# Old Testament Stories

For Levels 5-7

As told by **Bettye Garrett** 

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Bettye Garrett

# JACOB AND ESAU

Genesis 25-28

Before we begin our Bible story let's talk for a few moments about the inheritance rights during the Old Testament days. As you learned in the lessons about Abraham, it was very important for a man to have an heir to inherit all his belongings. The inheritance usually went to the oldest son of a family. If a man had no son he adopted one. The oldest son of a family expected to inherit twice as much of the family wealth as the other sons inherited. The oldest son also expected to become the family leader or ruler; this was called the "birthright." A father had the authority to give the birthright to another of his sons, if he so desired.



Isaac married his cousin, Rebekah, when he was forty years old. Rebekah had no child for twenty years. Isaac begged God to give them a child. After being married 20 years, Rebekah knew that she would have a baby. God spoke to her and told her she would have twin sons. He said the younger son would be stronger than the older, and the older son would serve the younger. Finally the day arrived and Rebekah gave birth to twin sons, just as God had told her. The first son was red and hairy and they called him Esau. The second son was born holding onto

the heel of the firstborn; they called him Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when his sons were born. The twins grew up and Esau became a hunter and outdoorsman, and Jacob stayed near home tending the flocks. Isaac loved Esau more than he loved Jacob because he loved to eat the venison (deer meat) Esau brought home from his hunting trips. Rebekah loved Jacob who was a mature, sensible man.

One day when Esau came home hungry and tired from hunting, he found Jacob cooking some pottage (red pea soup). Esau said, "Give me some of your pottage, for I am very tired and hungry." Jacob said to his brother, "I will give you some of the

## Level 5A

pottage if you will promise to give me your birthright." Esau said, "What good will the



Esau promise to give up the birthright, then he gave Esau some of the pottage and bread to eat. So Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of red pottage! E s a u was more concerned about the present things of life (such as food) than he was about the future. He gave up riches and the right to rule the family because he wanted something "right now." Today, we also have a birthright. God has promised to give us a home in heaven. Like Esau, we can sell our birthright by caring more about the pleasures and desires of the moment than we care about our right to live with God.

When Isaac was old and blind, he called Esau, his favorite son, and said to him, "I am old and ready to die. I want you to take your bow and arrows into the fields and kill a deer, then make a delicious meal of venison and bring it to me. After I have eaten, I will bless you."

This blessing that Isaac promised Esau was the birthright blessing. A father's blessing upon his son was a very important ritual that usually included prophecy concerning the future. Family leadership and authority came with the father's blessing.

Esau immediately went out to hunt as his father had asked. Rebekah heard what her husband said to Esau, and she called Jacob to come to her. She told Jacob, "I heard your father telling Esau to bring him venison to eat, then your father is going to bless him. Now,



go into the flocks and bring me two kid goats. I will make a delicious meal for your father. You can take it in to him, then he will bless you instead of Esau." Jacob was afraid and he said, "Esau is hairy and I have smooth skin. Perhaps my father will touch me and know I am not Esau, and I will receive a curse instead of a blessing." Rebekah told Jacob that she would take responsibility and any curse which came would be upon her. Finally Jacob agreed to do as his mother said. He went into the flocks and brought two kid goats. Rebekah cooked the meat just as Isaac loved it. She then took Esau's clothes and put them on Jacob. She put the goat skins on his hands and neck and sent him in to see Isaac.

Jacob said, "My father?" Isaac said, "Who are you?" Jacob said, "I am Esau, your son. I have brought the meat you love. Now sit up and eat, then you can bless me as you promised." Isaac said, "How did you manage to get the venison so quickly?" Jacob said, "God was with me and He brought it to me." Isaac said, "Come near me so I may touch you and see whether you are Esau or not." Jacob went close to his father, and Isaac touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob but the hands are Esau's." Isaac ate the meat and called his son nearer so he could bless him. Isaac said, "I can smell the scent of the fields on you, my son. May God give you all the good



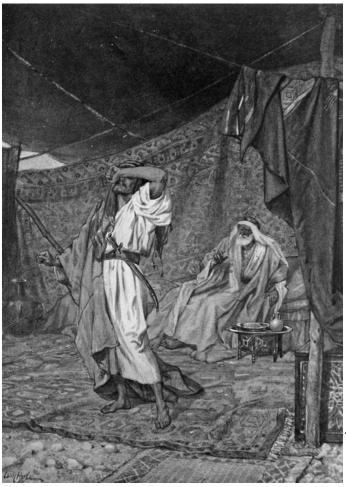
things of the earth. Let people serve you and nations bow down to you. Be a ruler over your kinsmen. Let your brother bow down to you. Everyone who curses you, will be cursed. Everyone who blesses you will be blessed!"

Soon after Jacob left Isaac, Esau returned home with the deer. He prepared the meat just as his father liked it and took it to Isaac. He said, "Sit up, father, and eat, then you can bless me." Isaac said, "Who are you?" Esau said, "I am Esau, your firstborn son." Isaac said, "What? Where is the one who came already and gave me meat? I have

### Level 5A

already blessed him and the blessing shall be as I have said!" When Esau heard this he cried, "Bless me also!" Isaac said, "Your brother came and took away your blessing." Esau was very angry at Jacob and said, "He is truly a deceiver!

"First, he took my birthright, now he has taken my blessing also! Father, don't you have any blessing for me?" Isaac said, "I have made your brother the ruler. I have



blessed him with all good things." Esau begged his father to give him some kind of a blessing. Isaac said, "You will live by the sword in a rugged, untamed land, and you will serve your brother."

Esau hated Jacob very much and said, "After my father dies, I will kill that lying, cheating Jacob." Rebekah heard this and told Jacob that he must go to Haran and stay with her brother, Laban, until Esau got over his anger. Rebekah said she would send for Jacob when Esau forgot his anger. Then Rebekah told Isaac, "I am very sorry that Esau married these ungodly women of Canaan. If Jacob marries one of them I will just die." Isaac called Jacob and told him to go to Haran to the house of Laban and find himself a wife from among his relatives.

Isaac blessed Jacob saying, "May God bless you and give you the blessings of Abraham, and may you inherit the land which God promised to give Abraham." So Jacob left his home and traveled toward Haran. When Esau saw that his parents did not approve of his Canaanite wives, he married the daughter of Ishmael (Abraham's son).

As Jacob traveled to Haran, he spent the night at a place called Luz, using a stone for a pillow. While he slept, Jacob dreamed of a ladder reaching from heaven to earth. There were angels moving up and down on the ladder, and God was above the ladder.

God spoke, "I am the God of Abraham and Isaac. I will give you and your

descendants the land you are lying upon. Your seed shall be as numberless as the dust of the earth, and they will be spread over all the earth. I am with you and I will take care of you wherever you may go. I will bring you back to this land again someday."

When Jacob awoke, he was terribly afraid and said, "Surely this place is the gate of heaven!" He took the stone he had used for a pillow and set it up as a memorial altar. He poured oil on the stone and made a vow saying, "Since God will go with me and take care of me, He will be my God, and I will come again to my father's house. I will return to this place and give one tenth of all my goods to the Lord God."



Jacob then continued on his journey to Haran. He must have felt secure in his knowledge that God was with him and would watch over him in his new home. Jacob had received the birthright and blessing of his father, so he knew he would one day be head of the family, but now he must leave his homeland for a while.

In this lesson we can see how God uses people to carry out His plans. God promised Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation. Isaac, Abraham's son, received the same promise from God. God chose Rebekah to be Isaac's wife, and now Rebekah is carrying out God's plans for her children. Jacob had to leave home, but as we study more from Genesis, we will see that God watches over Jacob and uses him to carry out heavenly plans.

## **STORY QUIZ**

- 1. The right to inherit the goods of ones father is called what?
- 2. How old was Isaac when his sons were born?
- 3. What did Isaac and Rebekah name their twin sons?
- 4. Which twin son was a hunter and the best loved by his father Isaac?
- 5. Which son was a shepherd and the best loved by his mother Rebekah?
- 6. What did Jacob make Esau give him in exchange for a bowl of pottage?
- 7. Who helped Jacob trick his father and steal Esau's blessing?
- 8. What did Isaac give Jacob because he thought Jacob was Esau?
- 9. To whom did Rebekah send Jacob to get him away from Esau?
- 10. What did Jacob dream about when he slept at Bethel?

## Memory Verse Level Five

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

## Memory Goal Level 5: Lineage to Christ

Amon	Josiah	Jehoiakim	Jehoiachir	1
Shealtiel	Zerubbabel	Abihud	Eliakim	
Azor	Zadok	Akim	Eliud	
Eleazar	Matthan	Jacob	Joseph	Jesus

## **Jacob and His Wives**

Genesis 29-30

In our last lesson we learned how Jacob, with the help of Rebekah, tricked Isaac and received the birthright blessing. Esau vowed to kill Jacob so Jacob left home and traveled to Haran. He stopped at the well outside Haran where some shepherds were gathered to water their sheep. This may have been the very same well Abraham's servant

came to and met the beautiful Rebekah. There was a very large stone covering the well, so the shepherds waited until all the flocks had come before removing the stone to water their sheep. (It is very likely that many of the shepherds were young boys and women since it took many of them to move the stone.)

When Jacob arrived at the well there were three flocks and their shepherds gathered there. Jacob asked if they knew a man called Laban who lived in Haran. The shepherds said, "Yes, we know him. His daughter Rachel is shepherdess for her father's sheep. She will be coming soon to water her sheep."

Jacob asked the shepherds why they did



not go ahead and water the sheep so they could return to the pastures to feed. The shepherds told him that they must wait until all the flocks arrive before the stone could be moved. As they were talking, Rachel came with her father's sheep. Jacob ran and moved the stone from the well and drew water for Rachel's sheep. He told Rachel that he was the son of her aunt Rebekah. When Rachel ran home and told her father about Jacob, he went to the well to meet Jacob.

Jacob went home with Laban and worked for him. After working for about a month, Laban asked Jacob what kind of wages he would like to be paid for his work.

#### Level 5B

Laban had two daughters. Leah, the older daughter, had shy, weak eyes, but Rachel was very beautiful. Jacob told Laban that he would work for him seven years if, at the end of that time, he could marry Rachel. Jacob loved Rachel very much and



wanted her for his wife so much that he was willing to work seven long years for have her for his wife. This sounded like a good arrangement to Laban, so Jacob's wages were set.

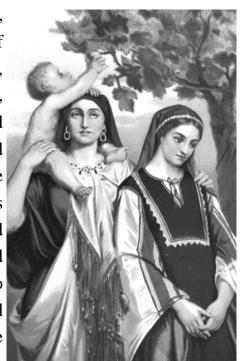
The seven years did not seem too long to Jacob because he loved Rachel. At the end of the agreed time, Jacob went to Laban and said, "My seven years of labor are finished, now give me Rachel as you promised." So Laban prepared a great wedding feast and invited all his friends. The bride was dressed beautifully in her wedding garments, with the customary veil covering her face. That night Laban gave his daughter to Jacob, and she became his wife. The next

morning Jacob looked at his wife and found that he had married Leah instead of his beloved Rachel.

Jacob was very angry at Laban and said, "I agreed to work for you for seven years so I could marry Rachel. I did my work and earned my wages, but now I find you have tricked me. You gave me Leah instead of Rachel. Why did you do this thing to me?" Laban explained to Jacob that it was the custom in their land for the older daughter to marry before the younger. Laban suggested a new agreement to Jacob. If Jacob would agree to work for seven more years, he could marry Rachel also. Laban said he could marry Rachel one week after marrying Leah, but he would have to work the seven more years to earn her. Jacob's love for Rachel was so great that he agreed to Laban's new arrangements and married Rachel one week after he had married Leah.

God saw that Leah was not as loved as Rachel, so God allowed Leah to have

children but Rachel had none. Leah gave Jacob four sons, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah. Rachel was jealous of her sister because she wanted sons of her own. Finally, Rachel did what Sarah had done. She gave her handmaid, Bilhah, to Jacob to have children for her. Bilhah and Jacob had two sons and Rachel called them Dan and Naphtali. When Leah thought she would have no more sons, she gave Jacob her handmaid, Zilpah, to bear sons for her. Zilpah and Jacob had two sons and Leah called them Gad and Asher. God continued to be with Leah, and she bore two more sons, Issachar and Zebulun. She also had a daughter named Dinah. Finally, God answered Rachel's prayers and gave her a son of her own and she called him Joseph. Jacob, the son of Isaac, became the



father of these eleven sons and one daughter during the second seven years he served Laban. Rachel had another son, Benjamin, about sixteen years after Joseph was born.

God had promised Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation. We can see how God is beginning to keep that promise by providing many sons for Jacob, the grandson of Abraham. As we continue in our study you will see how these sons fit into God's plans. God has plans for all of us. He wants to use us to carry out His plans but sometimes we refuse. When we study the Bible and try our best to follow it, we allow God to work in our lives to carry out His plans.

## **STORY QUIZ**

- 1. What city did Jacob go to when he left Canaan?
- 2. What relative did Jacob meet at the well of Haran?
- 3. How many years did Jacob agree to work for Laban so he could marry Rachel?
- 4. What was the name of Rachel's older sister?
- 5. Who did Laban give Jacob as his wife at the end of the seven years?
- 6. How many more years did Jacob agree to work for Laban so he could have Rachel also?
- 7. How long was it between the time Jacob married Leah and when he married Rachel?
- 8. What handmaid of Rachel had 2 sons for Jacob?
- 9. What handmaid of Leah had 2 sons for Jacob?
- 10. How many sons did Jacob have by the wives and handmaids during the second 7 years he worked for Laban?

## Memory Verse Level Five

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

Memory Goal Level 5: Lineage to Christ

Amon	Josiah	Jehoiakim	Jehoiachir	1
Shealtiel	Zerubbabel	Abihud	Eliakim	
Azor	Zadok	Akim	Eliud	
Eleazar	Matthan	Jacob	Joseph	Jesus

# JACOB AND LABAN

Genesis 30-31

Jacob, son of Isaac, worked for his Uncle Laban for fourteen years so he could marry Rachel. First, Laban gave Leah to Jacob, then Rachel. God blessed Leah and gave her six sons and one daughter, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, and Dinah. Rachel's handmaid (Bilhah) had two sons for Jacob, Dan and Naphtali. Leah's handmaid (Zilpah) had two sons for Jacob, Gad and Asher. Finally, God allowed Rachel to have a son and she called him Joseph. Rachel had a second son about sixteen years after Joseph, and Jacob named him Benjamin.

After Joseph was born Jacob went to his father-in-law, Laban, and said, "Please let me take my wives and my children now and return to my home in Canaan. You know I have served you well, but the time has come for me to go home. Laban said, "Please stay here and work for me. I know God has blessed me because of you, and I am richer because of you. Just tell me what kind of wages you want and I'll pay them." Jacob said, "God has helped me, and you have grown rich from my labor. Now I need to provide for my own family." Jacob told Laban that he wanted all the sheep, goats, and

cattle born with spots speckles. Jacob said he would remove from the flocks all the animals which were spotted or speckled, so they could not breed with Laban's flocks. Laban was pleased with this arrangement, so he had his sons take all the animals which had spots or speckles and pasture them three days journey from the rest of the flocks. Jacob continued to work for Laban,



but now his wages were to be paid in spotted and speckled animals.

God was with Jacob, so many of the sheep, goats, and cattle born into Laban's flocks had spots or speckles. The strongest animals were the ones that were part of

#### Level 5C

Jacob's wages., but Laban's animals were weak. Jacob's flock was growing fast because God was with him. Laban changed the wages many times, but each time God allowed Jacob's flocks to grow faster and better than Laban's.

Laban's sons thought Jacob was stealing Laban's flocks and they were angry. Laban's attitude toward Jacob changed too. Jacob told his wives, "You know how I have worked hard for your father all these years. You know how he has changed my wages and deceived me many times. Now his attitude toward me is changed and the time has come for me to go home to Canaan. God told me in a dream that I must return to my homeland." Leah and Rachel told Jacob that they knew how he had been cheated. They said, "Our father will give us nothing as an inheritance. He was willing to sell us to you, and now we are nothing to him. Do whatever God tells you."



While Laban and his sons were away shearing sheep, Jacob took his wives, his children, all his flocks, all his servants, and all his belongings and left Haran. Rachel secretly entered Laban's house and stole his household gods, but Jacob did not know what she had done. Three days later Laban heard what Jacob was doing, so he took his men and went after them. They traveled seven days and finally caught up with Jacob at Mount Gilead. God spoke to Laban in a dream telling him to be very careful what he said and did to Jacob.

Laban went into Jacob's camp and said, "Why did you run away from

me and not tell me you were leaving? Why did you not allow me to say goodbye to my daughters and my grandchildren? I know that you want to go home to see your father, but you should not have run away secretly like this. I have the power to kill you, but God spoke to me and told me to be careful what I say to you. Now, tell me why have you run

away secretly, and why have you taken my household gods?"

Jacob said, "I ran away in secret because I knew you would not allow me to take my wives and children from Haran. I know nothing about your household gods! I did not

steal them! Search my camp. If you find the gods with any of my people you have permission to kill that person." These household gods were little figurines kept in the home. It is probable that ownership of the gods showed inheritance rights. Maybe Rachel stole her father's gods so Jacob could inherit the worldly possessions of Laban. After all, Jacob had worked hard for twenty years making Laban a rich man.

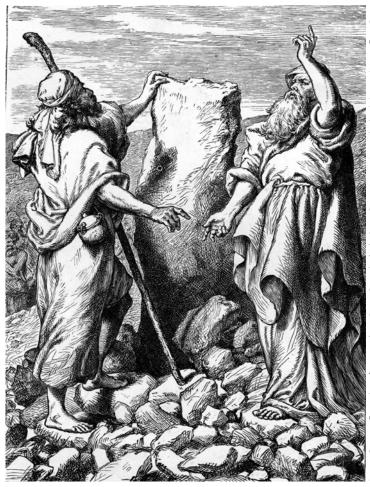
Laban began to search Jacob's camp. He searched Jacob's tent, Leah's tent, and the maidservants' tents but found nothing. When he entered Rachel's tent, she was sitting on her camel's saddle. She had put the gods in her saddle and she sat on it. She asked Laban to please excuse her



since she was not feeling well, so Laban did not find the gods. Jacob was very angry with Laban for accusing him of stealing, and he said, "What have I done to you to cause you to come after me accusing me of stealing from you? I worked hard for you these twenty years, fourteen years for my wives and six years for my cattle. I have taken any losses which occurred and never did you wrong. Now if God had not spoken to you last night, I'm sure you would kill me right here!" Laban said, "Your wives are my daughters, your children are my grandchildren, your cattle are my cattle. How can you think I would do any harm to any of these?"

Then Laban suggested that the two of them make a covenant. They set up an altar

### Level 5C



of stones and prepared a covenant meal. Then Laban said, "This pile of stones is witness to the covenant we are making ... it shall be called Galeed and Mizpah. May the Lord watch over you and me when we are absent from one another. I shall not pass beyond this pile of stones to harm you and you shall not pass it to harm me. If you bring any harm to my daughters or if you marry other wives may God punish you. May God bring His judgment upon us if we break the terms of this covenant." Then Jacob offered sacrifices on the altar, and they all ate the covenant meal together. The next morning Laban told his daughters and grandchildren goodbye, and he returned to his home. Jacob and

his family continued on their journey toward the homeland in Canaan.

We can easily see in this lesson how God watches over His children. Jacob, grandson of Abraham, was chosen before his birth to be one of God's special children. God knew Jacob would grow up to be a strong, faithful man. God made His covenant with Jacob, just as He had made the same covenant with Abraham and Isaac. God promised to be with Jacob and bring him back to the land of Canaan. We can see how God has blessed him and made him rich during his years in Haran. Now Jacob is traveling back to his homeland .... just as God promised he would.

## **STORY QUIZ**

- 1. How many sons did Jacob have during the second seven years he worked for Laban?
- 2. What was the name of Jacob and Leah's daughter?
- 3. Who was the 11th son of Jacob?
- 4. What wages did Laban agree to give Jacob to stay and work after the 14 years he worked for his wives?
- 5. What kind of babies did Laban's animals have?
- 6. Who began to hate Jacob because they thought Jacob was cheating them?
- 7. How many years did Jacob work for Laban for the animal wages?
- 8. What did Rachel steal from her father's house?
- 9. Where did Rachel hide the gods so Laban could not find them?
- 10. What did Laban and Jacob do when the gods were not found in the camp?

# Memory Verse Level Five

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

Memory Goal Level 5: Lineage to Christ

Amon	Josiah	Jehoiakim	Jehoiachin	1
Shealtiel	Zerubbabel	Abihud	Eliakim	
Azor	Zadok	Akim	Eliud	
Eleazar	Matthan	Jacob	Joseph	Jesus

10. Made a covenant

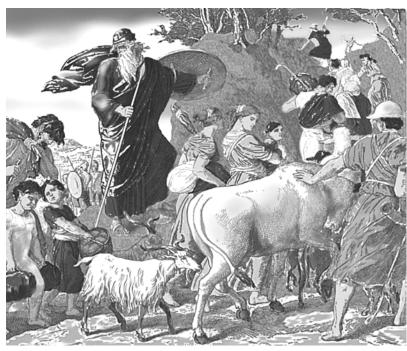
ANSWERS:1. Eleven 2. Dinah 3. Joseph 4. Animals 5. Sickly 6. Laban's sons 7. Six 8. Household gods 9. Her saddle

## **Jacob Returns To Canaan**

Genesis32-35

Jacob left Haran to return to his homeland in Canaan. He had left Canaan twenty years before because Esau threatened to kill him. Jacob must have been concerned about returning home for he did not know what had happened at home during these twenty years .... perhaps Esau was still angry and ready to murder him.

When Jacob was near Canaan, he saw that God had sent His army of angels to protect him on his way. This was a great comfort to Jacob since he had only his young sons and some servants if there should be trouble. Jacob sent some messengers ahead to tell Esau that Jacob was returning to Canaan. The messengers returned and told Jacob, "We went to your brother, Esau, and he is coming out to meet you. He has four hundred men with him!" When Jacob heard this he was very afraid. To prepare for a possible



attack, Jacob divided his people into two groups, thinking that one group could escape if the other group was attacked. Then Jacob prayed to God, "O God of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac, You have told me to return to the land of my people. You have promised to be with me. I know I am not worthy of Your blessings, but You have blessed me. I left my homeland with nothing, but I have returned with great wealth. Now, I

beg You, help me against my brother Esau. I am very afraid that he will come and kill me and the mothers of my children. Protect me now against him."

Jacob made up a gift to send ahead for Esau. He sent two hundred twenty goats, two hundred twenty sheep, thirty camels with their young, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty donkeys and ten foals. He put these, each kind in separate droves, with servants to drive them. He told the servants to keep a space between the droves as they traveled.

He gave instructions saying, "When my brother meets you and asks "Who are you and where are you going?", tell him, "These animals are a gift to you from your brother Jacob, who is coming behind us." Jacob thought the gifts would soften Esau's heart so he would no longer be angry.

That night Jacob took his wives, children, and the handmaids and left them with the rest of his company, then Jacob spent the night alone. Jacob wrestled with a man until daylight came. Even though the man dislocated Jacob's thigh, Jacob would not let him go. Finally the man said, "Let me go for it is almost light." Jacob said, "I will not let you go until you bless me." The man said, "What is your name?" Jacob said, "It is

Jacob." The man said, "Your name shall be Jacob no more. You shall be Israel, for like a prince you have power with God and with men." Jacob then said, "What is your name?" The man said, "Do you really need to ask who I am?" Then he blessed Jacob and departed. Jacob called the place "Peniel," because he said, "I have seen the Lord face to face and I have lived!"

When morning came and Israel looked out and saw Esau and his men coming toward the camp. Israel separated his family, putting the two



handmaids and their children first, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. Israel went in front of all of them, bowing seven times as he moved toward his brother. Esau ran to Israel and hugged him and kissed him, then both men cried with joy.

Esau asked who all the people were and Israel introduced his wives and children to Esau. Esau asked about all the animals that had been sent ahead to him. Israel told his brother how God had blessed him and made him rich while he was in Haran, and he wanted to share his wealth by giving the animals to his brother. Esau said he



#### Level 5D

could not take the animals because he had become a rich man also, and he did not want to take what rightfully belonged to Israel. When Israel insisted Esau accepted the gifts.

Esau offered to travel along with Israel, but Israel sent him ahead since they had to travel slowly because of the women and children. Esau returned to his home in Seir which is in Edom. Israel continued on his journey into Canaan. Israel moved his family to Shalem (a place near Shechem), where he bought some land and pitched his tents. Israel

built an altar there and called it "El-Elohe-Israel," which means "God is the God of Israel."

Jacob and his family lived here near Shechem. There was some trouble between Israel and the ruler of Shechem. The ruler's son wanted to marry Dinah, so he kidnapped her. Israel made an agreement with them, but Levi and Simeon were angry because of this mistreatment of their sister. They entered the city of Shechem during the night and murdered all the men as they lay in their beds. Israel was very angry with Levi and Simeon because he thought their murderous



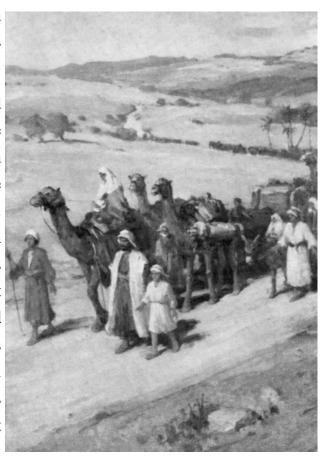
act would cause the other cities to band together to destroy him and all his family. God told Israel to take up his camp and move to Bethel, where he had dreamed of the ladder.

Jacob and his family moved to Bethel where Israel built an altar and worshiped God. God spoke to him saying, "Your name is no longer Jacob, but it is Israel. Your descendants shall become a great nation. Kings shall come from you. This land that I gave to Abraham I now give to you and your descendants."

From Bethel, Israel and his family traveled to Hebron to visit Isaac, his father. Rachel died in Bethlehem as she was giving birth to Israel's twelfth son, Benjamin.

Israel buried his beloved Rachel there in Bethlehem, then he went to Hebron to see his father.

Isaac, son of Abraham and Sarah, died when he was one hundred eighty years old (he lived about 29 years after Jacob returned from Haran). Isaac's two sons buried him in the cave with Abraham, Sarah, and Rebekah. Israel and his family lived many years in Hebron. He became the family ruler, just as God had planned. God made His covenant with Israel and blessed him in all ways. God gave Jacob a new name, *Israel*, which means "prince of God." The descendants of Israel became known as the sons of Israel, the tribes of Israel, or the Israelites. Esau did not inherit the birthright nor did he receive God's special



covenant. God also blessed Esau and gave him twelve sons who became many nations of people.

# **STORY QUIZ**

- 1. To whom did Jacob send a message saying he was returning home?
- 2. Who came out to meet Jacob when he was returning to Canaan?
- 3. What did Jacob send ahead as a gift for his brother?
- 4. Who did Jacob wrestle with all through the night?
- 5. What new name did the angel give Jacob?
- 6. Who ran to Jacob and hugged and kissed him?
- 7. What city in Canaan did Jacob live in until there was some trouble over Jacob's daughter Dinah?
- 8. Which of Jacob's sons went into Shechem and killed all the men while they were in bed?
- 9. What did Jacob's new name (ISRAEL) mean?
- 10. What son of Jacob was born in the land of Canaan?

## Memory Verse Level Five

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

# Memory Goal Level 5: Lineage to Christ

Amon	Josiah	Jehoiakim	Jehoiachin	
Shealtiel	Zerubbabel	Abihud	Eliakim	
Azor	Zadok	Akim	Eliud	
Eleazar	Matthan	Jacob	Joseph	Jesus

# JOSEPH IS SOLD

## Genesis 37

In our last lessons we learned about Jacob, the son of Isaac. God changed Jacob's name to Israel which means prince of God. Israel finally returned to the land of Canaan, the land God had promised to Abraham and his descendants.

Israel had twelve sons, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin. Joseph and Benjamin were the sons of Israel's beloved wife Rachel. Israel loved Joseph more than he loved his other sons, and he made Joseph a coat of many colors. This coat was a very special gift, and it was evidently a symbol of authority and favored position in the family. Joseph's brothers were jealous of his position, and they hated him. Their hatred increased when Joseph, while helping his brothers tend the sheep, reported to Israel about any bad things his brothers had done. Joseph had some dreams which caused his brothers to hate him even more, and their jealousy grew even stronger.





Joseph dreamed that he and his brothers were in the field tying sheaves (bundles) of wheat. Joseph's sheaf stood up in the middle and his brothers' sheaves gathered around and bowed to his sheaf. The brothers became very angry when Joseph told this dream. They said, "Do you really believe that you are going to rule over us?" In Joseph's second dream, the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down to him. When Joseph told his father and brothers, Israel said, "What are you saying? Do you really think your mother, brothers, and I will bow down to you?" Joseph's brothers despised him because of his superior attitude, but Israel thought about

## Level 6A

his young son and wondered if the dreams could be a prophecy.

When Joseph was seventeen years old, his father said, "Your brothers are in Shechem with the sheep. I want you to go there to see about them, then bring word of them back to me." It was about 50 miles from Hebron to Shechem. This was a long trip for a teenage boy traveling alone, but Joseph obeyed his father and went to Shechem. When Joseph arrived there he could not find his brothers. A man told him that he had



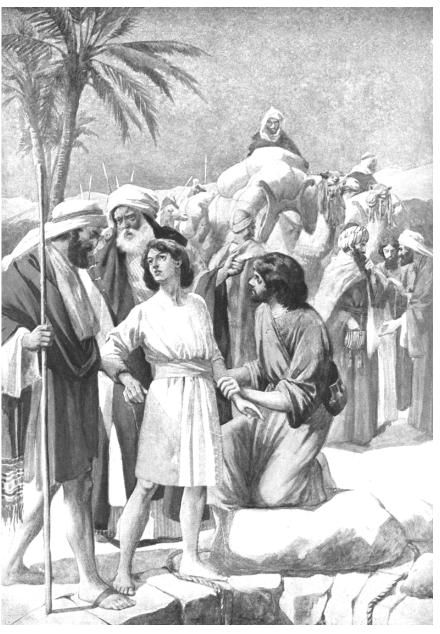
heard the brothers say they would move the sheep up to Dothan, about twenty miles north of Shechem. So Joseph continued his journey on up to Dothan. When his brothers saw Joseph coming they said, "Look! Here comes the dreamer! Let's kill him and say some wild beast killed him, then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!" Reuben, the oldest brother, said, "No! Do not kill him. Put him in one of the dry pits and leave him there to die." Reuben secretly planned to rescue Joseph from the pit and take him home to Israel. The brothers agreed to do as Reuben suggested. When Joseph arrived, stripped off his coat of many colors and threw him into one of the empty pits. As the brothers were eating, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming toward them.

The Ishmaelites and Midianites are descendants of Abraham through his sons Ishmael and Midian. The men in this caravan must have been a mixed group since they are called both Midianites and Ishmaelites. They were businessmen who traveled on camels from Gilead to Egypt to trade spices, balm, and myrrh.

Judah said to his brothers, "There is no profit in leaving Joseph in the pit to die. Let's sell him to those Ishmaelites. They can take him to Egypt., then we won't be guilty of murder. After all, he is our brother." The other brothers liked this idea, so they took Joseph out of the pit. The Ishmaelites paid the brothers twenty pieces of silver, and they

took Joseph into Egypt. The Bible does not tell us where Reuben was during this transaction, but when he returned to the pit and found Joseph gone, he was very distressed, and he tore his clothes in sorrow.

Reuben went to brothers and said, "The child is gone! What am I going to do?" Reuben must realized that his father would hold him responsible since he was the oldest of the sons. The brothers made a plan to cover up their actions against Joseph. They took Joseph's coat and dipped it in the blood of a Then they took the goat. bloody coat to Israel and said, "Look, we found this coat. Do you suppose this is Joseph's



coat?" Israel immediately recognized the coat and said, "It is my son's coat! A wild beast must have attacked him and tore him to pieces!" Then Israel tore his clothes in sorrow, and he put on sackcloth and mourned for Joseph a very long time. (Sackcloth was a garment made of coarse, hard material, somewhat like burlap.) Israel's sons tried to comfort him, but they could not. He said he would mourn for Joseph until he died.

Jealousy is a very strong emotion that can cause great pain and sorrow. Joseph's brothers let their jealousy become so strong that they were willing to actually kill their brother! We have already studied about Cain and learned how his jealousy caused him to sin. These stories from the Bible should help us see that jealousy is a very bad thing, and

#### Level 6A

we should guard our hearts against it. Sometimes we are jealous of our brothers or sisters or even our friends. Jesus said that jealousy is a sin and that we should love one another. Jesus loves us so much He was willing to die in our place. He wants us to love one another just like He loves us!

## **STORY QUIZ**

- 1. How many sons did Israel have?
- 2. Which of his sons was Israel's favorite?
- 3. What special gift did Jacob give Joseph?
- 4. What did Joseph dream about that angered his brothers?
- 5. How did Joseph's brothers feel about him?
- 6. Where did Jacob send Joseph to check on his brothers?
- 7. What did Joseph's brothers plan to do to him?
- 8. Who suggested that they put Joseph in a pit instead of killing him?
- 9. To whom did the brother's sell Joseph?
- 10. Who suggested selling Joseph instead of leaving him in the pit to die?

# Memory Verse Level Six

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

# Memory Goal Six

The Sons of Jacob (birth order)

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin.

# JOSEPH IN EGYPT

### Genesis 39-40

In our last lesson Joseph's brothers sold him to the Ishmaelite merchants who took him down to Egypt. Israel believed his favorite son was dead, and he mourned for him a long time.

The Ishmaelites took Joseph to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar, an officer and

captain of Pharaoh's guard. God was with Joseph in Egypt, and everything Joseph tried to do went well. Potiphar became richer and richer because of Joseph's work. Potiphar could see that God was with Joseph, so he placed more and more responsibility in Joseph's hands. It was not long until he was made overseer of all Potiphar's household.

Potiphar's wife loved Joseph and begged him, day after day, to love her, but Joseph said, "Potiphar has left everything in his house in my care. I cannot sin against him and against God by loving you. You are my master's wife." One day Joseph was in the house working when Potiphar's wife grabbed his coat and held him saying, "Love me!" Joseph pulled away



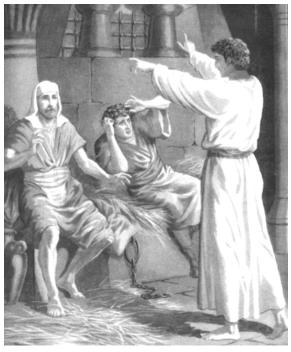
from her and ran out of the house. When she saw that he had left his coat in her hand, she called out to the household servants and told them that Joseph had come in and tried to make love to her. She said "When I screamed he ran away, but see, here's his coat which he left behind." When Potiphar came home, she told him this same story and showed him the coat. Potiphar was very angry and had Joseph put into the Pharaoh's prison.

God was with Joseph even in prison, and soon he was given the responsibility to help the prison-keeper take care of the other prisoners. The prison-keeper had so much trust in Joseph that he didn't even check to make sure Joseph did his work. He realized that God was with Joseph, therefore Joseph would do his work properly.

One day the Pharaoh's butler and his baker displeased the king, so he put

#### Level 6B

them into prison. The prison-keeper put Joseph in charge of these two men. One night the Pharaoh's butler and the baker had dreams. When Joseph came to them in the morning, he said, "Why are you both looking so sad this morning?" They told Joseph

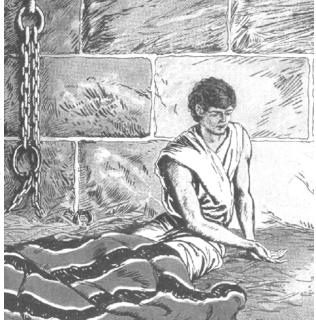


that they had both dreamed strange dreams, and there was no one who could interpret them. Joseph said, "Only God can interpret dreams! Tell me your dreams." The butler related his dreams saying, "In my dream a vine grew before me, and on it were three branches. The branches budded and blossomed and clusters of ripe grapes grew. Then I took the grapes and squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup and served the Pharaoh." Joseph said, "This is the interpretation of your dream. The three branches are three days. In three days Pharaoh will take you from prison and you will serve him again in the palace. Please remember me when you return to the palace. Tell Pharaoh

how I was sold from my homeland and have done no wrong that I should be in this

place."

When the baker heard this good interpretation, he decided to tell Joseph his dream. He said, "I saw myself walking with three baskets on my head. In the top basket were all kinds of good baked goods for the king. Then birds came down and ate the bread from the top basket." Joseph interpreted the dream saying, "The three baskets are three days. In three days Pharaoh will take you from the prison and hang you. The birds will come and eat your flesh!"



On the third day, Pharaoh's birthday, he brought the butler and baker out of prison. He restored the butler to his former job, but he hung the baker .... just as Joseph

had said. The butler went back to serving the king, but he forgot about Joseph. Joseph remained in prison for two more years!

Poor Joseph! So many terrible things happened to him. First he was hated by his own family, then he was sold into slavery, and finally, he was put into prison. Now his chance to get out had come, but the butler forgot about him!! Joseph could have whined and cried (like we usually do when things go wrong), but he trusted in God and went on doing his work. God took care of Joseph and watched over him even in prison! When something goes wrong for you, remember Joseph and trust God to make everything work out right!

## **STORY QUIZ**

- 1. Who took Joseph to the land of Egypt?
- 2. To whom did the Ishmaelites sell Joseph?
- 3. What job did Joseph have in Potiphar's house?
- 4. What evidence did Potiphar's wife show to prove that Joseph tried to love her?
- 5. What job did Joseph soon have in the prison?
- 6. What servants of Pharaoh were put into prison with Joseph?
- 7. What did the Butler dream about?
- 8. What did the Baker dream about?
- 9. How many days were involved in each of the dreams?
- 10. Who did Joseph want the butler to tell about him?

Memory Verse Level Six: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

Memory Goal Level Six The Sons Of Israel (birth order)

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin.

ANSWERS: I. Ishmaelites 2. Potiphar 3. Overseer 4. Joseph's coat 5. Prison-keepers helper 6. Butler & Baker 7. Grapevines & Grapes 8. Bread baskets & birds 9. three 10. Pharaoh

# JOSEPH, A RULER OF EGYPT Genesis 41

At the end of our last lesson Joseph, son of Israel, was in prison in Egypt. The Pharaoh's butler returned to the palace, but he forgot to tell the king about Joseph.

One night Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing on the banks of the Nile River when seven fat, healthy cows came up out of the river and started eating in the meadow. Seven other cows came up out from the river, but these seven were thin, sickly cows. The seven thin, sickly cows ate the fat, healthy cows but became no fatter. The Pharaoh



woke up and thought about his dream, then he slept again. This time he dreamed that seven good, full ears of corn grew on one stalk. Then seven thin, hard ears grew up and swallowed the good, full ears, but the thin ears, like the thin cows, got no fatter.

The next morning the king was worried about these strange dreams. He called for all his wise men and magicians and demanded that they interpret his dreams, but they could not. Finally, the butler remembered Joseph. He told Pharaoh about the young Hebrew who was in the king's prison. He explained how this young man had interpreted dreams for him and the baker. Pharaoh immediately sent for Joseph. Joseph bathed, shaved, and changed his clothes before going before the king. The Pharaoh said, "I had two strange dreams, and no one has been able to interpret them for me. I have been told that you can understand and interpret dreams."

Joseph said, "It is not in my power to interpret dreams, but if you tell me your dreams, God will provide an interpretation. Pharaoh told his dreams to Joseph, and Joseph said, "The two dreams are the same. God is showing you, Pharaoh, what He is about to do. The seven fat cows and the seven full ears of corn are seven good years of great abundance in the land of Egypt. The seven thin cows and seven thin ears of corn are seven years also. Following the seven years of plenty, there will be seven years of

great famine. The famine will be so great that the people will forget the seven good years of great abundance! God has given the dream twice to show that it came from Him and that these things will happen soon. Now, you, O Pharaoh, should seek a man who is very wise and give him authority over all the land of Egypt. This man should have authority to appoint officers to collect one fifth of all the crops during the seven good years. This portion should be stored up for use during the seven years of famine."

Pharaoh thought Joseph's interpretation and suggestions were very wise and good. He said to

his servants, "Where could we find anyone like Joseph, who has the Spirit of God dwelling within him?" Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all these things, there is none as wise as you in all Egypt. I will make you the ruler over this land, and whatever you command will be done. I will be the only one in all Egypt who is greater than you."



Pharaoh then took off his signet ring and gave it to Joseph. (This ring would allow Joseph to place Pharaoh's seal or signature on his orders and instructions.) The king gave Joseph fine clothes of linen and hung a gold chain around his neck. Pharaoh ordered that a royal procession be conducted with Joseph in the second chariot, coming just behind the Pharaoh himself. Runners were commanded to go along with Joseph ordering everyone to bow down to Joseph. (It must have been a ceremonial event somewhat like the parade or procession of the Presidential Inauguration.) Pharaoh gave Joseph an Egyptian name and an Egyptian wife, Asenath, the

# Level 6C

daughter of a pagan priest.

Joseph, son of Israel (great grandson of Abraham), became the second-in-command of all the land of Egypt when he was just thirty years old. He was sold into slavery when he was seventeen, thirteen years later he became the ruler over a foreign land. Joseph worked hard during the seven good years abundance. He traveled over the whole land of Egypt, prepared storage places, and stored up one fifth of all the crops. Grain storehouses were built in every city, and the amount of grain stored was very great. In fact, there was so much grain, Joseph stopped keeping records of it.

During these seven good years two sons were born to



Joseph. He called them Manasseh and Ephraim. Then the seven good years ended, and the famine started - just as Joseph had said. When the people had no food they went to the Pharaoh to beg for help, and he sent them to Joseph. Joseph opened the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians. The famine was in all the lands around Egypt also, and when they heard that Egypt had grain, they went there to buy.

We do not know for sure why Joseph sold grain to the people instead of giving it to them, but it could have been to prevent waste. People tend to be more careful with things they buy than with things that are given free. It could be that Joseph sold the grain so the people would be careful with it and not waste it.

It is very easy for us to see how God worked through Joseph to bring about good things. God was able to carry out His plans through Joseph because Joseph loved and trusted in God. God still works His plans in the world. Today He works through us, if we will only love and trust and obey Him.

## STORY QUIZ

- 1. How long was Joseph in prison after the butler left?
- 2. What did the Pharaoh dream about that troubled him?
- 3. Who did Pharaoh first call to interpret his dreams?
- 4. What did Joseph say when the Pharaoh asked if he could interpret dreams?
- 5. What did the seven fat cows and seven fat ears of corn mean?
- 6. What did the seven lean cows and lean ears of corn mean?
- 7. What kind of man did Joseph suggest be appointed to prepare far the famine?
- 8. How much of the crops did Joseph suggest be stored up for the famine?
- 9. How old was Joseph when he was made a ruler in Egypt?
- 10. What two sons were born to the wife of Joseph during the 7 good years?

Memory Verse Level Six

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

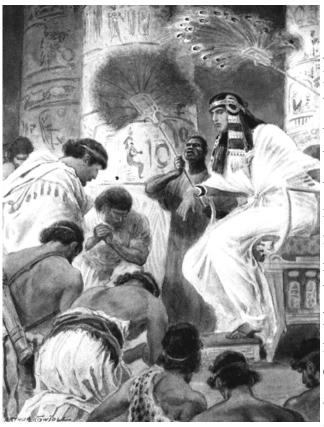
Memory Goal Level Six: The Sons Of Israel Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin.

# JOSEPH'S BROTHER'S

Genesis 42-43

In our last lesson Joseph, with the help of God, interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, and Joseph was made a ruler over the land of Egypt. The famine came just as Joseph said it would, but Egypt was prepared. The Egyptians went to Joseph to buy grain, and people came from other countries hoping to buy food for their families.

In the land of Canaan, the famine was very severe. Israel (Jacob) heard that there was food in Egypt, so he sent his sons there to buy grain. Ten sons of Israel went down to Egypt. Israel would not allow Benjamin to go because he was afraid something might happen to him.



Everyone who came to Egypt to buy grain had to go before Joseph, the ruler of the land. The ten sons of Israel bowed down before Joseph and asked to purchase grain for their families. Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not know him since he spoke in the language of the Egyptians, using an interpreter to communicate with the foreigners who came to buy. Joseph remembered his dreams about his family bowing before him, and he spoke harshly to his brothers saying, "Where have you come from?" They told him they had come from Canaan to buy food for their families. Joseph accused his brothers of being spies, but they said, "No! We are not spies. We are the sons

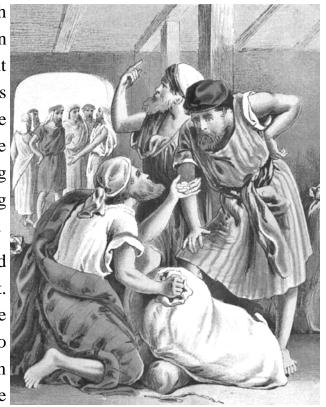
of one man. There were twelve of us, but one of our brothers is dead and the youngest is in Canaan with our father." Joseph said, "You are spies! If you want to be free to go home to your families, one of you must go to Canaan and bring your youngest brother here to prove to me that your story is true." Then Joseph had all ten of his brothers put into prison.

On the third day, Joseph went to the prison and said, "I am a fair man and I fear God. Now I will allow you to go home with grain for your families, but one of you will remain here in this prison until the youngest of your brothers comes here to prove your story." The brothers said to one another, "This is our punishment for what we did years ago to our brother, Joseph. If we had not sinned against our brother, these things would not be happening to us now!" Reuben said, "I told you to leave the boy alone, but you would not listen! Now we must pay for the things we did." Joseph heard and understood all of this conversation, but they did not know he could understand them. Joseph was overcome by his emotions and had to leave until he could control his tears. He went back and told his servants to release all the men except Simeon, who was kept in prison.

Joseph commanded that the brothers sacks be filled with grain. He told his servant

to put the money they paid into the bags with the grain. The brothers tied the grain sacks on their donkeys and started home. That night when they stopped, one of the men opened his grain sack to feed the donkeys and found the money. When he told his brothers, they were all afraid that they might be accused of stealing the grain. They thought God was punishing them because of what they had done to Joseph.

When they arrived in Canaan, they told Israel all about the harsh, cruel ruler of Egypt. They said, "He has kept Simeon there in the prison. We must take Benjamin to Egypt to prove our story to the ruler, then Simeon can go free." Israel said, "You, my sons, have

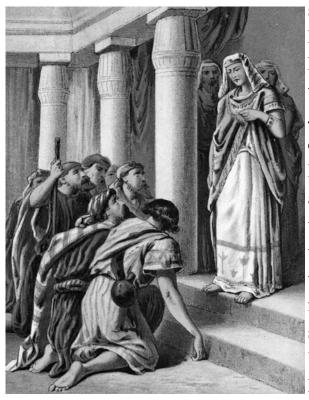


brought great pain and sorrow to me. First, my son Joseph was killed by a savage beast. Now, Simeon is in prison, and you want to take Benjamin to Egypt! No! Benjamin will not go into the land of Egypt!" Reuben said, "Please let us take him to Egypt so Simeon can be released. I promise I will watch over him and take care of him. If I do not bring him back to you, then you can kill two of my sons!" Still Israel refused to let Benjamin go into Egypt.

#### Level 6D

The famine continued in Egypt and the other countries around Egypt. It was not long until the grain, purchased by Israel's sons in Egypt, was used up. Israel said to his sons, "Go now into Egypt and buy more grain before we all die of starvation!" Israel's sons said, "We cannot return to Egypt unless Benjamin goes with us. The ruler of Egypt warned us not to return unless we bring our brother to prove our story." Israel said, "Why did you do this terrible thing to me? Why did you even tell the ruler of Egypt about your young brother?" Israel's sons said, "How were we to know that he would ask us to bring our brother into Egypt? He asked about our families, our father. How were we to know that he would want us to bring our brother to Egypt?" Israel still refused to let Benjamin go into Egypt. Finally Judah spoke saying, "We must go into Egypt or we will all die of hunger! Let the boy go with me into Egypt. I will be responsible for him. If he does not return with me, you can blame me and punish me."

Finally, Israel agreed to let Benjamin go with his brothers into Egypt. He told his sons to take double money for the grain and a gift for the ruler. They took myrrh, balm,



spices, and nuts as a gift for the harsh ruler of Egypt. (They hoped to make him feel more kindly toward them.) When they got to Egypt, they again bowed down before Joseph. When Joseph saw Benjamin with his brothers, he commanded one of his servants to take the Hebrew men to his house and prepare a meal for all of them. The brothers were afraid when they were taken to Joseph's house. They thought they were to be accused of stealing grain. They spoke with Joseph's servant and told him all about finding their money in the grain sacks. The servant said, "I know you paid for the grain. Your God must have shown kindness to you, and He must have given you the money in the

sacks." The brothers must have been very confused, wondering why they had been brought to the house of the ruler of Egypt. They probably were even more confused when a servant brought Simeon to Joseph's house from the prison.

At noon Joseph arrived at his house. The brought their gifts brothers and bowed themselves before Joseph. Joseph said, "How is your father? Is he still living?" The brothers said, "Our father is in good health, and he sent us to buy more grain." Joseph looked at Benjamin, the son of his own mother, Rachel, and said, "You are the young one your brothers talked about. May God be gracious to you." Now Joseph was overcome again by his feelings, so he left the room and went to his bedroom to cry. When he was able to control his tears, he washed his face and returned to his



brothers. He invited them to sit down and eat. Joseph placed his brothers at a table by themselves, seating them according to their ages. The brothers were amazed by Joseph's ability to do this! Joseph had Egyptian guests also, but they sat at a separate table. Joseph sat alone at his table. Joseph served his brothers, giving Benjamin five times as much as he gave the other men.

In our next lesson we will learn more about Joseph. We will find out how God used this tender-hearted man to carry out a very special purpose. We have already learned about the dreams coming true by Israel's sons bowing down to Joseph. Joseph did not hate his brothers, even though they had done much evil toward him. He cared about them and was ready to forgive them. He wanted to see his little brother, so he devised a plan to get Benjamin to come to Egypt. When he had the opportunity to talk to Benjamin, he was so overcome with emotions he had to leave the room to cry! God wants us to be tender-hearted and willing to forgive others. I'm sure God must have been very pleased with Joseph's willingness to forgive his brothers.

## **STORY QUIZ**

- 1. What is a famine?
- 2. How many of his sons did Israel send to Egypt to get food for the family?
- 3. To what men did Israel's sons bow and ask to buy food?
- 4. Which of his brothers did Joseph keep in prison when the others went home?
- 5. What did Joseph tell the men to bring when they returned to Egypt?
- 6. What did the bothers find in the sacks with their grain?
- 7. Who would not allow Benjamin to go into Egypt with his brothers?
- 8. Which brother offered 2 of his sons in case something happened to Benjamin?
- 9. Which brother promised to be responsible for Benjamin and then Israel let him go?
- 10. What did Joseph know about the brothers that amazed them?

### Memory Verse Level Six

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

# Memory Goal Level Six

The Sons Of Israel

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin.

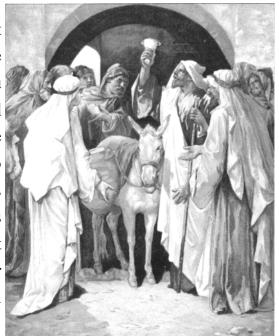
## **BENJAMIN IN EGYPT**

Genesis 44-45

Joseph's brothers were taken to the home of the harsh, cruel ruler of Egypt. They presented the ruler with gifts from their father, then they ate dinner with the ruler. After eating, Joseph commanded his head servant to fill the men's grain sacks with grain. He told the servant, "Take my silver drinking cup and place it in the grain sack belonging to the youngest of these Hebrew men."

The next morning the brothers started on their journey back to Canaan. When they had traveled not far outside the city, Joseph told his servant to go after them and say, "My master was kind to you, but you have repaid that kindness with evil! You have taken *my* master's silver drinking cup!" The servant obeyed Joseph and went to catch up with the Hebrew men.

Jacob's sons were shocked when the servant accused them of stealing the cup. They said, "We did not take the cup! Search our belongings! You will not find the cup! If you do find it, the thief will be killed, and the rest of us will be servants to the ruler of Egypt." The servant said, "No. The one who has taken the cup will return with me to my master's house, and he will be a servant there." The brothers hurried to unload their donkeys, and the servant started his search. He started with the oldest brother and searched everybody's baggage. Of course, when he opened Benjamin's sack, he found the silver cup! When the brothers saw it they were so upset they



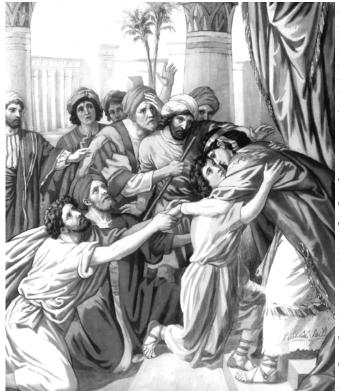
tore their clothes and cried. Then they all returned to the city with the servant.

They came to Joseph's house, and Joseph said, "What is this you have done? Did you not know that I have special power to know things? You should have realized I would know who took my silver cup!" Judah then spoke, "What can we say to make you believe we did not take the cup? God is punishing us for our sins. We will all stay

#### Level 6E

here and become your servants forever." Joseph said, "No, only the young one who stole the cup will remain here. The rest of you may go home to your father." Then Judah asked for permission to speak privately with Joseph.

Judah said, "I know you are a powerful man, but please do not be angry, and listen to what I am saying. Ten of us came into Egypt to buy grain for our families. Our father would not allow our youngest brother to come because he was afraid something might happen to him. Then you thought we were spies and ordered us to bring our young brother here to prove our story. Finally, we persuaded our father to let us bring Benjamin here, so Simeon could be set free. Then this terrible thing happened! If we return home now without the boy, our father will die, for he loves this boy very much. He already



lost one son that he loved very specially, and losing this son would kill him for sure! Now, I beg you, let me be your servant in Benjamin's place, and let the boy go home to his father."

This speech was just too much for Joseph. He commanded that everyone except the Hebrew men leave the room. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Look at me. I am your brother Joseph whom you sold into slavery." His brothers were so shocked, they could not speak! Joseph was crying so loudly everyone outside the room could hear him. He told his brothers to come nearer, "I am your brother. You sold me into

slavery. You meant to do me evil, but God meant it for good. Do not be afraid. God sent me here to Egypt to make me a ruler, so I could save many people from the famine. You see, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me ruler over Pharaoh's land. Now go home to Canaan and bring our father here. Tell him that I am alive and well. Bring our father and all your families here to live in Egypt. I will take care of you and give you plenty of food to eat. This famine will last five more years. Move here so I can take care of you." Then Joseph hugged Benjamin and all his brothers, and they

cried together.

Pharaoh heard that Joseph's brothers had come to Egypt, and he was happy. He told Joseph to send food to Canaan and bring his father and all the family to Egypt. Pharaoh sent wagons for the women and children to ride on and plenty of food for all of them. Joseph gave all his brothers new clothes, but he gave Benjamin three hundred pieces of silver and five sets of clothes.



Joseph's brothers took all these gifts and returned to Canaan. They said to Israel "Joseph, your son, is not dead! He is the ruler of Egypt, and he has sent us to bring you to live with him in Egypt." Israel could hardly believe this. He said, "I will go to see Joseph before I die!" So Israel and his sons and all their families prepared to move from Canaan to Egypt.

Can you imagine how Joseph's brothers felt when they heard him say, "I am Joseph." I'm sure I would have been very afraid! I would not like to learn that someone I mistreated had become a powerful man with the authority to kill me if he wanted. I wonder

if I would be as kind and good as Joseph was to his brothers. Jesus wants us to be kind, loving, and forgiving, but sometimes it is hard to do. Maybe remembering the story of Joseph will help me be kinder and more forgiving to people who hurt me.

### **STORY QUIZ**

- 1. Where did Joseph's brothers eat when they went to Egypt the second time?
- 2. What did Joseph tell his head servant to put in Benjamin's grain sack?
- 3. Of what did the servant accuse Joseph's brothers?
- 4. What did the brothers do when they saw the cup in Benjamin's sack?
- 5. Which brother acted as the spokesman when they came before Joseph?
- 6. How did the brothers act when they learned the ruler of Egypt was Joseph?
- 7. Who did Joseph want the brothers to bring to Egypt?
- 8. What did the Pharaoh send to help Israel on the journey to Egypt?
- 9. What did Joseph give Benjamin?
- 10. Who said, "I will go to see Joseph before I die."

### Memory Verse Level Six

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

Memory Goal Level Six

The Sons Of Israel

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin.

10. Israel

## **ISRAEL COMES TO EGYPT**

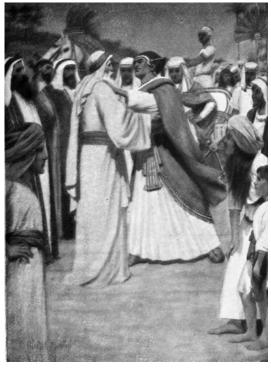
Genesis 46-50

Joseph, son of Israel, sent his brothers to Canaan to get their father and their families and bring them to Egypt. Jacob, who is called Israel, left his home to travel to Egypt. When he came to Beersheba he made sacrifices and worshiped God. God spoke to him saying, "Jacob, do not be afraid to go into Egypt, for while you are there I will make you a great nation of people. I will go with you and I will bring you home again."



When Israel left Beersheba, he traveled on

into Egypt. Israel and the women and children traveled in the wagons Pharaoh sent. The family of Israel took all their cattle and sheep, servants and belongings into Egypt. In all there were sixty-six people of Israel's blood with him. This included his sons, daughter, and grandchildren, but it did not include his daughters-in-law. Counting Israel, Joseph, his two sons, and the sixty-six, there were seventy blood descendants of Abraham who went into Egypt.



Judah led the way into Egypt. As they came into the land of Goshen, Joseph heard they were near, so he went in his chariot to meet them. Joseph ran to his father, hugged and kissed him, and they cried for a long time. Israel said, "Now that I have seen your face, I am ready to die."

Joseph told his brothers that he was going to tell the Pharaoh that they were in Goshen. Joseph told them, "Pharaoh will want to meet with you. When he asks your occupation, tell him you are shepherds. Shepherds are an abomination to the Egyptians, so they will leave you alone in Egypt." When Joseph told Pharaoh that his family had

### Level 6F



arrived, Pharaoh wanted to meet with them. Joseph took five of his brothers to see Pharaoh. They told Pharaoh they were shepherds, and Pharaoh gave Joseph's family the land of Goshen for their own! Pharaoh put his cattle and herds into the care of Joseph's brothers. Joseph took Israel to meet the Pharaoh, and Israel blessed the king.

Joseph settled his family in the land of Goshen and gave them all the food they needed for their families. The famine was very severe, and the people came to Joseph to buy food. Joseph sold grain until the people had no more money, then he let the people

pay for grain by giving their cattle. When they had no more cattle, Joseph took their land in exchange for grain. He gave the people portions of land to farm, and he made a law in the land of Egypt. According to this new law the people had to farm the land and give one fifth of the crops to the Pharaoh. Israel and his family lived in Goshen, and Joseph gave them all the things they needed.

Jacob's family grew and prospered in the land of Egypt. When Israel was one

hundred forty-seven years old he called for Joseph and made Joseph promise that he would not bury him in Egypt but in Canaan, in the cave with Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Rebekah. Joseph promised to do as his father asked. Israel was sick, so Joseph took his two sons to visit his father. Israel blessed Joseph's sons, but he gave his best blessing to Ephraim. Joseph was not please because Manasseh was older and should have received the best blessing. Israel said, "Manasseh will be a great people, but his younger brother will be greater!" Israel told Joseph that he would give each of his sons portions of land in Canaan.

Jacob gathered all his sons together, and he



the fourth son). Reuben, Simeon, and Levi had done some things to displease their father, so Judah received the best blessing. (It was into the family of Judah that Jesus, the son of God, would be born.)

Jacob died at one hundred forty-seven years old. He had lived in Egypt seventeen years. Joseph commanded the physicians of Egypt to embalm Israel. All Egypt mourned Israel for some seventy days. Joseph asked Pharaoh for permission to bury his father in Canaan. Pharaoh gave permission, so Joseph and his brothers and many servants and people of Egypt, traveled to Canaan to bury Israel.



Now that Israel was dead, the brothers were afraid that Joseph would take revenge on them for the evils they had committed against him. They sent a message to



Joseph saying, "Before our father died, he told us to beg you to forgive us for the evil we did to you." When Joseph heard this message he cried, and said to his brothers, "Do not be afraid of me! God is the only judge, and He will give any punishment that is due. You tried to do evil to me, but God sent me here for good to save all of you. Now, do not be afraid of me. I will take care of you and help you as long as I can."

Joseph, son of Israel, and his brothers lived and prospered in the land of Egypt. Joseph lived to one hundred ten years old. Before he died he saw his grandchildren and his greatgrandchildren. On his deathbed, Joseph made

### Level 6F

his brothers promise that they would not bury him in Egypt. He said, "I know God will surely take you back home to Canaan some day. Promise me now that you will not bury me here in the land of Egypt, but you will take me home and bury me in Canaan." Joseph's brothers promised. Joseph, son of Israel, died at one hundred ten years, and they embalmed him and put him in a coffin in Egypt.

Throughout all his trials and problems, Joseph probably did not know what God was planning for him. Even though he didn't know he went on with the work he had to



do. He did not whine or complain about all the bad things that happened. He kept his faith in God and continued to work .... even in prison! We may not always understand why things happen to us, but if we love God and trust Him, He will work out everything in our lives.

## **STORY QUIZ**

- 1. What is the other name for the man called Jacob?
- 2. What did God promise to do for the descendants of Israel?
- 3. Counting Israel and Joseph how many descendants of Abraham went into Egypt?
- 4. Who went out in a chariot to meet Israel as he came into Egypt?
- 5. What part of Egypt was given to Joseph's family?
- 6. To whom did the people go when they became hungry during famine?
- 7. Where did Joseph promise to bury Israel?
- 8. To which of his sons did Israel give the best blessing?
- 9. Israel promised that ???? and ???? would inherit equally with his own sons?
- 10. What was done with Joseph's body when he died?

### Memory Verse Level Six

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

# Memory Goal Level Six

The Sons Of Israel

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin.

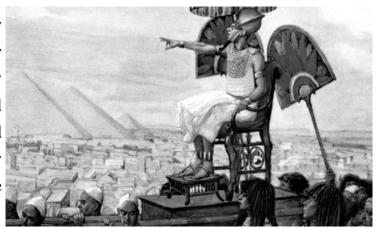
ANSWERS: I. Israel 2. Bring them to Canaan 3.70 4. Joseph 5. Goshen 6. Joseph 7. Canaan 8. Judah 9. Ephraim and Manasseh 10. Put him in a coffin in Egypt.

## **BABY MOSES**

#### **Exodus 1-2:10**

God had sent Joseph, son of Israel, to Egypt and made him a ruler in that land so the family of Israel would be saved when the famine came. In all there were seventy people descended from Abraham who went into Egypt. Joseph died at one hundred ten years old, and his brothers died also, but their families continued to live in Egypt.

Now the family of Israel grew larger and larger in number, and they were very healthy and strong. A new king began to rule in Egypt, and he did not know Joseph and all the good Joseph had done in Egypt. This new king said, "The children of Israel are stronger and mightier than we are! Let's make them our slaves before they



become too strong. They might join with our enemies to destroy us!" So the Pharaoh of Egypt put taskmasters or slave drivers over the children of Israel and treated them very cruelly. They forced the Israelites to work and build cities in Egypt, but the hard work and mistreatment seemed to make the Israelites grow even stronger.

The Pharaoh sent for the two Israelite midwives. (A midwife is a woman who helps other women when they are giving birth to children .... somewhat like a doctor.)

Pharaoh told the midwives, "When a baby is born to the Hebrew women, look quickly to see if it is a boy or a girl. If the child is a boy, you shall kill it, but if it is a girl, it may live." These two midwives feared God and would not do what the Pharaoh commanded. He sent for them again and asked why they had not obeyed him. They told the king that the Israelite women were so healthy and strong that the babies were being born before the midwives could get to them. God was pleased with the midwives because



### Level 7A



they refused to murder the babies for the king. God blessed the midwives and gave them children of their own.

The Pharaoh sent out a new order. He commanded all Egyptians saying, "Every boy child born to the Israelites shall be thrown into the river and drowned, but the girl children may live." Amram and Jochebed, from the tribe of Levi, had a new baby son. Jochebed hid the baby at home for three months. When she could no longer hide him, Jochebed

made a little "ark" from the bulrushes and sealed it up with pitch (tar) to make it waterproof. Jochebed put her baby son into the little basket ark and placed it in the reeds which grew at the edges of the Nile River. Jochebed left Miriam, her daughter, nearby to watch the basket to see what would happen to the child.

Pharaoh's daughter came with her maids to the Nile River to bathe. As they walked by the river, the princess saw the little basket in the reeds and sent one of her maids to get it. When the basket was opened the baby was crying, and the princess felt

sorry for the poor little baby. She said, "This is one of the Hebrew children." (Hebrew is an other name for the Israelites.) Miriam came from her hiding place and asked, "Shall I go and find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said "Yes, go." Miriam ran and brought her own mother to the princess. The princess said to Jochebed, "Take this child and nurse him for me. When he is weaned bring him to live with me in the palace. I will pay you good wages." So Jochebed took her own baby son, and she nursed him for the princess. The child grew, and when he was weaned, Jochebed took him to the palace. The princess took



the child into her home, and he became like one of the grandchildren of the king of Egypt. The princess called the child, "*Moses*" because she took him from the water.

In this story we can see how God is keeping a promise He made to Abraham. He promised to make his descendants into a great nation. We see now that the family of Abraham has grown and grown to become a very large nation. Remember our definition of the word "ARK" .... it is a place for keeping safe things that are precious to God. Jochebed made a little ark to keep her baby safe, and we know that God had very special plans for Jochebed's child.



One interesting idea about this lesson is the fear Pharaoh had about the Hebrews becoming so strong that they might take over Egypt. Some Bible scholars say that Joseph had become a ruler in Egypt during a time when Egypt was ruled by their enemies. The scholars think this is one reason Joseph was so easily accepted in Egypt. This idea could explain why the Egyptians were afraid of the Israelites. They had at one time lost control of their country to foreigners, and they did not intend to allow it to happen again.

### **STORY QUIZ**

- 1. The sons of Israel came to live in what land during the life of Joseph?
- 2. What did the new Pharaoh do to the sons of Israel after Joseph died?
- 3. Who did Pharaoh tell to kill the baby Hebrew boys when they were born?
- 4. What did Pharaoh command his soldiers to do to baby Hebrew boys?
- 5. What is the name of the Levite couple who hid their baby boy?
- 6. How long did Jochebed hide her baby?
- 7. What did Jochebed make to put her baby son into?
- 8. From what did Jochebed make the ark basket for her baby?
- 9. Who was left to watch the baby at the Nile River?
- 10. What did the Pharaoh's daughter name the baby she found?

### Memory Verse Level Seven

All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. II Timothy 3:16-17

## Memory Goal Level Seven

The Plagues

Water to blood, frogs, lice, flies, disease of cattle, boils, hail and fire, locusts, darkness, death of the firstborn.

# **MOSES IN MIDIAN**

Exodus 2:11-4:18

In our last lesson the Pharaoh of Egypt made slaves of the descendants of Jacob. Jochebed and Amram, of the tribe of Levi, saved their baby son when Pharaoh ordered his servants to murder all baby Hebrew boys. Pharaoh's daughter found the baby in the ark Jochebed had prepared for him. The princess called the baby Moses and raised him as one of Pharaoh's grandsons. Moses lived in the Pharaoh's palace for forty years.

Moses' real mother nursed him, and she must have kept a relationship with her



son because he knew he was an Israelite. One day when Moses was grown, he went out to see how the Israelites were being treated. Moses saw one of the Egyptian taskmasters beating an Israelite slave, and when no one was looking, Moses killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand.

The next day Moses went out among the Israelites again. He saw two of the Israelite slaves fighting one another, and he said, "Why are

you fighting? Do you not have enough trouble already?" One of the slaves said, "Who made you a judge over us? Are you going to kill us like you killed that Egyptian yesterday?" Now Moses was afraid. He thought, "Everyone must know about this thing I did." When Pharaoh heard about it, he tried to have Moses killed, but Moses ran away from Egypt and went into the land of Midian.

When Moses came to Midian he sat down at a well, and the seven daughters of Jethro, a priest, came to the well to get water for their father's flocks. The shepherds at the well would not let the women come up to the well, so Moses went out and helped the women water their flocks. The women returned home and told their father about the "Egyptian" man who helped them at the well. Jethro invited Moses to come to their

#### Level 7B

home to eat. Moses stayed with Jethro and worked for him. Later Moses married Zipporah, one of Jethro's seven daughters. Moses lived in Midian and worked as a shepherd for Jethro for forty years. Zipporah had two sons for Moses, the first was called Gershom and the second was Eliezer. During these forty years Pharaoh died and a new Pharaoh ruled in Egypt. The Israelites remained in slavery, and they cried out to God for help. God heard their cries and remembered His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Moses was out in the pasture tending Jethro's flocks on the west side of the wilderness at Mount Horeb (which is also called Mount Sinai and the mountain of God). Moses looked up and saw a blazing fire in a bush on the mountain, but the bush did not burn up! Moses said, "I must go and see this strange sight." When God saw Moses coming near, God spoke from the bush saying, "Moses, Moses. Take Your Shoes Off

Your Feet, For The Place You Are Standing Is Holy Ground." Then God Said, "I Am The God Of Abraham, Isaac, And Jacob." When Moses heard this, he was afraid to look so he hid his face. God spoke to Moses again saying, "I have seen how My people are treated in Egypt and I have heard them crying to Me for help, now I have come to help them and to deliver them from the hand of Pharaoh. I will bring them to a good land. The land of Canaan. A land flowing with milk and honey. I have seen how they are treated badly, and I am sending you, Moses, to Pharaoh so that you may bring my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt."



Moses said, "Who am I, Lord, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the people of Israel out of Egypt?" God said, "Surely I will be with you, and you will bring the people here to this mountain to worship Me when you lead them out of Egypt." Again Moses said, "If I go to the sons of Israel and say to them, "God has sent me to you." they will ask me to tell them Your name?" God said, "I Am Who I Am. Tell them I am

has sent you. Tell the Israelites that I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I have sent you to deliver them from slavery in Egypt. I will take them to the land of Canaan which I promised to Abraham and his descendants. Take the elders of Israel

has spoken, and you must go three days journey into the wilderness to worship Him. But I know the Pharaoh, and he will not let you go. Then I will do many miracles in Egypt and afterward Pharaoh will let my people go free."But Moses still was not ready to do as God commanded him. He said, "What if I go and the people will not believe that You have sent me?" God said, "Moses, what is that you have in your hand?" Moses said, "It is my shepherd's rod." God told Moses to throw the rod down on he ground. When Moses obeyed, the rod turned into a serpent, and Moses ran from it. God told Moses to pick the serpent up



by its tail. When Moses picked the serpent up it turned again into a rod. God told Moses to show this to the people as a sign if they would not believe he was sent from God.

God gave Moses two more signs to show the people. He told Moses to put his hand inside his coat. When Moses pulled his hand out of his coat it was covered with the disease of leprosy. (This is a bad skin disease for which there is no cure.) Then God told Moses to put his hand inside his coat again. When he pulled his hand out, the leprosy was cured, and his hand was clean and pure.

God said, "Show these two signs to the people. If they still will not believe that I have sent you then pour a cup of water from the Nile River onto the ground and it will become blood on the ground! When they see these three signs they will believe!"

Moses said, "Lord, please send someone else! I have never been a good speaker, and I cannot talk well enough to do this thing." God said, "Who made your mouth? Who makes men deaf or hearing, blind or seeing? Is it not I, the Lord? Now Moses, go and I will go with you, and I will tell you what to say."

#### Level 7B



Moses said, "Please send someone else!" Now God became angry with Moses and said, "I know your brother Aaron can speak well. He will come out to meet you and you will tell him all the things I have told you. Aaron will do the speaking for you! You take the rod and show the signs, and Aaron will do all the speaking!"

So finally Moses agreed to obey God. He went home and told Jethro how God had commanded him to go into Egypt. Jethro told Moses to do whatever he had to do. So Moses prepared to leave his home in Midian and return to Egypt.

Remember how we called the basket Jochebed made an ARK. We defined ARK as a place to keep safe something that was precious to God. In this lesson we see what special plans God had for Moses. God picked him to be the leader of Israel. Moses was chosen to be the one who delivers Israel from slavery. But Moses did not want to do what God told him to do. He made excuses about why he could not obey God. Today God has things He wants us to do, but many times we act like Moses and make all kinds of excuses about why we can't obey God. God showed Moses that with His help Moses could easily do what God commanded. We need to remember this lesson when we are making excuses. We need to remember that God has promised to be with us and help us. When God is on our side, we will always win!

### **STORY QUIZ**

- 1. What was the name of the Hebrew boy raised by the Pharaoh's daughter?
- 2. How many years did Moses live as a son in the Pharaoh's house?
- 3. Where did Moses go to escape the Pharaoh?
- 4. Whose daughters did Moses meet at a well in Midian?
- 5. Which of Jethro's daughters did Moses marry?
- 6. What was the name of the two sons of Moses?
- 7. What kind of work did Moses do for Jethro?
- 8. What strange sight did Moses see on Mount Sinai?
- 9. Where did God want Moses to go?
- 10. How many signs did God give Moses to show that God had sent him?

### Memory Verse Level Seven

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# Memory Goal Level Seven

## The Plagues

Water to blood, frogs, lice, flies, disease of cattle, boils, hail and fire, locusts, darkness, death of the firstborn.

## **MOSES IN EGYPT**

Exodus 4:19-6:14

So far in our study of Moses we have learned about his early childhood in Egypt and how he left Egypt because he killed an Egyptian taskmaster. Moses lived forty years in Midian, working as a shepherd for his father-in-law, Jethro. God spoke to Moses on



Mount Sinai and told him to go to Egypt and lead the children of Israel out of slavery. At first Moses made excuses about why he could not do what God told him to do, but he finally agreed to do as God commanded. Moses took his wife, Zipporah, and his two sons and left Jethro's household.

God spoke to Aaron in Egypt and told him to go out to meet Moses. Aaron met Moses at Mount Sinai. Moses told Aaron all the things the Lord God had told him, and he showed Aaron the signs from God. Moses and Aaron took the "rod of the Lord" and went into Egypt. They called together the elders of the sons of Israel, and Aaron spoke the words

of the Lord God and showed them the signs which God had given them. The people believed the words which Aaron spoke, and they bowed down to worship God.

Moses and Aaron then took the rod of the Lord and went to see the Pharaoh. They said, "The Lord God has spoken to us and told us to speak to you. God said, "Let My people go so they may celebrate a feast to Me in the wilderness." Pharaoh answered then saying, "Who is the Lord that I should obey Him? I do not know your God, and I will not let Israel go free." Moses and Aaron said, "The Lord God of Israel has met with us. Please let us go three days journey into the wilderness to make sacrifices to our

God." Pharaoh said, "Why are you taking the people from their work? Now get back to your labors!"

The Pharaoh sent for the taskmasters and ordered them, "Do not give the Israelites the straw they need to make bricks. Let them gather the straw they need! Do not change the number of bricks they are required to make. They must continue to make the same number of bricks, but now they must gather their own straw for the bricks! They are very lazy people, and they cry, "Let us go and sacrifice to our God." Now make their work harder so they will not have time to think about making sacrifices."



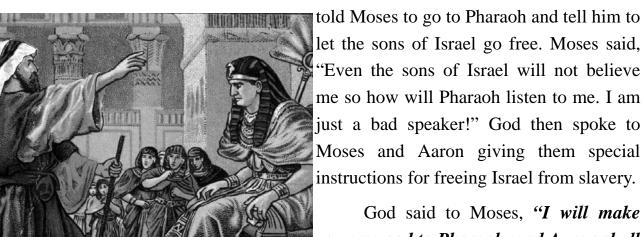


The Israelite foremen went to Pharaoh saying, "Why are you treating us this way? You give us no straw and say keep making the same number of bricks as before. We are being beaten, but it is not our fault when we do not meet the requirements?" Pharaoh answered them saying, "You are lazy .... very lazy! You say 'Let us go and worship our God.' Now you leave here....go and work! No straw will be provided for you, and you must make the same number of bricks as before!" The foremen went out from Pharaoh and met Moses and Aaron who were waiting for them. The foremen said, "May the Lord see what you have done to us!! You have made the Pharaoh hate us and he is killing us with this hard labor!"

#### Level 7C

Moses spoke to God saying, "0 Lord, why have You brought this new trouble on these people? Why did You ever send me here? Since I came the Pharaoh has treated the people worse, and You have not delivered the people." God then told Moses, "You will see what I will do to Pharaoh. He will let the people go. He will even drive them out of his land! I am the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I made my covenant with them and promised to give them the land of Canaan. Now I have heard the cry of the sons of Israel and I have remembered My covenant. Now you say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM .... The Lord God will bring you out of the land of Egypt, out of slavery. I will be your God and you will be My people. You shall know that I am the Lord God who brought you out of slavery. I will bring you to the land which I promised to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, and I will give it to you for your own. I am the Lord God."

Moses told the Israelites what God said, but they would not listen to him. God



God said to Moses, "I will make you as a god to Pharaoh, and Aaron shall be your prophet. You will speak the words I tell you to Aaron, and Aaron will speak to the Pharaoh. The Pharaoh's heart will be hard, and he will not let the people go, then I will show My signs and wonders in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh will not let the

people go, then I will bring great judgment on the land of Egypt. The Egyptians will know for certain that I am the Lord God, and I will bring My people out of the land of their bondage of slavery."

Moses and Aaron obeyed God and did all that He commanded them. Moses was now eighty years old and his brother, Aaron, was eighty-three. God gave the instructions for freeing Israel.

The Israelites begged God to help them, but when God sent help they did not like the immediate results. We are just like the Israelites! We pray and beg God to do things for us, yet when something begins to change we often find we do not like the immediate results of God's help. The Israelites (as well as people today) should have learned lessons from Joseph, and remembered that all things work together for the good of them that love God.

### **STORY QUIZ**

- 1. Who came out to Mount Sinai to meet Moses?
- 2. What did Moses and Aaron take with them when went into Egypt?
- 3. What did Moses and Aaron say to Pharaoh when they saw him?
- 4. What did Pharaoh say in answer to God's command to let the people go?
- 5. What added work did the slaves get because of Moses' request to the Pharaoh?
- 6. What happened to the Israelite foremen when the Israelites could not do all the work?
- 7. Who did the Israelites blame for their added work and trouble?
- 8. To what land did God say He would take the Israelites?
- 9. To whom had God promised the land of Canaan?
- 10. Who gave Moses and Aaron instructions for freeing Israel?

# Memory Verse Level Seven

All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. II Timothy 3:16-17

Memory Goal Level Seven: The Plagues

Water to blood, frogs, lice, flies, disease of cattle, boils, hail and fire, locusts, darkness, death of the firstborn.

ANSWERS: 1. Aaron 2. Rod of the Lord 3. Let the people go free. 4. Who is God? 5. Gather their own straw. 6. They were beaten. 7. Moses and Aaron 8. Canaan 9. Abraham and his descendants 10. God

## MOSES SEES PHARAOH

Exodus 7:1-8:20

Pharaoh of Egypt told Moses that he would not let the Israelites go free. He said, "Who is God, and why should I obey Him?" God gave Moses and Aaron instructions about freeing Israel. God said, "I will show My signs and miracles in Egypt, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord God."

Following God's instructions Moses and Aaron went again to the Pharaoh and



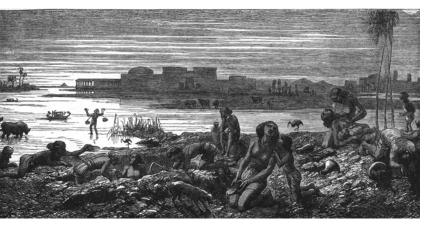
asked him to let the people go free. Moses told Aaron to throw the rod of the Lord on the floor in front of Pharaoh. When Aaron threw down the rod, it turned into a serpent. Pharaoh called his magicians, and they threw down their rods and made serpents with

their magic tricks. God showed His power over the magicians when Aaron's serpent swallowed up the magicians' serpents, but Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he refused to let the people go .... just as God had said he would do.

God spoke again to Moses, "Go to pharaoh in the morning as he goes down to the river. Meet him there on the banks of the river and say to him, 'The Lord God of the Israelites sent me to say to you, let My people go so they may worship Me in the wilderness. You have not listened to My voice, and now you will know that I am the Lord God.' I will strike the water of the Nile with my rod, and the water shall become blood. All the fish in the river will die, and you will have difficulty finding water to drink."

Moses and Aaron did as God commanded, and they waited for Pharaoh at the Nile River. They told Pharaoh what God had said. Then Aaron lifted up the rod of the Lord over the Nile River and hit the water and it became blood. The water in vessels of wood and clay also became blood.

Pharaoh's magicians showed the Pharaoh that they too could make water into blood. The water of the Nile was



blood for seven days. The fish died, and the people had to dig well to find drinking water. But Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he would not let the Israelites go free.

God said to Moses, "Tell Pharaoh, 'Let My people go so they may serve Me. If you refuse I will plague your whole land with frogs! The Nile River will be full of frogs and they will come up out of the river into your houses and your kitchens and your beds!" Moses and Aaron did as God said, and Moses instructed Aaron to stretch the rod out over the river and over the streams and pools. When Aaron did this, the frogs came up out of the river. The Pharaoh's magicians could make frogs come up on the land

with their magic tricks, and soon the land was filled with frogs. They came into the houses and into the beds and into the kitchens. Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron and said, "Please speak to your God for me! Beg Him to take away the frogs, and I will let the people go to make their sacrifices."

Moses said, "Tell me when you want the frogs to die, and it will happen." Pharaoh said, "Tomorrow. Let them die tomorrow." Moses said, "It will be just as you say. Tomorrow the frogs will die so that you may know there is no god like our God." Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh, and Moses prayed to God concerning the frogs. God did according to the words Moses had spoken to Pharaoh, and the next day all the frogs in Egypt



#### Level 7D

died, only the ones in the river remained alive. The Egyptians gathered the frogs into great piles, and the whole land stank with the foul odor of dead frogs. When Pharaoh saw that the frogs were dead, he hardened his heart and would not let the people go free as he had promised.

God told Moses to tell Aaron to stretch out his rod and strike the dust of the earth. Moses and Aaron did as God commanded, and Aaron hit the ground with the rod. Immediately the dust became lice on the ground, on the animals, and on the people. There were lice everywhere. Pharaoh's magicians tried to make lice with their magic tricks, but they could not. They said to Pharaoh, "Surely this thing comes from God!" But Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not let the Israelites go free.

God spoke to Moses again saying, "Go early in the morning to the river and wait for Pharaoh. Say to him, This is what the Lord God of Israel says to you .... Let My people go so they may serve Me. If you will not let them go, I will send great swarms of flies on you and your servants and into all the land of Egypt. But I will set apart the land of Goshen where My people live, and there will be no flies in Goshen. I will do this thing tomorrow to show you that I am the Lord God!"



The next day swarms of flies came into the land of Egypt and into Pharaoh's house and all the houses of the Egyptians. But there were no flies in all the land of Goshen where the children of Israel lived. Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron and said, "Go and make sacrifices to your God here in the land of Egypt." Moses said, "No, our sacrifices would be wrong in the eyes of the Egyptians. We must go three days journey into the wilderness to sacrifice to our God, as He has commanded us." Pharaoh said, "Alright! I will let you go three days journey into the wilderness to make sacrifices. Now, please speak to your God to take away these

flies!" Moses told Pharaoh that he would ask God to remove the flies from the land, and

he warned Pharaoh that he must not trick them again. Moses prayed to God, and God removed the flies from Egypt, but when the flies were gone Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not let the people go.

God told Moses, "Go say to Pharaoh, Let My people go so they may serve Me. If you refuse to let them go, I will send a very bad disease upon all the cattle and livestock in Egypt. The disease of cattle will come upon all cattle of Egypt, but there will be no sick cattle among the cattle in Goshen." Moses told Pharaoh the words of the Lord God, and the next day all cattle and livestock in Egypt became very sick, and many animals died. But the animals belonging to the children of Israel were not sick and none of them died. Pharaoh sent some of his men to Goshen to see the cattle of the Israelites, but still he refused to let the Israelites go free.

Again God told Moses and Aaron, "Take a handful of ashes from the ovens and let Moses throw it toward the sky in the sight of Pharaoh. The ashes will become a fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and it will make boils break out on the men and animals of Egypt."



Moses and Aaron took the ashes from the ovens, and Moses

threw it into the air. All the men and animals of Egypt broke out with great sores of boils, but there were no boils on the children of Israel. The boils were even on the bottoms of their feet! But Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he would not let the people go free.

God sent these six terrible plagues on the land of Egypt, but the Pharaoh still would not let the Israelites go. God spoke again saying, "Speak to Pharaoh saying, This is what the Lord God of Israel says to you, Let My people go so they may serve Me. Now I will send more great plagues on you and on your people, and you will know for certain that there is no god like Me in all the earth. I have given you power in Egypt, but I have the power to strike you with plagues. I have the power to kill you! But I am

#### Level 7D

sending the plagues to show you My power and to proclaim My Name through all the earth. At about this time tomorrow I will send a great hail storm upon Egypt. This storm will be more severe than any storm ever seen in Egypt. Bring your cattle and livestock in from the fields. Bring every man inside, for every man or animal left outside during the storm will die."

Some of Pharaoh's servants believed Moses and brought their animals inside, but most of the Egyptians did not believe. God told Moses to stretch his hand toward the sky



and the hail fell in Egypt in a tremendously bad storm. God sent thunder and lightning, and the fire of lightning ran down upon the earth. The hail and fire destroyed all the crops and plants which were growing in Egypt. Every man and animal left out in the open spaces died in the hailstorm. Only in the

land of Goshen, where the Israelites lived, there was no hail.

Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned and your God is the righteous one. I and my people are very wicked. I beg you, speak to your God, and ask Him to take away this hail and fire, then I will let the people go, and they will serve me no more!" Moses said, "I will go out of the city, and I will spread my hands toward heaven, and the hail and fire will stop. You will know then that the earth belongs to the Lord our God. But I know you, Pharaoh! You do not yet fear the Lord God."

So Moses went out of the city and spread his hands toward heaven, and the hail stopped. When Pharaoh saw that the hail was stopped, his heart was hard and he would not let the Israelites go free. The hail and fire had destroyed all the crops which were growing in Egypt. The only crops not destroyed were those which were not yet sprouted.

God spoke to Moses and told him to go again to Pharaoh and tell him to let the people go free. God said to tell Pharaoh that the plagues were being sent on Egypt to show Pharaoh, the Egyptians, and the Israelites that the Lord is God of all the earth.

Moses told Pharaoh all that God said. He told the king that God would send great swarms of locusts on the land of Egypt. Pharaoh's court officials said, "How long is this man going to bother us? Let the people go and worship their God. Can't you see that the whole land of Egypt is in ruins because of this Moses?" Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, worship your God. Just who will be going with you?" Moses told him, "We will go with all the people of Israel, the old and the young, also our flocks and herds, for we must celebrate a feast unto our God." Pharaoh said, "I know you will not return to us if you take all your wives, and children, and flocks. Go and worship, but take only the men of Israel!" Then Pharaoh made Moses and Aaron go out from his presence.

God told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over Egypt so the locusts may come into the land. They will eat up every green living thing in Egypt which was not destroyed by the hail and fire." Moses held out the rod over the land of Egypt, and God sent a strong

east wind all that day and all that night. By morning the wind brought the locusts into Egypt. They invaded the whole land, except the land of Goshen! Never before had there been such a plague of locusts. There were so many that the ground looked black with them. The locusts ate every green plant in Egypt! Pharaoh called for Moses and



Aaron and said, "I have sinned against your God. Please ask Him to take this plague from me." Moses asked God to remove the locusts, so God caused a strong west wind to blow all the locusts into the Red Sea. But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not let the people go.

God told Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky, and there will be darkness over all the land of Egypt. This will be a darkness so great that it can be felt!" Moses obeyed, and God sent a heavy, thick darkness over the land of Egypt for three days.

### Level 7D

The darkness was so great that the Egyptians could not see at all and could not even move around. But there was light in the houses of the children of Israel over in



Goshen. Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron and said, "Go! Serve your God. Leave your cattle and herds here, but take all your wives and your children." Moses said, "No! We must have our animals to make sacrifices to God. We will go only when we can take everything with us. Pharaoh became very angry with Moses, and he was not willing to let the people go free. He said to Moses and Aaron, "Get out of here! I never want to see your faces again! If I do, you

will die." Moses said, "You are right, I shall never see your face again." Then Moses and Aaron left the Pharaoh.

God sent these plagues on Egypt to show Pharaoh and all the Egyptians that He Is The Lord God Almighty! He could have freed the Israelites easily by killing the Pharaoh, but He used the plagues as a way to show His power over the idol gods of Egypt. All of the plagues showed God's power over gods worshiped by the Egyptian people. They worshiped the Nile River. It was a source of life and goodness to them. God showed his power over it by turning the water to blood and by it producing frogs which plagued the land. They worshiped cows, but God sent a disease which killed their cattle. God's power was obviously greater than the power of the idol gods of the Egyptians.

## **STORY QUIZ**

- 1. What did God tell Moses to tell the Pharaoh to do?
- 2. Why did God bring the plagues on Egypt?
- 3. What river flows through Egypt and was turned into blood?
- 4. What was the condition of Pharaoh's heart?
- 5. Which of the plagues could the Pharaoh's magicians copy?
- 6. What did the magician's say about the lice?
- 7. What did God do before HE sent the plagues of flies?
- 8. How long did the darkness plague last?
- 9. What kind of storm did God send on Egypt?
- 10. What insect ate all the living crops?

### Memory Verse Level Seven

All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. II Timothy 3:16-17

## Memory Goal Level Seven

## The Plagues

Water to blood, frogs, lice, flies, disease of cattle, boils, hail and fire, locusts, darkness, death of the firstborn.

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ANSWERS:

1. "Let My people go."

2. To show everyone that HE is God.

3. Water to blood and frogs 6. It is from God.

7. Separated Goshen

8. 3 days

9. hail and fire

10. Locusts
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### THE TENTH PLAGUE

Exodus 11:1-12:42

In our last lesson we learned about the nine terrible plagues God brought on Egypt to show Pharaoh that the Lord is God. God told Moses, "I will bring one last plague on Egypt then Pharaoh will let the people go free. He will drive them out of his land completely! Tell the people of Israel to ask the Egyptians for articles of gold and silver. I will cause the Egyptians to look at you with favor, and they will give you whatever you ask for." God gave Moses detailed instructions about the tenth plague, and told him to tell the Israelites how to prepare for the coming of this plague.

God said, "About midnight on the fourteenth day of the month I will pass through the land of Egypt and all the firstborn of Egypt will die, from the firstborn of the cattle, to the firstborn of the servants, to the firstborn of the Pharaoh. There will be great crying heard in all the land, but against the sons of Israel there will be no death plague. In this way, Egypt and Israel will know that I am the Lord God."

God gave Moses and Aaron details concerning this last death plague. God told Moses to tell the people that the month called *Abib* would be the first month of their year. Every family was told to choose a perfect one year old, male lamb on the tenth day of Abib. This lamb could be from the sheep or the goats, but it had to be perfect, with no

blemishes, sores, or defects. On the fourteenth day of the month they were to kill the lamb at twilight. The blood of the lamb was to be collected and smeared on the doorposts and lintel of every house where the Israelites lived. The Israelites were instructed to roast the lamb over the fire. They could not boil it, nor could they eat it raw. The lamb was to have no bones broken, and it was to be cooked whole.

The people were told to eat the roasted lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs on the night of the fourteenth. God said the people were to be fully dressed, with their shoes on their



feet and their rods in their hands. They were to be prepared to leave the land of Egypt when the word came to them. They were instructed to eat quickly, for this was the night of the Lord's Passover. God told them how to prepare everything for this very special memorial feast, with special instructions concerning the blood of the sacrificed lamb. He even gave instructions for a small family. The lamb meat had to be eaten, all of it, that night. If a family was small and could not eat that much meat in one meal, God said they should share a lamb with another small family.

God said, "On this night I will pass through the land of Egypt, and I will strike down the firstborn of all the land, both man and beasts. The blood on your door shall be a sign for you on your houses. When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will come on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt."

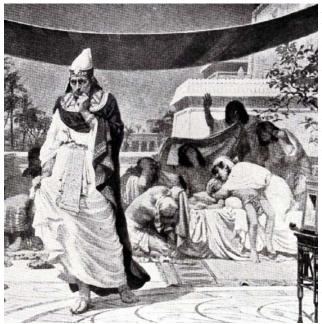
God said that the Israelites should remember this special Passover feast. They

were commanded to celebrate it every year, to remember how God had saved them and brought them out of the land of Egypt. Moses gave all God's instructions to the Israelites. On the tenth day of the first month, Abib, the Israelites picked their Passover lamb as God had commanded. On the fourteenth day, they killed their lambs and smeared its blood on the doorposts and lintel of their houses. They roasted the lamb over the fire, and ate it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. The Israelites were dressed and ready to leave when the command came. They could not go outside their houses until they received instructions from Moses.



At midnight God passed through the land of Egypt, and all the firstborn in every

#### Level 7E



house died, and all the firstborn of the cattle died. But God passed over the houses where the blood of the lamb was found covering the doorposts, so there was no death among the Israelites. Pharaoh arose during the night and found his own son dead! He was very distressed and sent a message to Moses. He said, "Get out from among my people. You and all Israel with you!! Take your cattle and all your belongings and get out of Egypt." The Egyptians helped the Israelites prepare, and they begged them to hurry and leave the land

of Egypt. The Israelites were ready to go. They had obeyed God and asked the Egyptians for articles of gold and silver, and the Egyptians gave the sons of Israel

everything they asked for.

Now the sons of Israel traveled from Raamses to Succoth. There were about six hundred thousand men not counting the women and children, along with all their cattle, who left Egypt that night. At Succoth they stopped and baked the bread they had started making before they left Egypt. The Israelites had been in the land of Egypt for four hundred thirty years. God commanded that this day be remembered every year, and the Israelites were to celebrate this feast of the Passover every year for the rest of their generation.

God keeps His promises!!! God told Abraham that his descendants would be slaves for some four hundred years. Now we can see that God



kept that promise. God also promised that Abraham's descendants would be numerous. We learned in this lesson that Abraham's bloodline descendants number six hundred thousand men, not counting women and children. Abraham believed that God would

keep his promises, and we know that God does keep his word. God has promised to take us to the promised land of heaven, if we will obey Him and keep His commandments.

### **STORY QUIZ**

- 1. What did God tell the Israelites to borrow from the Egyptians?
- 2. On what day of the month did the last plague come?
- 3. What was the last plague God sent on Egypt?
- 4. Describe the lamb used by Israelites on the day of the last plague?
- 5. What did the Israelites do with the blood of the sacrifice lamb?
- 6. What was eaten with the lamb on the night of the last plague?
- 7. What happened at midnight on the 14th day of the first month?
- 8. What is the name given to the memorial feast of the last plague?
- 9. What did the Israelites take with them when they left Egypt`?
- 10. About how many men of Israel left Egypt that night?

## Memory Verse Level Seven

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Memory Goal Seven

The Ten Plagues

Water to blood, frogs, lice, flies, disease of cattle, boils, hail and fire, locust, darkness, death of the firstborn.

ANSWERS: 1. articles of gold & silver. 2. fourteenth 3. death of firstborn. 4. 1 yr. old, male, perfect, unblemished. 7. ameared it on doorposts & lintels. 6. bitter herbs & unleavened bread. 7. all firstborn of Egypt died. 8. Passover 9. Everything they owned. 10. 600,000.

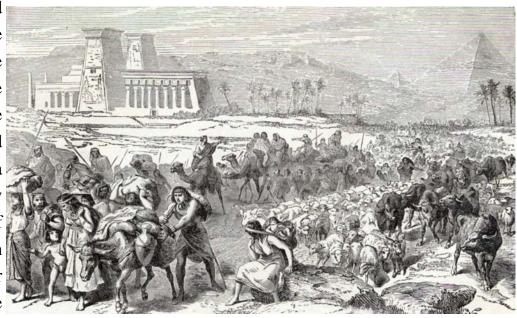
## THE EXODUS

Exodus 13:17-14:31

In our last lesson we learned about the tenth plague on Egypt. The Egyptians gave the Israelites many articles of gold and silver and fine clothing. The Israelites left their homes in Goshen and traveled to Succoth. There were six hundred thousand men of Israel, not counting women and children, who left Egypt on the night of the Passover.

God led the Israelites out of Egypt, but He did not take them out by the shortest route. He led them by way of the wilderness and the Red Sea. If they had gone north, by the shortest route, they would have traveled through the land of the Philistines. God thought the Israelites would be afraid to go through Philistine land. The Philistines were very strong, war-like people. God was afraid the Israelites would return to Egypt if they

thought they would have to fight the Philistines, so He led them through the desert toward the Red Sea. God led the Israelites in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire at night. When the pillar of cloud or fire moved, the



people moved and followed it. The pillar of fire provided light during the night, so they could travel by night or by day. When the cloud stopped, the Israelites stopped and rested. Moses and the children of Israel remembered a promise that had been made to Joseph, and they took his mummified body with them when they left Egypt.

God led the sons of Israel to Pihahiroth between Migdol and the Red Sea, and they camped there. Back in Egypt, Pharaoh and his men had a change of heart! They thought, "What have we done? We let our slaves go, now we have no one to do our work!" Pharaoh gathered all his army with six hundred chariots, and they went to bring

the Israelites back to Egypt. The Israelites were camped by the Red Sea when they saw Pharaoh's army coming after them. They were terrified. They had no place to go. The Red Sea was on one side of them, the wilderness was on one side, and Pharaoh's army was on the other side. They cried out to God for help, and they said to Moses, "Did you bring us out here into this desert to die? Were there no graves in Egypt? Why have you done this to us? We told you to leave us alone! Why didn't you listen to us? Now you have brought us out here just to die!!" Moses said, "Stand quietly and see how the Lord God will fight for you. These Egyptians that you now see will never be seen again. God will fight for you while you stand quietly."

God said to Moses, "Why are you standing there crying to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward! Moses, hold out your rod over the sea, and I will divide the waters and the people will cross on dry land."

Now the pillar of the Lord moved from in front of the Israelites and went behind them. The pillar of cloud was between the camp of the Israelites and the Pharaoh's army.

It gave light to the Israelites all during the night but caused darkness on the side where the Egyptians camped. Moses lifted his rod over the Red Sea, and God sent a strong east wind to blow. The waters of the sea divided and the ground dried up. The Israelites walked across the Red Sea on dry land. (Scientists say that the Red Sea would have had to open up about three miles wide, allowing enough space for the people to cross five thousand abreast for this number of people to cross in one night.) It took all night for the Israelites to cross the sea, but they had the light from God's cloud. When daylight came, the Egyptians went into the



### Level 7F

opened sea trying to capture the Israelites. When God saw them come into the sea, He caused the wheels on their chariots to get stuck in mud. The Egyptians said, "Let's go back! Their God is fighting for them." God told Moses to hold his rod over the sea again,

so the water could return to its place. Moses held out the rod and the water rushed back into place killing all of Pharaoh's army. When the Israelites saw that God had saved them and destroyed the Egyptians they were very happy. Miriam (Moses sister) led the women in singing a song to thank God for delivering them out of slavery and out of the hands of the Pharaoh's army.

The Israelites had seen God's great power during all the plagues in Egypt, but when they became afraid of Pharaoh's



army they seemed to forget about their powerful God. Sometimes we are like the Israelites, and we become afraid. We forget that we have a most powerful God, and He will be with us and fight for us, just like He fought for the Israelites. God loves us and He promised to be with us.

## **STORY QUIZ**

- 1. Through whose land would the shortest route take the Israelites?
- 2. How did God lead the Israelites during the day time?
- 3. How did God lead the Israelites during the night?
- 4. What did Pharaoh decide to do when he realized he had freed the laborers?
- 5. Where were the Israelites camped when Pharaoh's army caught up to them?
- 6. How did the Israelites feel when they saw the Pharaoh's army coming?
- 7. Who did the Israelites blame for this trouble at the Red Sea?
- 8. Moses told the Israelites to stand quietly and watch how ??? would fight for them.
- 9. What did God tell Moses to hold over the waters of the Red Sea?
- 10. What happened to Pharaoh's army?

## Memory Verse Level Seven

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# Memory Goal Level Seven

## The Plagues

Water to blood, frogs, lice, flies, disease of cattle, boils, hail and fire, locusts, darkness, death of the firstborn.