

March 16–22  
Genesis 42–50  
“God Meant it Unto Good”



# Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Gen 42:8-11,16-17

What evidence do you see that Joseph was suspicious of his brothers and questioned their integrity?

# Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Gen 42:18-24

How did the brothers' react to the demands that Joseph made?

Why do you think Joseph wept when he overheard how his brothers reacted?

# Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Gen 42:33-36

Why does Jacob conclude that “all these things are against me”?

# Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Gen 43:26-34

How did Joseph react to being with Benjamin again?

What evidence do you see that Joseph is starting to have a change of heart toward his brothers?

## Arthur R. Bassett

"It is in Joseph's relationship with his brothers that one sees his most Christlike features, especially the characteristics of brotherly kindness and charity.... What a shock it must have been, then, when Joseph confronted his brothers again for the first time in twenty-two years. What thoughts must have raced through his mind! Again one senses his great patience in not revealing himself to them until he discovers their feelings.

"History would search far to find another scene so filled with human feelings as that of Joseph listening to his brethren... speak of their punishment for having sold their brother into slavery. Joseph responded with sternness, as God must sometimes do with us, but when one sees him moved to tears on two occasions-to the point that he must leave the room to hide his face from his brethren-one senses the depth of his Christlike love, filled with forgiveness for the truly penitent." ("Joseph, Model of Excellence," Ensign, Sept. 1980)

# Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Gen 44:1-5

How does this test give Joseph the chance to see whether his brothers have truly changed since they sold him into slavery?

# Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Gen 44:22,32-34

How does Judah's concern for both Benjamin and his father show that his heart has changed?

# Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Gen 45:1-8

In what ways does Joseph recognize the hand of God in all the hardships and trials he endured?

## Joseph B. Wirthlin

“Through Joseph, the Lord preserved the children of Israel and provided a place in Egypt for them to flourish and increase.

“This story is well known, but I urge you to read it again, focusing your attention on the integrity of Joseph and on the blessings it brought to him. He became the birthright son in the house of Israel and received an inheritance in the lands of the Americas. The Lord permitted him to prophesy of Moses, who would deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt and of Joseph Smith, the prophet of the restoration of the gospel in the latter days.” (CR, April 1990)

# Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Gen 45:9-15

What characteristic do you think Joseph possessed that explains his change from anger and suspicion to love and compassion toward his brothers?

## Arthur R. Bassett

"I respect our father Joseph for many things—for his faith, his virtue, his knowledge, his temperance and patience, and for his godliness. But most of all I respect him for his brotherly kindness and love. These are his most godlike attributes; these are his touch-point with the Savior and his touch-point with us, his posterity. These are the attributes we should attempt to emulate as the grandchildren of this model of Christian excellence; one of the greatest men this world has ever produced, a father who taught all of his posterity what it means to truly know Christ." ("Joseph, Model of Excellence," Ensign, Sept. 1980)

# Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Gen 46:1-4

How do God's words to Jacob reassure him that God will keep the covenant made with Abraham?

# Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Gen 46:27-30

What stands out to you about Joseph and Jacob's reunion, and why?

# Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Gen 47:27-31

Why do you think that it was important to Jacob that he be buried in the land of Canaan?

# Jacob Blesses His Posterity

JST Gen 48:6-11

According to Jacob, how did Joseph bless both his family and future generations?

Because of Joseph's faithfulness, what does Jacob promise him and his descendants?

In what ways has this blessing been fulfilled?

## Patricia L. Brown

“Joseph... lived a faithful life, trusting in Heavenly Father, saving his family temporally but also spiritually by obtaining the covenant blessings which remain in force for his posterity.... The great responsibility of Joseph’s descendants... is clarified: ‘For thou shalt be a light unto my people, to deliver them in the days of their captivity, from bondage; and to bring salvation.’... Joseph’s posterity are to become saviors to their brethren of Israel (and by extension the rest of Father’s children).” (“The life of Joseph,” Church News, July 30th, 1994)

# Jacob Blesses His Posterity

Gen 48:13-14,17-22

Why is Ephraim given the greater blessing, and what does this mean for his descendants?

## John Taylor

"Joseph observing what his father was doing, informed him that he was putting his right hand on the head of the younger boy, but the old man replied, I know it, my son. The Spirit of the Lord prompted him to do as he did—to confer the greater blessing upon Ephraim, the younger brother. It was for this reason that God spake through the mouth of Jeremiah concerning the gathering of Israel: 'I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn' (Jer 31:9). That is according to his purposes. He acknowledged and reconfirmed this birthright upon Ephraim the younger of the two sons of Joseph, when he referred to the dispensation of the fullness of times and the ushering in of its great work—when the Lord should set his hand to gather His people, and be a father to Israel, even to Ephraim His firstborn."  
(JD, 21:358)

# Jacob Blesses His Posterity

Gen 49:22-26

What does it mean that Joseph is a “fruitful bough” whose branches run over the wall?

## LeGrand Richards

"Jacob said that Joseph was a fruitful bough whose branches would run over the wall (and we have always understood that the wall referred to the great waters)—and where was he to go over the wall? Unto the utmost bounds of the everlasting hills. Is there any theologian in this world who can tell us where those everlasting hills are to which the Lord, through the father of Joseph, promised Joseph that he and his people would go?

“He further said that his blessings would prevail above the blessings of his progenitors and his progenitors were Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Can you imagine that God would have in store for that chosen one blessings greater than those of his progenitors, and then not provide that a record should be kept of the fulfillment of those promises unto that great branch of the house of Israel?" (CR, April 1967)

Next Week:

March 23–29

Exodus 1–6

“I Have Remembered My Covenant”

