

UNBREAKABLE

Unbreakable

Week 1: His Name is Joseph

01. INTRODUCTION

Hello there, My name is _____ and I want to welcome. I am so excited to kick off our new series called Unbreakable Where together over the next 7 weeks we will be learning from the life of Joseph, specifically how God uses the things we think will break us to release us into our destiny.

02. TRANSITION TO MESSAGE

Personal: When I first got saved, I started reading the Bible and when I came across the life of Joseph, it was a turning point. Not many people in the Bible spoke to me as much as His story did. You could see it from beginning to end... He inspired me, no matter what happened to him, he just kept pushing forward.

Proverbs 24:16 Though a righteous person falls seven times, he will get up, but the wicked will stumble into ruin.

Joseph is a man for all seasons. He could always see into the future:

Hebrews 11:22 By faith Joseph, as he was nearing the end of his life, mentioned the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions concerning his bones.

He had an eternal perspective and was quite frankly full of faith and competence.

I never grew tired of Joseph's story, he experienced the highs and the lows of a life lived in God's purpose. I talk a lot about Personal Vision, specifically Seeing your life in God's Plan... that is the story of Joseph:

- He was chosen and rejected.
- He was loved and hated.
- He was favored and abused.
- He was betrayed and rescued.
- He was promoted and imprisoned.
- He was tested and rewarded.
- He was slandered and praised.

He never took his eyes off the Lord and didn't allow what was happening around him to dictate what was happening in Him.

He embodied this New Testament Idea spoken of him:

Hebrews 11:13-16 ¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

- Adversity didn't harden him.
- Prosperity didn't ruin him.
- Temptation didn't destroy him.
- Imprisonment didn't embitter him.
- Promotion didn't change him.

He was a truly great man.

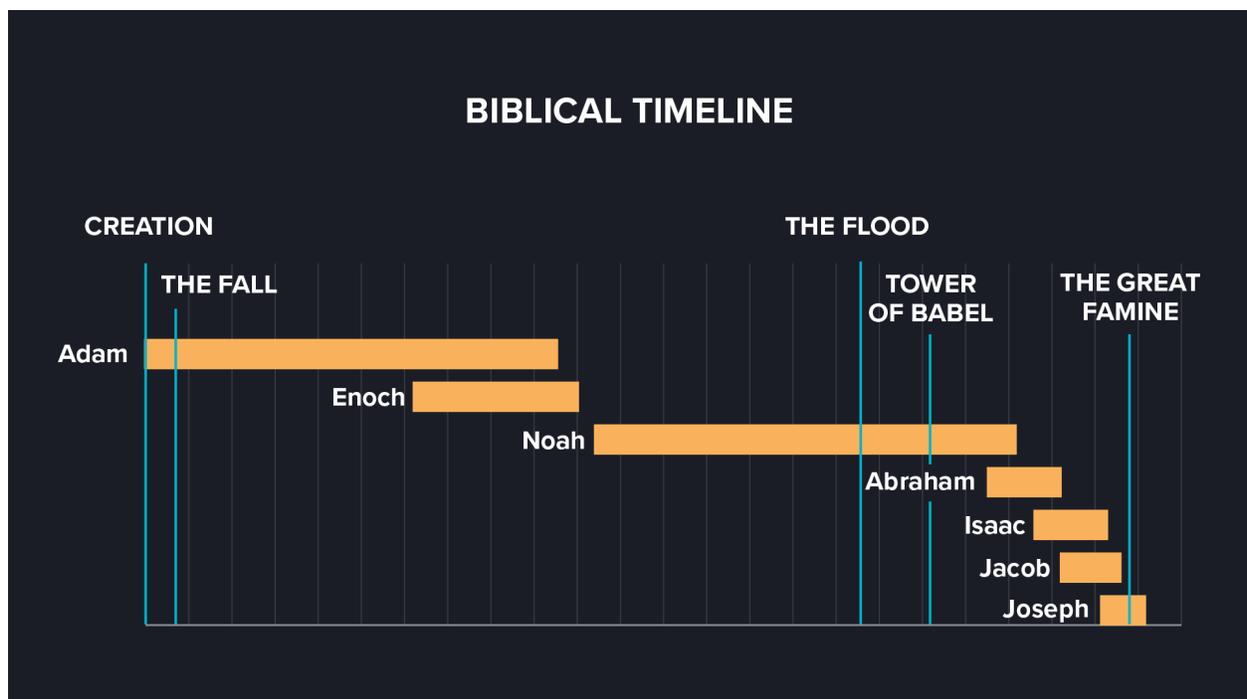
His Story in One Paragraph: He was the favored son of his father Jacob. When he enters the stage of biblical history, he is 17 years old. Because his brothers hated him, he was sold as a slave and taken to Egypt. After being falsely accused of rape, he was imprisoned with no hope of getting out. Because he correctly interpreted Pharaoh's dream, he became the prime minister of Egypt. Eventually he welcomed his family to Egypt, which preserved the line of promise that had started with his great-grandfather Abraham.

Joseph's story is the "hinge" between Genesis and Exodus.

That brief summary only hints at the drama that surrounded his life. There is another way to put his life in perspective. If you know the big events and big personalities of the book of Genesis it will help you understand the context for the life of Joseph. basic structure of Genesis.

Of all these men, Abraham and Joseph receive the most space in the book of Genesis. It may surprise you to know that Joseph's story takes up more space in Genesis than the story of Abraham.

- That one fact ought to alert us that this is no ordinary man and no ordinary life story.
- Joseph is the "hinge" that connects [Genesis \(the Book of Beginnings\)](#)



with Exodus ([the Book of Redemption](#)). Much like Jesus is the hinge between the old and new covenants.

03. MESSAGE

As we read our main passage for today, let's stand and honor God's Word:

Genesis 37:1-11 Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. 2 These are the family records of Jacob. At seventeen years of age, Joseph tended sheep with his brothers. The young man was working with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought a bad report about them to their father. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than his other sons because Joseph was a son born to him in his old age, and he made a robe of many colors for him. 4 When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not bring themselves to speak peaceably to him. 5 Then Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. 6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: 7 There we were, binding sheaves of grain in the field. Suddenly my sheaf stood up, and your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." 8 "Are you really going to reign over us?" his brothers asked him. "Are you really going to rule us?" So they hated him even more because of his dream and what he had said.

9 Then he had another dream and told it to his brothers. "Look," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun, moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." 10 He told his father and brothers, and his father rebuked him. "What kind of dream is this that you have had?" he said. "Are your mother and brothers and I going to come and bow down to the ground before you?" 11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

You may be seated.

If Exodus tells us how God delivered his people from Egypt, Joseph's story tells us how they got there in the first place.

Here is how Joseph's story begins:

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. This is the account of Jacob's family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers (vv. 1-2).

With no other introduction, Joseph steps onto the stage of biblical history. At this point we know only three things about him:

- He is a teenager.
- He is working in the family business.
- He doesn't have a clue about his own future.

Before this story is over Joseph will become the prime minister of Egypt, but you couldn't tell it that day when he went out with his brothers to tend to the flocks.

As the story begins, Joseph only has a dream. But it is clear enough that Joseph was being prepared by God for his destiny long before he was aware of it.

Someone put Joseph this way: He had Abraham's dignity and capacity, Isaac's purity and power of self-devotion, Jacob's cleverness and buoyancy and tenacity. From his mother's family he had personal beauty, humor, and management.

Although God had been preparing the way for Joseph long before he was born, it would take quite a while for him to discover his calling in life. But when he did, he saved his family and changed the course of history.

Joseph's story is set as one who is loved by His father and hated by His brothers. Joseph stands before us as a man whose life was filled with turmoil. It started early in his life and never really stopped. Through it all, he emerges triumphant by God's grace.

Joseph always lands on his feet. **He is a man who conquers crisis by supreme confidence in God.** Though he came from an extremely dysfunctional family, God turned him into a hero who delivered the family that sold him into slavery.

He's a key link in the chain of God's plan. He became a key link in the chain of God's plan that would 2000 years later bring the Messiah to the earth. As Joseph saved his own family, so Christ would come as the Savior of the world.

Lessons Joseph Teaches Us

Though Joseph was God's man, he did not have an easy life. But he is one of few people in the bible where we see his life from birth to death with a hundred lessons to be learned along the way.

Here are some of the things his story teaches us:

- Trusting God when in the pit of despair.
- How to deal with sexual temptation.
- How to redeem a painful past.
- What to do while you wait.
- How to see God's will in all things.
- How to make wise plans.
- How God awakens a guilty conscience.
- The marks of true repentance.
- How to live for God in a pagan culture.
- Overcoming bitterness.
- How to die well.

What starts in the fields near Hebron leads on to the fields near Bethlehem. Joseph of the Old Testament will lead us to Joseph's son in the New Testament. We should not hesitate to make that journey ourselves.

Four Guiding Observations

As I have been preaching Joseph's story this summer, four thoughts have increasingly occupied my mind.

1. Joseph is a type of Christ.

Old Testament picture of New Testament reality.

- When we say Joseph is a type of Christ, we have to first understand what "a Christ" is. The word Christ comes from the Greek word Christos, which means "anointed one". In Hebrew, the word would be Messiah or Savior. In very real sense, Joseph was a savior of sorts for his people in his time. He was raised to power at the same time there was a massive famine in the land and because of the position God put him in, he was in position to help save his people.
- Loved by his father. Hated and betrayed by his brothers. Sold for 20 pieces of silver. Falsely accused. Judged guilty of a crime he did not commit. Abandoned and forgotten. Promoted after his suffering. The means of salvation even for those who betrayed him.
- When W. H. Griffith Thomas had finished his Devotional Commentary on Genesis, he surveyed Joseph's life and declared that "it is impossible to avoid seeing the close, prolonged, and striking resemblances between Joseph and Christ" (Vol. 2, P. 214).
- In fact there are no less than 60 direct parallels between the life of Joseph and Jesus.

As we study the life of Joseph, we will see glimpses of the One who will be born centuries later in an obscure village in Judea. The life of Joseph paints a picture of a greater savior that would one day come, not just to save some people, but to save all people who would call upon the name of Jesus.

2. Joseph didn't know how his story would unfold.

No matter how hard we try, it is almost impossible to read it as the amazing, unpredictable adventure that it was. When you know the end of the story, you lose the sense of how miraculous it all was.

- How much did he know about his future when he was cast into the pit? Not much.
 - He knew he had a dream about his ultimate future, but he had no idea how or even if it would come to pass.
 - In many ways his life is also a parallel for us as believers. WE have a picture, a vision of a future where Jesus will return and restore all things. Remake the world into a Global Eden, and his people will live forever with him as king.
 - But between now and then? How many know... there are a lot of unknowns.
- How much Joseph he know about what was about to happen when he was rising in Potiphar's house?
- How much did he know when Potiphar's wife falsely accused him of rape? He knew only that he was innocent of the charge.

Like Joseph, we don't know how our future will unfold but like Joseph, we have faith in the one who holds our future in His hands...

Philippians 1:6 I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

- 3. Joseph's story is our story.** Joseph's life didn't happen accidentally. He made several choices at the crossroads.

Joseph at the crossroads:

1. He chose to believe God (the dream)
2. He chose to make the most of hardship. (slavery)
3. He chose to fear God (Potiphar's wife)
4. He chose hope (two years in prison)
5. He chose to forgive (brothers)
6. He chose to see the big picture (he was used to save others)

- 4. God is the hero of the story.** It's easy to forget that through all the ups and downs of Joseph's life, there was an "invisible hand" working through every single event to produce the desired result.

God is the hero of the story. If we read Joseph's story and do not come away with a new appreciation for God's providence over all things, then we have certainly missed the point. While there are many important lessons to be gleaned from his life, above all else Joseph's story points us to God. His story proves that The God of Joseph is our God too.

04. CLOSING & PRAYER

As we will see in our next week, the hero arises out of the turmoil of a dysfunctional family. His brothers don't like him and plot to kill him. There is trouble on the horizon. But now lets close with this:

Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, ²keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Let's Pray