

## Ezra & Nehemiah

### Joseph to the Exiles

#### Lesson 2

1. Jacob was partial to Joseph and Benjamin because they were the sons of Rachel. This created a great deal of jealousy among the other brothers.
2. Joseph's "coat of many colors" actually translates to a tunic that reached to the hands and feet or a long tunic. This type of garment was worn by a supervisor.
3. When Joseph came to check on his brothers they plotted to kill him. His oldest brother Reuben heard the plans and convinces his brothers to throw him in a pit. Reuben planned to come back later and rescue him.
4. In the meantime his brothers saw a caravan of Ishmaelite merchants traveling to Egypt with spices, balm and myrrh on their camels. Judah convinced his brothers to sell their brother to the Ishmaelite merchants. They sold him for 20 pieces of silver.
5. The brothers devised a plan to tell their father that Joseph had been killed by an animal and they soaked his coat in the blood of an animal they had killed. Jacob was inconsolable.
6. Joseph was sold to Potiphar who was an officer for Pharaoh. Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph and when he resisted and ran she accused him of trying to rape her. Potiphar put Joseph into the prison where Pharaoh's prisoners were kept.
7. Joseph conducted himself well and the keeper of the prison put him in charge of the other prisoners. One day the butler and the baker were thrown into the prison. One night they both had dreams. Joseph interpreted the dreams for them and they both came to pass just as he said.
8. Pharaoh had two dreams two years after the butler was returned to his position. None of the wise men could interpret the dreams so the butler told Pharaoh about Joseph. Pharaoh called for Joseph and he told Pharaoh that the dreams both meant the same thing. They mean that there would be 7 years of plenty and then there would be 7 years of famine. He recommended that Pharaoh find someone wise to be in charge of the crops during the 7 years of plenty so that they could survive the 7 years of famine. Pharaoh chose Joseph to be in charge of the crops and he was 2<sup>nd</sup> only to Pharaoh.
9. There was famine in the land of Canaan as well. Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt so he sent 10 of his sons to buy grain for the family. Joseph was the one who sold them the grain. He accused them of being spies and threw them in prison for 3 days. They told him they were 12 brothers and the youngest was at home with their father there was one who was no more.
10. At the end of the 3 days Joseph said he would keep one brother as a prisoner until they returned with the youngest brother. Simeon, the second oldest brother, was put in prison until they returned.
11. On the way home when they opened their bags to feed the animals they found their money in the top of their sacks.
12. When the grain was gone Jacob told them to go back and take twice the money to buy grain again. The brothers insisted on taking Benjamin with them this time. Israel (as he is now being referred to) very

reluctantly let him go with them. Reuben and Judah promised to keep him safe and **Reuben** even pledged his own 2 sons' lives if he didn't bring **Benjamin** back safely. **Judah** said he would bear the blame if they didn't return Benjamin home safely.

13. Joseph had them taken to his **house**. He had them arranged by their **ages** around the table. He gave Benjamin **5** times the amount of food that he gave the others.
14. Joseph commanded the men to fill their sacks very full and put their money back in the sacks, but to put his own **silver cup** in the sack of **Benjamin**. Shortly after they left Joseph sent his steward after them and found Joseph's cup in **Benjamin's sack**.
15. The brothers were beside themselves with **grief** and even tore their clothes. Judah approached Joseph and told him their father would **die** if they returned home without **Benjamin**. He told how their father had **grieved** over the loss of his other son and this would be the death of their father. He begged Joseph to take him instead of his brother.
16. **Joseph** revealed who he is to his brothers and told them to go home and bring his father and all of their families back to **Egypt** so that he could care for them.

***"And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth and save your lives by a great deliverance." Genesis 45:7***

***"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. " Genesis 50:20***

17. The children of Israel lived in **Egypt** for **400** years and then they became slaves to the new Pharaoh who was afraid they would overtake them because of their size and power. He began to **kill** the baby **boys**. Moses was preserved by his mother putting him in a basket in the **Nile** River. Pharaoh's daughter found him and raised him in the **palace** as a **prince**.
18. Moses eventually led the children of **Israel** out of **Egypt**. What should have been a relatively short journey took **40** years to accomplish.
19. **Joshua** led the children of Israel into the land of Canaan after the death of **Moses**. They fought many battles to occupy the land.
20. The Israelites were governed by **judges** for many years. They began to tire of this type of government and asked **Samuel** for a **King** like the other nations around them.
21. Samuel anointed **Saul** as the first King of Israel.
22. **David** became the second King of Israel.
23. **Solomon** became the third King of Israel.
24. **Solomon** built the temple in Jerusalem. God wouldn't allow **David** to build the temple because he was a man of war.
25. When **Solomon** finished building the temple and they dedicated it the glory of the Lord filled the temple so that the **priests** were unable to enter the house of the Lord.

***“Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house.***

***And the priests could not enter into the house of the Lord, because of the glory of the Lord filled the Lord’s house.” 2 Chronicles 7:1-2***

26. There was peace during the reign of Solomon but at the end of his reign, the nation was divided into 2 nations. The Northern Nation was called Israel and consisted of 10 tribes. The Southern Nation was called Judah and consisted of 2 tribes, Judah and Benjamin. Solomon reigned 40 years over Israel. He married many foreign wives and they turned his heart away from God.

***“So the Lord said to Solomon, ‘Because you have done this, and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes, which have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant.***

***Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son.***

***However, I will not tear away all of the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.” 1 Kings 11:11-13***

27. Solomon’s son, Rehoboam became king after him. The people asked him to lighten the load that Solomon had put on them, but Rehoboam said he would make it even heavier. The nation rebelled and the nation was divided. Jeroboam became the King of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
28. Jeroboam was afraid that if the Kingdom of Israel returned to Jerusalem to worship and sacrifice they would return to the Kingdom of Judah so he built 2 golden calves for them to worship. Every single King of Israel (Northern Kingdom) was bad. They continued as a nation for 209 years at which time the Assyrian Empire conquered them and scattered them among the Assyrian people. They became what we know as the 10 lost tribes of Israel.
29. The Kingdom of Judah (Southern Kingdom) had a mixture of good and bad kings. They existed as a nation for 345 years.
30. There were 3 sieges against Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. The first was in 605 BC. Daniel was probably taken captive during this first siege.
31. The second siege was in 597 BC and Nebuchadnezzar took 10,000 more exiles. He took 7,000 men of valor, 1,000 craftsmen and smiths and 2,000 men who were strong and fit for war.
32. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final siege was in 586 BC and he destroyed the temple and burned it and all of Jerusalem.