October 1

Family on the Move

Benjamin’s Birth

Esau and Jacob left each other, Esau went back from where he had come and Jacob went to Succoth – Read: Genesis 33:18.

From Shechem God called Jacob to Bethel – Read: Genesis 35:1.

After Bethel Jacob and family headed to Ephrath - Rachel was pregnant, along the way, the time came for the baby to be born. Rachel died during childbirth but the baby lived, a boy named Benjamin. Rachel was buried along side of the road, where the monument stands today at what is now the town of Bethlehem.

Isaac also died; Jacob and Esau met at Mamre near Hebron and buried their father.

We each have “our time” to be born and to die; we have no say over ether our birth or death, only God!

Jacob continued to live in the land of Canaan with his twelve sons, wife Leah and concubines.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Ecclesiastes 3:2

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I, O Lord, accept the timetable you have set up for me, help me to plan for the future yet live for today as if were the last.

October 2

Family Life

Joseph’s Childhood

Jacob’s family grew into young men, Joseph was the apple of his father’s eye – Read: Genesis 37:3

The other brothers realized that their father loved Joseph more than them; they couldn’t speak to Joseph with a civil tongue.

To make the situation even worse Joseph had a dream and told his brothers about it – Read: Genesis 37:6, 7. The brother’s hated Joseph even more – Read: Genesis 37:9. Even Joseph’s father found it a bit hard to believe that the family would be bowing down to Joseph.

Jealousy and rivalry among families can be very sad, a favorite child, a gifted child or a handicapped child that needs more care and attention. We as parents have to be careful to treat all our children as individuals and we as children of a family must hang onto the friendship that can never be stronger or more precious than that among brothers and sisters.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Proverbs 17:17

PRAYER THOUGHT: Have me, O Lord, never to lose sight of the love for brothers and sisters in my blood family and my family of God.

October 3

Joseph

Sold!

Joseph’s brothers were tending the flocks at Shecham, Israel sent Joseph there to find out if the brothers were alright.

Joseph found his brothers at Dothan, when the brothers saw Joseph coming they decided to kill him! Reuben came to Joseph’s aid – Read: Genesis 37:21-22.

Joseph arrived, they tore off his beautiful coat and threw him into a dry well, later a caravan of Ishmaelites come by ant the brothers decided to sell Joseph and took his coat dipped in goats blood back to their father – Read: Genesis 37:33-34.

Mourning the loss of family and friends is part of life today too. We can find help in the Lord – Read: II Corinthians 1:5. Call on the Lord for help in your sorrow; ask for strength to overcome your sorrow and to put together your life even better than before your loss. He is there ready and willing to help, JUST ASK!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 37:35

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to call on you for strength and comfort when I am mourning a loss of a loved one. Thank-you for the comfort you have given me in the past, when I relied on you.

October 4

Joseph

In Egypt

The Ishmaelites sold Joseph to Potiphar, the captain of the palace guard.

The Lord was with Joseph, Potiphar noticed this and made Joseph his personal servant.

Potiphar’s wife tried to seduce Joseph but Joseph resisted – Read: Genesis 39:11, 12.

Potiphar’s wife made up a big story about her and Joseph, using Joseph’s robe for evidence, Joseph landed in jail!

Lies never lead to good but even in jail Joseph was put in a position of responsibility – Read Genesis 39:23.

When the Lord is with us we too can be successful even if the situation is not the best.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 39:21

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, my success may not be here on earth, but, O Lord, be with me to insure my successful entry into heaven.

October 5

Joseph

Dream Interpreter

Joseph was in jail and the chief cupbearer and the chief baker offended the king and were put in jail with Joseph, they both had dream – Read: Genesis 40:8 They told Joseph their dreams, he told them what the dreams meant and it came to pass. Joseph had asked the cupbearer to remember him to the Pharaoh.

Two years passed, the Pharaoh had two dreams, one with seven fat cows and seven thin cows. The other dream had seven good heads of grain and bad, in each dream the sickly devoured the healthy. None of the Pharaoh magicians or wise men could tell the king what his dreams meant.

The cupbearer then remembered how Joseph had interpreted the dreams he and the baker had had earlier and that what Joseph said had come true, so the Pharaoh sent for Joseph. Then Joseph with God’s help told the Pharaoh the meaning of his dreams – Genesis 41:25-27.

The Holy Spirit gives us signs and warnings about the future; we need to be listening, “tuned in” to the Spirit.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 41:32

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, thank-you for the Holy Spirit that helps us to know your will for us.

October 6

Joseph

A Promotion

With the interpretations of the dreams Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint someone with insight and wisdom to be in charge of Egypt and officials to store the corps during the abundant years.

The Pharaoh and his officials agreed – Read: Genesis 41:38-41.

Joseph was second only to the Pharaoh at thirty years old!

Showing the Spirit that lives within us to others can lead to success for us too.

Joseph, with God’s insight was right, Egypt had seven abundant years and then famine struck everywhere but he storage plan Joseph had used Egypt had plenty of food and even had enough food to sell to other countries!

God provides!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 41:49

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help the plans I make for my life with your insight, O Lord, to be as successful as Joseph with his food.

October 7

Joseph

Food Run

The famine became unbearable in Canaan; there was rumor of food in Egypt so Jacob sent ten of his sons to Egypt for food. Since the supposed death of Joseph, Jacob kept Benjamin home with him; Benjamin was Joseph’s only full blood brother.

When ten brothers arrived in front of Joseph, they were recognized by him but he pretended not to know them – Read Genesis 42:8, 9

The ten insisted that they only come to buy food – Read Genesis 42:13. Joseph appeared not to believe them; although he knew what they said was true. Joseph had them all put in prison, to give him time to think, perhaps of a plan, after all their presence before him probably came as quite a surprise.

After three days he released all but Simeon, who was bound and returned to prison in exchange for Benjamin. Joseph sent the rest of them home with food and their money, to get Benjamin.

The brothers were completely honest, truth and honesty is very important in our lives today, God’s way is in truth.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Psalm 15:1, 2.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, have the truth in me and all my deeds be sincere and truthful.

October 8

Joseph

Family Reunion

When the food ran out Jacob prepared to send his sons back to Egypt. Judah persuaded his father to let Benjamin go with them, so they would be allowed in the governor’s presence and to free Simeon.

The ten brothers arrived before Joseph, they received their food and Joseph had their money returned as before, Joseph also had his silver cup put in Benjamin’s sack.

Joseph sent his servant to catch up with his brothers, find the silver cup and return his brothers to Egypt to face the consequences of taking the silver cup. Those consequences being Benjamin would remain as the governor’s slave.

Judah pleaded on Benjamin’s behalf, because he was afraid if Benjamin was left behind it would kill their father. With all the pleading and talk about his father, Joseph became very emotional, he sent his servants out then – Read: Genesis 45:3, 4.

God’s purpose for putting Joseph in Egypt was to save his family. Events happen in our lives that we don’t understand, but God has a purpose, a plan for each one of our lives.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 45:7

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to accept the amazing events in my life and realize they are your will for me.