Joseph October 7

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 the ten boys arrived in front of Joseph, he recognized them immediately but pretended not to – they did not recognize him. He remembered the dreams he had dreamt about them and said, "You are spies; you have come to find out where our country is weak." Genesis 42:8b, 9.

The ten insisted that they only come to buy food – They said, "We were twelve brothers in all, sir, sons of the same man in the land of Canaan. One brother is dead, and the youngest is now with our father." 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 return to prison to 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: Who may worship on Zion, your sacred Hill? A person who obeys God is everything and always does what is right, whose words are true and sincere. Psalm 15:1b, 2.

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

Joseph October 8

A 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 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 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 – Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But when his brothers heard this, they were so terrified that they could not answer. Then Joseph said to them, "Please come closer." They did, and he said, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt." 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: “…God sent me ahead of you to rescue you in this amazing way and to make sure that you and your descendents survive…” 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.

Jacob October 9

A Big Move

Joseph and his brothers embraced, because of Joseph's position in the Egyptian government, he could offer his family a place in Egypt – “…You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me – you, your children, your grandchildren, your sheep, your goats, your cattle, and everything else that you have…” Genesis 45:10.

Joseph sent his brothers back to pack up his father, their animals, belongings and children and bring them back to Egypt.

Jacob was totally surprised when he heard Joseph was alive and had sent wagons to move him to Egypt too. – "My son Joseph is still alive!" He said. "This is all I could ask for! I must go and see him before I die!" Genesis 45:28.

God spoke to Jacob at Beersheba, where Jacob had went to offer sacrifices, God said, – "I am God, the God of your father," he said. "Do not be afraid to go to Egypt; I will make your descendents a great nation there. I will go with you to Egypt, and I will bring your descendents back to this land. Joseph will be with you when you die." Genesis 46:3, 4.

This was Jacob’s reassurance that his descendents would be returned to their promised land. God has a promised place for us also, either upon Christ's return or upon our death, if we believe!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep his promise. Hebrews 10:23.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Have me, O Lord, to rest upon your promises, the promise of your return and life everlasting with you in heaven.

Joseph October 10

Jacob Dies

Joseph and his father where he reunited in an emotional meeting – Joseph threw his arms around his father's neck and cried for a long time. Jacob said to Joseph, "I am ready to die, now that I have seen you and know that you are still alive." Genesis 46:29b, 30.

The King approved of the entire family settling in Goshen.

Jacob lived seventeen years after arriving in Egypt. He made Joseph promise that he would take him to the field where Abraham, Isaac, their spouses and Leah were buried to be buried also and not in Egypt.

Jacob blessed Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, making the younger stronger.

Jacob spoke individually with each of the twelve sons: Ruben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph and Benjamin – these are the twelve tribes of Israel. . . He spoke a suitable word of farewell to each son. Genesis 49:28 a,c.

Joseph, his brothers and members of the King's court properly mourned and buried Jacob as requested in the field of his ancestors.

We owe obedience to both our heavenly and earthly fathers. One of the original Commandments was to honor your father and mother. They returned to Egypt after the funeral was over and Jacob was properly buried.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Be obedient to God, and do not allow your lives to be shaped by those desires you had when you were still ignorant. 1 Peter 1:14.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Obedience is not easy, help me, O Lord, to obey you and all those in authority over me, to do their wishes and your will.

Joseph October 11

Sweet Revenge?

The brothers were afraid, now that their father was dead, Joseph would take revenge on them for the evil they had done to him – but Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid; I can't put myself in place of God. You plotted evil against me, but God turned it into good, in order to preserve the lives of many people who are alive today because of what happened. You have nothing to fear. I will take care of you and your children." So he reassured them with kind words that touched their hearts. Genesis 50:19–21.

With these words Joseph’s remaining life was spent in peace and unity with his family in Egypt. Revenge would have led to hate, discontent and a miserable life. A forgiving heart will always bring peace and love.

Joseph died in Egypt at 110 years of age; he saw his grandchildren and also asked his people to take his body out of Egypt when God saw fit to lead them out to the promise land.

We have been called out of this world of sin and hate, our lives are but a journey to our promised home, heaven, our eternal home if we heed the call of God and let him be our personal Savior.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “Do not judge others, and God will not judge you; do not condemn others and God will not condemn you; forgive others, and God will forgive you…” Luke 6:37.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to have a forgiving heart and help me to live in harmony with those around me.

Columbus Day October 12

A Day of Discovery

History has been refuted in the past several years as to who really discovered America. The Word of God also has been argued as to if the world was created or exactly how it came into existence.

We as Christians know things just don't happen, there is a reason for everything, which is called God's will, and God's will will be done.

God willed the discovery and exploration of America, with this new discovery came a refuge for people persecuted for their religious beliefs. God made a place – America – peaceful to believe as you wished. We need to always be thankful to God for America and work to keep it free, not only for religion but for everything as we know it now.

We need to seriously look at ourselves and what this country has become since Columbus discovered in 1492, not only have we become one of the most powerful nations in the world but one of the most corrupt, crime rates go up daily, drugs, alcohol addiction, cults and pornographic material are commonplace. Individually we need to take stock in what is good and only support those things that are good, turning away from the desires of the flesh. – Those who obey their human nature cannot please God. Romans 8:8. We can make a difference if we stand up for our beliefs and don't support the bad in this world.

The discovery Columbus made doesn’t light a candle to having Jesus as our Savior.

VERSE FOR TDOAY: I am giving you the choice between life and death... Choose life. Deuteronomy 30:19a &c.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to always work on the side of good and work to unseat evil as a way of life in America.

Israelites October 13 Life in Egypt

Years past, all the original brothers died but the tribes remained, growing constantly.

A new King came into power, one that never had heard of Joseph and how his divine insight has saved the Egyptian people during a famine all the King saw was a multitude of foreigners – "…In case of war they might join our enemies in order to fight against us, and might escape from the country. We must find some way to keep them from becoming even more numerous." Exodus 1:10. The King thought he found a way, make slaves out of them and crush their spirits but even under adverse conditions the Israelites continue to increase!

The King instructed the Egyptian midwives to kill all the boy babies at birth but the girls could live. The midwives were afraid to kill the babies because they feared God so the Hebrews kept increasing – Finally the King issued a command to all his people: "Take every newborn Hebrew boy and throw him into the Nile, but let all the girls live." Exodus 1:22.

Oppression does not stop the increase of God's family now either, the underground churches in the Communist countries continues to grow. When black Americans were slaves their numbers grew and so did their love for the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: "Why are you letting the boys live?"… They answered, "The Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they give birth easily, and their babies are born before either of us gets there." Exodus 1:18c, 19.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I, O Lord, even though I may be oppress by being poor or ill may I never turn away from you but look to you for comfort and strength.

Moses October 14

A Special Baby

Amran and Jochebed, from the tribe of Levi were married and had Aaron and Miriam before the King's death sentence on Hebrew baby boys had been decreed, but there was a new baby, and Jochebed hid him as long as possible. Then she made a basket, from reeds, tarred the bottom and set the baby afloat in the Nile. Miriam was sent to see that he was all right.

When the King's daughter came to bathe, she saw the basket, had it brought to her and there was a baby boy, crying. The Princess felt sorry for the baby – Then his sister asked her, "Shall I go and call a Hebrew woman to act as a wet nurse?"

“Please do," she answered. So the girl went and brought the baby's own mother. Exodus 2:7, 8.

Jochebed, at the request of the King's daughter, got her baby back to nurse and even got paid for the pleasure.

– Later, when the child was old enough, she took him to the King's daughter, who adopted him as her own son. She said to herself, "I pulled him out of the water, and so I name him Moses." Exodus 2:10. That's how Moses got his start in life.

We often make decisions that we don't like out of necessity, but God can turn those decisions around and make them work to our advantage. We only need to put our faith and trust in him.

VERSE FOR TODAY: It was faith that made the parents of Moses hide him for three months after he was born. They saw that he was a beautiful child, and they were not afraid to disobey the King's order. Hebrews 11:23.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to serve you always, O Lord, without fear and with steadfast faith and trust.