

Key Takeaways from the Life of Joseph

1. Even when we do not see Him, God is sovereign over the affairs of man. God not mentioned in chapter 37, but He takes credit for taking Joseph to Egypt. Joseph told his brothers, "God did send me before you to preserve life." Genesis 45:5
2. God prepares us for the tasks that he wants us to do. God made Joseph steward of Potiphar's home and properties to prepare him to oversee the grain in all of Egypt. Genesis 39
3. God will fulfill His promises. The promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob have and will be kept by God. God promised Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years." Genesis 15:13 Yet, during this 400 years, He made 70 descendants into a great nation.
4. God's justice ultimately prevails. Even though Joseph was falsely accused and put in prison, he was ultimately vindicated. He was made 2nd in command in Egypt.
5. God's timing is perfect. Joseph was kept in prison until God brought the famine in the land.
6. Man disappoints, God is trustworthy. The cupbearer forgot, but Joseph was not abandoned.
7. God's plan is better than our plan. Joseph's plan was to get out of the pit he was in. God's plan was to rescue and build a nation through Joseph.
8. Unconfessed sin leads to fear, and an inability to see the blessings in your life. The brothers' reaction to Joseph's kindness was fear and the expectation of judgment. They were afraid when they received the money back in their sacks. Genesis 42:35 They were afraid when they were invited to Joseph's home. Genesis 43:18
9. Forgiveness is only possible when we rest in God's perfect plan and understand that He knows best. Joseph knew that his brothers planned evil against him, but was able to forgive because He saw and rested in God's perfect plan. Genesis 50
10. Faith is understanding that God's ways and rewards are a hundred million times better than anything the world has to offer. Jacob is commended in Hebrews 11 for adopting as his own two of the sons of Joseph. Genesis 48. Joseph was rich and important in Egypt, and his sons benefited by his status. But Jacob knew that having a future inheritance in Israel with God's people was far better than the fleeting riches of this world.