Family Movements October 1

Benjamin's birth

Esau and Jacob left each other, Esau went to Edom. And Jacob went to Sukkoth, building a house and cattle shelters – On his return from Mesopotamia Jacob arrived safely at the city of Shechem in the land of Canaan and set up his camp in a field near the city. Genesis 33:18.

From Shechem God called Jacob to Bethel – God said to Jacob, "Go to Bethel at once, and live there. Build an altar there to me, the God who appeared to you when you are running away from your brother Esau." 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 alongside the road, where the monument stands today at what is now the town of Bethlehem.

Jacob and Esau met at Mamre near Hebron to bury their father, Isaac.

We have "our time" to be born and to die; we do not have the say over either 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: He sets the time for birth and the time for death, the time for planting and the time for pulling up. Ecclesiastes 3:2.

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

Family Life October 2

Joseph's Childhood

Jacob's family grew into young men, Joseph was the apple of his father's eye – Jacob loved Joseph more than all his other sons, because he had been born to him when he was old. He made a long robe with full sleeves for him. 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 – He said, "Listen to the dream I had. We were all in the field tying up sheaves of wheat, when my sheaf got up and stood up straight. Yours formed a circle around me and bow down to it." Genesis 37:6, 7. The brothers hated Joseph even more, then to top it off Joseph had another dream – "I had another dream, in which I saw the sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowing down to me." Genesis 37:9b. 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 even 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 in a family must hang on to the friendship that can never be stronger or more precious than that among brothers and sisters.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Friends always show their love. What are relatives for if not to share trouble? 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 Christian family.Our

Joseph October 3

Sold!

Joseph's brothers were tending their flocks at Shechem, Jacob sent Joseph there to find out if the brothers were all right.

Joseph found his brothers at Dothan, when the brothers saw Joseph approaching they decided to kill him! Ruben came to Joseph's aid – "Let's not kill him," he said.

"Just throw him into this well in the wilderness, but don't hurt him." Genesis 37:21b, 22a.

Joseph arrived, they tore off his beautiful coat and threw him into a dry well, later a caravan of Ishmaelites came by and the brothers decided to sell Joseph and took his coat and dipped it in goat’s blood back to their father – He recognized it and said, "Yes, it is his! Some wild animal has killed him. My son Joseph has been torn to pieces!" Jacob tore his clothes in sorrow and put on sackcloth. He mourned for his son a long time. Genesis 37:33, 34.

Mourning the loss of family and friends is part of life today also. We can find help in the Lord – Just as we have a share in Christ many sufferings, so also through Christ we share in God's great help. 2 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 are ready and willing to help, JUST ASK!

VERSE FOR TODAY: All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted… Genesis 37:35a.

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.

Joseph October 4

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 get Joseph to commit adultery with her but Joseph refused. – But one day when Joseph went into the house to do his work, none of the house servants were there. She caught him by his robe and said, "Come to bed with me." But he escaped and ran outside, leaving his robe in her hand. 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 – The jailer did not have to look after anything for which Joseph was responsible, because the Lord was with Joseph and bade him succeed in everything he did. 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: The jailer did not have to look after anything for which Joseph was responsible, because the Lord was with Joseph and made him succeed in everything he did. Genesis 39:21.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, my success may not be here on Earth, but, O Lord, be with me to ensure my successful entry into heaven!

Joseph October 5

Dream Interpreter

Joseph is in jail and sometime later the King's wine steward and Baker offended the King and were put in jail.

The wine steward and the Baker had dreams – "Each of us has had a dream and there is no one here to explain what the dreams mean."

"It is God who gives the ability to interpret dreams." Joseph said, "Tell me your dreams." Genesis 40:8.

They told Joseph their dreams, he interpreted the dreams and his interpretations came true.

Two years past, the King had two dreams, one with seven fat cows, and seven lean cows. The other dream had seven fat ears of corn and seven lean ears of corn, in each dream the sickly devoured the healthy. None of the Kings magicians or wise man could tell the King what his dreams meant.

The wine steward remembered how Joseph had interpreted the dreams he and the Baker had had earlier and that what Jacob said had come true, so the king sent for Joseph.

Joseph told the King that his dreams meant that there were seven years of plenty and seven years of famine ahead!

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

VERSE FOR TODAY: The repetition of your dream means that the matter is fixed by God and that he will make it happen in the near future. Genesis 41:32.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to heed the signs and warnings you give me about my future, help me to know your will for me.

Joseph October 6

A Promotion

With the interpretation of the King’s dreams Joseph advised the King to appoint someone with insight and wisdom to be in charge of Egypt and officials to store the crops during the abundant years.

The King and his officials agreed – and he said to them, "We will never find a better man the Joseph, a man who has God’s spirit in him." The King said to Joseph, "God has shown you all this, so it is obvious that you have greater wisdom and insight that anyone else. I now appoint you governor over all Egypt." Genesis 41:38, 39, 41.

Joseph was second only to the King, at 30 years old!

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

Joseph, with God's insight was right, Egypt had seven abundant years and then famine struck everywhere but with the 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: There was so much corn the Joseph stopped measuring it – it was like the sand of the sea. 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 corn.