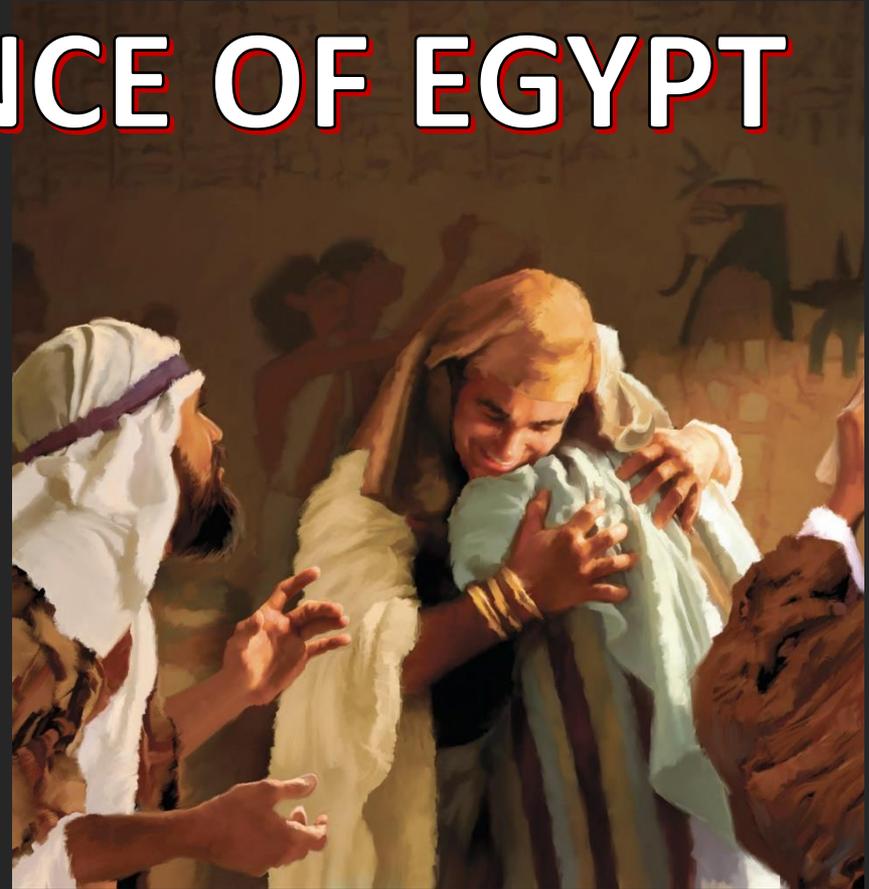
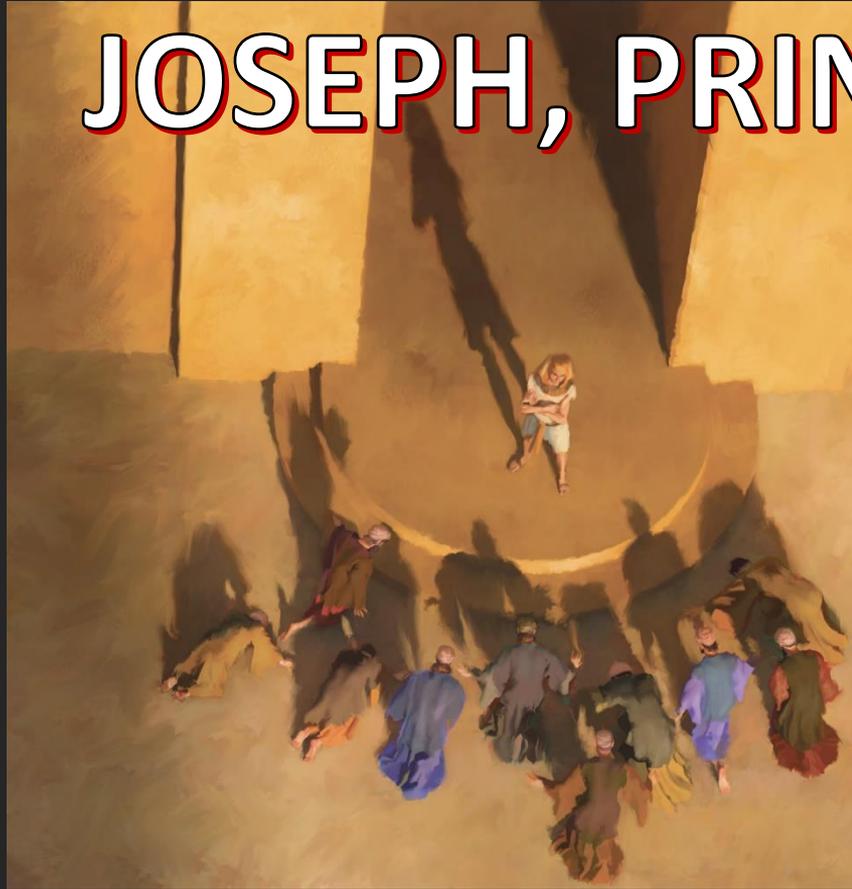


JOSEPH, PRINCE OF EGYPT

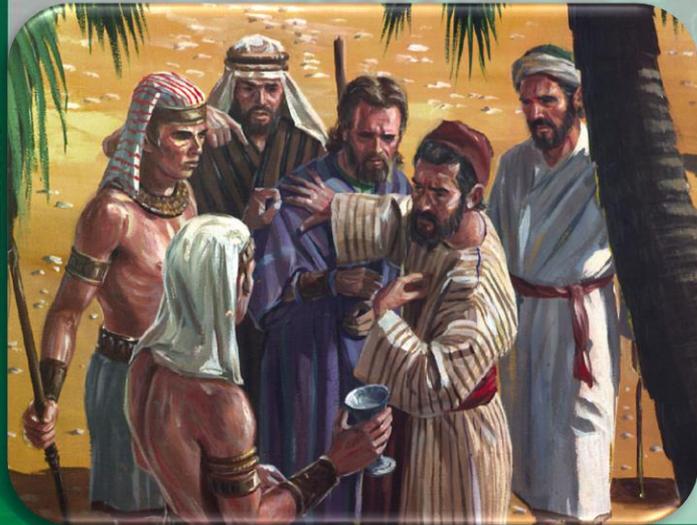
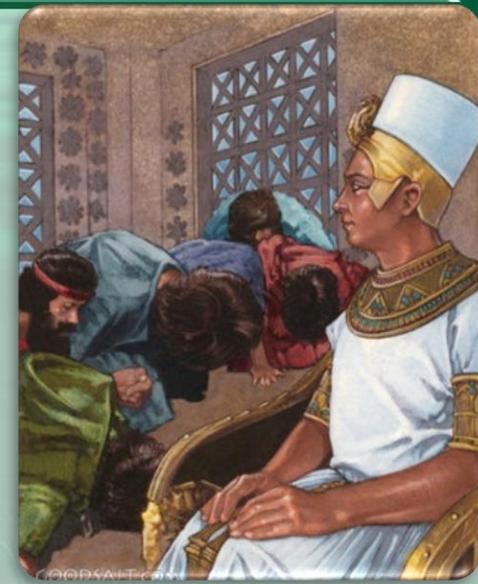


Joseph was appointed as the most important administrator in Egypt. Then, everything God had shown him in dreams came true: his brothers reverently knelt before him.

What should Joseph do? Should he avenge what his brothers had done to him? Or should he forgive them and leave the past behind?

Joseph loved God, so forgiveness was the only way for him.

However, he wanted to make sure that their terrible acts wouldn't happen again.



➡ Joseph, prince of Egypt. Genesis 41:37-57

➡ Joseph puts his brothers to the test:

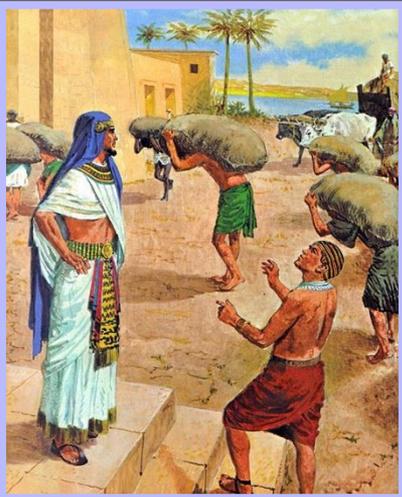
➡ The test of repentance. Genesis 42

➡ The test of jealousy. Genesis 43

➡ The definitive test. Genesis 44

➡ God turns evil into good. Genesis 45

JOSEPH, PRINCE OF EGYPT



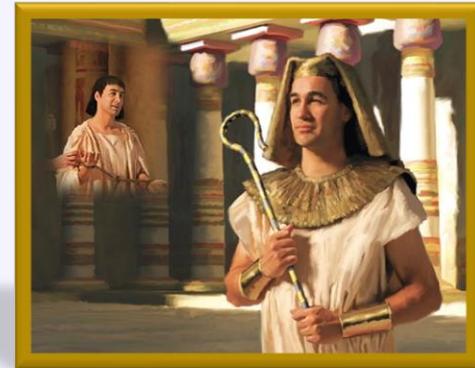
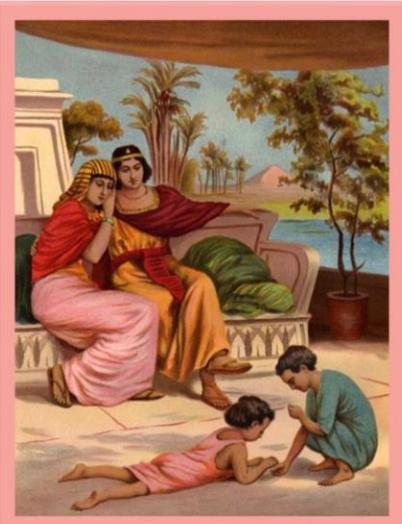
“And Pharaoh said to his servants, ‘Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?’” (Genesis 41:38)

Besides interpreting Pharaoh’s dreams, Joseph also proposed a plan for Egypt to be ready for the seven years of famine that had been prophesized (Gn. 41:32-36).

Pharaoh acknowledged that God had given Joseph wisdom. He appointed Joseph as vizier of Egypt and gave him a wife (Gn. 41:39-44).

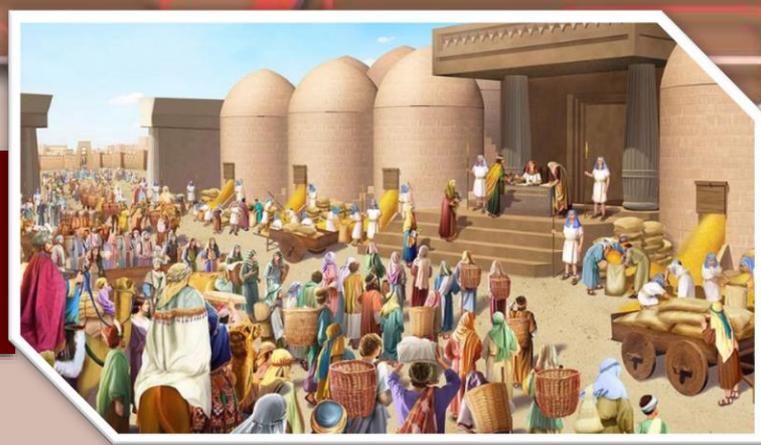
During the seven years of abundance, “Joseph gathered very much grain, as the sand of the sea” (Genesis 41:49). He was also blessed with two sons: Manasseh [“forgetting”] and Ephraim [“fruitful”].

God had turned something evil (being a slave) into something good (becoming the prince of Egypt).



THE TEST OF REPENTANCE

“Then they said to one another, ‘We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us.’” (Genesis 42:21)



When the years of famine began, Joseph opened the barns and supplied both Egyptians and foreigners (Gn. 41:56-57). Jacob sent his sons to Egypt—except Benjamin—to buy wheat (Gn. 42:1-4).

Joseph recognized his brothers and decided to test them (Gn. 42:8-9, 17). The test was effective. Since they didn’t know that Joseph could understand them (Gn. 42:23), they talked between them freely. There are some similarities between this moment and the last time Joseph had seen them.

20 years earlier

**“they said to one another”
(Gn. 37:19)**

**“Shed no blood”
(Gn. 37:22)**

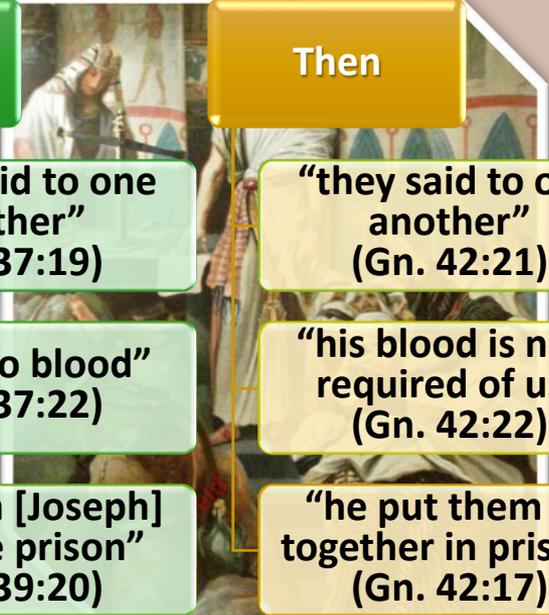
**“put him [Joseph] into the prison”
(Gn. 39:20)**

Then

**“they said to one another”
(Gn. 42:21)**

**“his blood is now required of us”
(Gn. 42:22)**

**“he put them all together in prison”
(Gn. 42:17)**



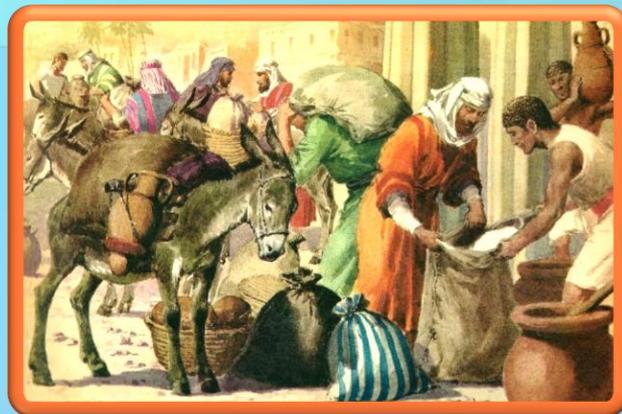
THE TEST OF JEALOUSY

“Then he took servings to them from before him, but Benjamin's serving was five times as much as any of theirs. So they drank and were merry with him.” (Genesis 43:34)



Joseph kept Simeon in prison, and let the others return to Canaan if they committed to come back with Benjamin (Gn. 42:19-20, 24).

When Joseph saw Benjamin, his feelings erupted (Gn. 43:30). He talked to him affectionately (Gn. 43:29) and treated him especially, as their father had treated him (Gn. 43:34; 37:3).



This time, Joseph's brothers weren't jealous of Benjamin but “were merry with him.” Something has changed in them. They were no longer worried about favoritism.



THE DEFINITIVE TEST

“Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers.” (Genesis 44:33)

The last test consisted of accusing Benjamin of stealing Joseph’s silver cup (Gn. 44:2-4, 12). Would they abandon their little brother like they had abandoned him?

Judah’s speech is really moving. First, he acknowledged his sins: “God has found out the iniquity of your servants” (Gn. 44:16).

He remembered the pain of his father when he lost Joseph. He empathized with him and didn’t want to see him suffering again (Gn. 44:20, 30-31).

Finally, he offered himself to take Benjamin’s place (Gn. 44:33), like the ram that took Isaac’s place (Gn. 22:13).

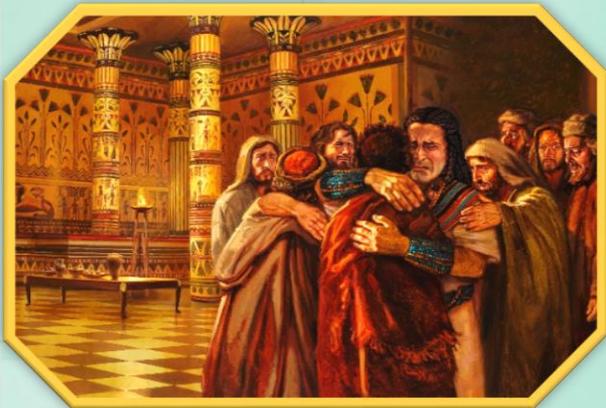
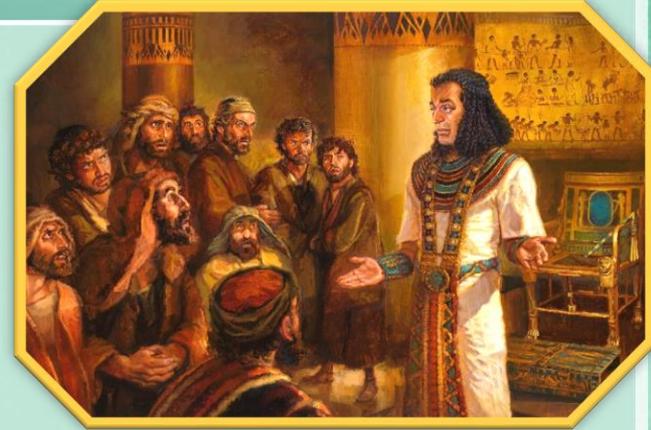


GOD TURNS EVIL INTO GOOD

“But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.” (Genesis 45:5)

His brothers had passed the test. The moment had come: “I am Joseph” (Gn. 45:3). What? That’s impossible! Joseph had to repeat it and give them more details: “I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.” (Gn. 45:4)

Joseph wasn’t seeking revenge. He had understood that God had turned evil into good.



He talked about “preserving life.” He assured his brothers that it was God who had sent him to Egypt (Gn. 45:5-7).

He made all the arrangements for his family to move to Egypt. Everything was finally all right. God’s providence had been manifested in a powerful way.

“God overruled events, however, so that the knowledge of Himself should be given to the people of Egypt. Both in the house of Potiphar and in the prison Joseph received an education and training that, with the fear of God, prepared him for his high position as prime minister of the nation. From the palace of the Pharaohs his influence was felt throughout the land, and the knowledge of God spread far and wide.”

E. G. W. (Patriarchs and Prophets, cp. 29, p. 332)