

MESSAGE NOTES
In the Beginning
JOSEPH: ENDURING FAITH
Pastor Brian Miller

MAJOR ELEMENTS

1. Joseph was the **FAVORITE** among Jacob's sons.

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him." (Gen 37:3-4)

2. By God's grace, he **EXCELLED** in Egypt.

"The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant." (Gen 39:2-4)

"With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" (Gen 39:8-9)

3. Joseph soon found himself in Pharaoh's **PRISON**.

"But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there." (Gen 39:20-22)

4. Joseph interprets a **DREAM** for Pharaoh.

"And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine." (Gen 41:33-36)

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you." (Gen 41:39-40)

5. Jacob sent his sons to **EGYPT** to buy grain.

“Why does my lord say such things? Far be it from your servants to do anything like that! We even brought back to you from the land of Canaan the silver we found inside the mouths of our sacks. So why would we steal silver or gold from your master’s house? If any of your servants is found to have it, he will die; and the rest of us will become my lord’s slaves.” “Very well, then,” he said, “let it be as you say. Whoever is found to have it will become my slave; the rest of you will be free from blame.” (Gen 44:7-10)

6. Finally, Joseph **REVEALS** himself to his brothers.

“Joseph said... ‘I am Joseph! Is my father still living?’ But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. Then Joseph said... ‘Come close to me. I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.’” (Gen 45:3-8)

7. After Jacob’s death, his brothers feared that Joseph would take **REVENGE**.

“When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, ‘What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?’ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, ‘Your father left these instructions before he died: This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly. Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.’ When their message came to him, Joseph wept. His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. ‘We are your slaves,’ they said. But Joseph said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.’ And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.” (Gen 50:15-21)

MAJOR TRUTHS

1. If God is involved in something, it will **SUCCEED**.

“Now, don't be sad or angry with yourselves that you sold me. God sent me ahead of you to save lives.” (Gen 45:5, GW)

“The LORD works out everything to its proper end— even the wicked for a day of disaster.” (Prov 16:4)

2. When our lives are in disarray, we need **ENDURING FAITH** that God has a plan.

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good..." (Gen 50:20)

3. Even in our darkest moments, God can cause **LIGHT** to shine.

*"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
(John 8:12)*

ACTION STEPS:

**All scriptures are in the NIV unless otherwise noted.*