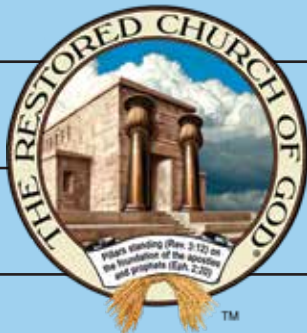


THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD®

# CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



Seed of Abraham



LEVEL 4  
LESSON 5

# Seed of Abraham

In the previous lesson, we learned about the promises that God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In this lesson, we will look into the life of Jacob and his son Joseph. You will see that, even when seemingly unfair events took place, these men trusted God to guide them.

Be sure to have a pencil, paper and your Bible ready. Do not forget to look each scripture up in your Bible and fill in the blanks.

## Jacob in Canaan

After working for Laban for 20 years, Jacob was finally able to return to his homeland. Notice God's command to him in Genesis 31:3: "Then the LORD said to Jacob, '\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and to your family, and I will be with you.'"

Obedying God, Jacob gathered his family and headed back to the land of his ancestors. This was no easy task. Because of his many years of obedience, Jacob was blessed by God with many possessions and much wealth.

While journeying back to his homeland, Jacob was worried how his brother Esau would receive him. Recall that Esau wanted to kill Jacob for stealing his birthright. While 20 years had passed, Jacob was concerned that his brother's anger would remain.

In hopes of easing Esau's anger, Jacob sent a caravan ahead to meet his brother. He wanted to tell Esau that he hoped they could be friends again. He also sent gifts.

Putting his trust in God, he prayed a heartfelt prayer. Write out the prayer found in Genesis 32:9-12: "Then Jacob said, 'O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, "\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and to your family, and I will deal well with you.'" I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ;  
for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children. For You said, "I will surely treat you well, and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, ""

As you can see, Jacob remained faithful to God and trusted Him to solve his problems.

## Titanic Wrestling Match

On the way to meet his brother, Jacob was met by a person during the night. The two began to wrestle in a relentless struggle. Jacob was a very strong man and an equally strong opponent. Each tried to out maneuver the other—but with no success!

As dawn was breaking over the horizon, Jacob began to realize that his opponent was no ordinary man. The man then struck Jacob's thigh, causing it to come out of joint. Even though Jacob was in intense pain, he refused to give up. During the match, Jacob came to understand that the

Being with whom he was wrestling was God—the One who would later become Jesus Christ (Genesis 32:28-30; Hosea 12:3-5).

Jacob refused to quit until God blessed him. Upon seeing his motivation and endurance, God was very pleased with Jacob and gave him a new name. His name, Jacob, which means “supplanter” (one who takes the place of another unfairly) was changed to Israel, meaning “he will rule as God” (Genesis 32:27-28).

Recall that Jacob did some dishonest things to receive the birthright from his father. Over time, Jacob (now Israel), grew in character and repented of the things he had done. He changed his attitude and learned to trust God when difficult situations arose.

Before you reach the age of baptism in God’s Church, you should already be learning God’s Law and abundant way of life. Even if you cannot do it perfectly, you should be striving to live this way. But God will test you, just as He had tested Israel.

It is certain that some friends at school push you to do things that are against what God wants. They will try to pressure you into doing wrong things. Always remember that God is watching and if you ask



Him, He will give you the strength to resist those pulls.

When you know something is wrong and you choose not to do it, you are building character. If you do this every day, it will become a habit. And there is no better habit than obeying God!

### Test Your Memory:

- 1) With whom did Jacob wrestle? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) To what was Jacob’s name changed? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) What does Jacob’s new name mean? \_\_\_\_\_



## Expanding God's Covenant

As Jacob was ready to continue his journey, he spotted Esau and his men coming toward him. Immediately, he began to worry about how his brother would receive him. Would his anger and resentment have been building all those years?

Unsure of the result, Jacob separated his camp into sections, hoping that if Esau did attack, most of his family would be safe. However, Jacob's worry was unnecessary. He prayed that God would cause Esau to forgive him, and this is exactly what happened.

Instead of anger in Esau's eyes, Jacob saw tears of joy (Genesis 33:4). After all those years, his brother had forgiven him and was deeply thankful that they could

share a friendship again. Even though Jacob did not need to give gifts to his brother, he was so thankful that he insisted his brother accept them.

With their relationship re-established, Jacob continued his journey to Bethel. There, he once again talked to God. This time, God reminded him of Jacob's new name, Israel, and greatly expanded the promises passed to him through Abraham. He further explained that these great promises would be fulfilled in his descendants.

After stopping in Bethel, Jacob (now Israel) continued his journey to Hebron, where Isaac lived. Then a very sad thing happened. During his travels, Israel's wife Rachel died when she gave birth to his twelfth son, Benjamin.

Also, soon after they arrived in Hebron, Israel's father also died. Isaac had lived to the age of 180. This meant that Israel was now the patriarch of their family and all the blessings promised by God would pass through him.

## Unique Dreams

You will recall that Israel loved Rachel so much that he worked 14 years to marry her. So, when she had her first son, that child was extremely special to Israel. The child's name was Joseph. The special attention that Joseph received from his father did not go unnoticed by Joseph's brothers. Over time, they developed resentment toward him.

However, this did not stop Joseph from being a productive member of his family. He worked hard and helped his brothers tend his father's



vast flocks. One day, while feeding those flocks, Joseph recounted a dream to his brothers: “There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf” (Genesis 37:7).

This caused his brothers to hate him even more. They felt that this dream may mean that Joseph would one day rule over them. Joseph was unable to make his brothers realize that he did not have this attitude. He just wanted to be a kind and loving brother—nothing more.

A short while later, Joseph had another dream, and told his brothers about it: “Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me” (Genesis 37:9). His brothers became even angrier with Joseph.

Joseph’s brothers began to plot against him. In fact, they even plotted to kill him! Their oldest brother, Reuben, stopped that plan, but suggested they throw him into a well.

And they did just that! Joseph was thrown to the bottom of an empty well!

Even though Reuben did not wish to kill Joseph, he wanted him gone as much as the rest. When the brothers sat to eat, they saw a caravan traveling near. Under Judah’s direction, they sold their brother to

the Midianite traders that were passing through.

Upon returning home, the brothers lied to their father about what had happened. They made it look as if Joseph was killed by a wild beast. Israel was heartbroken (Genesis 37:35). He thought that his special son was dead!

The brothers had no idea how sad their father would be when they sold Joseph to the traders. But now they were seeing it firsthand! In performing this action, they broke two commandments. They lied and did not show honor to their father. We must always look at our own thoughts before they lead to action. Are we honoring our parents and God with what we are doing? If not, you will likely regret it later!

### Test Your Memory:

- 1) What was the name of Rachel’s first child? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Where did his brothers throw Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) To whom was Joseph sold? \_\_\_\_\_

### Joseph Sold to Egyptians

When reading these accounts, you may wonder why God allowed this to happen to Joseph. Time and again, Joseph tried to be



friendly with his brothers. He wanted a good relationship with them.

God allowed all these events to take place. Just as you may experience things that are unfair, so did Joseph. But God looks further into the future than we can. He understands that struggles and trials will help us grow and develop. He also wants to see how we deal with injustice. You must always remember that God is watching over you and will help you when times seem too difficult for you. He will turn negative circumstances into positive ones if you obey Him (Romans 8:28).

Remember, God allows you to go through difficult times. When something like that happens, ask yourself what you can learn from it. What lesson is God trying to teach you? Often, when you learn the lesson, the difficulty will end. This is exactly what happened to Joseph!

Upon arriving in Egypt, Joseph was sold to an Egyptian officer named Potiphar. This man was also captain of the guard. As time passed, Potiphar saw that his household was blessed by having Joseph as a servant. Joseph's attitude and character greatly impressed Potiphar and led him to putting Joseph in charge of the entire household.

This continued for a time until Potiphar's wife falsely accused Joseph of assault. This deeply angered Potiphar, so he threw Joseph into prison (Genesis 39:20). But Joseph continued to trust and obey God!

While in prison, Joseph's honesty and character was noted by both his fellow prisoners and the head jailer. The head jailer saw that he could trust Joseph and gave him more and more responsibility. God caused favor to be shown to Joseph, and he was put in charge of all the prisoners. Again, we see an example of God turning a negative circumstance into a good one, because Joseph trusted and obeyed Him.

## Test Your Memory:

- 1) What was the name of the man to whom Joseph was sold? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What position did this man have in Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) What job did Joseph eventually have in prison? \_\_\_\_\_

## More Dreams

One day, two of Joseph's fellow prisoners looked very sad. Joseph inquired as to why they looked down. They told him, "We each have had a dream, and there is no one to tell us what it means" (Genesis 40:8). These men once worked for the Pharaoh. They each offended him in some manner and were cast into prison.

Joseph explained that God was able to interpret dreams and that they should tell the dream to Joseph.

Read the following lengthy quote from Genesis 40:9-19, filling in all the missing words:

"Then the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, 'Behold, in my dream a \_\_\_\_\_ was before me, and in the vine were \_\_\_\_\_; it was as though it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and its clusters brought forth \_\_\_\_\_. Then Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.'

"And Joseph said to him, 'This is the interpretation of it: the \_\_\_\_\_. Now within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand according to the former manner, when you were his butler. But \_\_\_\_\_ when it is well



“So Joseph answered and said, ‘This is the interpretation of it: the three baskets are three days. \_\_\_\_\_

Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat your flesh from you.’”

These were two very different dreams and each had very different outcomes. Three days later, the Pharaoh had a large feast. Both men were taken out of prison and the butler was allowed to return to his former job—but the baker was hung! Events happened just as God had said. Unfortunately, the joy of being freed from prison caused the butler to forget about Joseph and his explanation of the dreams.

### **The Pharaoh’s Dream**

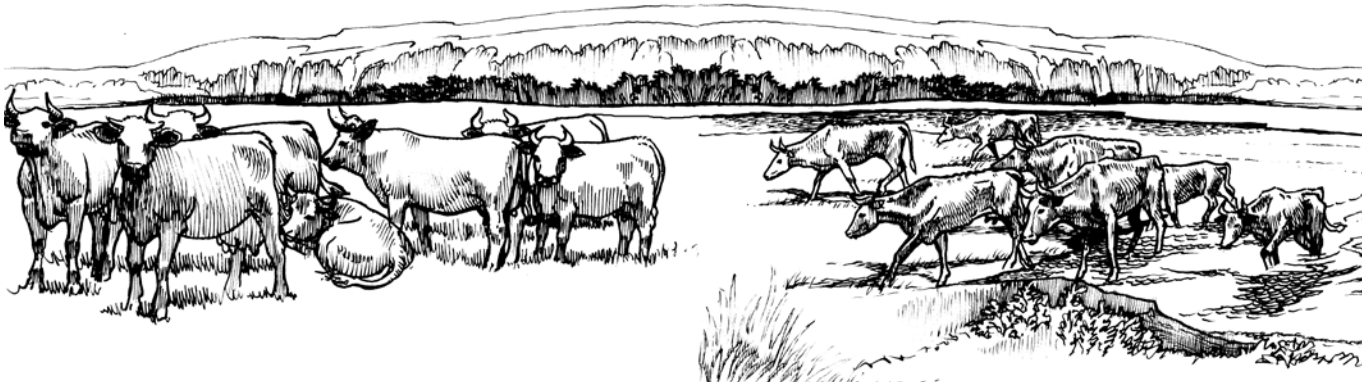
Joseph knew that God would deliver him from the dun-

with you, and \_\_\_\_\_; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house. For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done \_\_\_\_\_ that they should put me into the dungeon.’

“When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, ‘I also was in my dream, and there were \_\_\_\_\_ on my head. In the uppermost basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the \_\_\_\_\_ out of the basket on my head.’

geon. This happened two years later. Would you be able to patiently wait for God for two years? You should remember this when your parents tell you to wait for something, or ask you to save your money to purchase an item.

The events leading up to his release began when the Pharaoh had two very strange dreams. In the first, he dreamed that he was standing by a river. Suddenly, out of the river, came seven large cows, which then walked over and fed in the meadow. Following those seven cows, seven more came up out of the river. They were sickly and thin. Unexpectedly, the sick looking cows ate the seven healthy ones. This star-



tled the Pharaoh and it caused him to awaken (Genesis 41:1-4).

Soon after, he dozed off to sleep again and had another dream. Read this dream in Genesis 41:5-7, filling in the blanks as you go: “He slept and dreamed a second time; and suddenly \_\_\_\_\_

came up on one stalk, plump and good. Then behold, seven thin heads, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, sprang up after them. And the seven thin heads \_\_\_\_\_ and full heads. So Pharaoh awoke, and indeed, it was a dream.”

These dreams greatly troubled Pharaoh. So he summoned all his magicians and wise men, yet none of these men could interpret his dream. The butler overheard the conversation and suddenly remembered Joseph!

Joseph was immediately brought before the Pharaoh and was asked to interpret the dream. Joseph was quick to point out that it was God, not he, that would be able to interpret the dream. Joseph explained that both dreams meant the same thing. God was showing Pharaoh that a great famine would come upon the land. However, there would first be seven years before this famine, allowing Egypt to prepare. Joseph went on to explain that they should spend the time collecting one-fifth of all the grain throughout the land and store it for the seven years of famine.

The interpretation pleased the Pharaoh, so much so that he put Joseph in charge of the preparations. Pharaoh recognized that the Spirit of God was in Joseph and that it made Joseph very wise. Again, in his patience, Joseph was delivered from prison and given a vast amount of authority in Egypt.

Imagine that you were in Joseph’s shoes. In order to tell the truth, he had to give a powerful ruler very bad news. Yet, he trusted God and told the truth no matter the circumstances. Would you be able to do the same?

### Joseph’s Authority

Things had certainly changed for Joseph. He went from a prisoner in the dungeons to the second in command over all of Egypt (Genesis 41:39-41). The Pharaoh put him in charge of preparations for the famine, yet he was only 30 years old.

The Egyptian leader gave Joseph a second name as well, Zaphnath-Paaneah. It means “the man to whom secrets are revealed.” He also gave Asenath, the daughter of a high Egyptian official, to be Joseph’s new wife. His wife bore him two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. God had definitely blessed Joseph’s faith and obedience. But God had many more lessons in store for Joseph. He had to prepare for the

upcoming famine, and those experiences would develop Joseph into a trained leader.

(In a similar way, God is training you to be a leader. That is why you must not follow your friends when they do wrong. Also, you must obey your parents. God is testing you to see if you can someday be a leader in tomorrow's world.)

Understanding the task at hand, Joseph began to plan the enormous undertaking. One-fifth of all grain was stored in large houses throughout the land (Genesis 41:47-49). The plan was so successful that by the arrival of the famine, there was more food than the Egyptians needed. This even allowed them to sell food to the other nations around them.

Some of those wanting to buy grain were members of Joseph's own family! Israel sent his sons to Egypt to buy food on which to survive. Realize that none of Joseph's family knew that he was still alive. They thought he had been dead for many years. On their first trip to Egypt, Joseph chose to keep his identity secret from them.

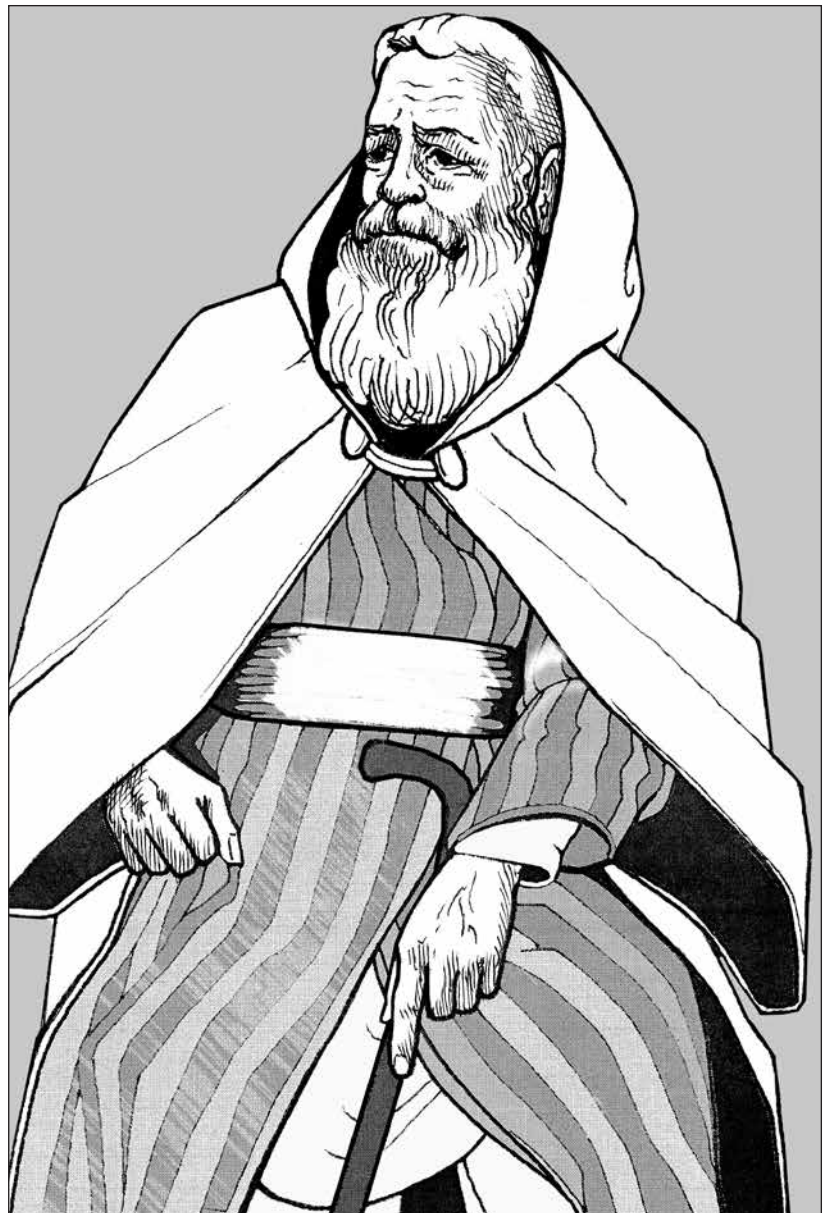
When he saw his brothers bowing down before him, he remembered his dream from his youth. It was being fulfilled right before his eyes!

After a period of time, Israel and his family had run out of food, so Israel sent them to Egypt again. Joseph could hide from his brothers no longer. At a dinner that he prepared for them, he told them that he is Joseph, their brother.

Joseph then understood that God's hand was in all that had

happened to him (Genesis 45:8). If Joseph had not been sold to the Egyptians, he would have never been placed second-in-command of Egypt. There would have been no one to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. This would have meant that a food surplus would not have existed. And, in turn, Israel and his family would have starved! So Joseph found it easy to forgive his brothers. And they were all full of joy when they met.

Joseph sent his brothers to return to their land and bring their father to Egypt. They



quickly returned with their father, Israel. He was obviously overwhelmed with joy when he found out that his favorite son was still alive. In fact, he did not believe it to be true until he saw carts that Joseph had personally sent for him (Genesis 45:27-28).

The family moved to the land of Goshen in northeastern Egypt so they could remain close to Joseph.

### Test Your Memory:

- 1) How many dreams did Pharaoh have?

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- 2) What terrible thing was coming on Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_

### Israel's "Mixed" Blessing

Seventeen years has passed since Israel had moved to the land of Goshen, and he had grown very old. He knew that it was soon time for him to die, so he requested that Joseph come with his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

When Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim sat before the dying Israel, their patriarch explained to them that God had promised to build a multitude of people from his children. Israel told Joseph that he considered Ephraim and Manasseh as "Reuben and Simeon," which meant that he considered the boys to be his own and would receive the birthright blessing in place of Israel's eldest sons (Genesis 48:5).

Israel asked that Joseph's sons be brought close to him so that he could bless them. When Israel reached to bless the two boys, he crossed his hands. Joseph thought that, because his father's eyesight was now so poor, he was confused as to which boy was the eldest. The right hand signified who would receive the birthright blessing first. This would typically go to the older child.

Since he switched hands, the birthright would go to the younger brother Ephraim. Trying to help his aging father, Joseph told Israel that he was making a mistake.

But notice Israel's response in Genesis 48:19: "But his father refused and said, 'I know, my son, I know. He [Manasseh] also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations.'"

With the blessing completed, Israel reminded his son that one day they would return to Canaan as God had promised and that the blessing given to Joseph's sons exceeded that received by his other brothers.

Israel called for the rest of the sons to gather around so he could describe what would happen in the "latter days." Israel was talking about what the nations that would descend from the brothers would be like.

Read the entirety of Genesis 49 with your parents and ask them to explain the different aspects of prophecy found there. You may also wish to read the book *America and Britain in Prophecy* to learn more about these nations. The identities of those nations are important in understanding Bible prophecy.

Israel died when he was 147 years old. However, he did not want to be buried in the land of Egypt. He wanted to be in Canaan with Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah and Leah.

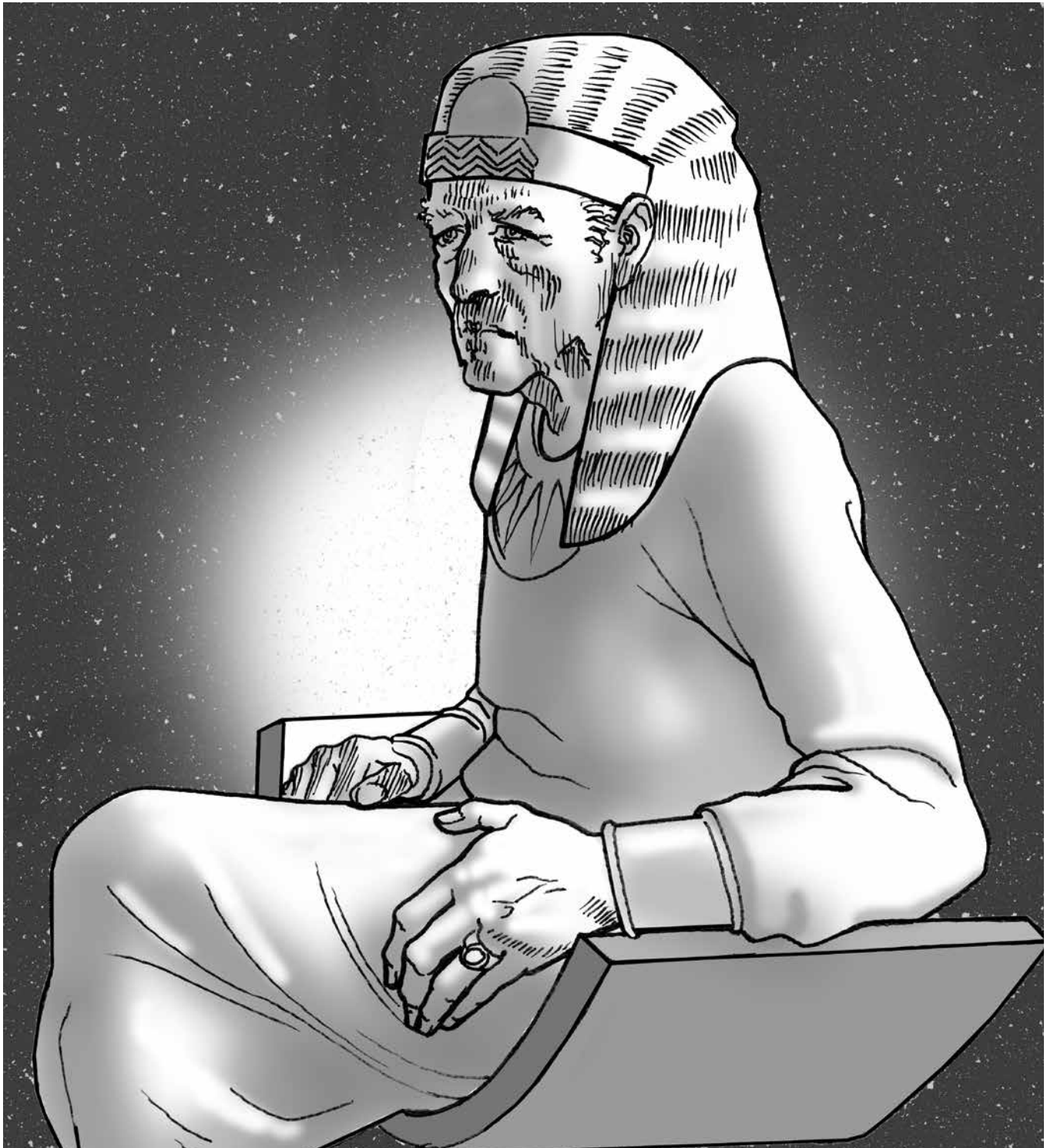
All of the respect shown to Joseph was also shown to his father. The land of Egypt mourned the passing of Israel for 70 days. When the time for the funeral came, all the Egyptian nobles and officials made the journey to Canaan for Israel's burial. Truly, God had given Israel and his family favor in the sight of the Egyptians.

The Israelites stayed in the land of Goshen for many more years and greatly

multiplied under Joseph's rule. They enjoyed peace with the Egyptians and had a very comfortable life.

When near death, Joseph reminded his people that God would eventually bring them back to the land of Canaan. It was

promised by God, so one day it would happen. Joseph died at 110 years of age, and his coffin was stored so that it could also be brought back to the land of Canaan at the time when his people departed (Genesis 50:24-26).



**BIBLE MEMORY:** Genesis 39:2-5

## MATCHING

**Directions:** Match the name on the left to the description on the right.

Israel	Eldest son of Joseph
Isaac	Egyptian officer that bought Joseph as a slave
Jacob	Youngest son of Israel
Reuben	Brother of Jacob
Abraham	Original name of the man who had twelve sons
Potiphar	Youngest son of Joseph
Ephraim	Father of Jacob
Manasseh	Mother of Joseph and Benjamin
Esau	Father of Isaac
Rachel	Name that God gave to Jacob after wrestling all night
Benjamin	Eldest son of Israel