

Adventures in Egypt

Lesson 1 *THE BEGINNING OF JOSEPH'S ADVENTURES*

Scripture: Genesis 30:22-24; 33:1-7; 37:1-3

Memory Verse: Genesis 30:24 - *"And she called his name Joseph; and said, The Lord shall add to me another son."*

INTRODUCTION: Life is an adventure. An adventure may be defined as "a new and exciting experience." God has a new and exciting experience planned for each person to explore with Him in this life. No two adventures with God will be exactly alike, but there are wonderful things that each can learn from other people's adventures.

About 1900 years before the Lord Jesus was born, a man was born whose name was JOSEPH. Joseph is a very important character to examine in studying the Bible. His name is mentioned at least 198 times in the Word of God. One quarter of the book of Genesis is devoted to telling the story of the life of this great man. (Genesis 37-50) He is among the famous HEROES OF THE FAITH listed in the book of Hebrews. (Hebrews 11:22) He is a wonderful example to every Christian of character, moral purity and trustworthiness. Joseph seems to have had many of the great virtues of his ancestors but without as many of their faults: he had the faith of Abraham, but was more consistent; he had the quietness of Isaac, but was more intelligent; he had the abilities of Jacob, but lacked the deceitfulness. Concerning Joseph, not one statement of wrong-doing is ever recorded in the Bible. In fact, in the entire Bible, there is not a man whose life more clearly pictures Jesus Christ than this man named Joseph. God planned for Joseph's life to be filled with *adventures*. This lesson records the story of **THE BEGINNING OF JOSEPH'S ADVENTURES**.

I THE PLACE OF JOSEPH'S BIRTH

Genesis 30:22-24 (v 24) - ". . . *And she called his name Joseph. . .*"

- A. The family into which Joseph was born
 - 1) Joseph's father was a man by the name of Jacob which means "*heelcatcher; rascal*." Jacob was the son of Isaac, and the grandson of faithful Abraham, the Father of the Jewish nation. Jacob had grown up in Canaan land, but had fled from Canaan after he had cheated his twin brother, Esau, out of being blessed by their father. (Genesis 27:1-45) Following his mother, Rebekah's advice, he for safety, fled to his Uncle Laban's house in Haran where he would live for the next twenty years of his life. (Genesis 31:41) At Haran, Jacob would meet and fall in

love with the beautiful girl who would eventually become Joseph's mother.

- 2) Joseph's mother was a woman named Rachel which means "ewe". Rachel was the younger of the two daughters of Jacob's Uncle Laban which means that Rachel was actually Jacob's first cousin. (Genesis 29:9-14) Jacob fell in love with Rachel, and agreed to work for Uncle Laban for seven years in order to marry Rachel. (Genesis 29:15-20) At the end of the seven years, Uncle Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Rachel's older sister, Leah. However, Uncle Laban agreed to allow Jacob to marry Rachel also, if he would first give Leah a week-long honeymoon. Jacob agreed, and after a week with Leah, he and Rachel were married. (Genesis 29:21-30) Without meaning to, Jacob had married both sisters, and had two wives which was the source of constant conflict in his family. To make matters worse, Leah proudly bore Jacob six sons and a daughter, while Rachel was barren, and bore no children at all for at least the first ten years of their marriage. (Genesis 29:31-30:1)
- 3) Joseph had ten older half-brothers and one older half-sister. He also had one younger full brother.
 - a) Joseph's half brothers born to his father Jacob and his step-mother Leah were: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun; and his half sister was Dinah. (Genesis 29:31-35)
 - b) Joseph's half brothers born to his father Jacob and his mother Rachel's maid, Bilhah, were: Dan and Naphtali (Genesis 30:3-8)
 - c) Joseph's half-brothers born to his father Jacob and his step-mother Leah's maid Zilpah were: Gad and Asher (Genesis 30:9-13)
 - d) Joseph's younger brother born to his father Jacob and his mother Rachel was: Benjamin (Genesis 35:16-18)

- B. The town into which Joseph was born
Joseph was born in the town of Haran which was outside the border of the land of Canaan in the country in modern times called Turkey. The year was about 1831 B.C. His mother named him Joseph which means "*adding or may Jehovah add.*" (Genesis 30:22-24)

II THE DEATH OF JOSEPH'S MOTHER

Genesis 35:16-20 (v 19) - ". . .*And Rachel died, and was buried. . .*"

- A. The time when Joseph's mother died
- 1) Joseph was about two years old when his father and mother left Haran to flee from Laban to the land of Canaan. (Genesis 31:17-