

A Torah Study Guide
for the Young
& Young at Heart

PARASHAT
MIKETZ

מִקֵּץ

Genesis 41:1-44:17

by
Ya'acov Natan Lawrence
& his kids

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.











Great Discoveries in This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 41:1 Pharaoh's Dream
- 41:8 The Cupbearer Remembers Joseph
- 41:14 Pharaoh Calls for Joseph and Tells His Dream
- 41:25 Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream
- 41:37 Joseph Becomes Ruler Over Egypt
- 41:47 Joseph Begins to Save Grain
- 41:50 Ephraim and Manasseh Are Born
- 41:53 Famine Ravages Egypt
- 42:1 Jacob Sends His Sons to Egypt to Buy Food
- 42:6 Joseph's Brothers Bow to Him
- 42:18 Joseph Hides His Identity and Tests Them
- 42:21 The Brothers' Guilty Conscience and Repentant Heart
- 42:23 Joseph Chooses a Hostage
- 42:25 Joseph Returns Their Money
- 42:29 The Brothers Return to Jacob and Recount All to Him
- 43:1 The Brothers Return to Egypt With Benjamin
- 43:16 Joseph Sees Benjamin and Tests and Queries His Brothers
- 43:30 Joseph's Heart Is Touched at the Family Meal
- 44:1 Joseph Tests His Brothers One Last Time: Benjamin Is Accused of Thievery and the Brothers Return to Egypt
- 44:16 Judah Steps Forward to Speak on Behalf of All the Brothers

Exploring This Week's Parashah:

1 Exploring the Life of Joseph

Let us continue from where we left off in last week's Torah Explorers and continue looking at the amazing similarities between the life of Joseph and the ministry of our Savior and Redeemer, Yeshua the Messiah. May your faith in Yeshua and in the Scriptures as the inspired and prophetic Word of Elohim be strengthened! (We are indebted to the book, "Gleanings in Genesis," by Arthur W. Pink, for much of this material.)







-  (a) **45:7-9**, Joseph was delivered from prison by the hand of Elohim. How did Yeshua get out of his "prison" of the grave? (See Acts 2:24,32; 10:40.)
-  (b) **41:14; 45:7-9**, Joseph was exalted from prison (death) to throne to become number two in command at the right hand of the king. What happened to Yeshua? (Note Acts 2:33-34; 5:31; 7:55-56; Ephesians 1:20; Philippians 2:6-9; Hebrews 1:13; 1Peter 3:22.) If you are "risen with Yeshua the Messiah" and are "in Yeshua" what will likewise happen to you? (Read Ephesians 2:5-6.)
-  (c) **41:16, 25, 28**, Joseph is seen as a revealer of secrets. What was Yeshua's mission on earth? (Look at John 17:8; 8:28; 12:49.)
-  (d) **41:27**, Joseph warned of a coming famine, and urged his hearers to prepare to meet it. What did Yeshua warn his hearers about? (Read Matthew 11:11-24; 12:36; 15:13; 21:44; 25:31-46; John 3:15-21, 36; 5:24-30; 15:2, 6.)
-  (e) **41:42-43**, In his new royal position, Joseph was publicly recognized. He wore a royal robe, a gold chain and a ring of authority. All were to bow to Joseph. Now read the description of the glorified Yeshua in Revelation 1:12-16 and 5:13. Every knee must likewise bow to the exalted Yeshua. (See Philippians 2:10.)
-  (f) **41:45-46**, Joseph started his life's work and was given an Egyptian wife when he was 30 years old. What happened in Yeshua's life when he was 30 years old? Yeshua started his ministry and is preparing to marry Israel, his spiritual bride at his second coming. (See Revelation 19:7-9.)
-  (g) **41:6**, Joseph traveled throughout the land of Egypt fulfilling his ministerial responsibilities. Did Yeshua also have a ministry where he traveled throughout the land? (Read Matthew 4:23; 9:35.)
-  (h) **41:55**, Joseph gave bread to a perishing and hungry world and to his own brethren. Did Yeshua's ministry fulfill this prophetic shadow-picture as well? (Read John 6:48-58.)
-  (i) **41:56-57**, Joseph became a savior to those who were starving in all the surrounding countries. Who did Yeshua come to save? (Look at John 3:16; 2Peter 3:9; Revelation 5:9.) Who was and is the Savior of the whole world? (See John 4:42; 1Timothy 4:10; Titus 3:4; 1John 4:14.)
-  (j) **41:49**, Joseph had unlimited food to meet the needs of the all those who were hungry. Does Yeshua have enough spiritual food to meet the needs of all those who would come to him? (Note Ephesians 1:7; 2:4; 3:8; Colossians 2:9; Romans 10:12; 1Peter 1:3.)



2 Joseph, an Exceptional Teenager: A Study of His Life and Faith



As we learned in last week's Torah Explorers, Joseph was one of the Bible's young heroes. What made him so special? Well, to answer this question, let's ask you a question. Let's say that Sam is faithful to obey YHVH when everything is going great in his life and he isn't having any troubles, what would you think of Sam? Now let's say that everyone is against Crystal and it seems that her life is a mess. Yet in spite of this, she remains faithful to YHVH, she still obeys and trusts him, she doesn't get angry and hateful at her enemies who are persecuting her even though she doesn't deserve it. Who is more special: Sam or Crystal?



Joseph was like Crystal, in our story.

-  (k) How old was Joseph when we first met him? (Read Genesis 37:2.)
-  (l) Joseph was the second teenager the Bible mentions. Who was the first one? (See Genesis 17:25.)
-  (m) What kind of relationship did Joseph have with his father? (Note Genesis 37:3.) In spite of this, did Joseph have a hard or easy time as a teenager? How did his brothers treat him? (Read verses 4 and 11.)
-  (n) What did Joseph's brothers decide to do with him? (Read verses 18-20.) What had Joseph done to deserve this kind of treatment?
-  (o) What did they end up doing with Joseph? (Look at verses 27-28.) Where did Joseph then end up? (Read verse 36.) When a person sells a second person to someone else, what does that second person become to the one who bought him? The U.S. Civil War was fought to free millions of these type of people. What do we call such a person? This is what Joseph became! What did Joseph do to deserve this?
-  (p) What country was Joseph taken to? (Read Genesis 39:1.)





So now let's look at Joseph's life so far. He is just seventeen. He is his father's favorite child out of ten older brothers. So far so good. But his brothers hate him and are jealous of him. Not so good. Joseph's father, Jacob, is very old by now, and so there is little he can do to protect his favorite son. Joseph's brothers almost kill him, but at the last moment they decide to sell him into slavery. Joseph is carried away by strangers into a foreign country where he becomes the personal slave of a wealthy Egyptian government official. So now Joseph is a slave far from home, in a different country and doesn't even speak the language. He has no hope of escaping and returning to his family. Could things be any worse for someone?



-  (q) Under these circumstances, what happened to Joseph's faith? Did he still remain faithful to the teachings of his righteous father? Did Joseph still trust in YHVH? Did he still obey him? Or did he give up on YHVH figuring that since YHVH let him get into this hopeless situation YHVH couldn't be trusted anymore?
-  (r) How did things go for Joseph in his master's home? (Read Genesis 39:5-6.) Things were looking up for Joseph. But then what happened? (Note verses 7-20.) In verse nine, what was Joseph's response to this wicked woman who wanted him to sin? What does his response tell us about what had become of his faith and his fear of YHVH even though he was a slave in Egypt?

-  (s) What did Potiphar's wife say about Joseph? (See Genesis 39:14-18.) Was she telling the truth or lying about what happened? What happened to Joseph? (Read verse 20.) Was Joseph innocent or guilty? What had he done to deserve this treatment? All he did was walk in righteousness and be obedient to YHVH by refusing to fall into sin. What did he get for this? Things continued to get worse for Joseph! What happened to Joseph's faith now?
-  (t) Through all these trials, had YHVH abandoned Joseph? (Read Genesis 39:6-7 and compare it to verses 21-23.) What does this teach us about the lives of righteous people? (Read Psalms 34:6-7, 15-19; 91:15; 1Peter 4:12-16. Also look at Psalm 37:1-40. Especially note verses 23-24.)

Though Joseph was in prison for a crime that he didn't commit, YHVH was still with Joseph. In Genesis chapters 40 and 41, we see YHVH's hand on Joseph's life. Little, by little, YHVH was directing Joseph's steps and the circumstances of his life so that eventually he would be released from prison.

-  (u) How long did the process take for YHVH to work things out in Joseph's favor? How much time passed between Genesis chapters 40 and 41? (Read Genesis 41:1.)
-  (v) Throughout his trials, did Joseph continue to worship YHVH and give him glory, or did Joseph lose faith in him? (See Genesis 40:8; 41:16, 25, 28, 32.)
-  (w) How old was Joseph when he was brought out of prison to stand before Pharaoh? (Read Genesis 41:46.) Do you remember how old Joseph was when we first met him? Now it is 13 years later. For how many years was he a slave and how long was he in prison? Did he remain faithful to YHVH through these difficult times? How did YHVH guide Joseph's steps and reward him for his faithfulness? How did YHVH bless Joseph abundantly? (Read Genesis 41:37-57.)
-  (x) If YHVH blessed Joseph abundantly for his faithfulness despite all the things he went through, do you think the same thing can happen to you if you walk faithfully with YHVH? As a slave in Egypt, Joseph had no parents to guide him, no teachers to teach him the Bible, he had no Bible and biblical study guide like Torah Explorers. He just had faith in YHVH and he knew what was right and wrong and he remained true to his faith, the best he could. Can you do the same thing and be a hero like Joseph was?

