
WEEK 9 – THE DREAM AND THE DOXOLOGY

Part 1 – Joseph and His Brothers (Genesis 42:1-45:15)

1. The covenant has not been explicitly mentioned since Genesis 35, before Joseph's narrative began. In Genesis 42, we find two three major threats to the covenant promise. What are they?

LEADERS: *In the beginning of the chapter, the major threat is the famine. Once the brothers arrive in Egypt, the threat is Joseph. (At this point in the story, we do not know how that relationship will develop.) At the end of chapter 42, the threat is Jacob's own grief.*

2. How are each of these threats resolved over the course of Genesis 43:1-45:15? How is Joseph involved in each of these resolutions? How is Judah involved?

LEADERS: *Joseph has made provision for the famine which ensures the family's survival. Judah is the one who convinces Jacob to send Benjamin to Egypt and whose sacrificial actions in Egypt move Joseph to forgive his brothers and bring them to Goshen. Judah's sacrifice and Joseph's forgiveness are the keys.*

Part 2 – The Hidden One Appears (Genesis 45:25-46:5)

3. What is Jacob's attitude toward Egypt in Genesis 45:25? How and why does it change in Genesis 46:1-5?
4. How does God reassure Jacob of the covenant promises in Genesis 46:1-4? Which part of the covenant is threatened by the provision God offers to Israel and his family?
5. **Read Hebrews 11:13-16 together.** Now look at Genesis 47:7-10. How does Jacob acknowledge God's covenant with Abraham in his conversation with Pharaoh?

LEADERS: *He mentions his family's "sojourning" twice in verse 9: he knows that Egypt is not his promised home. He blesses the Pharaoh twice: his family, through Joseph, is seeing God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:3 come to pass.*

Part 3 – Application

6. In Genesis 47:27-31, how do we see that the faithfulness of God has been demonstrated? How does Israel respond to God's faithfulness as he prepares to die? What can we learn from Israel's faith?
7. **Read Romans 11:25-36 together.** How does this passage compare to Joseph's revelation in Genesis 45:4-8 and his later reassurance to his brothers in Genesis 50:20?

LEADERS: *This passage can easily lead the conversation in another direction. The main takeaway is that God is still using man's disobedience to bestow mercy. (See: parallel in Genesis 43:14, 29.) Romans 11:36 is a beautiful theological summary of how God works in the story of Jacob's family.*
