



PARASHAT
VAYESHEV

וישב

Genesis 37:1-40:23

by
Ya'acov Natan Lawrence
& his kids

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

Great Discoveries in This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)



- 37:1 Joseph, the Favorite Son Among Jacob's Offspring
- 37:5 Joseph's Dreams and His Brother's Jealousy
- 37:9 Joseph's Second Dream
- 37:12 Jacob Sends Joseph to Visit His Brothers
- 37:18 The Plot to Kill Joseph
- 37:22 Reuben Saves Joseph
- 37:25 Joseph Is Sold Into Slavery
- 37:31 The Lie Told to Jacob to Cover up the Truth
- 38:1 Judah and Tamar's Affair
- 38:6 Judah's Sons Marry Tamar, But Die for Their Sins Before They Can Produce Offspring
- 38:13 The Union Between Judah and Tamar
- 36:24 Tamar's Pregnancy and Birth of Twins
- 39:1 Joseph in Egypt in Potiphar's House
- 39:7 Potiphar's Wife Falsely Accuses Joseph of Moral Failure
- 39:20 Potiphar Sends Joseph to Prison
- 40:1 Joseph Interprets the Dreams of Pharaoh's Cupbearer and Baker

Exploring This Week's Parashah:

1 Exploring the Life of Joseph

Joseph is one of the mighty men of Scripture. What makes him so special is that he walked faithfully and obediently before YHVH starting at a very young age.






 (a) How old was Joseph when we first meet him? (Read Genesis 37:2.)

-  (b) Though Joseph was a special child and was favored by his father (Genesis 37:3), was Joseph's life easy? How did his ten older brothers treat him and why? (Read the last part of verse 2 and then verses 4 and 11.)
-  (c) Joseph was a very special young man, and YHVH began to speak to him at an early age. Read about the prophetic dream that YHVH gave to Joseph in Genesis 37:5-11.

This dream revealed things that would later take place in Joseph's life, although, at the time, he had no way of knowing just how the details of the dream would be fulfilled. This he would not understand until AFTER the events had taken place. When that happened, Joseph would be able to look back on his life and see that YHVH's hand was on Joseph and that his Father in heaven had been guiding his steps the whole time. The path that YHVH was leading Joseph down was a very difficult path with many unexpected turns and some very hard things through which our young hero of the faith would have to go.

2 Some Other "Josephs" in the Bible

Joseph was not the only young hero of the Bible. The Scriptures tell us that YHVH worked with several other young people in a special way, as well. Several of them he even talked to and several he began to raise up at a young age to do the work of his ministry. Let's quickly explore the lives of several of these young heroes.

-  (d) Samuel: Read 1 Samuel 2:18; 3:1-21
-  (e) David: Read 1 Samuel 16:1,7,12-13; 17:14-51
-  (f) Jeremiah: Jeremiah 1:5-10
-  (g) Daniel: Daniel 1:3-6,8-9
-  (h) Yeshua: Luke 2:40-52

3 The Life of Joseph Compared to the Life of Yeshua

There are many things in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) that prophetically pointed to Yeshua, the coming Jewish Messiah of Israel. Is this hard to understand? Think of it this way. When you are driving down the freeway toward a city that is still a long way off, even though you have not yet arrived at that city there are things along the way that point to that city. Every so often, you will see road signs that will tell you how far away the city is. You may see signs advertising motels, gas stations, restaurants and tourist attractions that can be found there.
















The Bible is also full of such "road" signs that pointed to Yeshua hundreds of years before he actually came to the earth. These are called prophecies. A prophecy can be a dream or vision that YHVH gives to someone containing information about something that will happen in the future. In the Bible, sometimes an angel would appear to that person and give them prophetic information about the future. Other times, a prophet would hear a word directly from YHVH about some future event. Many times, YHVH had prophets do things that were like road signs that pointed to future events that were to happen a long way off. Sometimes, a person's entire life—the things that happened to them—would be a prophetic picture foretelling future events. That was the case with Joseph. In many respects, his life was a picture of the life of the coming Messiah.

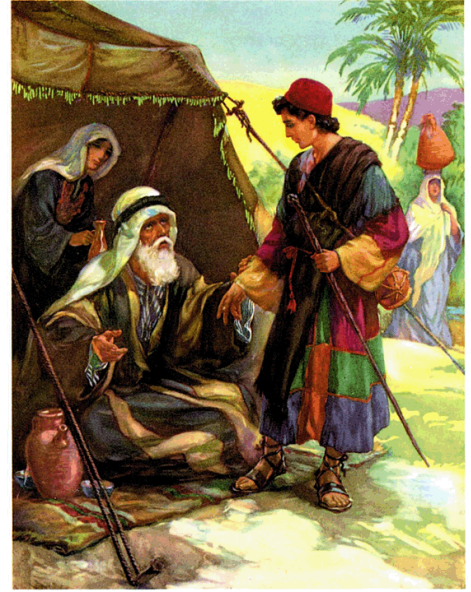
You see, Elohim uses all kinds of things to try to get our attention onto his Son, Yeshua the Messiah, the One who came to save us from our sins and through whom we can have a forever relationship with our Heavenly Father. We can look at the life of Joseph and see many

things that point to Yeshua. The life of Joseph helps us to understand the life and mission of Yeshua.










Below is a list of facts about Joseph's life that were all prophecies that pointed to the coming Messiah. Following each point mentioned about Joseph's life is a passage in the Apostolic Scriptures that shows how Yeshua fulfilled that prophecy. Look up the passage in the Apostolic Scriptures to discover how Joseph's life pointed to Yeshua.

Joseph's Life Compared With Yeshua's

-  (i) What was Joseph's occupation (before being sold into slavery)? (See Genesis 37:2.) What was Yeshua's spiritual "occupation"? (Not sure? Read John 10:1-18.)
-  (j) Joseph's father loved him more than all his brothers (Genesis 37:3-4). What was the relationship between Yeshua and his Father? (Read Matthew 3:17; 17:5 and John 10:17.)
-  (k) Joseph wore a special multicolored robe (Genesis 37:3). What did the Roman soldiers place on Yeshua at his beating (see Luke 23:11; John 19:24), and what multicolored, glorious phenomenon surrounds and adorns Yeshua while he sits on his heavenly throne (see Revelation 4:3)?
-  (l) Joseph's brethren hated him and spoke ill of him because of the evil intent of their hearts (Genesis 37:4). What about Yeshua? (See John 7:7.)
-  (m) Joseph dreamed and foretold of his future sovereignty or his becoming a ruler (Genesis 37:6-10). Did Yeshua ever speak of his future glory in his Father's kingdom? (Look at Matthew 26:64.)
-  (n) Joseph's brothers were jealous of him. (Genesis 37:11) How about Yeshua? (Read Matthew 27:17-18; Mark 12:6-7; John 12:18-19.)
-  (o) Joseph was sent forth by his father on a mission of love to see how his brothers were doing (Genesis 37:14). Was Yeshua sent by his Father to this earth for a similar mission? (Read John 3:16-17; 1John 4:10; Matthew 15:24.)
-  (p) Joseph's brothers rejected him. Did Yeshua's brethren reject him? (Note John 1:11; Isaiah 53:3.)
-  (q) Joseph wandered in the wilderness seeking his lost brothers until he found them (Genesis 37:15-17). What about Yeshua? (See Matthew 15:24; Luke 19:10.)
-  (r) Joseph's brothers wanted to kill him (Genesis 37:18). What about Yeshua? (Read Matthew 12:44; Mark 14:1; John 7:30, 32; 10:39; 11:57.)
-  (s) Joseph's words were disbelieved and he was insulted (Genesis 37:19-20). Did Yeshua's brethren accept his words? (See Matthew 27:39-44.)
-  (t) Joseph was cast into a pit (Genesis 37:24). What happened to Yeshua after his crucifixion? (Read Matthew 27:60.)
-  (u) Joseph was taken out of the pit alive (Genesis 37:28). What happened to Messiah Son of Joseph after being in the tomb for three days and nights?



© Providence Lithograph Co.

-  (v) Joseph was sold for silver. This was Judah's idea (Genesis 37:28). Was Yeshua sold? What was the name of the one who betrayed him for silver? (Note Matthew 26:14-16.)
-  (w) Joseph's coat was sprinkled in the blood of a goat as if the blood was his and presented to Jacob (Genesis 37:31). Who also shed his blood before his Heavenly Father? Whose coat or vesture is dipped in blood? (Read Revelation 19:13.)
-  (x) Once in Egypt, Joseph went from being a prince to becoming a slave and a poor man (Genesis 39:1). What happened to Yeshua when he came from heaven to this earth (spiritual Egypt)? (See Philippians 2:6-7?)
-  (y) Joseph prospered in his master's house. His master was well pleased with him (Genesis 39:3-4). Was the Father well pleased with Yeshua? (See Matthew 3:17; 12:18; 17:5; John 8:29.)
-  (z) Joseph was greatly tempted to sin, yet he did not sin (Genesis 39:7-12). What about Yeshua? (Read Hebrews 4:15.)
-  (aa) Joseph's enemies accused him of doing things that he didn't do (Genesis 39:16-18). What about Yeshua? (Look at Matthew 26:59-60.)
-  (bb) When falsely accused, Joseph did not defend himself. What about Messiah Son of Joseph? (Read Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12,14.)
-  (cc) In prison, Joseph won the respect of the jailor (Genesis 39:21-23). What did the Roman centurion say of Yeshua? (See Luke 23:47.)
-  (dd) Joseph was thrown into prison with sinners, yet he was innocent. Though Yeshua was without sin, who was crucified along side of him? (Read Isaiah 53:12; Mark 15:28.)

