

JOSEPH



Many years later, Jacob's favorite son got into a nasty fight with his brothers.

Joseph was the second youngest of Jacob's twelve boys. Jacob loved Joseph dearly and had a beautiful coat made for him. Every time Joseph wore the coat, his brothers felt jealous. They knew that their father loved Joseph more than the rest of them.



When Joseph greeted them, the angry brothers dumped him in the hole. He would either die of thirst or a wild animal would attack him.

Reuben, the oldest brother, felt bad about leaving Joseph there. So when a caravan came along, he convinced the others to sell Joseph as a slave. At least that way, he would stay alive.



Being left in a hole in the ground was the pits, but being a slave wasn't much better. Joseph went from being the favorite son to doing chores all day for no pay!

But God didn't forget about Joseph. He ended up in the house of Potiphar, a fine Egyptian man. Potiphar came to trust Joseph with money, household business—everything.



But Potiphar's wife was another matter.

When Joseph refused to go along with her evil plans, she lied about him. Potiphar was furious. He felt his most trusted slave had betrayed him.

Joseph ended up in prison.



But even in prison God didn't forget about Joseph. Sometimes people who worked at the prison had bad dreams. When they told Joseph about their dreams, God told Joseph exactly what the dreams meant.

Soon everyone discovered that Joseph could be trusted. He was put in charge of the other prisoners.



Joseph's reputation traveled beyond the prison walls.

Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had scary dreams that bothered him a lot. None of his wise men could tell him what the dreams meant. Then someone remembered that Joseph could tell what dreams meant. And because God was with Joseph, he was never wrong.



Before he could say "I'm outta here," Joseph was cleaned up and brought to Pharaoh. Can you imagine? He went from a dark, stinking prison to the glittering throne room of one of the most powerful men in the world.

Pharaoh told Joseph about his awful dreams. Bingo! God told Joseph exactly what they meant.



"These dreams are a warning, O Pharaoh. For seven years there will be good crops and lots to eat. Then there will be seven years when nothing grows. You should start storing up food right away."

Pharaoh agreed. And he decided Joseph was just the right man to be in charge. So just like that, Joseph became second in command of Egypt.



The years of plenty and the years of famine happened just as Joseph said. During the good years, Joseph built storehouses and packed them full of grain. Then when nothing grew, people from everywhere came to Egypt to buy food.

One day some strangely familiar people showed up. Joseph looked them over carefully. Then he was sure of it—they were his brothers—the very ones who had sold him into slavery so long ago.



"I am Joseph—the one you sold into Egypt so long ago."

The brothers were terrified. Was it payback time?

Joseph reassured them. "Don't be afraid. God sent me here to save lives during this great famine. I don't hold what you did to me against you. Go back and bring our father. We'll all live here together, and I'll give you everything you need."