

Sunday February 19, 2023 Joseph

Providence Prevails



The Good News Story – Tracing the Scarlet Thread of Covenant Redemption from Genesis to Revelation

In Genesis — Jesus is the Word of God, creating the heavens and the earth; He is the promised Seed of the woman. He is symbolized by the shedding of blood necessary to provide animal skins that covered the sin and shame of Adam & Eve. Christ's mercy and redemption is shown in the 'Mark of Cain' to protect him. The birth of Enosh is a symbol of God's plan to provide an unbroken thread of generation protection as he is the ancestor of Noah, Abraham, Judah, David, and eventually to Jesus Christ. In Noah's Ark we see a pre-type of salvation and redemption. In Noah's animal sacrifice worship offering after the flood, we see the reinforcing of the blood sacrifice that is needed. In the covenant sign of the rainbow, we see a symbolic and visual portrait of the promise of redemption. The first color of the rainbow is Scarlet or Red. It is the color that is 'over' all the others, in a sense providing a 'covering' of red to all the others. In the story of Abraham we see the covenant of blood with the vision of the animal sacrifice between God and with Abraham and Isaac we see the continuum of God's covenant promise and in the request to sacrifice Isaac we

see the pre-type of Christ, the Lamb of God, who would later be the sacrifice for our sins. In the story Jacob, later renamed Israel, we see God's covenant keeping promise to faithfully bless and guide His people. In the trials and setbacks that Joseph experienced we see God's Providential Hand of Covenant Blessing'

Creation & The Fall

Noah & The Flood

Call of Abraham

Abraham & Isaac

Jacob – Division, Deception & Devotion

Joseph – Providence Prevails

The theme of a covenantal thread of redemption is a consistent theme thru the entire Bible. A covenant means a binding agreement between at least two parties. It has the original meaning of 'to cut' as to cut a covenant by the shedding of blood. It is this concept that God has chosen to utilize as part of the relationship between Him and mankind.

Some material adapted from:

1. H.L. Wilmington. 'Wilmington's Guide to the Bible'. Tyndale
2. Elmer Towns. History Makers of the Old Testament. Victor Books
3. Orality Bible Stories". Kevin Olson. 2014 Ambassador Institute.
4. Stringfellow, Allen. B. Through the Bible in One Year. Vol. 2. Bible Characters. Hensley Press
5. Jim Townsend. O.T. Highlights. David C. Cook Press.
6. Chris Tiegreen. Story Thru the Bible. NavPress.
7. <https://thefaithspace.com/lessons-from-the-life-of-joseph/>
8. <https://bibleoffline.com/blog/4-lessons-we-can-learn-from-the-life-of-joseph/#:~:text=4%20lessons%20we%20can%20learn%20from%20the%20life,4%204.%20Knowing%20our%20purpose%20is%20important%20>

A Story of Promise, Problems and Providence

Joseph is the 4th Generation of the Covenant Promise blessing. He was the son of Jacob, the Grandson of Isaac and the Great-Grandson of Abraham. A character summary by Jim Townsend states this about Joseph.

“He had the faith of Abraham, the gentleness of Isaac, and the courage of Jacob”. (p.28)

His life was one of Problems & Providence. In the following story I will show how God’s Promises held firm as Joseph in deep faith dealt with problems and trusted in the Providence of God.

Providence can be defined as: “*God’s faithful and effective care and guidance of everything which He has made toward the end which He has chosen*”. (Holman Bible Dictionary)

Providence is an act of God’s divine power, will, and wisdom to guide things to His desired outcome at His chosen time. In other words, He is in control over everything, all the time and nothing and no-one can deter His divine, perfect will.

Here is the Outline for the Life of Joseph

1. Favored Son (*Genesis 37:1-4*)
2. Object of Jealousy (*Genesis 37:4*)
3. Lofty Dreamer (*Genesis 37:5-11*)
4. Betrayed Brother (*Genesis 37:12-36*)
5. Faithful Servant (*Genesis 39:1-23*)
6. Forgotten Servant (*Genesis 40:1-23*)
7. Exalted Leader (*Genesis 41-44*)
8. Forgiving Brother (*Genesis 45-50*)
9. Example of Providence (*Genesis 50:20*)

Joseph is considered on the theological ‘types’ of Christ in the Old Testament.

“A type, in its primary and literal meaning, simply denotes a rough draught, or less accurate model, from which a more perfect image is made; but in the sacred or theological sense of the term, a type may be defined to be a symbol of something future and distant, or an example prepared and evidently designed by God to prefigure that future thing”. In this case a “type” or prefigure of Christ. (Thomas

Joseph - A Type of Christ		
JOSEPH	CHARACTERISTIC OR ATTRIBUTE	CHRIST
Genesis 37:4	Both were despised	John 1:11
Genesis 37:36	Both went into Egypt	Matthew 2:13-15
Joshua 24:32	Both returned from Egypt	Matthew 2:19-23
Genesis 39:20	Both were arrested	John 18:12
Genesis 39:14-19	Both were falsely accused	Mark 14:57-58
Genesis 39:7-12	Both resisted temptation & sin	Matthew 4:1-11
Genesis 39:31-35	Both were separated from their fathers	John 20:21
Genesis 41:40	Both had great power & authority	Matthew 28:18
Genesis 37:28	Both were sold	Matthew 26:15
Genesis 42:24	Both showed great love	John 15:13
Genesis 45:5-7	Both helped preserve life	Matthew 1:21
Genesis 45:3	Both were found alive	Luke 24:46
Genesis 45:1-15	Both were reunited with brethren	John 19:19-29
Genesis 45:6-7	Both showed compassion	2 Corinthians 8:9
Genesis 45:15	Both showed pardon	Luke 3:34
Genesis 39:21	God was with both	Matthew 17:5
TYPE - "A historical fact that illustrates a spiritual truth."		

Here Are Some Lessons from the Life of Joseph

1. Favoritism, envy, jealousy and hatred always lead to negative outcomes (Watch out for generational curses)
2. Sometimes Gods' call and dreams for your life will make others uncomfortable.
3. In times of difficulty or in prosperity, always live a life of integrity, honesty and faithful work. (God has the right and will test our faith – hold firm. Also, there is no excuse to break God's commandments)
4. God calls and equips His chosen people to be godly leaders.
5. Forgiveness should be part of our character and has the power to restore relationships.
6. God has a purpose and plan for our lives.
7. Always wait for God and trust His Providence.

The following is adapted from

[11 Encouraging lessons from the life of Joseph - The Faith Space](https://thefaithspace.com/lessons-from-the-life-of-joseph/)
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Prayer points from the life of Joseph

Joseph's life story is full with lessons and it's also filled with prayer prompts. Here are a few things to consider:

- For God to reveal His dreams for you to you and help you to understand what He reveals to you.
- For God to prepare you for whatever will come with that dream.
- For God to surround you with the right people and opportunities to make those dreams come to pass.

- For God to bless you with a spirit of excellence like Joseph and Daniel.
- For God to give you a heart of forgiveness for family and friends who hurt you deeply.

Tracing The Scarlet Thread

Revelation 13:8... “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship Him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the **Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**”

1 Peter 1:19-21... “^[19] But with the **precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb** without blemish and without spot: ^[20] For He was chosen or foreknown **before the foundation of the world**, but has appeared in these last times for your sake, ^[21] and through Him you believe [confidently] in God [the heavenly Father], who raised Him [Christ] from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are [centered and rest] in God.

{Genesis 2:15 & 3:6,7 set the stage for the need of a
‘Scarlet Thread of Redemption’}

Genesis 2:15...¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you **shall surely die.**”

Genesis 3:6,7...⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that **they were naked**; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings...¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Protoevangelium (First Gospel)

Genesis 3:15... “And I will put enmity (open hostility) Between you and the woman, And between your seed (offspring) and **her Seed**; He shall **[fatally] bruise your head**, And you shall [only] **bruise His heel.**” (AMP)

Genesis 3:21... The LORD God made **clothing from skins** for the man and his wife, and he clothed them.

From the very beginning of human history, it is revealed. When Adam and Eve sinned, God shed innocent blood in order to make them clothes from animal skins (Genesis 3:21). This is a picture of the covering of righteousness that we receive when the Lord Jesus Christ died for us.

Genesis 4:8... Then Cain spoke to Abel his brother; and it happened when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his **brother and killed him.**

Genesis 4:10-15...¹⁰ And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your **brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground.** ¹¹ So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.” ¹³ And Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! ¹⁴ Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me.”¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” **And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.**

Genesis 4:25-26...²⁵ And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, “For God has **appointed another seed** for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.”²⁶ And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD. [It is through the lineage of Enosh that our Lord Jesus Christ is descended. He is the 6th Great Grandfather of Noah]

Genesis 6:5-8, 14-18, 22...⁵ When the Lord saw that man’s wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time, ⁶ the Lord regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷ Then the Lord said, “I will wipe off

from the face of the earth mankind, whom I created, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky—for I regret that I made them.”⁸ **Noah**, however, **found favor in the sight of the Lord**...¹⁴ “Make yourself an **ark** of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and **cover it with pitch** inside and outside.”¹⁵ This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.¹⁶ You are to make a roof finishing the sides of the ark to within 18 inches of the roof. You are to put a door in the side of the ark. Make it with lower, middle, and upper decks.¹⁷ “Understand that I am bringing a flood—floodwaters on the earth to destroy every creature under heaven with the breath of life in it. **Everything on earth will die.**”¹⁸ But **I will establish My covenant with you, and you will enter the ark** with your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives...²² And Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him.

Genesis 8:15-22...¹⁵ Then God spoke to Noah, ¹⁶ “Come out of the ark, you, your wife, your sons, and your sons’ wives with you.”¹⁷ Bring out all the living creatures that are with you—birds, livestock, those that crawl on the ground—and they will spread over the earth and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.”¹⁸ So Noah, along with his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives, came out.¹⁹ All wildlife, all livestock, every bird, and every creature that crawls on the earth came out of the ark by their groups.²⁰ Then Noah **built an altar to the LORD**. He took some of every kind of clean animal and every kind of clean bird and **offered burnt offerings** on the altar.²¹ When the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, He said to Himself, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, even though man’s inclination is evil from his youth. And I will never again strike down every living thing as I have done.”²² As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease.”

Noahic Covenant

Genesis 9:1-9, 12-17...¹ God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.”² The fear and terror of you will be in every living creature on the earth, every bird of the sky, every creature that crawls on the ground, and all the fish of the sea. They are placed under your authority.³ Every living creature will be food for you; as I gave the green plants, I have given

you everything.”⁴ However, you must not eat meat with its lifeblood in it.⁵ I will require the life of every animal and every man for your life and your blood. I will require the life of each man’s brother for a man’s life.⁶ **Whoever sheds man’s blood, his blood will be shed by man, for God made man in His image.**⁷ But you, be fruitful and multiply; spread out over the earth and multiply on it.”⁸ Then God said to Noah and his sons with him,⁹ “Understand that I am **confirming My covenant with you and your descendants after you**...¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between Me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all future generations: ¹³ I have placed **My rainbow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.**”¹⁴ Whenever I form clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds,¹⁵ I will remember My covenant between Me and you and all the living creatures: water will **never again become a flood to destroy every creature.**”¹⁶ The bow will be in the clouds, and I will look at it and remember the **everlasting covenant** between God and all the living creatures on earth.”¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have confirmed between Me and every creature on earth.”

Genealogy of the Scarlet Thread Continues

Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah, Shem, Arphaxad, Salah, Eber (Hebrew), Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, Terah, Abraham...

The Call of Abraham – Reaffirmation of God’s Covenant Redemption

Genesis 12:1-3,7...¹ The LORD said to Abram: Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.² I will make you into a **great nation, I will bless you**, I will make your name great, and **you will be a blessing.**³ I will bless those who bless you, I will **curse those who treat you with contempt**, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you...⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “I will give this land to your offspring.” So **he built an altar** there to the LORD who had appeared to him.

Genesis 14:17-20...¹⁷ After Abram returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸ Then Melchizedek, king of Salem brought out **bread and wine**; He was a **priest to God Most High**. ¹⁹ He blessed Abram and said: **Abram is blessed by God Most High**, Creator of heaven and earth, ²⁰ and I give praise to God Most High who has handed over your enemies to you. And Abram gave Him a **tenth of everything**.

Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 15:1-6, 9-12, 17,18...After these events, the **Word of the LORD** came to Abram in a vision: Do not be afraid, Abram. **I Am your Shield**; your Reward will be very great. ² But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what can You give me, since I am childless and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ Abram continued, "Look, You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house will be my heir." ⁴ Now the Word of the LORD came to him: "This one will not be your heir; instead, **one who comes from your own body will be your heir**." ⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look at the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then He said to him, "Your offspring will be that numerous." ⁶ **Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.....** ⁹ He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old cow, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ So he brought all these to Him, **split them down the middle**, and laid the pieces opposite each other, but he did not cut up the birds. ¹¹ Birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. ¹² As the sun was setting, a deep sleep fell on Abram, and suddenly great terror and darkness descended on him..... ¹⁷ When the sun had set and it was dark, a **smoking fire pot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the divided animals**. ¹⁸ On that day the **LORD made a covenant with Abram**,

Genesis 17:1-14...When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to him, saying, "I am God Almighty. Live in My presence and be blameless. ² **I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you greatly**." ³ Then Abram fell facedown and God spoke with him: ⁴ "As for Me, My covenant is with you: you will become the father of many nations" ⁵ Your name

will no longer be Abram, but **your name will be Abraham**, for I will make you the father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you extremely fruitful and will make nations and kings come from you. ⁷ **I will keep My covenant between Me and you, and your future offspring throughout their generations, as an everlasting covenant to be your God and the God of your offspring after you**. ⁸ And to you and your future offspring I will give the land where you are residing—all the land of Canaan—as an eternal possession, and I will be their God." ⁹ God also said to Abraham, "As for you, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations are to keep My covenant. ¹⁰ This is My covenant, which you are to keep, between Me and you and your offspring after you: **Every one of your males must be circumcised**. ¹¹ You must circumcise the flesh of your foreskin to serve as a sign of the covenant between Me and you. ¹² Throughout your generations, every male among you at eight days old is to be circumcised. This includes a slave born in your house and one purchased with money from any foreigner. The one who is not your offspring, ¹³ a slave born in your house, as well as one purchased with money, must be circumcised. **My covenant will be marked in your flesh as an everlasting covenant**. ¹⁴ If any male is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that man will be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

The Covenant thread of Genealogy Continues with Birth of Issac

Genesis 17:19-22...¹⁹ But God said, "No. Your wife Sarah will **bear you a son**, and you will name him Isaac. **I will confirm My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his future offspring**." ²⁰ As for Ishmael, I have heard you. I will certainly bless him; I will make him fruitful and will multiply him greatly. He will father 12 tribal leaders, and I will make him into a great nation. ²¹ But I will confirm My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this time next year." ²² When He finished talking with him, God withdrew from Abraham.

Genesis 21:1-5...The LORD came to Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what He had promised. ² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time God had told him. ³ Abraham named his son who was born to him—the one Sarah bore to him—Isaac. ⁴ **When his son Isaac was**

eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God had commanded him. ⁵ *Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born to him.*

**Deferred Sacrifice Of Isaac – A Pre-type and Foreshadowing of the
Substitutionary Sacrifice of Christ, The Lamb of God**

Genesis 22:

The Life of Jacob

The Life of Joseph