

The Israel Story

Chapter 9 – Salvation

“The life of Joseph foreshadowed the life of Yeshua. The scene of Joseph making himself known to his natural brothers is a foreshadowing of Yeshua making Himself known to the Jewish people. This represents the removing of the veil and the Jewish people seeing the face of God in Yeshua. The Jewish people will have their greatest blessing, God’s face, restored to them and it will never be taken away again. The Israel story has a good ending!” (Myers)

1. Earlier in this study, we looked at Abraham taking Isaac up to sacrifice him as God had asked. Abraham was willing to give his one and only son to be sacrificed which points to God doing the very same thing except there was no ram stuck in the thicket. God followed through and Jesus took on the sins of the world for all time.
2. In this episode, we will begin by looking at Joseph. Myers calls this the foreshadowing of Jesus. Who was Joseph? Jacob’s favorite son. What did Jacob give to Joseph? The coat of many colors. What did his brothers do to Joseph? They wanted him dead but sold him into slavery. Even with every bad thing that happened to Joseph, he still rose to power in Egypt, second only to Pharaoh. He saved the entire region including Egypt. He brought salvation to the Gentiles.
3. Who was Jesus? God’s only begotten son. As a human, Jesus was God’s favorite. What did God give Jesus? A throne in heaven. What did His people do to Jesus? They turned him over to the Romans to be crucified. When Jesus rose from the dead, God raised Him to a position of authority at the right hand of His Father in heaven where He brought salvation to all people, Jew and Gentile.
4. Remember in the story of Joseph when his brothers came to him for help during the famine, he hid his identity from his brothers. This is similar to the veil preventing the Jews from recognizing Jesus as the Messiah that we talked about a few weeks ago.

5. Genesis 45:4-5 tells us, *“4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! 5 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.”* Joseph had the authority at that time to put them to death. What did Joseph give them instead? Grace.

6. Joseph wanted to draw his brothers to himself and greet them as their brother. Matthew 23:37 tells that Jesus wanted to do the same with the Jews. It says, *“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.”* Who wasn’t willing? The Jews.

“Yet a day is coming when Yeshua, like Joseph to his brothers, will say to the Jewish people, “Please come near to Me,” and they will come near. Then what will they hear? Words of accusation, blame, and guilt? No! They will hear kind words of explanation that it was not them who had sent Yeshua to the cross, but God who had sent Yeshua to the cross to save them and all of mankind.” (Myers)

7. Joseph recognized that God is in control of every situation. Genesis 45:7-8 tells us, *”7 But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 “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.”* Gods uses all situations for good according to His plan. Romans 8:28 says, *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*

8. Read Ezekiel 39:21–24. This is a summary of what the Jewish people lost. It is interesting how the Jews live and breathe the Old Testament/The Law and the Prophets. They can only see what God will allow them and us to see. What is one of the purposes of the Holy Spirit? He helps us to interpret what we are reading in God’s Word. 2 Peter 1:21 tells us, *“For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they*

were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” Without the help of the Holy Spirit, the Bible is foolishness.

9. These verses tell all that read it that the Jewish people were not obedient to God and the end result was severe punishment. They ruined their relationship with God and we can too. God hates sin!
10. Read Ezekiel 39:25-29. This is a summary of what the Jewish people will get back. The story of Israel is a story of turning away from God but it is also a story of restoration. Consider that for almost 2000 years Israel did not exist as a country. Then on May 14, 1948 this press release was published.

At midnight on May 14, 1948, the Provisional Government of Israel proclaimed a new State of Israel. And President Harry S. Truman signed this statement:

This Government has been informed that a Jewish state has been proclaimed in Palestine, and recognition has been requested by the provisional Government thereof.

The United States recognizes the provisional government as the de facto authority of the new State of Israel.

Harry S. Truman

Approved, May 14, 1948.

11. The last several chapters have talked about the Jewish people having something and then losing it and then having it restored to them. Remember what they were? Their land and God's face. In 1948, their land was restored to them. The veil is still covering Jesus' identity as the Messiah. There is coming a time when the veil will be lifted and they will see Jesus for who He is, their savior. Jesus is the God's face. 2 Corinthians 4:6 tells us, *“For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.”* We can know God by knowing Jesus.