

## Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

### **Monday** (January 30) – **Genesis 41**

The Lord who exalts the lowly brings Joseph out of the dungeon to a place of service in the kingdom. God reveals to Pharaoh in dreams what He is about to do and then gives Joseph the ability to interpret these dreams. In ancient times God often chose to reveal His will in dreams, but He does so no longer. St. Paul writes in Hebrews 1:1, "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son." Today, Christians should not try to find the will of God in dreams, but rather, in the clear revelation of Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God incarnate.

### **Tuesday** (January 31) – **Genesis 42**

Joseph is governor over all the land, but the Lord who governs all is working His will through these circumstances. When Joseph sees his brothers, he remembers the dreams that had caused them to hate him twenty years earlier. But as a man of faith in God, Joseph does not allow his words and actions to be motivated by revenge. Instead, we can see Joseph's harsh treatment of his brothers as an example of the Law and the Gospel in action. Though his heart yearns for them to the point of weeping, Joseph is not able to speak kindly to them until after they have been brought to repentance for their sin.

### **Wednesday** (February 1) – **Genesis 43, 44**

The time of testing continues for these brothers. Joseph provides a meal for them all, giving an especially generous portion to his youngest brother, Benjamin. Joseph's words "Peace to you, do not be afraid," reflect the mercy of God, which leads the brothers to begin to acknowledge their guilt. Judah gives proof of this change of heart, which the Bible calls "the gift of repentance" (Acts 11:18), by offering his life in place of his brother, Benjamin. In this way, Judah, the ancestor of Jesus, foreshadows the willing sacrifice of Jesus, who offers His own life for us, His brothers.

### **Thursday** (February 2) – **Genesis 45**

Joseph makes himself known to his brothers with tears of mercy! He comforts them with his words and tells them that God had sent him before them all to preserve their lives. Joseph could never have known this in advance, but all of his suffering was part of God's plan to preserve the lineage of Christ from extinction and bring about the birth of the promised Savior. Joseph then sends for his father and extended family, providing graciously for them on their journey.

### **Friday** (February 3) – **Genesis 46, 47**

As Israel (Jacob) journeys, he stops to offer sacrifice and worship. There the Lord promises

once again that He will make of him a great nation. The Lord Himself will go down with him to Egypt and bring him back up again. This is ultimately fulfilled in the future exodus.

In chapter 47 Israel is introduced to Pharaoh and blesses him. Since the lesser man is always blessed by the greater (Hebrews 7:7), by receiving Israel's blessing, Pharaoh acknowledges that Israel is greater than himself. Joseph then provides for his family, and under his wise leadership, he also provides for all the land of Egypt during the remaining years of famine. When it comes time for Israel to die, Joseph promises to bring him up from Egypt to the burial place of his fathers in their homeland (see chapter 23).

### **Saturday** (February 4) – **Genesis 48**

While on his deathbed, Israel adopts Joseph's sons as his own and blesses them. This means that when the Promised Land is divided among the tribes of Israel in the time of Joshua, each of Joseph's sons will receive a full portion of land along with the tribes of their uncles. (This effectively gives Joseph a double portion.) In his blessing Israel gives priority to Ephraim, the younger, rather than to Manasseh, the first born. God grants His blessings as He chooses. As you may recall, Manasseh is not the first younger brother to receive the greater blessing. The same thing happened to his great-grandfather, Isaac, and to his grandfather, Jacob. This pattern of blessing the younger brother is a foreshadowing of God's blessing to the Gentiles. Even though we were not the firstborn children of God, through baptism we receive adoption into the family of God, along with all the rights and privileges that belong to the sons of God.

### **Sunday** (February 5) – **Genesis 49, 50**

Jacob addresses all his sons with blessings and predictions. As we saw earlier with Isaac's blessing of Jacob, God speaks through the patriarchs as they bless their sons, bringing about the fulfillment of their words. Reuben, Simeon, and Levi, the eldest sons do not receive the greatest blessing because of how they had previously dishonored their father. Instead, that blessing is given to Judah, the fourth son: "The scepter will never depart from Judah." This is a prophecy concerning King David, and more importantly, Jesus, the Son of David, whose kingdom shall have no end. Revelation 5:5 calls Jesus the lion of the tribe of Judah. After his father's death, Joseph reaffirms his mercy toward his brothers, reminding them not to fear. They meant it for evil against him, but God meant it for good!

As Joseph is about to die, he reminds his brothers that God will visit them and bring them up to the land promised to their fathers. Hebrews 11:22 tells us that it was by faith that Joseph spoke this way, "making mention of the exodus and directing that his bones be carried up from there." More than four hundred years later, the Israelites would carry Joseph's bones out of Egypt to bury them alongside his fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The book of Genesis ends with the death of Joseph in Egypt.