going back to the Promised Land, just as God had said.”
“All during that time, when a child of Israel saw Joseph's coffin and asked what it was there for, and why it was not buried, they could be answered, “Because the great man Joseph did not want to be buried in Egypt, but in the Promised Land God will one day lead us to.””

- d. As He promised, God visited His people and delivered them out of the land of Egypt when He sent Moses.

Exo 13:19 And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.

- e. Even though Moses missed out on entering the promised land (Exodus 32:51,52), Joshua continued to stay true to the oath to carry Joseph's bones in to be buried.

Jos 24:32 And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.

- f. This again being a strong testimony of Joseph's faith in God's Word because he knew that they will end up in Canaan because God promised. Joseph had no idea how it would happen, neither perhaps when it would happen (although the fact that he said his bones and not his body indicates he knew it would still be a while after he dies), neither did he have any foresight concerning the wilderness wanderings, but there's one thing he knew, Israel will end up in the promised land because God said He would, and that's all there was to it for Joseph. God, uses this example as the kind of faith He wants us to follow after.

Conclusion: JOSEPH TESTIFIED OF THE LORD

Application: FAITH IS TESTIFYING OF THE LORD

SUMMARY

1. A **P**ROVEN **F**AITH – HEBREWS 11:22a
By faith Joseph...

I) JOSEPH'S TEST OF FAITH

II) JOSEPH'S TRIUMPH THROUGH FAITH

Conclusion: **JOSEPH TRUSTED THE LORD**

Application: **FAITH IS TRUSTING THE LORD**

2. A **P**OINTED **F**AITH – HEBREWS 11:22b
...when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel;...

I) JOSEPH REMEMBERED THE PROMISE OF GOD

II) JOSEPH REITERATED THE PROMISE OF GOD

Conclusion: **JOSEPH TOOK THE LORD AT HIS WORD**

Application: **FAITH IS TAKING THE LORD AT HIS WORD**

3. A **P**ERSISTENT **F**AITH – HEBREWS 11:22c
...and gave commandment concerning his bones.

Conclusion: **JOSEPH TESTIFIED OF THE LORD**

Application: **FAITH IS TESTIFYING OF THE LORD**

ACCORDING TO THE RECORD OF JOSEPH'S COMMENDATION IN
HEBREWS 11:22, **FAITH IS SIMPLY TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD**