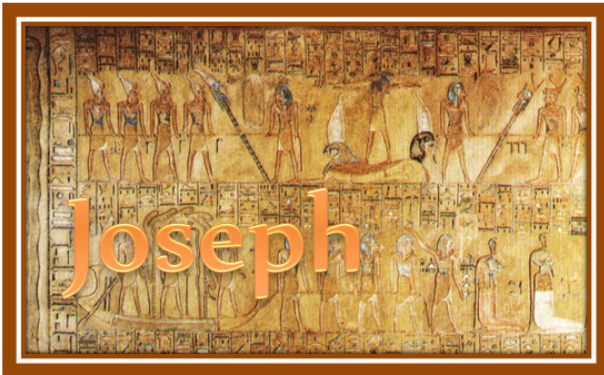




Who was that Hero in the Multi-Colored Coat?

Genesis 45:5: (NASB) *Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.*



Everybody loves a hero...someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty...someone who puts their own interests aside for the greater good...someone who does those things that others can't or won't. Usually these heroes are recognized as a result of a particular event or crisis, and we laud their contribution. It is a rare thing to see someone who lives a heroic life and displays a heroic heart throughout their lifetime - one who becomes a hero for the ages. On this program, we look at such a man to try and learn from the example of his heroic life!

Chapter 1 - The Beginning: A Hero's Lesson in Motivation

Genesis 37:1-11: (NRSV) ¹Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ²This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.

Bilhah: originally a handmaid to Rachel; bore Dan and Naphtali.

Zilpah: originally a servant of Laban; bore Gad and Asher; given to Leah.

As a teenager (about seventeen years old), Joseph worked hard and was not afraid to speak the truth, even if it meant ridicule from his peers. Integrity reveals priorities and priorities require sacrifice!

Psalms 40:8: (NASB) *I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart.*

³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves.

This would have been the type of garment worn by royalty in their day.

⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Could not - implies a fierce rivalry that overtook the older brothers.
Speak peaceably - from the word "shalom."

There is a difference between performing a heroic act and living a heroic life. Having integrity is a must.

 **Definition, *What is Integrity, tuckschoolofbusiness.com***

- *But what exactly do we mean by integrity and why is it important in business ethics? The word has two definitions: The first definition is the quality of being complete, unbroken or whole. The second definition, which is more important for our purposes, is the quality or state of being of sound moral principle; honest and sincere.*





- *The first definition is derived from mathematics. An integer after all is a whole number. So too is the person with integrity. But merely being whole does not convey much moral meaning. It is the second definition that gives us a deeper understanding of the concept. Being of sound moral principle implies that a person has developed and lives by a certain code of ethics that includes honesty and sincerity. These two moral virtues are cornerstones to human interaction.*

⁵Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, Listen to this dream that I dreamed. ⁷There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it, and bowed down to my sheaf. ⁸His brothers said to him, Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us? So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.

Dreams would be a theme of Joseph's life. Notice how Joseph communicated to those who hated him. We have no reason to believe he was malicious in this communication; rather he was acting more like a close family member would.

⁹He had another dream, and told it to his brothers, saying, Look, I have had another dream: the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me. ¹⁰But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him, and said to him, What kind of dream is this that you have had? Shall we indeed come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow to the ground before you?

His father rebuked Joseph, meaning to reprove - not necessarily in an angry sense (the next verse verifies this) but perhaps more in a sense of maintaining Joseph's humility.

¹¹So his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Kept the matter - not just remembering it, but also in the sense of guarding it.



The first lesson in living heroically: The contrast between a raging, one-sided rivalry consisting of ten brothers versus the younger, integrity-filled teenager who lived his loyalty and showed fearlessness when speaking truth, even if it could prove to his detriment.



Part 1 - Life of Integrity, Sagebrush Community

- If you want to live a life of integrity, please follow these special instructions:*
 - Admit when you are wrong!*
 - Be the first to forgive!*
 - Be the first to stand when everyone else sits down!*
 - Do what is right, even when no one else does!*
 - Say "no" when people are trying to get you to do something that you know you shouldn't!*
 - Tell the truth and accept the consequences!*
 - Stand up for something you believe in, even though it might mean rejection or ridicule!*



Chapter 2 - Being Sold by His Brothers, A Hero's Lesson of Choices, Determination and Consequence

First, we have the choices and determination of Joseph:

Genesis 37:12-17: (NRSV) ¹²Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³And Israel said to Joseph, Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them. He answered, Here I am.

There is a special connection here that we cannot overlook - the way he answers, *Here I am*.

Here I am - personal preference aside; be about your father's business.

Isaiah 6:8: (KJV) Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

This prophecy spoke of Jesus being willing to redeem that which was lost, the world. Is there a special connection between Joseph and Jesus? Yes, definitely. They were both willing to do whatever the Father said to do.

"Here I am"	"Here am I"
Willing to do what his father asked of him	Willing to do what his Father asked of him

¹⁴So he said to him, Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me. So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, ¹⁵and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, What are you seeking? ¹⁶I am seeking my brothers, he said; tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock. ¹⁷The man said, They have gone away, for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan.



Sometimes the path becomes harder and less predictable than anticipated. Determination says that you just keep on going, for your words should mirror your actions.

Originally Joseph's father told him that his brothers were at Shechem, but they were not where they were supposed to be. They were not where their father had sent them. Providentially, there was an individual that knew where they went.

In the life of Jesus, he was sent to retrieve those who were lost. In the eyes of the Father, they were lost. They chose to go another direction. Jesus was sent to recover them.



Jesus was willing, even at a young age, to do his Father's will:

Luke 2:49: (KJV) *And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*

 **Ancient struggle, *What is Integrity*, tuckschoolofbusiness.com**

- *Plato devotes much of the Republic to this struggle, providing Socrates with a platform to challenge a prevailing philosophical trend of 'might makes right.' So, even in the fifth century BC, the struggle between extreme self-interest and integrity was being played out. For Socrates, as for many contemporary moral philosophers, the person who lives a principled life is happier, in large part because he is in sync with his true nature. A moral hero is not necessarily the person we read about on the front page of the New York Times, but more likely the person we contract with to do work on our homes, to sell us insurance or any number of other daily transactions. These are the people who make our lives pleasant. They stand by their word and defend the helpless.*

We have a choice as to how we are going to act when confronted with moral situations. Are we going to take the high road?

Next we compare the choices and determination of his brothers:

Genesis 37:18-28: (NRSV) ¹⁸*They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him.* ¹⁹*They said to one another, Here comes this dreamer.* ²⁰*Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.*



Don't go down that road!

Proverbs 27:4 (NASB) *Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood, but who can stand before jealousy?*

We see another parallel between Joseph and Jesus in that Jesus' own people plotted to kill him.



²¹But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, Let us not take his life. ²²Reuben said to them, Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father.

A voice of reason may rise up to avert disaster, but is it a voice of true courage?

²³So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; ²⁴and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

And so, the determination and integrity to find those he was sent to find, is met with enmity and rage, resulting in humiliation and a death sentence. He who was sent to find is sentenced by those who were lost...sounds like Jesus, too, right?



Determination and integrity met with enmity and rage	Determination and integrity met with enmity and rage
Resulted in humiliation and a death sentence	Resulted in humiliation and a death sentence

Luke 19:10: (KJV) *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

Mark 14:1: (NASB) *Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread were two days away; and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize him by stealth and kill him;*

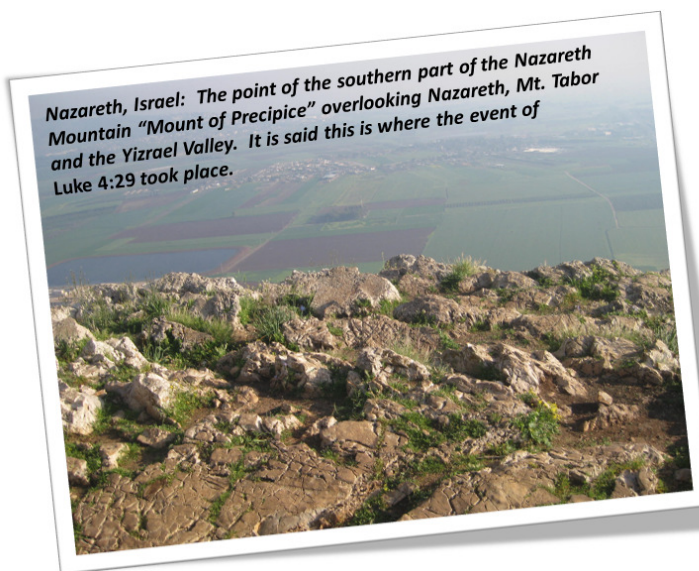
Joseph's life was given as a template to help us better understand the life of Jesus.

²⁵Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶Then Judah said to his brothers, What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh. And his brothers agreed.



So a death sentence is overruled to become a life sentence, for God does protect those whom He has sent to do His will.

Another parallel to Jesus:

Luke 4:28-30: (NASB) ²⁸And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; ²⁹and they got up and drove him out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw him down the cliff. ³⁰But passing through their midst, he went his way.





	
An overruling of the death sentence provided	An overruling of the death sentence provided

²⁸When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Joseph is sold into slavery! How corrupt was that!? Jesus was also sold for pieces of silver...

	
Sold for pieces of silver	Sold for pieces of silver

Psalms 91:11-12: (KJV) ¹¹For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. ¹²They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Part 2, Life of Integrity, Sagebrush Community

- If you want to live a life of integrity, please follow these special instructions:
Defend someone who is considered unpopular or unacceptable!
When faced with a limitation, give your very best, regardless of pain or discomfort!
Confront a fear without running away!
Give sacrificially to protect or promote either someone you love, someone who has been wronged, or someone in need!*



The Hero's Choice: ACT OUT OF THE EMOTIONAL INSTABILITY OF THE MOMENT OR FOLLOW THE VISION!

The second lesson in living heroically: Reason without courage is at best a shaky compromise. Courage without reason is an empty promise. These both are unstable at best!

Courage that is founded in reason and obedience to the vision is destined for mockery and threats, yet it still perseveres.

So, what do we have so far?

The development of a hero for the ages begins with asking the questions: Who is he motivated by, what is he motivated by and how he is he motivated? With a desire to only do the will of his father, the hero then must act in accordance with that vision at all costs. And most likely, there will be a cost - a severe and significant cost that most would not be willing to pay. Remember that Joseph is only seventeen years old at this point in the story.

Chapter 3 - Joseph in Potiphar's House, A Hero's Lesson in Living with Sacred Honor

 **Potiphar choosing a slave, Joseph (1995 movie)**

- *He's the best, sir. He's a fine slave, sir. Look at that fine head. Look at those shoulders; look at that back, those arms. He is perfect!*
- *He's healthy enough but probably has never done a hard day's labor in his life.*
- *Ahh, but he can be trained, Master. He's submissive; he's obedient. (Looking directly at Joseph) You'd do anything without a whimper. And he knows his place, never opens his mouth except to pray. Ha, ha, ha!*
- *Is that true, boy?*
- *Answer the master!*
- *And to whom are these prayers addressed? Which gods?*
- *Only one, my lord.*
- *Only one god. Must be very poor indeed. (Laughter from the crowd)*

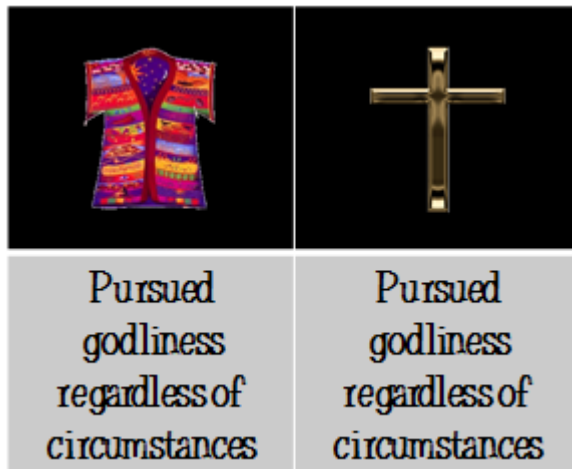
Genesis 39:1-6: (NRSV) ¹Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. ²The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³His master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hands.



Living a life of sacred honor usually reveals itself when circumstances are challenging and life looks as though it is not where we expected it to be. He did not give up, but rather he pursued godliness in spite of his very difficult circumstances.

Again, similar to Jesus:

Luke 2:50-52: (NASB) ⁵⁰But they did not understand the statement which he had made to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and he continued in subjection to them; and his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.



Potiphar choosing a slave, *Joseph (1995 movie)*

- *My one God provides all my needs, my lord.*
- *Well, he hasn't done very well for you now, has he? (Laughter from the crowd).*
- *These Semites are a superstitious lot, my lord.*
- *These what?*
- *Semites.*
- *Semites?*
- *Semites. But when they are not praying, they'll work very hard!*
- *Hard workers, are they?*
- *Yes!*
- *I don't know...what do you think overseer?*
- *I can knock the piety out of him, master.*
- *I know that. When I finish with him, he'll need a city full of gods.*
- *He's young. There would be ten more good years in a slave like this.*

⁴So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him; he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge; and, with him there, he had no concern for anything but the food that he ate. Now Joseph was handsome and good-looking.

By choosing to follow sacred honor, one puts himself in the position to excel in the most unusual circumstances.



Psalms 91:1-4: (NASB) *¹He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. ²I will say to the LORD, My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust! ³For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence. ⁴He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.*

The test:

Genesis 39:7-10: (NRSV) *⁷And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, Lie with me. ⁸But he refused and said to his master's wife, Look, with me here, my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my hand. ⁹He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? ¹⁰And although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not consent to lie beside her or to be with her.*

The truest hero stands firm and does not give in to those things that contradict the vision. The truest hero sees all compromise in the light of potential sin against God.

This reminds us when Jesus successfully stood firm against temptation:

Luke 4:5-8: (KJV) *⁵And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, showed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. ⁷If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. ⁸And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*



Genesis 39:11-18: (NRSV) *¹¹One day, however, when he went into the house to do his work, and while no one else was in the house, ¹²she caught hold of his garment, saying, Lie with me! But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.*

1 Corinthians 6:18: (NASB) *Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.*

¹³When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, ¹⁴she called out to the members of her household and said to them, See, my husband has brought among us a Hebrew to insult us! He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice; ¹⁵and when he heard me raise my voice and cry out, he left his garment beside me, and fled outside.



*Joseph and Potiphar's Wife,
painted by Italian painter
Guido Reni (1575-1642)*



A life of sacred honor will often be falsely accused and slandered, as its standards are such that by their mere presence, they reveal the depths of sin around them.

Jesus warned us about this:

Matthew 5:11-12: (NASB) ¹¹*Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*



¹⁶*Then she kept his garment by her until his master came home, ¹⁷and she told him the same story, saying, The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to insult me; ¹⁸but as soon as I raised my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me, and fled outside.*

Lies often repeated begin to sound like truth. The life of sacred honor simply moves forward, knowing that the only opinion and judgment that really matters is that of God himself.



Here is prophecy about the suffering of Jesus that parallels Joseph's:

Isaiah 53:4-6: (KJV) ⁴Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.



The Hero's Choice:

LIVE IN OBEDIENCE
TO YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES
OR
LIVE IN SACRED HONOR
TO THE VISION!

The third lesson in living heroically: All choices yield consequences, both intended and unintended. Living with sacred honor means accepting all consequences with grace and humility, even at the expense of reputation and future.

Chapter 4 - Joseph sent to prison, A Hero's Lesson in Single-Minded Focus

Joseph before Potiphar, *Joseph (1995 movie)*

- *What my wife's servant ran to tell me, is it true?*
- *Would you have me call your own wife a liar, master?*
- *I thought I could trust you.*
- *But you can, master.*
- *Try and explain yourself.*
- *How, master?*
- *She accuses you of the vilest crime, Joseph, and demands the full measure of the law in vengeance, which means your head.*
- *And a man guilty of that crime would deserve nothing less.*
- *So you deny it?*
- *Yes, of course! But who would believe a slave pleading for his life?*
- *I deserve better than that from you! I've treated you more like a son than a slave. Trusted my entire estate to you. Made you the law of my house in my absence. You, a slave!*
- *This land has prospered under my hand.*
- *Which is why I'd rather not see you dead. It would take me years to find another like you. Is there nothing you can say in your defense?*
- *You know you can trust me. I would never betray you, not after all the goodness you've shown me.*
- *Wouldn't you call forcing yourself on my wife a betrayal?*
- *Of course I would, and I repeat, I would never betray you.*
- *Are you saying my wife's a liar?*



- *That's not my place, master. But whatever happened to her was not by my hand. I could not do such a thing.*
- *No, no you couldn't. It goes against everything I've ever seen in you.*

Of course this is a dramatization and not direct quotes of Scripture, but we do get a sense that Potiphar would understand Joseph's true character. He did not behead Joseph.

Genesis 39:19-23: (NASB) ¹⁹Now when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spoke to him, saying, *This is what your slave did to me, his anger burned.* ²⁰So Joseph's master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; and he was there in the jail.

How would you or I react to being punished with no cause? Would we begin to think that God had abandoned us? The true hero lives in their present circumstance based on truth and is not swayed by any biased perceptions of events.

Isaiah 26:3-4: (NASB) ³The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You. ⁴Trust in the LORD forever, for in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.

²¹But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. ²²The chief jailer committed to Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible for it. ²³The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made to prosper.

Any surprise here? When you are single-minded, you do only what you know. In Joseph's case, it was fidelity to God and His principles allowing him to show his faith in God's presence in his life where others would have said God had abandoned him.

Genesis 40:1-8: (NASB) ¹Then it came about after these things, the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt. ²Pharaoh was furious with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker...⁴The captain of the bodyguard put Joseph in charge of them, and he took care of them; and they were in confinement for some time.

Jesus extended himself to others as well:

Matthew 12:15: (NASB) *But Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. Many followed him, and he healed them all,*

Extended himself to others without intention of personal gain	Extended himself to others without intention of personal gain



⁵Then the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt, who were confined in jail, both had a dream the same night, each man with his own dream and each dream with its own interpretation. ⁶When Joseph came to them in the morning and observed them, behold, they were dejected...⁸Then they said to him, We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it. Then Joseph said to them, Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell it to me, please.

The pattern of his life was to always bring glory to God. Fidelity and single focus...here is an opportunity to bring comfort to others while witnessing to the power of God. This was all done without any promise of personal gain.

Similar to Jesus:

Matthew 9:36: (NASB) *Seeing the people, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.*

We want to be a daily hero! We want to apply God-honoring principles over preferences in every turn of our lives.

For dream details, please see the Bonus Material in the Full Edition Rewind!

Genesis 40:20-23: (NASB) ²⁰Thus it came about on the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. ²¹He restored the chief cupbearer to his office, and he put the cup into Pharaoh's hand; ²²but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them. ²³Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.



"You Know Better Than I," Joseph, King of Dreams

If this has been a test
I cannot see the reason
But maybe knowing I don't know
Is part of getting through
I try to do what's best
And faith has made it easy
To see the best thing I can do
is put my trust in You
For you know better than I
You know the way
I've let go the need to know why
For you know better than I

A real hero strives daily to be pleasing to God.

Isaiah 53:7-9: (KJV) ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. ⁸He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. ⁹And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

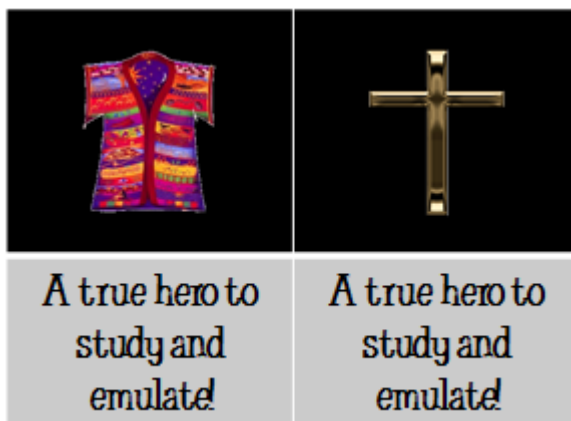


The Hero's Choice:
BE SWALLOWED IN DESPAIR
BY MISFORTUNE
OR
NEVER FLINCH FROM
A SINGLE-MINDED FOCUS!

The fourth lesson in living heroically: So, the hero does good things for others and is forgotten. To the outsider it would seem as though God had all but left him. But this is precisely how a lifetime hero is developed! Tested, tried and often alone, he shows his motivation by making the choice to live with sacred honor and a single-minded focus.

All the ingredients of a hero were being blended into Joseph: Character, integrity, faith, courage, and wisdom - all for the purpose of being able to literally save his world.

There are numerous parallels between Joseph and Jesus, especially in their attitudes showing how important it is for us to focus on integrity and doing what is right. We are to find faith in action in our daily lives to learn how to become a daily hero.



*So, who was that hero in the multi-colored coat?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*





Luke 12:50: (NASB) *But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!*

Dream details from Joseph's prison experience:

Genesis 40:9-19: (NASB) ⁹*So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, there was a vine in front of me; ¹⁰and on the vine were three branches. And as it was budding, its blossoms came out, and its clusters produced ripe grapes. ¹¹Now Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; so I took the grapes and squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I put the cup into Pharaoh's hand. ¹²Then Joseph said to him, This is the interpretation of it: the three branches are three days; ¹³within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office; and you will put Pharaoh's cup into his hand according to your former custom when you were his cupbearer. ¹⁴Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house. ¹⁵For I was in fact kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing that they should have put me into the dungeon. ¹⁶When the chief baker saw that he had interpreted favorably, he said to Joseph, I also saw in my dream, and behold, there were three baskets of white bread on my head; ¹⁷and in the top basket there were some of all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, and the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head. ¹⁸Then Joseph answered and said, This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days; ¹⁹within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head from you and will hang you on a tree, and the birds will eat your flesh off you.*

(Source: McClintock and Strong's Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature)

Joseph: The character of Joseph is wholly composed of great materials, and therefore needs not to be minutely portrayed. We trace in it very little of that balance of good and evil, of strength and weakness, that marks most things human, and do not anywhere distinctly discover the results of the conflict of motives that generally occasions such great difficulty in judging men's actions. We have as full an account of Joseph as of Abraham and Jacob, a fuller one than of Isaac; and if we compare their histories, Joseph's character is the least marked by wrong or indecision. His first quality seems to have been the greatest resolution. He not only believed faithfully, but could endure patiently, and could command equally his good and evil passions. Hence his strong sense of duty, his zealous work, his strict justice, his clear discrimination of good and evil. Like all men of vigorous character, he loved power, but when he had gained it he used it with the greatest generosity. He seems to have striven to get men unconditionally in his power that he might be the means of good to them. Generosity in conferring benefits, as well as in forgiving injuries, is one of his distinguishing characteristics. With this strength was united the deepest tenderness. He was easily moved to tears, even weeping at the first sight of his brethren after they had sold him. His love for his father and Benjamin was not enfeebled by years of separation, nor by his great station. The wise man was still the same as the true youth. These great qualities explain his power of governing and administering, and his extraordinary flexibility, which enabled him to suit himself to each new position in life. The last trait to make up this great character was modesty, the natural result of the others.



Next some fascinating thoughts on Egyptian History, the Bible and Joseph:
(Source: <http://www.arkdiscovery.com/joseph.htm>)

Read the in-depth the research on Joseph in Egypt:

National Geographic, January 1995, describes a man called Imhotep who saved his country from a famine: Perhaps most confident was Imhotep, the architect who probably conceived of building Djoser's [pharaoh] tomb completely from stone. Known as a sculptor, a priest, and a healer, Imhotep is considered the preeminent genius of the Old Kingdom. He assembled one workforce to quarry limestone to ship the crude blocks by boat to Saqqara, and yet another to haul the stone to the site, where master carvers shaped each block and put it in place.

On a granite boulder above the Nile's First Cataract, the formidable rapids at Aswan, a sculptor who lived much later [thus the facts are not totally accurate] chiseled out in hieroglyphs the story of how Imhotep had even saved his country from famine.



In 1890, Charles Wilbour discovered this boulder on the island of Sahal at the Nile, telling a story of Imhotep

The annual Nile flood, which inundated surrounding fields every autumn before farmers sowed their seed, failed seven years in a row. Djoser asked Imhotep where the source of the river lay. The pharaoh intended to travel there to interrogate the river gods and beg them to show mercy on his people.

But Imhotep replied that sacred [God] books had given him the answer... The floods returned, and the famine was over...

In about 1200 B.C., fully 1400 years after his death, Imhotep, the genius architect of Djoser's reign, was deified by the Egyptians, who built cult temples to honor him.



Joseph in Ancient Egyptian History

By Mary Nell Wyatt, based on Ron Wyatt's research

It's rather amazing how historians and archaeologists have managed to explain away evidence which validates the Biblical account. Myths and legends derived from actual events of biblical times are found all over the world, such as the multitude of Flood stories, but to the unbeliever these only prove that the Bible was influenced by these myths.

The fact is that these myths are satanic corruptions of the truth, designed by Satan to convince man that in his own cleverness, he is smarter than God. And ultimately this kind of thinking leads a person to deny entirely the existence of God and the truth of the Bible.

Yet, no one seems to think it strange that every known civilization has had some type of religious system. If there is no God, where did this idea of religion and gods come from? It came from the original truths known by the original post-flood family of Noah. The facts which have been found validate the biblical account, not the myths and legends. But there will always be those who simply will not see.

Some of these great evidences relate to the story of Joseph in ancient Egypt. Inscriptions on a monument to Horemheb, a pharaoh several years after the Exodus, provide evidence of the story of the pharaoh in Joseph's day extending an invitation to Jacob's family to come live in Egypt.

It tells of a community of shepherds from the north asking Egypt to allow them to pasture their cattle "as was the custom of the father of their fathers from the beginning." There is also a picture in the tomb of Tehuti-hetep in Bersheh which has a picture of a herd of Syrian cattle entering Egypt with the inscription:

- "Once you trod the Syrian sands. Now, here in Egypt, you shall feed in green pastures." (Light from the Ancient Past, by Jack Finegan.)

The evidences which parallel the story of Joseph are the focus of this newsletter. But first, we must set the stage.

According to our chronology, taken from the biblical record, the flood occurred about 2348 B.C. Abraham left Haran in about 1921 B.C., about 427 years later. Soon after this (we don't know exactly how soon) he and Sarah went to Egypt because of a famine in Canaan.

The biblical account is extremely short on the subject of Abraham's visit to Egypt (Gen. 12:10-20), but we do learn that Abraham misled the pharaoh about who Sarah was, as he told pharaoh she was his sister. This was partially true since she was his half-sister, but she was also his wife.

The pharaoh took her to his palace since she was so beautiful. (Genesis 12:12-15). The king paid Abraham well for Sarah (verse 16) but God intervened, causing some types of plagues to fall upon the pharaoh. (verse 17). When the pharaoh figured out the cause for these inflictions, he called Abraham to



account, asking him why he lied to him about Sarah. (verse 18, 19). He then ordered his men to escort Abraham and his entourage out of Egypt. (verse 20)

Egypt at this time was already a rich nation, for it was at this time that Abraham became rich in cattle, gold and silver, given to him as payment for Sarah. (Genesis 13:1,2). And there is good evidence that it was at this time that the regulation prohibiting the Egyptians from eating, drinking or fraternizing with foreign shepherds was instituted. (Genesis 46:34).

Josephus relates that Abraham was responsible for bringing the knowledge during the early part of the First Dynasty, about 1915 BC.

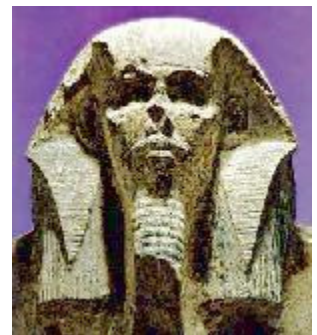
It would be about 200 years later when Joseph would be elevated to his high position in Egypt, second only to the pharaoh. During this same time of the 3rd Dynasty, there appears on the scene a most incredible individual in the ancient records- a man called Imhotep.

For many years, Egyptologists had doubted that Imhotep had been a real person -- they found it rather difficult to believe the various accomplishments credited to him in the accounts written over a thousand years after he was supposed to have lived. At times Imhotep has been termed the Leonardo da Vinci of ancient Egypt, but in fact he was more than that. Da Vinci gained the reputation of a genius -- Imhotep was eventually elevated to the status of a god.


In Egypt's long list of gods, very few were ever actually living among them, but Imhotep did. Manetho wrote that "during his [Djoser of the 3rd Dynasty] reign lived Imouthes [i.e., Imhotep], who, because of his medical skill has the reputation of Asclepius [the Greek god of medicine] among the Egyptians and who was the inventor of the art of building with hewn stone." It was this statement that caused the specialists to doubt the existence of a real man named Imhotep. But in 1926, the question was settled once and for all -- Imhotep was a real man.

When excavations were carried out at the Step Pyramid at Sakkara, fragments of a statue of Pharaoh Djoser were found. The base was inscribed with the names of Djoser and of...

- "Imhotep, Chancellor of the King of Lower Egypt, Chief under the King, Administrator of the Great Palace, Hereditary Lord, High Priest of Heliopolis, Imhotep the Builder, the Sculptor, the Maker of Stone Vases..."

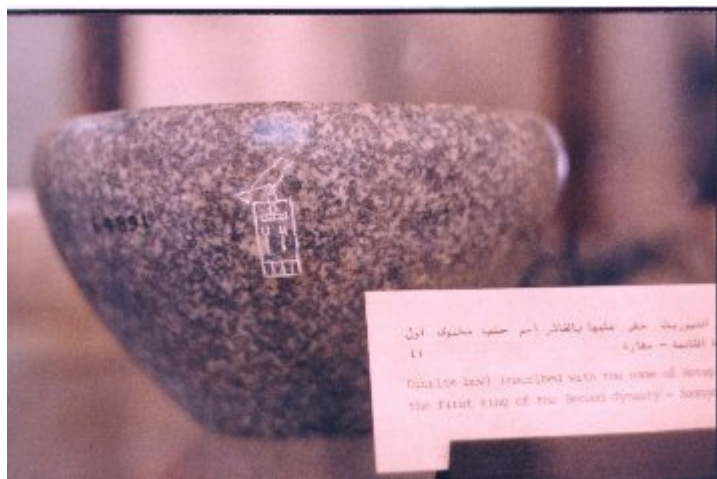




Inscription showing the name and titulary of Imhotep  in the 3rd row to the left, and the Horus-name of Djoser. This inscription was found on the base of a sculpture of Djoser, thus indicating Imhotep was a real man, as opposed to a god.

Does this fit what we know of Joseph? The Bible is quite clear on his high rank under the pharaoh:

- "Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." Genesis 41:40-44



Stone vase at Saqqara with Imhoteps inscription

See www.sunship.com/egypt/articles/hrdfact3.html for stone vases Joseph made at Saqqara. There were thousands found there which were created by extremely talented people using sophisticated lathes.

In fact, it sounds as if Joseph was the first person ever given such honor by a pharaoh, which is confirmed by evidence in Egypt. If this man, Imhotep was Joseph, surely there must be some evidence tying him with the Biblical account.

Inscription of the 7-Year Famine



Joseph's main position was that of a prime minister and Imhotep appears to be the first who could boast of such a broad range of authority in ancient Egypt. There are records of many, many viziers throughout Egyptian history- but the first evidence which connects Imhotep with Joseph is an amazing inscription found carved on a large rock on the island of Sihel just below the First Cataract of the Nile. (see photo)

This inscription claims to be a copy of a document written by Djoser in the 18th year of his reign, this copy being written over 1,000 years after the events it claims to be relating.

It goes on to tell of a seven-year famine and seven years of plenty. Let's look at a few passages from this inscription and compare them with the biblical account, keeping in mind that this was written a millennium after the events it claims to be describing:

- 1. The inscription begins with the great distress of the pharaoh: "I was in distress on the Great Throne..." The Bible: "And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled" Genesis 41:8
- 2. In the inscription, the pharaoh is troubled about a famine and asks Imhotep who the god of the Nile is, so he can approach him about the drought: "... I asked him who was the Chamberlain,...Imhotep, the son of Ptah...What is the birthplace of the Nile? Who is the god there? Who is the god?" Imhotep answers: "I need the guidance of Him who presides over the fowling net,..." The Bible: "And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace." Genesis 41:16

In the Egyptian text above, Imhotep is termed "the son of Ptah", who was the Egyptian god known as the "creator" of everything else, including the other gods.

- 3. In the inscription, Imhotep answers the pharaoh about the god of the Nile and tells him where he lives. In the Bible, Joseph interprets the pharaoh's dream. But, the next part of the inscription tells that when the king slept, the Nile god Khnum, revealed himself to him in a dream and promised the Nile would pour forth her waters and the land would yield abundantly for seven years, after a seven year drought. This passage reflects the fact of a dream by the pharaoh of seven years of plenty and seven years of famine, although reversed.
- 4. The inscription then goes on to record Djoser's promise to the Nile god, Khnum, in which the people were to be taxed 1/10 of everything, except for the priests of the "house of the god," who would be exempted. The Bible: "And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt unto this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth part, except the land of the priests only, which became not Pharaoh's." Genesis 47:26



So here we have an inscription which tells a story of pharaoh Djoser asking his vizier, Imhotep, to help him with the problem of a great seven year famine. Imhotep tells him he must consult the god because the answer is not in him. Then, the pharaoh dreams a dream which foretells the event. Next follow seven years of plenty, which is reverse from the Biblical account. The pharaoh levies a tax of 10% on all of the population except for the priesthood. The Biblical account tells of a 1/5, or 20% tax, with the priesthood exempt. All of the components of the Biblical account are present in this inscription, except that the story has been "Egyptianized" to fit their religious beliefs.

It is believed that this inscription was written during the 2nd century BC, by the priests of Khnum for the purpose of justifying their claim of some land privileges. Part of the inscription states that the pharaoh dedicated some of the land and taxation to the god. But, this isn't the only inscription with this story - there is a similar inscription on the Isle of Philae, only this one has the priests of Isis stating that Djoser made the same gift to their god for the same purpose. Just as the story of the flood is found in almost every ancient culture but is twisted to fit their own purposes and gods, here we find the story of Joseph, only it is twisted to fit the needs of the priests of the various gods in substantiating their claims to certain land.

"Imhotep, the Voice of the God, Im (I AM)"

The name, Imhotep, in ancient Egyptian is translated to mean "the voice (or mouth) of Im"; however, there is no record of a god in Egypt called "Im". But, we all know the God, "I AM":

- "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." Exodus 3:14
- "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." John 8:58

God told Moses to tell the pharaoh that "I AM" had sent him because "I AM" was the name by which the Egyptians had known Joseph's God. Could "Im" have been "I AM"?

The Bible states the name that was given to Joseph by the pharaoh, Zaphenath-paneah. It has been translated by some to mean, "the God lives; the God speaks". Since we do not fully understand the meaning of the Egyptian word "hotep," it is quite possible that the translation of Imhotep ("The voice of I AM) is identical to the Biblical name of Joseph ("the God lives; the God speaks).

