

**God Provides for Israelites in Famine**  
**June 29, 2014**

- BEGINNINGS—OF THE HUMAN RACE; OF THE HEBREW RACE
- FOUR EVENTS: CREATION, FALL, FLOOD, NATIONS
- FOUR PEOPLE: ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB, JOSEPH (the promise)

**Genesis 41-44- Joseph's Journey:**

**1) Was more about what it provided, not what did or didn't happen to him**

- a. **Food**- God used Joseph's obedience to save his family physically from the famine. God provides for us in all ways!
- b. **Conviction**- God used Joseph's obedience and following God to bring about conviction to his brothers. Genesis 42:21- They said to one another, "Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come on us."

- i. Undealt with sin brings forth guilt, loss of joy, and fear of being found out!
- ii. *"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup> For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup> "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. **Matthew 7:1-5***

This doesn't say "don't judge." As believers we ARE to judge other believers. **1 Corinthians 5:12-13**- *What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked person from among you."*

- iii. His brothers were under conviction! Sometimes conviction is clear and obvious and at other times we

need God to clearly show us through people, circumstances, and difficulties.

- iv. God uses various avenues to bring about conviction.

- c. **Mercy**- Not being given what we deserve, we will look more at this next week. **Genesis 43:29-31**- *As he looked about and saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son, he asked, "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son." <sup>30</sup> Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to weep. He went into his private room and wept there. <sup>31</sup> After he had washed his face, he came out and, controlling himself, said, "Serve the food."*
- d. **Forgiveness**- we will see this next week
- e. **Grace**- Blessings, despite what we do deserve, we will also look at this next week.

**2) Carried on God's plan of establishing a people for Himself (nation)**

Chuck Missler said that they came in a family (70) and went out a nation.

Joseph was a part of God's plan to carry the promise on, and so are we (John 3:16 and John 17:3). God uses us. Remember the overall importance of this is that from God's chosen people would come Jesus, the savior of the world.

**3) He realized God had placed him for such a time as this**

**Genesis 41:38 & 40**- *So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?" You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you."*

God is looking for a people who will follow Him with all they have with reckless abandonment! You are part of God's plan to draw people to Himself!

What God has provided for us is more important that what has or hasn't happened to us! We are to realize that God has placed us here for such a time as this, with this family, this job, this Church, these co-workers, this difficulty, these trials, and with these struggles, to draw people to Himself!