

# The Gate of Spring

You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart.  
Jeremiah 29:13



## The Life of Joseph



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Photos provided by Family and Friends.

## **“The Gate of Spring” Overview**

### **21 Days in the Life of Joseph**

Springtime is synonymous with new life! Determine to set aside opportunities to journey through these 21 devotionals in this new season. Search for hidden treasures in the life of Joseph.

### **The Spiritual Disciplines—Silence and Solitude**

We encourage you to continue to incorporate as many spiritual disciplines as possible in your Private Retreats. Our spiritual discipline focus for this Springtime Season is a combination of silence and solitude.

The aim of silence and solitude is to purposely present yourself before God to listen and learn from Him. Solitude is a *“come away with the Lord,”* a time designated to intentionally abstain from interaction with others so you might interact uninterrupted with God. Henri Nouwen said that “silence is the way to make solitude a reality.” We know that responsibilities may make it challenging to find blocks of time for complete silence and solitude, but God is pleased with your sincere effort. He can work in moments, minutes, and hours.

### **The Life of Joseph in the Book of Genesis**

Joseph’s story, like ours, begins in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. During these 21 Private Retreats, we will pick up Joseph’s story in Genesis chapter 37. Some days we will read a full chapter and other days a portion. If you would like to acquire a historical foundation of Joseph’s life, his family history three generations prior begins in Genesis chapter 11. There you will read about Joseph’s famous ancestors: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (whom God later re-named “Israel.”)

Included at the beginning of each 7 days is a “Reflections” page highlighting parallels between the lives of Joseph and Jesus. Some comparative information between Joseph and Jesus has been gleaned from the organizations “Jesus Plus Nothing” and “Jews for Jesus.”

**Observations and Prayer** Commentary and prayer prompts associated with each day’s Bible reading are provided for your pondering and action.

### **A Deeper Look**

Following the Observations and Prayer is “A Deeper Look” where supporting scriptures will help deepen your understanding of the daily Bible reading.

### **Worship in Song**

To end your time of silence and solitude, a daily suggested song is offered for you to search for online at You Tube or on our Open Book website. The music offered include hymns and contemporary, lively, and calming both old and new. Music is one way we can worship the Lord. Search for songs with lyrics.

### **Joseph’s Story & Your Story**

Scripture, questions, and considerations for personal evaluation, pondering, prayer, and action.

### **Additional Encouragements**

Connect with others and discuss what you are learning from the life of Joseph. Participate in acts of service. Look for beauty, God’s handiwork. Praise God!

In Marsha’s picture below, do you see the open gate? Opportunities to be alone with the Lord are not always apparent. Often they must be searched out, discovered, and intentionally walked through. In your Private Retreats, you are invited to enter through the gate of Joseph’s life and be awed by hidden treasure!



Photo by Marsha Dunn



## Sidebar Notes...

### Resources

◆ Both this devotion and the suggested worship music is available on our Open Book Ministries website under the “Resources” page. [www.openbookministries.net](http://www.openbookministries.net)

Permission is granted to you to print the pdf for personal use or share the pdf with individuals. On our OBMin Resources Page, click “Gate of Spring, 2025 The Life of Joseph”

This 21 day devotional can benefit women, men, and teenagers.

### What to Expect

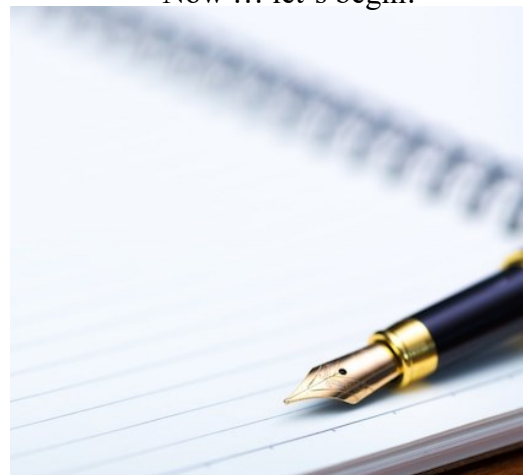
◆ A beginning and end devotion are offered at the start and finish of Gate of the Spring.

◆ If you need to engage in these devotions over a longer period of time, divide them into morning and evening, or spread each day over several days, by all means set your own pace.

◆ The suggested additional Bible verses can serve as a springboard to a more in-depth study. To gain a fuller understanding, read the entire chapters associated with the verses.

◆ If you benefit from journaling, consider purchasing a notebook or journal to record your insights, questions, and thoughts. Journal pages are also provided at the end of each week and the end of this book.

◆ Now ... let's begin!



In the New Testament, John records an encounter with “certain Greeks.” These individuals made a request that is the clarion call of all who seek to know God: “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

In this 21 Day exploration into the life of Joseph, our prayer for you is that you will *see Jesus*, even in the Old Testament!

Record your own initial thoughts, hopes, and prayer as you begin this special journey.



# Welcome! Historical Gates



Some manmade structures are simply iconic.  
Their history is often interwoven  
with the name they have been given.

## **The Golden Gate Bridge San Francisco, California**

The Golden Gate Bridge was built in the 1930's at a cost of \$35 million dollars and, sadly, 11 lives. It spans 4,200 feet and was the longest suspension bridge in the world until 1964. It derived its name from the Golden Gate Strait over which it stretches 1.7 miles from entrance to entrance.

The strait is the water taxiway from the Pacific Ocean into San Francisco Bay.

It might be said that the bridge is the “water gate” of the “City by the Bay.”

The color of the “Golden Gate Bridge” is not gold (as some might expect.) Instead, it is “International Orange.”

Year around, the gate bridge is inspected and painted to protect it from the harsh conditions—sea salt and fog.

Ongoing onslaughts from nature require ongoing maintenance.

## **Joseph's Historical Family**

His name was “Joseph.”

His name means “Jehovah has added.”

He was the firstborn son of his father and mother, Jacob and Rachel and the eleventh son among twelve. Joseph became the gate to life for his kinsmen.

Like all of us, Joseph had a history ... a family history.

Love, hate, comradery, favoritism, jealousy, rivalry ... rivalry taken too far.

But Joseph also had his own personal story.

One thing I love about Joseph is this:

despite all that was not healthy within his family,  
he chose a different path, he walked “the road less traveled.”

**Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.**

(Robert Frost, “The Road Not Taken”)

Joseph demonstrates that we need not be mere outcomes of our past or our pain.

We are not doomed because of our bloodline or any foolish acts committed by us or against us.

Instead, we are offered a hope and a future—a new history— because of the God-man, Jesus Christ. Life will have ongoing onslaughts, but we can be diligent to do ongoing soul-maintenance. Joseph did. And he learned this: God is a very present help in times of trouble and in times of triumph! (Psalm 46)

**“Then you shall call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.”** Jeremiah 29:12

*Vicki Bustos*



## Reflections, Week 1

*A Bonus Study Into the Parallels Between  
Two Lives Well-Lived: Joseph and Jesus*

- ☐ Day 1, Genesis chapter 37, Verses 1-11  
*Seeing Jesus*
- ☐ Day 2, Genesis Chapter 37, Verses 12-36  
*Be Like "Nicodemus"*
- ☐ Day 3, Genesis Chapter 38  
*Family Ties*
- ☐ Day 4, Genesis Chapter 39  
*Overseer*
- ☐ Day 5, Genesis Chapter 40  
*Remember Me*
- ☐ Day 6, Genesis Chapter 41: Verses 1-36  
*Co-Laboring With God*
- ☐ Day 7, Genesis Chapter 41: Verses 37-57  
*Despite the "Why?"*



# Reflections

A Bonus Study Into the Parallels  
Between 2 Lives Well-Lived ...  
Joseph and Jesus

## Day 1

*Both Were Beloved by Their Father*  
**Genesis 37:3 ♦ Matthew 3:13-17**

*Both Foretold That They Would Rule*  
**Genesis 37:5-11 ♦ Matthew 26:59-64**

*Both Were Envied & Hated Without Cause*  
**Genesis 37:4 ♦ John 15:23-25**

## Day 2

*Both Were Rejected & Condemned to Die*  
**Genesis 37:20 ♦ John 19:1-15**

*Both Were Sold for Silver Coins*  
**Genesis 37:28 ♦ Matthew 26:15**

*Both Were Stripped of Their Clothing*  
**Genesis 37:23 ♦ Matthew 27:27-28, 35**

## Day 3

*Both Shared Ancestral Relatives:*  
*Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*  
**Genesis 37:1 ♦ Matthew 1:1-3**

## Day 4

*Everything Both Did prospered*  
**Genesis 39:1-6 ♦ Isaiah 53:10-12**

*Both Resisted Temptation*  
**Genesis 39:7-12 ♦ Hebrews 4:14-16**

*Both Were Falsely Accused*  
**Genesis 39:13-20**  
**Matthew 26:57-61 15:23-25**

## Day 5

*Both Were Punished With Criminals*  
**Genesis 39:20 ♦ Luke 23:26-38**

*Both Were Connected to Bread & Wine*  
**Genesis 40 ♦ Luke 22:7-20**

*Both Gave Hope to a Condemned Man*  
**Genesis 50:5-13 ♦ Luke 26:39-43**

*Both Asked to be Remembered*  
**Genesis 40:14-15 ♦ 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

## Day 6

*Both Were Sent "In the Fullness of Time"*  
**Genesis 41:14 ♦ Galatians 4:4-5**

## Day 7

*Both Were 30 Years Old When Began Ministry*  
**Genesis 41:46 ♦ Luke 3:23**

*Both Were Honored for Their Wisdom*  
**Genesis 41:38-40 ♦ 1 Corinthians 1:24-25**

*Both Reliable, Accurate Counsellors*  
**Genesis 41:39 ♦ Isaiah 9:6**

*Both Exalted to Honor & Glory*  
*People Must Bow*  
**Genesis 41:41-43 Philippians 2:9-10**

*Both Took a Gentile Bride*  
**Genesis 41:45 ♦ Acts 10:23-48**





## Gate Key Seeing Jesus

*Genesis 37:4 (nkjv)*

Now Jacob dwelt in the land where  
his father was a stranger,  
in the land of Canaan.



## Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up,  
left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed. Mark 1:35

**Emulating Jesus helps us to find fulfillment in the spiritual disciplines and deepens our walk with Him.**



## The Story of Joseph (Read or Listen)

**Genesis chapter 37, verses 1-11**



## Observations

Genesis chapter 37, verses 1 through 11 provides a backdrop for Joseph's life story. Within these 11 Old Testament verses, we are introduced to three historical aspects in Joseph's experiences that remind us of Jesus. Joseph was beloved of his father, he foretold through the dreams given to him that he would rule in the future, and he was hated and envied without a cause by his own brothers. In the New Testament, we see that Jesus was loved by His Father. At His baptism, God affirmed His love. During Jesus' examination before the high priest prior to His crucifixion, He foretold that He would rule. Jesus was delivered to be crucified, not for any sin or crime, but because of envy and hatred. Joseph life foreshadows or prefigures Jesus' earth life. Of interest, all of Joseph's years on earth were spent in lands where he and his family were strangers: first Canaan and then Egypt. One day those who believe will be home in God's promised land! Soon, but not yet!

**Lord, thank You for showing us Your Son, Jesus, even in the Old Testament. Amen**



## A Deeper Look

*Jesus is God and Shows Us God*  
**Hebrews 1:1-3, 2:9**

*Look to Jesus*  
**Hebrews 12:1-4**

*The Glory of Jesus*  
**Revelation 1:9-18**



## Worship in Song

"Open the Eyes of My Heart" by Maranatha! Music



## Joseph's Story & Your Story

Jesus said: "*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*" Matthew 5:8

As you read the Old Testament in your Bible, notice truths and insights that parallel the life of Christ. Has reading your Bible helped you be in awe of God and become more like Jesus? Ask God to make it so.



**Gate Key**  
***Be Like “Nicodemus”***  
*Genesis 37:22 (nkjv)*

And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him”  
 -- that he might deliver him out of their hands  
 and bring him back to his father.



## **Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence**

In stark aloneness it is possible to have silence, to be still, and to know that Jehovah indeed is God ...  
 (Psalm 46:10) Dallas Willard, *The Spirit of the Disciplines*

**The goal of spiritual disciplines is to be separate and silent so we are present and personal with God.**



## **The Story of Joseph** *(Read or Listen)*

**Genesis chapter 37, verses 12-36**



## **Observations**

Genesis chapter 37, verses 12 through 36 is heart wrenching. Artists have attempted to depict the conspiracy and conduct of the older brothers and the anguish of Joseph’s soul, but how can such a desperate moment be illustrated on canvas? Yet in the midst of evil, God’s mystery plan of salvation was beginning to take shape. Although the act of murder was the first intention, (verses 18-20), there was a “Nicodemus” among the scheming brothers. *But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, “Let us not kill him.”*

That day, Joseph was not murdered physically, but just as his coat of many colors was stripped from him, so the life with his father and family was torn away. Sold into slavery for twenty shekels of silver, Joseph was pulled from the pit and carried away into Egypt. Joseph’s story parallels Jesus’ story who was also rejected and condemned to die, stripped of his clothing, and sold for silver coins. Sometimes God’s plan is difficult.

**Lord, help us to be a “Nicodemus” to others, to provide support as You work out Your plan. Amen**



## **A Deeper Look**

*Nicodemus Learns From Jesus*  
**John 3:1-21**

*Nicodemus Defends Jesus*  
**John 7:37-53**

*Nicodemus Helps Bury Jesus*  
**John 19:38-42**



## **Worship in Song**

“Heaven Help Me” by Zach Williams



## **Joseph’s Story & Your Story**

*“He (Jesus) is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” Hebrews 11:25 “...we are God’s fellow workers...” 1 Corinthians 3:9a*  
 Joseph needed help. What needs do people in your life have? How can you be God’s hands and feet to them?



## Gate Key Family Ties

*Genesis 38:6-7 (nkjv)*

Then Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn,  
and her name was Tamar.  
But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord,  
and the Lord killed him.



## Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence

But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.  
Habakkuk 2:20

**Silence helps us experience the holiness of sacred moments, a lesson Peter had to learn.** Matthew 17:1-9



## The Story of Joseph

*(Read or Listen)*

### Genesis chapter 38



## Observations

Genesis chapter 38 is like a misplaced intermission with a purpose. To help our 21st century western minds grasp it, let's look at the cultural facts. If a brother died before having a child, his next brother or near relative was expected to marry his widow and raise up a child who would carry the dead man's name and inherit his land. Genesis 38 tells the story of Judah, the fourth born son of Jacob and Leah. He had a son named "Er"

who died. Er's wife, Tamar, was sexually mistreated by Onan, Er's brother, and then ignored by her father-in-law, Judah. She devised a plan to preserve her deceased husband's name and inheritance that resulted in the birth of Judah's twin sons through her pregnancy. More important than the unusual cultural norms of that day is the fact that our Messiah Jesus came through the union of Judah and Tamar.

She is even listed in the genealogy of Christ. Eventually in Joseph's story, Judah defends and intercedes for his youngest brother, Benjamin. Intercession is the ministry of Judah's future descendant, Jesus!

**Thank You Jesus for being the Go-Between at Calvary. Thank You for our family ties with You. Amen**



## A Deeper Look

*Jesus: Lion of the Tribe of Judah*  
Revelation chapter 5

*Who is a Child of God?*  
John 1:10-13 ♦ Galatians 3:23-29

*Members of God's Household*  
Ephesians chapter 2



## Worship in Song

"People Like Us" by Micah Tyler



## Joseph's Story & Your Story

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16*  
Who is Jesus to you? What is your faith-in-Christ story? Who needs your prayers and encouragement?





### Gate Key Overseer

*Genesis 39:4 & 5b (nkjv)*

So Joseph found favor in his [Potiphar's] sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority...from the time that he had made him overseer...the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake ...



### Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence

Solitude and silence is the gateway to help our soul ... our mind, emotions, and will ... to pause, take a deep breath, and stop to smell the roses.

**Spiritual disciplines should not be a “have to,” but rather a “get to.”**



### The Story of Joseph

*(Read or Listen)*

### Genesis chapter 39



### Observations

Genesis chapter 39 takes us into the home of “*Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of his guard.*” Potiphar purchased Jacob’s son at the slave market. Consider who Joseph was at this time: 17 years old, his Dad a farmer who had flocks of animals, the favorite child. When Joseph was forcefully transported about 325 miles on a weeks long journey away from his family, the only treasure he carried out of his homeland was his knowledge and faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In Egypt, Joseph becomes a diligent, wise, worker—as unto the Lord—and his master recognizes the hand of God upon him. “*...the Lord blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake.*” Things were going well. Then, just as he did in the Garden of Eden, the Tempter shows up. Yet, unlike Adam and Eve, Joseph resists. Although unjustly cast into prison, he again becomes Overseer. Like the Shepherd and Overseer of his soul, Joseph obeyed God even in a foreign land.

**Lord Jesus, You are the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls. Your eyes are in every place. Amen**



### A Deeper Look

*Faithfulness Requirement*  
**1 Corinthians 4:1-2**

*Work as Unto the Lord*  
**Colossians 3:22-24**

*Parable of the Talents*  
**Matthew 25:14-30**



### Worship in Song

“You’re Gonna Be Okay (Lyric Video) by Brian and Jenn Johnson



### Joseph’s Story & Your Story

*“For not he who commends himself is approved, but he whom the Lord commends.” 2 Corinthians 10:18*

What scriptures or details in Genesis 39 remind you of your story, your personal circumstances?  
How does a right heart and diligent hands help you honor God and maintain a right mindset in all you do?



**Gate Key**  
***Remember Me***  
***Genesis 40:14 (nkjv)***

But remember me when it is well with you,  
and please show kindness to me;  
make mention of me to Pharaoh,  
and get me out of this house.



**Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence**

O Lord, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; you maintain my lot. Psalm 16:5

**Remembering Christ's love and sacrifice through communion is a life-changing spiritual discipline.**  
**Communion can be taken in your solitary moments with your Lord.**



**The Story of Joseph**  
*(Read or Listen)*

**Genesis chapter 40**



**Observations**

Genesis chapter 40 reconnects Joseph to dreams. Back home, Joseph had two significant dreams pertaining to the future. The dreams were unintentionally interpreted by his father: "... *What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?*"

We may wonder if his time in the Egyptian prison diminished Joseph's memory of his dreams. A day came when two prominent officers of Pharaoh were imprisoned and assigned to Joseph's charge. Each had similar dreams, but were distraught that no one could interpret. Joseph boldly declared God would give the interpretation. Each explanation came true: the butler was restored to his service as the king's cup bearer; the baker was hung from the gallows. It is intriguing that keepers of wine and bread were used by God to reconnect Joseph to dreams. Two years passed before the butler remembered Joseph, but Joseph's work continued to prosper.

**Lord Jesus, You are my Bread of Life; You are my Cup of Blessing. I will remember You. Amen**



**A Deeper Look**

*Holy Spirit Brings All  
Things to Our Remembrance*  
**John 14:23-27**

*Remember God's Benefits*  
**Psalm 103**

*Remember God's Commands  
and Teach the Generations*  
**Deuteronomy 6:1-12**



**Worship in Song**

"God's Not Done With You" by Tauren Wells



**Joseph's Story & Your Story**

*"I remember Your name in the night, O Lord, and I keep Your law." Psalm 119:55*

Joseph spent two years forgotten by the butler after interpreting his dream. Have you experienced being forgotten or overlooked? What promises in God's Word can you remember to encourage yourself in Christ?



**Gate Key**  
**Co-Laboring with God**  
*Genesis 41:14 (nkjv)*

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph,  
and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon,  
and he shaved, changed his clothing,  
and came to Pharaoh.



**Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence**

Let him who cannot be alone beware of community.  
Let him who is not in community beware of being alone. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**Solitude is a must so we may share a deepening relationship with God.**  
**Community is a must so we may share the fruit, light, and salt of our deepened relationship with God.**



**The Story of Joseph**  
*(Read or Listen)*

**Genesis chapter 41, verses 1-36**



**Observations**

Genesis chapter 41, verses 1-36 is a “suddenly” in the Bible. Joseph awakens one morning in prison to the same schedule he has lived for the previous hundreds of days. Suddenly a message arrives that the king of Egypt demands he be brought out of prison to the palace. Joseph had no idea if he had enraged the king and this day would be his last. Such was not the case. Instead, a proverb written by a future relative came true: *“A man’s gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.” Proverbs 18:16* Pharaoh had dreamed two dreams which none of his magicians or wise men could interpret. Then the butler remembered Joseph interpreting his dream two years earlier. In that palace moment, Joseph was clear about his position as a reliant co-laborer with God. Pharaoh said he had heard that Joseph could interpret dreams. Joseph redirected the honor to Almighty God: *It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.” Genesis 41:16*

**Lord, solidify the truth in me that every good and perfect gift comes from You. Amen**



**A Deeper Look**

*The Source of Good Gifts*  
**James 1:16-18**

*Good Stewardship of Gifts*  
**1 Peter 4:7-11**

*Practical Application of Gifts*  
**Romans 12 ♦ 1 Corinthians 12**



**Worship in Song**

“Jesus Have It All” by Jeremy Riddle



**Joseph’s Story & Your Story**

*“... for in Him we live and move and have our being ...” Acts 17:28a*

Jesus teaches that He is the vine and we are the branches, that apart from Him, we can do nothing. (John 15:5)  
As Joseph did, engage in ministry or labors in the knowledge that God is working with you and through you.





**Gate Key**  
*Despite the “Why?”*  
*Genesis 41:46 (nkjv)*

Joseph was thirty years old when  
he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt.  
And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh,  
and went throughout all the land of Egypt.



**Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence**

And when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret.  
And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:6

**Some conversations are meant to remain personal and private between you and the Lord.**



**The Story of Joseph**  
*(Read or Listen)*

**Genesis chapter 41, verses 37-57**



**Observations**

Genesis chapter 41, verses 37-57 are 21 summary verses of a very big picture, multiple events, and seven + years. In these verses, God is acknowledged, Joseph is exalted to second in command in Egypt and given the highest authority except for Pharaoh himself. He implements his plan to gather food during the 7 prosperous years, is married and has two sons, and is the “go to” when the famine begins. Joseph began his service to Egypt and the nations when he was 30 years old, about 13 years after being sold into slavery. Despite all this activity, we have not forgotten the high cost to Joseph. Sometimes we also pay a high price and may ask God the “why” question. Regarding Joseph, we may ask: “*Why*” *did he have to be separated from his family?* “*Why*” *the famine?* With time, truth unfolds and in a later chapter, Joseph himself answers the question. For now, he leans into the important work God has assigned in the place he has been planted despite the “Why?” **Lord, we don’t always grasp “why” things happen. Help us to believe this truth: You are good. Amen**



**A Deeper Look**

*Occupy Where God Has You*  
**Psalms 37:1-26**

*Tidbits on How to Occupy*  
**Proverbs 3:1-6**

*Promises For You*  
**Jeremiah 29:11-13 ♦ Romans 8:28-39**



**Worship in Song**

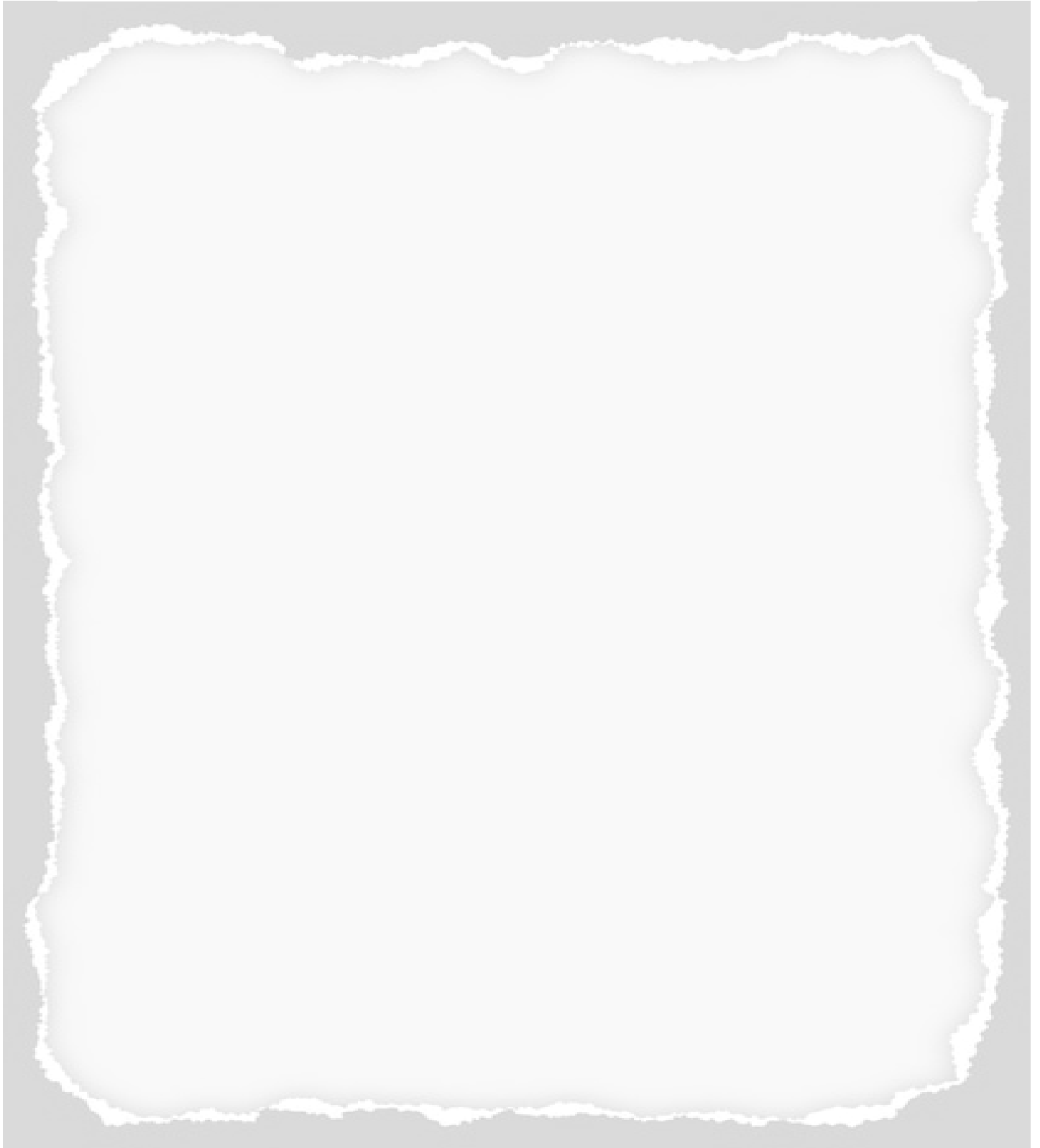
“Take My Life & Let It Be” by Reawaken Hymns



**Joseph’s Story & Your Story**

“So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said: “*Do business till I come!*” Luke 19:13  
Jesus taught the parable of the ten minas. The single instruction was basically to be diligent and faithful.  
Joseph did so. Even if your situation seems to make no sense, what has been entrusted to you to do?

# Notes





Reflections, Week 2  
*A Bonus Study Into the Parallels Between  
Two Lives Well-Lived: Joseph and Jesus*

- ☐ Day 8, Genesis chapter 42  
*Retribution or Reconciliation*
- ☐ Day 9, Genesis chapter 43  
*Known*
- ☐ Day 10, Genesis chapter 44  
*Changed Man*
- ☐ Day 11, Genesis chapter 45 verses 1-15  
*The Best News!*
- ☐ Day 12, Genesis chapter 45 verses 16-28  
*Honey For The Soul*
- ☐ Day 13, Genesis chapter 46  
*The Big Move*
- ☐ Day 14, Genesis chapter 47 verses 1-11  
*On The Border*





# Reflections

A Bonus Study Into the Parallels  
Between 2 Lives Well-Lived ...  
Joseph and Jesus

## Day 8

*Both Predicted Years of Hardship*  
**Genesis 41:30-31 ♦ Matthew 24:21**

*Both Provided Bread For All In Need  
People Came From All Countries*  
**Genesis 41:57  
John 6:33-35 ♦ Revelation 7:9**

*Their Brothers Were Forced to Seek Help  
They Did Not Recognize Who Was Before Them*  
**Genesis 42:1-3, 8  
Hosea 5:15 ♦ 2 Corinthians 3:14-16**

*Difficult Times Brought Realization of Sin*  
**Genesis 42:21-22 ♦ Isaiah 53:3**

## Day 9

*Both Loved Deeply*  
**Genesis 43:27-30 ♦ Jeremiah 31:3**

*Both Prepared a Table  
In The Presence of Their "Enemies"*  
**Genesis 43:32-34  
Psalm 23:5 ♦ Luke 7:36-50**

## Day 10

*Both Tested People's Hearts*  
**Genesis 44:14-17 ♦ Matthew 15:21-28**

## Day 11

*Both Reveal Their Identity and Are Recognized*  
**Genesis 45:3-9 ♦ Zechariah 12:10**

*There is Weeping and Reconciliation  
With the Rejected Brother*  
**Genesis 45:14-15 ♦ Zechariah 12:11-12**

*Both Send Their Brothers to Tell the Good News  
and Bring Others For Preservation & Salvation*  
**Genesis 45:9-11 ♦ John 20:19-21**

*Both Wanted Their Glory Revealed  
to Benefit Beloved Ones*  
**Genesis 45:13 ♦ John 17:1-5**

## Day 12

*Both Provided Ample Provisions  
For Life's Journey*  
**Genesis 45:17-23 ♦ 2 Peter 1:2-11**

## Day 13

*Both Enjoyed a Reunion  
With Their Father*  
**Genesis 46:28-30  
John 20:11-18 ♦ Acts 1:9-11**

*Both Prepared a Place*  
**Genesis 46:31-34 ♦ John 14:1-7**

## Day 14

*Both Understood the Times and Culture*  
**Genesis 46:28-34 ♦ Matthew 13:54-58**



## Gate Key

### *Retribution or Reconciliation*

*Genesis 42:21 (nkjv)*

We are truly guilty concerning our brother,  
for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us,  
and we would not hear;  
therefore this distress has come upon us.”



## Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence

There are times when solitude is better than society,  
and silence is wiser than speech. Charles Spurgeon

**The profound lessons of solitude and silence can only be learned in the solitary, quiet chamber.**



## The Story of Joseph

*(Read or Listen)*

### Genesis chapter 42



## Observations

Genesis chapter 42 is a window into the guilt ridden hearts of the 10 older brothers who hated Joseph and sold him into slavery. The road to Egypt to purchase food for Jacob's household may have been the same road Joseph travelled more than 20 years earlier. We can only imagine the thoughts that plagued each of the brothers concerning Joseph during those long dusty miles and quiet moments. Perhaps they realized how terrible Joseph's forced, solitary journey away from home and family must have been. When they arrived in Egypt, Joseph recognized them, but they did not know him. As Egypt's ruler, Joseph treated them harshly and they reasoned among themselves that it was because of their sin against their brother. Joseph wisely tested them with 3 days in prison and a demand when they returned—bring their youngest brother. Of interest is this: Joseph kept one brother as a hostage in jail while the others returned: Simeon, whose name means “Because I am unloved.” Perhaps a subtle reminder of their hate for Joseph. Food for thought on the road back home.  
**Thank You Lord that You do what it takes to create in us a pure heart and a clear conscience. Amen**



## A Deeper Look

*God's Word About Sin*  
**Romans 3:23 ♦ James 4:17**  
**Proverbs 28:13 ♦ 1 John 1:9**

*God's Goodness*  
**Isaiah 30:18**

*Repentance Prayer*  
**Psalms 51**



## Worship in Song

“My Story” by Big Daddy Weave



## Joseph's Story & Your Story

“... the goodness of God leads you to repentance ... Romans 2:4b

Joseph was severely wronged by his brothers. When the time came that he could exact retribution upon them, he chose instead to help them be restored. Who do you need to offer reconciliation? What steps can you take?



## Gate Key Known

*Genesis 43:33-34 (nkjv)*

And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth; and the men looked in astonishment at one another. Then he took servings to them... but Benjamin's serving was five times as much as any of theirs...



## Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence

For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength..." Isaiah 30:15a

**Quietness may not be complete silence but we can dwell confidently quiet in our soul in the midst of the hum of life.**



## The Story of Joseph

*(Read or Listen)*

### Genesis chapter 43



## Observations

Genesis chapter 43 is the second encounter between Joseph and his brothers in Egypt. However, this time his youngest brother, Benjamin, is present. We can only imagine how Dad Jacob is feeling back in Canaan. Alone with no cell phone, no ability to know if he will ever see his 11 remaining sons again. Only God could fill the gap in his life, could meet him in his solitude and silence just as He did years before at Jabbok.

Genesis 32 Back in Egypt, the brothers have been summoned to a meal in the house of "Zaphnath-Paaneah," the name given to Joseph by Pharaoh. Genesis 41:45 They readied their gift and themselves to meet with the powerful Egyptian leader. After inquiries about their father and meeting their youngest brother, they sat down to the table. All twelve were together once again even though the brothers did not realize it. They were fully known by name even though they did not understand how they could be seated at the table in their birth order. They were highly favored, deeply loved ... and particularly Benjamin ... even though they did not know why.

**Lord, we are overwhelmed to be Your beloved ones, known by name, highly favored, pursued. Amen**



## A Deeper Look

*Fully Known by God*  
**Psalm 139:1-18**

*Our Good Shepherd Knows Our Name*  
**John 10:1-5**

*Philip's Story*  
**John 1:43-51**

*Nothing Hidden*  
**Hebrews 4:12-13**



## Worship in Song

"Known" by Tauren Wells



## Joseph's Story & Your Story

*"... the Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17*

Joseph experienced "God in His midst" and now one of his greatest hopes is about to come to pass. Are there hopes that you have? Consciously ask and anticipate God to be in the midst of your hope & rejoice with you!



## Gate Key Changed Man

*Genesis 44:33-34 (nkjv)*

Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?



## Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence

The power of God tenderizes and changes us, not spiritual disciplines.  
Spiritual disciplines only position us to receive. Mike Bickle

**Come to the place of solitude and silence with open hands; God has all you need.**



## The Story of Joseph

*(Read or Listen)*

### Genesis chapter 44



## Observations

Genesis chapter 44 gives a stark picture of a changed heart. In the beginning of Joseph's saga, while he was most likely trying to climb and scratch his way out of the pit his brothers had thrown him into it, Judah was the brother who suggested they make a profit off of Joseph instead of killing him. *Genesis 37:27a*  
In the years since that horrendous day in the field, Judah learned many consequential lessons. Moment by moment he carried the secret and the guilt about Joseph. Daily he observed the unrelenting grief of his father. Judah also dealt with the unthinkable details when he used a destitute woman for his own sexual pleasure (who turned out to be his daughter-in-law, Tamar.) These experiences surely reshaped his soul. Now in Egypt, the old Judah would have left Jacob's other favorite son in prison to languish. But the changed man now begged to take his younger brother's place and serve as a slave. Centuries later, Judah's story would play out again when his descendant, Jesus, would take the place of many who are beloved by His Heavenly Father.

**Lord Jesus, Judah was spared Golgotha but You were not. Thank You for taking our place. Amen**



## A Deeper Look

*Jesus, A Ransom For Many*  
**Matthew 20:25-28**

*Jesus Became Sin For Us*  
**2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

*Christ Died For Us*  
**Romans 5:6-11**

*Die to Sin  
Live to Righteousness*  
**1 Peter 2:21-25**



## Worship in Song

"New Wine" by Hillsong (Brooke Ligertwood)



## Joseph's Story & Your Story

*The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart. I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways ... Jeremiah 17:9-10a*

Joseph tested the hearts of his brothers. They experienced a "divine set up" which unveiled not only to Joseph, but to themselves, the changed men they had become. What God-changes do you see in your life?





**Gate Key**  
***The Best News!***  
*Genesis 45:1 (nkjv)*

Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Make everyone go out from me!” So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers.



**Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence**

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. John 12:24

**Solitude and silence, like a grain of wheat that falls into the ground, will produce much fruit.**



**The Story of Joseph**  
*(Read or Listen)*

**Genesis chapter 45:1-15**



**Observations**

Genesis chapter 45:1-15 is one of those tender, climactic moments in the Bible. 22 years had passed and the brothers were convinced that Joseph was dead. In their travels to and from Egypt, perhaps they wondered if his dried bones were lying beneath the dusty surface alongside the roadway. But now, in the middle of a foreign culture, the ruler throughout all the land of Egypt was weeping before them and revealing his true identity. What? How can this be? The brothers could not comprehend the news, so Joseph beckoned them to come near to him. He began to share knowledge that only he and they knew—“*I am Joseph your brother whom you sold into Egypt.*” And then he tenderly tried to comfort them with the insights he had gained about God’s purpose: “*For God sent me before you to preserve life.*” He wanted the brothers to hurry, to go tell his father the good news and bring all of the family to Egypt so he could care and provide for them. Joseph then kissed all of his brothers. They would go as couriers of the best news! He’s alive! Joseph is alive! **Jesus, You’ve revealed Your true identity to us. You have shown us that You are alive! Praise God!**



**A Deeper Look**

*God Revealed*  
**John 1:18 ♦ Hebrews 1:1-3**

*Jesus Reveals His Identity*  
**John 14**

*The Preeminent Christ*  
**Colossians 2:9-23**

*Go Tell and Bring Others to Christ*  
**Mark 16:15 ♦ Isaiah 52:7**



**Worship in Song**

“The Jesus Way” by Phil Wickham



**Joseph’s Story & Your Story**

*So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten ... Joel 2:25a*

There were blessings and prosperity which Joseph lost when he was pulled from the pit and sold into slavery. Although his time with his father and family was devoured like swarming locusts in a field, God was bringing restoration of the lost years. Watch and pray for God’s restoration in your life of anything lost or broken.



## Gate Key *Honey for the Soul*

*Genesis 45:25 & 28a (nkjv)*

Then they went out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father. And they told him, saying, “Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt,” ... Then Israel said, “It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him ...”



## Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence

Can we expect the flames of our worship of God to burn brightly in public on the Lord's Day when they barely flicker for Him in secret on other days? Donald S. Whitney

**Our public life, whether worship or acts of service, will be a reflection of our private life with the Lord.**



## The Story of Joseph

*(Read or Listen)*

**Genesis chapter 45:16-28**



## Observations

Genesis chapter 45:16-28 is reminiscent of the time Joseph's great-great grandfather, Abraham, sent his most trusted servant to obtain a wife for his son, Isaac. The servant had specific instructions and agreed by oath to faithfully obey the agreement. He loaded 10 camels with clothing and with jewelry of silver and gold as a bride price along with travel provisions. His journey was anointed by God and successful, and Rebekah became Isaac's wife. (*Genesis 24*) When in a season of bountiful harvests, clothing, gold and silver are often highly coveted. However, in a season of drought, we would rather see a caravan bringing life-sustaining provision. Thus was the case for Joseph's family ... provisions, and then some. Not only did they receive the needed food, they received changes of clothing, carts to carry their family back to Egypt, their money returned, and best of all, the promise of a fruitful land to homestead in Egypt. However, for Jacob, all was a distant second to the best news: his beloved son Joseph was alive! This was sweet honey to his soul. **It is You, Lord, that we yearn for above all things. You before Your bountiful provisions. You! Amen**



## A Deeper Look

*Jesus is Risen!*  
**Matthew 28:1-10**

*Life Through God's Spirit*  
**Romans 8:8-11**

*Knowing Him*  
**Philippians 3:7-14**

*Ample Provisions for  
Life's Journey*  
**2 Peter 1:2-11**



## Worship in Song

“Honey in the Rock” by Brooke Ligertwood and Brandon Lake



## Joseph's Story & Your Story

*For thus says the High and Lofty One ... I dwell in the high and holy place with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Isaiah 57:15*

When Jacob heard his son Joseph was alive, at first his heart stood still because he did not believe the report. As he listened and observed, his spirit revived. What helps your spirit revive in both good and bad times?



**Gate Key**  
***The Big Move***  
*Genesis 46:2-3 (nkjv)*

Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, “Jacob, Jacob!” And he said, “Here I am.” So He said, “I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.”



**Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence**

You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy;  
 at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11

**In your time of solitude and silence, record the blessings of how God guides you in your daily life.**



**The Story of Joseph**  
*(Read or Listen)*

**Genesis chapter 46**



**Observations**

Genesis chapter 46 is the story of the big move to Egypt. As patriarch of his shepherding family, Jacob is the final decision maker and bears responsibility for his sons, their children, and wives. Sixty six of his blood relatives plus his son’s wives were uprooted and moved to Egypt. Not a small task. One stop along his journey was Beersheba in the south. “Beersheba” most likely means “Well of an Oath.” *Genesis 21* His own father, Isaac, spent time in Beersheba where the Lord appeared to him and promised blessing and multiplication of his descendants “*for My servant Abraham’s sake.*” *Genesis 26:23-25* And now Jacob has paused his journey in that same place. There he had a “private retreat” with the Lord. He offered sacrifices to the God of his father.

And that night, God reassured Jacob about his decision to go to Egypt. “*I am the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes.*” *Genesis 46:3-4*

**Lord, speak by Your Word, our prayers, however You choose. For then we can move in peace. Amen**



**A Deeper Look**

*God Instructs and Teaches*  
**Psalm 32:8 ♦ Isaiah 30:21**

*Led By the Good Shepherd*  
**Psalm 23**

*Do Not Worry*  
**Matthew 6:19-34**

*Lord God Goes Before Us*  
**Deuteronomy 31:6**



**Worship in Song**

“Word of God Speak” by MercyMe



**Joseph’s Story & Your Story**

*Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, & He shall strengthen your heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord. Psalm 27:14*  
 Joseph had to wait patiently in Egypt for his Father and family to arrive. A one way trip could take between 3 and 6 weeks. Traveling with women, children, an aged Jacob, and livestock certainly slowed the pace. The trip may have been 2+ months. If you are in the waiting room, study scriptures on how to wait in confidence.



**Gate Key  
On The Border**  
*Genesis 47:11 (nkjv)*

And Joseph situated his father and his brothers,  
and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt,  
in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses,  
as Pharaoh had commanded.



**Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence**

Psalm 46:10 tells us there is a kind of knowing that comes in silence and not in words—but first we must be still. The Hebrew word translated “Be still” literally means “Let go of your grip.” Ruth Haley Barton  
**In your solitude & silence, ask for a realization of what you are clinging tightly to. Unclench your fists.**



**The Story of Joseph**  
(Read or Listen)

**Genesis chapter 47: verses 1-11**



**Observations**

Genesis chapter 47:1-12 introduces Pharaoh to some of Joseph’s family and they to him. Joseph had prepared his family for their conversations with Pharaoh. The outcome of the conversations were great blessings.

Pharaoh instructed Joseph to position his family to dwell in the best of the land and he also offered employment—chief herdsman positions over the king’s livestock to any competent men in the family.

Then Joseph presented his 130 year old father, Jacob. After a brief interchange, Jacob blessed Pharaoh. The land in Egypt Joseph gave as a possession was the best land. More importantly, it bordered the land of promise. Some believe that Joseph’s intention was to separate his family from the influence and prejudice of the Egyptian culture and to keep God’s chosen people as near to God’s Promised Land as possible lest they forget the unconditional covenant God had made with Abraham: “*Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make you a great nation ...* Genesis 12:1

**Lord, help us to never become comfortable on the border of Your perfect will. Amen**



**A Deeper Look**

*Prayer for God’s Will*  
**Matthew 6:9-13**

*Abiding in God’s Will*  
**Romans 12:1-2**

*Persevere*  
**Hebrews 10:35-39**

*Justice, Mercy, Humility*  
**Micah 6:8**



**Worship in Song**

“Better” by Pat Barrett



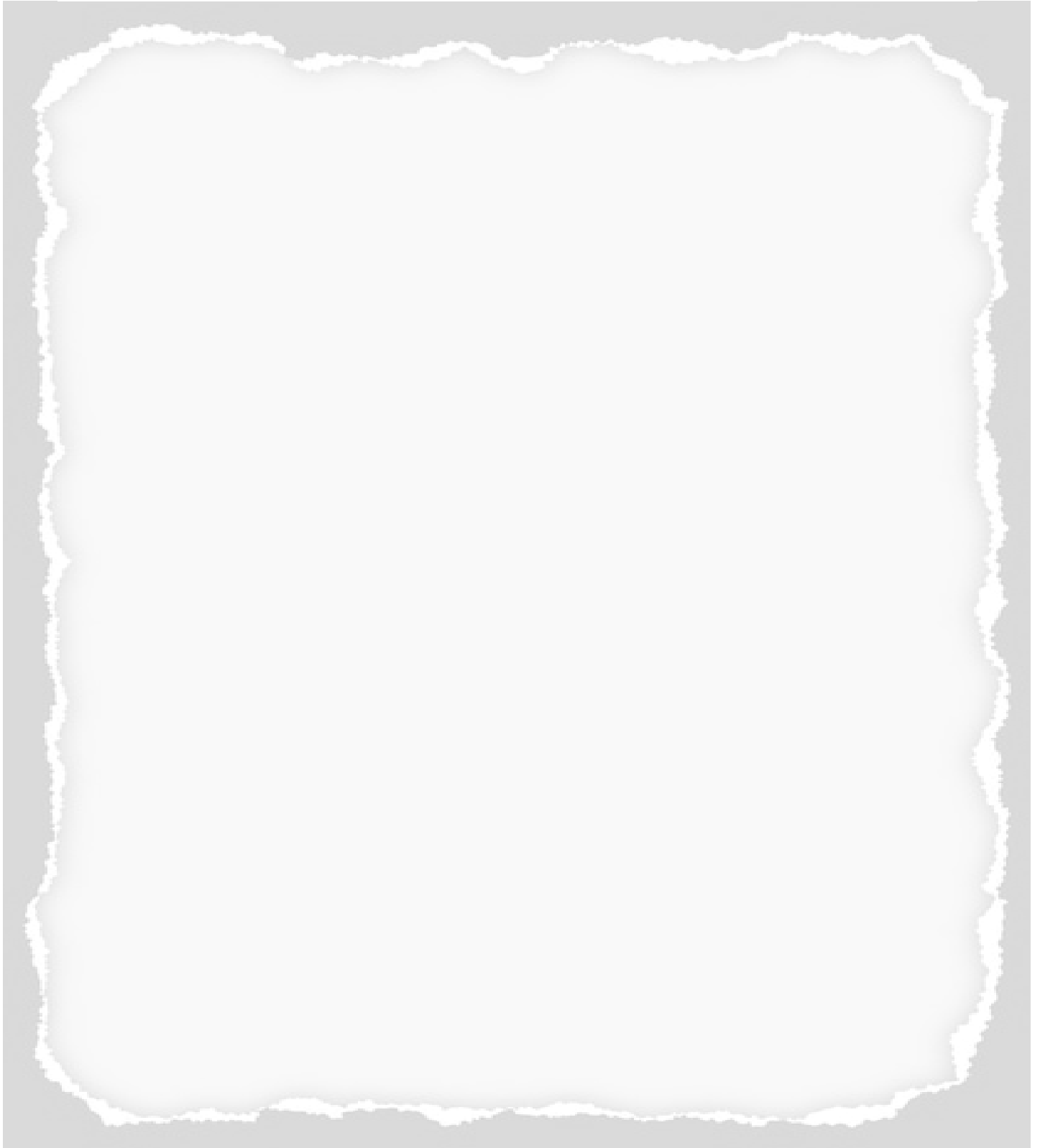
**Joseph’s Story & Your Story**

*Oh taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8*

The best of the land, away from the Egyptian culture, and sufficient bread during the famine. The scenario seemed almost perfect except that it was not home, the homeland God had designated for Jacob’s family. You have a homeland awaiting you. Pray that your heart is not so settled in this life that you forget Heaven.



# Notes





Reflections, Week 3  
*A Bonus Study Into the Parallels Between  
Two Lives Well-Lived: Joseph and Jesus*

- ☐ Day 15, Genesis chapter 47 verses 12-26  
*Insider Information*
- ☐ Day 16, Genesis chapter 47 verses 27-31  
*Swear To Me*
- ☐ Day 17, chapter 48 verses 1-7  
*Womb to Tomb*
- ☐ Day 18, Genesis chapter 48 verses 8-22  
*The Blessing*
- ☐ Day 19, Genesis chapter 49 verses 1-32  
*Transformed Lives*
- ☐ Day 20, Genesis chapter 49 verse 33  
and chapter 50 verses 1-14  
*Back in Egypt*
- ☐ Day 21, Genesis chapter 50 verses 12-26  
*The End ... Almost*

Farewell  
*Spring's Garden Gate (A Poem)*



# Reflections

A Bonus Study Into the Parallels  
Between 2 Lives Well-Lived ...  
Joseph and Jesus

## *Day 15*

*Both Provided Seed For Sowing*  
**Genesis 47:23 ♦ 2 Corinthians 9:8-11**

## *Day 16*

*Both Were Promise Keepers*  
**Genesis 47:29-31 ♦ 2 Corinthians 1:18-20**

## *Day 17*

*Both Comforted the Dying and the Grieving*  
**Genesis 48:2 ♦ Luke 7:1-16**

## *Day 18*

*Both Share Their Inheritance  
With Future Generations*  
**Genesis 48:15-16 ♦ Romans 8:14-17**

## *Day 19*

*Both Lived Fruitful Lives*  
**Genesis 49:22 ♦ John 15:1-5**

## *Day 20*

*Both Dwelt in a Land Away From Home*  
**Genesis 50:14 ♦ Luke 2:1-7**

## *Day 21*

*Both Offered Full Salvation and Protection*  
**Genesis 50:19-21 ♦ Romans 11:26-27**



### Gate Key Insider Information

*Genesis 47:12 (nkjv)*

Then Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with bread, according to the number in their families.



### Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust." Psalm 91:1-2

**Silence and solitude recreates the spiritual experience of being hidden away with the Lord.**



### The Story of Joseph (Read or Listen)

**Genesis chapter 47: verses 12-26**



### Observations

Genesis chapter 47:12-26 is the story of multitudes of people surviving a 7 year famine because of insider information. In the stock exchange world, that term prompts raised eyebrows and prosecution. But not in God's economy. Because God gave Pharaoh the warning through his dreams and the interpretation of those dreams through Joseph, a plan to prevent widespread starvation was implemented and successful. But then arises the question about the Egyptian taxes. Taxes are a part of almost all cultures; governments cannot function without an income. Because of the severity of the famine, Joseph worked out a plan so that the people could legally obtain their provisions. The outcome may seem unfair: before it was all over, their lands and even they belonged to the government, but they were alive. Joseph instituted an important law: the tax never exceeded 20% under his watch. A flat 20% tax would be nice! Of interest: Joseph's family were not among the Egyptians who sold their lands and selves for bread. God wanted His people free to return home.

**Lord You have said that it is for freedom You have made us free. Help us to be grateful! Amen**



### A Deeper Look

*God's Plan: Future & Hope*  
**Jeremiah 29:11-13**

*Freedom In Christ*  
**John 8:36 ♦ Galatians 5:1**

*Taxes*  
**Romans 13:1-7**

*Clear Conscience*  
**Acts 24:16**



### Worship in Song

"Made for More" by Josh Baldwin, featuring Jenn Johnson



### Joseph's Story & Your Story

*Remember the Lord your God, for it is He Who gives you the ability to produce wealth. Deuteronomy 8:18*  
More than 400 years after God used Joseph to provide a plan to save Egypt during the famine, God was bringing the children of Israel back home. Their leader in the desert, Moses, delivered an important list of things God wanted His people to "remember." How do you intentionally remember God's commands?





## Gate Key Swear To Me

*Genesis 47:29 (nkjv)*

When the time drew near that Israel must die,  
he called his son Joseph and said to him,  
“Now if I have found favor in your sight,  
deal kindly and truly with me. Please do not bury me in Egypt.



## Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence

Though God is sometimes silent, He is never absent. Christina Patterson

**Silence is a beautiful characteristic of God. When He is silent, then we must learn to wait.  
Waiting on the Lord is never wasted moments, minutes, or days. Waiting produces tulips in Spring.**



## The Story of Joseph (Read or Listen)

**Genesis chapter 47: verses 27-31**



## Observations

Genesis chapter 47:27-31 brings us to Jacob's mortality. It has become apparent to him that his days are coming to a close. He wisely does not ignore the evidence or try to wish it away. Instead, he makes a plan. Jacob has now dwelt in Egypt 17 years, the same number of years as Joseph's age when he was sold into slavery and disappeared with no trace but a bloody coat of many colors. God gave Jacob a total of 34 years with his beloved son, 17 more than he ever imagined. The famine had ended 12 years before, and still Jacob and his family remained in Egypt. Perhaps he wanted to stay close to Joseph. Maybe life was easier there than in Canaan. By this time Jacob was 147 years old and Joseph was about 56. Jacob had not forgotten the covenant promise of God. Already his family had grown and multiplied exceedingly as God had said, but they were not in the promised land. Jacob summoned Joseph and secured an oath from him to carry him out of Egypt and bury him with his fathers. Joseph said he would do so. But Jacob took it further: *"Swear to me."* **Lord, lest we forget Your words, help us write the vision & make it plain so we can run with it. Amen**



## A Deeper Look

*Live & Die As  
Unto the Lord*  
**Romans 14:7-9**

*A Time to Die*  
**Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 12:7**

*God's Word Never Dies*  
**Isaiah 40:6-8 ♦ Matthew 24:35**

*Resurrection*  
**1 Corinthians 15**



## Worship in Song

"Waymaker" by Leeland



## Joseph's Story & Your Story

*... let your "Yes" be "Yes" and your "No" be "No." James 5:12b*

Although Jacob made Joseph swear an oath to carry him out of Egypt and bury him with his fathers, it seems it was more to emphasize the importance of the Land of Promise than to doubt Joseph's word. When God speaks to us, He may emphasize a thought above others. What is God speaking loudly to you about?



**Gate Key**  
**Womb to Tomb**  
*Genesis 48:1-2 (nkjv)*

Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph was told,  
“Indeed your father is sick” ...  
and Jacob was told,  
“Look, your son Joseph is coming to you”...



**Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence**

But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him. Habakkuk 2:20

**There is a time to be silent in the presence of Almighty God, particularly when we don't comprehend what He is doing. We choose silence because we trust His heart when we do not understand His hands.**



**The Story of Joseph**  
*(Read or Listen)*

**Genesis chapter 48: verses 1-7**



**Observations**

Genesis chapter 48:1-7 opens a curtain into Jacob's death bed room. We see him strengthen himself for Joseph's visit. It appears he had things to say and was anxious to speak as soon as Joseph arrived. What is said in everyone's final, precious hours is to be highly valued and heard. Not once did Joseph interrupt.

The single most important words from Jacob were to recount his encounter with God in his homeland, Canaan. It was the covenant promise: *“Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.”* The promise rolled off of his aged tongue because he had secured it in his heart. Jacob's determined purpose was to reinforce the promise in Joseph's mind and to impart the inheritance of the promise to Joseph's sons.

Jacob's hours were short. His thoughts switched to his beloved wife, Rachel who died in childbirth.

He knew he would soon follow her in death. Joseph gave his Dad the honorable gift of a hearing ear.

**Lord, it is appointed unto men once to die. Each of us will. Help us speak meaningful words. Amen**



**A Deeper Look**

*God is With the Elderly*  
**Psalm 37:25 ♦ Isaiah 46:4**

*Honoring the Elderly*  
**Leviticus 19:32**  
**1 Timothy 5:1-2**

*Imparting a Spiritual Inheritance to the Young*  
**Psalm 71:18 & 78:5-8**  
**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

*A Father's Advice*  
**Proverbs 4**



**Worship in Song**

“The Goodness of God” by CeCe Winans



**Joseph's Story & Your Story**

*Lord, what is man, that You take knowledge of him? Or the son of man, that You are mindful of him?  
Man is like a breath; His days are like a passing shadow. Psalm 144:3-4*

Although our years are brief, even if we live to be 100 years old, Psalm 139 teaches that God knows and cares for us from womb to tomb. Open your Bible and read Psalm 139 as a prayer of gratitude to the Lord.



Day 18



### Gate Key *The Blessing*

*Genesis 48:14 (nkjv)*

Then Israel stretched out his right hand  
and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger,  
and his left hand on Manasseh's head,  
guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn.



### Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence

Solitude with God repairs the damage done by the fret and noise and clamor of the world. Oswald Chambers

**Learning to be alone with God is a worthy pursuit.**

**Although there may be some quiet moments, silence between you and your Lord is ok.**



### The Story of Joseph

*(Read or Listen)*

**Genesis chapter 48: verses 8-22**



### Observations

Genesis chapter 48:8-22 connects Jacob to Joseph's sons. When Joseph hears that his father is ill, he gathers his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim to go spend time with their grandfather. While there, Jacob lays claim on his grandsons, basically adopting them both as children and elevating them into the inheritance with his sons. When the time came for the patriarchal blessing, Jacob intentionally laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, the younger of Joseph's boys. Joseph tried to correct this seeming error, but Jacob insisted.

Can you see the twinkle in his eye? *"I know, my son, I know."* The youngest would receive the greater blessing by God's design. Eventually from the tribe of Ephraim came notable men like Joshua, the successor leader of Moses and Samuel, the first prophet to the nation of Israel. This was not the first time the "2nd" received the blessing that seemed to belong to the "1st." Jacob himself obtained his older brother, Esau's birthright, and Isaac was heir instead of Ishmael. Sometimes God crosses His arms too.

**Lord, You said the first will be last & the last first. Thank You for Your grace & generosity. Amen**



### A Deeper Look

*Isaac & Ishmael*  
**Genesis 16 ♦ 21:1-21**

*Jacob & Esau*  
**Genesis 27 & 28**

*Through Abraham, All  
People Will Be Blessed*  
**Genesis 12:1-3**

*Salvation is For All*  
**Ephesians 2:11-22 & 3:1-6**



### Worship in Song

"The Blessing" by Kari Jobe and Cody Carnes



### Joseph's Story & Your Story

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation  
for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. Romans 1:16*

The Apostle Paul was first called to the Jew, but his ministry was expanded to all the world including non-Jews. As Christians, we have an immeasurable link to our spiritual Jewish roots. Let us pray for all of Israel.



Day 19



**Gate Key**  
***Transformed Lives***  
***Genesis 49:1-2 (nkjv)***

And Jacob called his sons and said,  
“Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you  
in the last days. Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob,  
and listen to Israel your father.”



### **Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence**

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. John 4:24

**Out of the silence and the solitude will emerge a desire to worship God.**  
**The question that will arise is, “what is the truth?” The truth sets us free to worship in sincerity.**



**The Story of Joseph**  
*(Read or Listen)*

**Genesis chapter 49: verses 1- 32**



### **Observations**

Genesis chapter 49 is the Patriarch’s recap of his son’s character and prophecies about their future. This impartation of information was not done in private, but rather in the family gathering. Some words were brief, hopeful, and complimentary like those spoken of Gad, Asher, and Naphtali. Other words were harsh like those spoken of Reuben, Simeon and Levi. Judah and Joseph received prophecies that aligned them directly with the future Messiah. Each of these twelve men, with the exception of Benjamin, were older than Joseph’s 56 years.

Their giftings and actions were observed and known by their father. Today it is our prayer that those things that our Father in Heaven knows of us are covered and cleansed by the shed blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We desire to walk in newness of life, not bogged down by the weight of past sins. Thank God for the promise of Psalm 103:12... *“As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”*

**Lord, thank You for every promise in Psalm 103. It is a beautiful banner over our souls. Amen**



### **A Deeper Look**

*Transformed Lives:*  
**Cornelius**  
**Acts 10**

*Old Man/New Man*  
**Ephesians 4:17-32**

*Washed & Renewed*  
**Titus 3:5**

*Transformed Lives:*  
**Philippian Jailer**  
**Acts 16:16-40**



### **Worship in Song**

“All My Hope” by Crowder, featuring Tauren Wells



### **Joseph’s Story & Your Story**

*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world.*

*Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12*

It comes down to desire, the yearning to truly know God and truly please Him. Paul said it in Philippians 3:10 ... I want to know Him. Focus your mind and heart on knowing God. Do whatever it takes.





Day 20



### Gate Key Back In Egypt

*Genesis 50:12-14 (nkjv)*

So his sons did for him just as he had commanded them.  
For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan,  
and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah...  
And after he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt...



### Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence

The legalistic heart says, "I will do this thing to gain merit with God." The disciplined heart says,  
"I will do this thing because I love God and want to please Him." Kent Hughes

**Spiritual Disciplines are not done to gain points with God; they are done to point our heart to God.**



### The Story of Joseph (Read or Listen)

**Genesis chapter 49: verse 33 and chapter 50: verses 1-14**



### Observations

Genesis chapters 49: 33 and 50:1-14 concludes Jacob's life. Joseph was overcome with grief as his father breathed his last breath. The Egyptian embalming process and 70 days of mourning meant that Joseph was not able to immediately fulfill his promise to his father to bury him in Canaan. But the time came and Pharaoh granted the necessary permission for Joseph to depart and bury his father. This was no ordinary funeral. Joseph, his brothers, and family did not travel alone to bury their patriarch. All the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt made the journey. Can you imagine? Horses and chariots and people shared Joseph and his families loss. The mourning was intense ... *"a deep mourning of the Egyptians"* is what was thought by those in the local community. And then ... well, life had to go on. Joseph returned to Egypt as did his brothers. By this time they were deeply engrained and committed in their lives in Goshen and the palace. What would their future bring now that Dad is buried in Canaan?  
**Lord, comfort us when we lay a beloved one in the grave. Undergird us when grief overwhelms. Amen**



### A Deeper Look

*Have A Right Heart  
While Dwelling in "Egypt"*  
**Luke 6:20-38**

*Have a Servant's Heart & Hands*  
**Philippians 2:1-16**

*Walk in the Spirit  
While Dwelling in "Egypt"*  
**Galatians 5:16-26**



### Worship in Song

"You Make Beautiful Things" by Gungor



### Joseph's Story & Your Story

*One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. Psalm 27:4*  
You are the temple of the Holy Spirit if you have committed your life to Christ and opened the door for Him to come in. Ask the Lord to help you make a sanctuary for Him at home, work, in the marketplace.



Day 21



**Gate Key**  
*The End ... Almost*  
**Genesis 50:25-26 (nkjv)**

Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.  
So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old, and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.



### **Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude & Silence**

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them... Matthew 17:1-2a

**Silence and Solitude positions us to see God in His wonder and glory.**



**The Story of Joseph**  
(Read or Listen)

**Genesis chapter 50: verses 15-26**



### **Observations**

Genesis chapter 50:15-26 contains the end of Joseph's story ... almost. First the brothers begin to worry and fear that, now that their father is gone, there would be no restraint on Joseph to get back at them for their sin four decades earlier. Once again Joseph reassure them with the beautiful message he originally told them when he first revealed his identity: "... as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive." Joseph saw multiple generations of grandchildren. At the age of 110, he knew he was dying. Just as his father had done, Joseph's heart turned towards his homeland, Canaan. "Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." 400 years later, Israel walked out of Egyptian slavery to travel to their promised land. One distinct cart in their midst carried a coffin. Inside were the bones of Joseph, the Israeli ruler of Egypt, being carried out in a similar way he had been carried in, heading home.

**Lord, your promises are true. Your plans are perfect. Your mercy and grace are enough. Amen**



### **A Deeper Look**

*Hall of Faith*  
**Hebrews 11**

*Hope of Faith*  
**Philippians 3:20-21**

*Haven of Faith*  
**Revelation 21 &**



### **Worship in Song**

"King of Kings" by Hillsong Worship



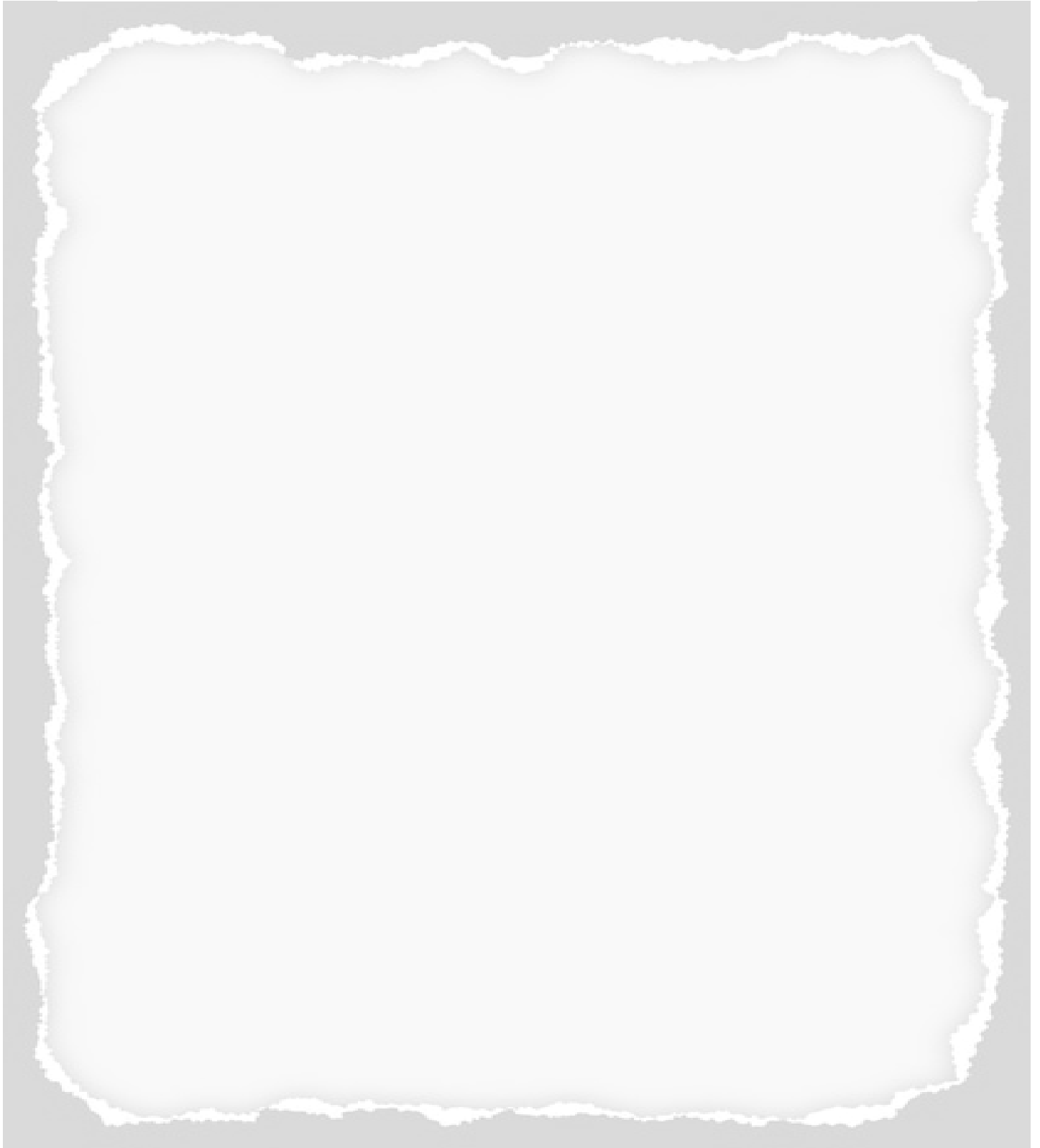
### **Joseph's Story & Your Story**

*Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise,  
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen 1 Timothy 1:17*

God's plan is finished in Heaven and being worked out on earth.

May you experience the wondrous glory of your King of kings, Lord of lords. So be it.

# Notes





Farewell ...  
So glad you joined us at The Gate of Spring!



Photo by Cathy Smiley





Welcome back! Spring 2025

### Open Book Moments

***Joseph...***

Genesis 29-50

***Lazarus...***

John 11:1-44

***Jesus...***

Luke 24

***You ...***

2 Corinthians 5:17

Galatians 2:20

Romans 6:1-14,

Romans 8:11

Colossians 3:1-17

## Spring's Garden Gate

Vicki Bustos ©3-20-25

Calm in the wait, though unfair, it seems.  
Captive so long beneath the stream  
of life on the surface ... unseen, unknown.  
God's timing, perfect; His plan to be shown.

A prepared table in enemy's presence;  
needed nourishment for life above ground.  
Surface living, not for the feeble.  
Patient endurance; dreams unbound.

Above the surface, Spring's garden gate  
awaits brilliant color, but why delayed?  
Frozen ground rumbles, mini earthquake.  
The struggle? Real ... yet worth the fray.

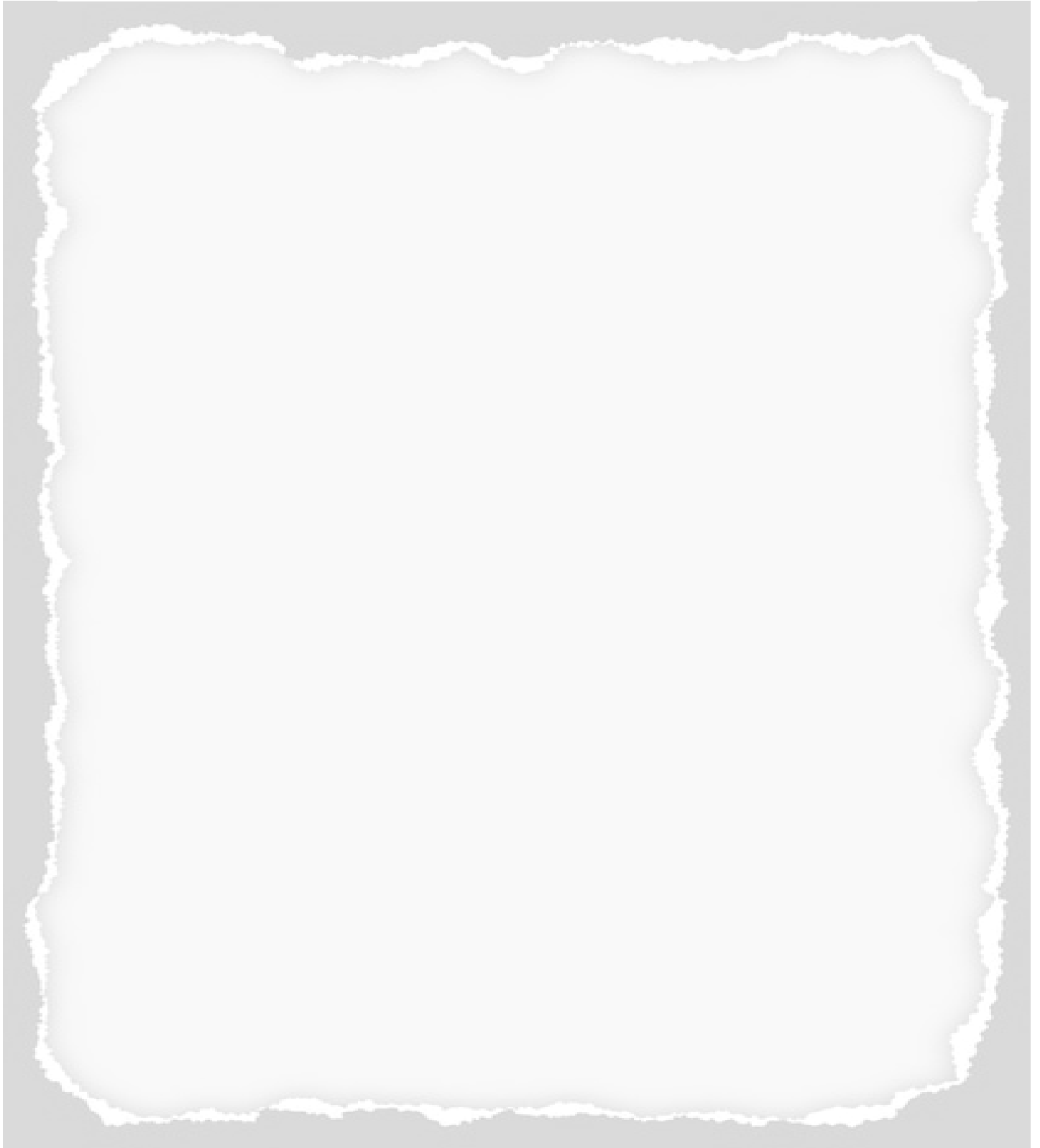
"Come forth!" ... the Creator-Gardener calls.  
Up from the earth ... transformed, alive!  
Determined stems, unfolding petals;  
plant-life's peacocks; the Lord revives.

Uncap the earth's perfume bottle ...  
the scent of Heaven, aroma of Christ.  
Daffodils, crocus, tulips, snowdrops.  
Joseph and Lazarus ... and you, at great price.

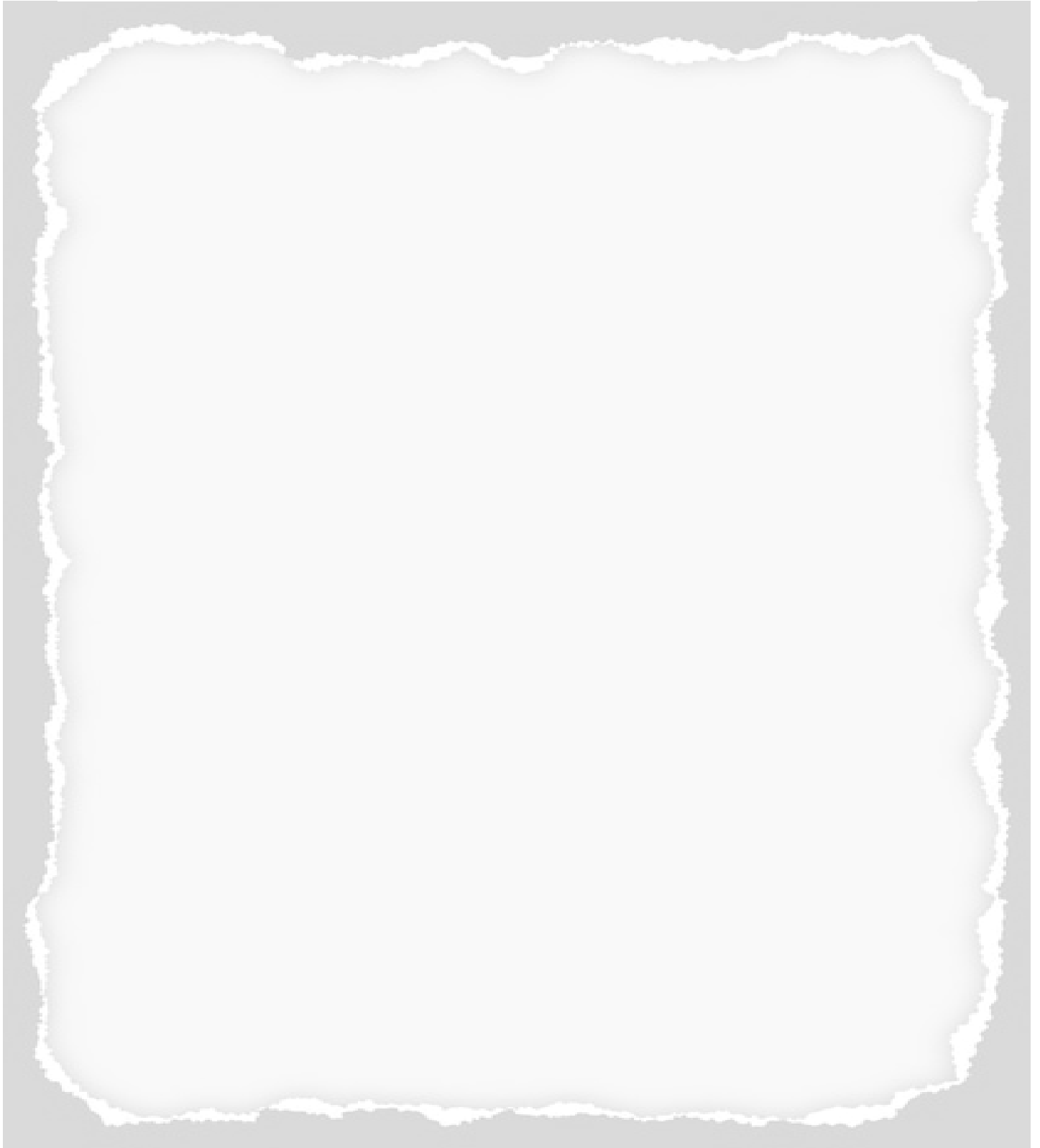
The Gardener welcomes vivid hues  
and garden visitors "ooh" and "aah."  
God's hidden gems, briefly concealed;  
once thought lost, fulfill God's cause.

What is the cause and why the prison  
of earth's soil, of death's grave?  
Each bloom, unique, displays God's power;  
each resurrection, a soul unslaved.

# Notes



# Notes



# The Gate of Spring



## 21 Devotions & Comparative Studies in the Life of Joseph

### **Contact Us**

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