

The Life of Joseph Part I
Hold on to The Vision
Genesis 37 thru 41
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Intro: Life has its ups and downs. In the turbulent times we now live in, many of us are facing trials and tribulations. Job loses, financial cutbacks, and oh yeah, the holidays are here. From Jacob we learned that we are going to have good days and bad days, personally. From Joseph, we will learn that our situation may be good or bad, but God is always with those who serve him.

Interog: Are you struggling? Do you feel like someone is out to get you, that you are all alone? The life of Joseph has something to tell you today that you need to hear.

Read Scripture: Genesis 37:1-11

1. Starting On Top and Hitting the Bottom, chapter 37

Favored son to the bottom of a pit

Arrogance or naïve enthusiasm

The bitterness of his brothers verse 20 and the strength of solitude.

The value of time alone with God, Jacob twice his vision and a wrestling match, Jonah in the belly of the great fish, Daniel in the Lions den, Jesus in the desert of temptation

2. Being on the Bottom Doesn't Last, Neither Does Being on Top, 37-41

Timeline of ups and downs:

The Roller Coaster

37: 3 Favored Son of Jacob, Israel

37:18-28 Sold into slavery by jealous brothers

39:1-6 Leader of the House of the Captain of the Guard – Potiphar

39:7-20 Falsely accused and thrown in prison

39:21-23 Put in charge of all the prison (two years in prison)

41:14 Called before Pharaoh and put in charge of the kingdom

The awareness of innocence, 40:15

3. God Is Constant When the World is in Chaos, chapter 39

Evidence of God's providence – care

Vision, favor, blessing

Hold on to the vision

39:2, 3, 5, 21, 23, "The Lord was with Joseph" and "the Lord made all he did prosper"

Matt 28:20, Acts 18:9-10, Heb 13:5, Ps 9:9, Ps 37:39

4. Keeping the Right Perspective, 50:20

Life is seasonal, if we can have close to the same perspective in the middle of the battle as we do in the end, our lives can be drastically different. 37:2 – Joseph was 17 yr old

41:46 – Joseph was 30 yr old

Conclusion: Joseph is a Christ-like character. There is nothing bad that is written about him (some debate this), he is wrongly accused, his suffering leads to his exaltation, and his trials lead to the salvation of thousands of lives.