

ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 1 | LESSON 06e

The Pentateuch – The Promise Given Through the Royal Gift Covenant

God is a PROMISE Making God

God 1) **CREATES** a place where 2) He will **MEET** with his People 3) for their **JOY**. 4) His People reject Him. 5) God binds Himself through **PROMISE (i.e. The Royal Gift Covenant)** to 6) **RESCUE** His people from their sin and 7) **RESTORE** them to Himself for their **JOY**.

ILLUSTRATION - Cinderella: Cinderella endures the cruelty of her stepmother and stepsisters, but her misfortune eventually leads her to meeting the prince. Despite her hardships, she remains kind and hopeful, and her goodness is rewarded with a magical transformation and a happy ending.




VIDEO - God's Story: Joseph <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQ7wLTBnF84>

“The Story of Joseph”

God Protects the Seed Promise in the Rise and Fall of Joseph

Genesis 50:20

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ **As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people^[b] should be kept alive, as they are today.** ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

	<p>THE HEAD - To Know how the Bible records how God works in and through human tragedy to fulfill His Promises.</p> <p>Q – After looking at this lesson, “Has anything changed concerning your thinking?” What do you now know that you might not have known?</p>
	<p>THE HEART - To Choose the Bible as our final and fullest authority / record as to how God works in and through human tragedy to fulfill His Promise.</p> <p>Q – After looking at this lesson, “How does it make you feel?” What emotional response does this truth solicit / produce in you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example: ²²love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control [Gal. 5:22, 23 NLT].
	<p>THE HAND - To Pray we will obey all that God has said and does even when the immediate moment is difficult.</p> <p>Q – After looking at this lesson, how does the story of Joseph change how you view difficult events?</p>

EMPHASIS

From among the 12 sons of Jacob, one would come who would bear the Seed Promise. Jacob's son Judah. Joseph is **NOT** the SEED PROMISE. The Joseph Story is God preserving His Seed Promise through famine and failure.

God **Protects** the Seed Promise in the Rise and Fall of Joseph.

When we look at the highly dysfunctional nature of Jacob's family, we are amazed that any good could come of this. Yet, God is setting the stage to protect His Seed and to fulfill His Promise.

The Seed Promise would not come from the line of Joseph, yet God uses Joseph's "tragedy" to protect the Seed Promise further.

LITERARY CONTEXT

When looking at the larger story of the Patriarchs [Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and Joseph] one can see how God is fulfilling His promises.

God PUSHES the *Story* Forward (Gen. 12-36)

- ABRAHAM
 - God's Plan foreshadowed in a Covenant (Gen. 12, 15, 17)
- ISAAC
 - God's Provision foreshadowed in a Sacrifice (Gen. 22)
- JACOB
 - God's Patience foreshadowed in a Struggle (Gen. 25 - 27)
 - God's Power foreshadowed in a Birth (Gen. 29)
- JUDAH
 - God's Purity foreshadowed in a Failure (Gen. 38)

God PROTECTS the *Story* Further (Gen. 37-50)

- Joseph's Enslavement; He descends (Gen. 37)
- Joseph's Enthronement; He ascends (Gen. 41-50)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Joseph enters Egypt @1890BCE.¹ The Exodus happens 430 years later (@1445BCE [Exod. 12:40, 41]). The dating of the Exodus starts with Jacob entering Egypt, not Joseph.

- ⁴⁰ Now the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And at the end of four hundred and thirty years, to the very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

BIBLICAL CONTEXT

IN THE Old Testament

The name Joseph occurs often throughout the Old Testament. Rather than speaking of the house of Israel, the prophets will speak of the house of Joseph. Joseph becomes a prominent individual in identifying the people of God.

IN THE New Testament

When Stephen reviewed Israel's history before his prosecutors, he recited for them the story of Joseph.

- Acts 7:9 "The patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt. Yet God was with him,
- Acts 7:13 "On the second visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph's family was disclosed to Pharaoh.
- Acts 7:14 "Then Joseph sent word and invited Jacob his father and all his relatives to come to him, seventy-five persons in all.
- Acts 7:18 until THERE AROSE ANOTHER KING OVER EGYPT WHO KNEW NOTHING ABOUT JOSEPH.

The author of Hebrews cites the story of Joseph in Hebrews 11.

- Heb 11:22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.

Joseph is identified as an individual who believed the promise God made to Abraham.

STRUCTURE

Here, we look at the "text" or STRUCTURE of the Story to find the EMPHASIS or AUTHOR'S INTENDED MEANING. God orders our lives in such a way as to fulfill His purposes. Through the rising and falling of Joseph, God protects the Seed Promise. What we see as impossible, God sees as possible. His ways are not our ways.

The life of Joseph is told from Genesis 37-50. His life is one of ascent and descent. We will note this pattern. What we have a hard time seeing is how God is working this for the protection of the SEED PROMISE. God will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

Joseph's Journey			
	1	2	3
He Ascends	Coat of Many Colors (Gen. 37:3)	Potiphar's Household (Gen. 39:1, 2)	Ascends the Throne (Gen. 41:37-40)
He Descends	Sold into Slavery (Gen. 37:28)	Put into Jail (Gen. 39:20)	Sold into Slavery (Exod. 1:8-11)

God's Faithfulness [The Seed of the Woman] What is Actually Going On	Humanity's Failure [The Seed of the Serpent] What We See
The fulfillment of God's Promise does not depend on the faithfulness of humanity. The fulfillment of God's promise depends entirely on Him.	
God's Plan Foreshadowed in a Covenant (Gen. 12, 15, 17)	Abram lies about Sarah (Gen. 12:10ff)
	The sordid tale of Lot and Sodom (Gen. 13, 14, 18:22-19)
	Sarai and Hagar and the birth of Ishmael (Gen. 16)
	Sarah laughs (Gen. 18:13)
God's Provision Foreshadowed in a Sacrifice (Gen. 22)	Abraham lies to Abimelech (Gen. 20)
God's Patience Foreshadowed in a Struggle (Gen. 25-27)	Esau sells his birthright (Gen. 25:29ff)
	Isaac lies to Abimelech (Gen. 26:6ff)
God's Power Foreshadowed in a Birth (Gen. 29)	Jacob steals the blessing from Esau (Gen. 27:1ff)
	Jacob's wives and concubines (Gen. 29:1ff)
	Jacob fears Esau (Gen. 32:1ff)
	The raping of Dinah (Gen. 34)
	Joseph's arrogance (Gen. 37)
God's Purity Foreshadowed in a Failure (Gen. 38)	Joseph's enslavement (Gen. 37:12ff)
	Judah and Tamar (Gen. 38)
Joseph's Enslavement; He descends (Gen. 37)	Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery (Gen. 37)
Joseph's Enthronement; He ascends (Gen. 41-50)	Joseph deceives his brothers (42)

Notice how this same idea of God's overarching Providence [His control of History] is repeated by the Apostle Paul in Romans 8:28. All of life, in its smallest details, are working out God's redemptive purpose of fulfilling His promise and completing His picture.

JESUS IN THE TEXT

We struggle understanding how good comes from evil, yet God works all things together for good. What do the following verses tell us about the cross [Is. 53:10, 11; Heb. 12:2; Acts 2:23]?

- Isaiah 53:10-11 But the LORD was pleased To crush Him. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied.
- Heb. 12:2 who for the joy set before Him endured the cross.
- Acts 2:23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

It was through Joseph's hardship and pain that the Seed Promise would be protected. And it is through the suffering and death of Jesus that the Seed Promise and Blood Picture will be completed.

God is able to fulfill all of His promises. Even when things seem to be really out of whack, God is working His will to accomplish His purposes.

What is the primary meaning of this passage? What might this text mean for us/now? God controls the outworking of our world events, of local events, and even of our own individual, personal lives. This control has purpose. There is a reason as to why He orders life. There is a purpose behind our moments both good and bad.

ILLUSTRATION - A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket: The Baudelaire orphans face a series of misfortunes after their parents' death. While their journey is fraught with challenges, their intelligence, resourcefulness, and bond as siblings help them uncover family secrets and ultimately find a measure of peace and justice.

APPLICATION

1. Our struggles are not arbitrary. All of our suffering has redemptive overtones. We might not understand how, but they do.
2. What looks to us like defeat is really God working His will in us, and through us, to those around us.
3. What we need to do is believe Him and continue trusting in Him.
4. In what areas have you encountered struggle for your faith and how did this struggle produce good in yourself and in others?
5. God is always at work even when we think otherwise or even when everything around us appears to be collapsing.
6. God uses His church to encourage and support us when we are weak. He will often use us to encourage others in their struggle on the horizontal.

VISUALS

MEMORY VERSE

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 50:19-21

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ **As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.** ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

NEW TESTAMENT: Rom. 8:28

Rom. 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

RESOURCES

ENDNOTES

¹ <https://www.conazarene.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Bible-Timeline.pdf>