

Life Group Notes 11/19/2023

Pastor Mark Warren OT Heroes of Faith Week 3 Joseph

[No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 11/19. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnotes include:

1. [On favoritism, rivalry, Joseph, and the coat of many colors.](#)
2. [On Joseph's grain storage pits.](#)
3. [On Joseph's double portion, Manasseh and Ephraim.](#)

*****Important:** At the very [end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week. ***

Pastor opens with the introduction to the life of Joseph. He says this story, which ends the book of Genesis from chapter 37 on, portrays how faith works through trials, betrayal, forgiveness, and redemption.

1. What do you know of Joseph?
2. How much of his story can you recount?
3. What do you know of his trials, betrayal, forgiveness and redemption?
4. Pastor says, "We're going to find our story in their story." Explain.
5. Read the background in [footnote 1](#). Do you have anything to add?
6. Did you learn anything?

Pastor lays out the genealogical background of Jacob beginning with Abraham, who was called out of Ur of the Chaldees and promised the land of the Canaanites. Abraham's wife Sarah eventually bore Isaac, who married Rebekah, who bore the twins Esau the firstborn and Jacob who stole Esau's birthright and his blessing. Jacob, to escape being murdered by his brother, fled to Haran, where his mother was born, and to her brother Laban. The rest is explained in the [footnote](#).

He goes on to relate the two dreams Joseph had, the first where his brothers are all bowing down to him, and the second where mom and dad join the brothers and bow down to him. The brothers, not thrilled with the implications, decide to

counteract the oracle, and sell him into slavery to a tribe of nomadic Ishmaelites who then proceed to sell Joseph to Potiphar, a high nobleman of Egypt.

1. The dreams are recounted in chapter 37 of Genesis. What do you make of them?
2. Can you imagine how you would have reacted to the youngest sibling's dreams?
3. If your father dressed your youngest brother in a tuxedo to wear daily on the farm, and you were given jeans and a t-shirt and were assigned the chores, how would you feel?

Following this beginning, Genesis 39 relates this: *2And the LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, serving in the household of his Egyptian master. 3When his master saw that the LORD was with him and made him prosper in all he did, 4Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household and entrusted him with everything he owned. 5From the time that he put Joseph in charge of his household and all he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's household on account of him. The LORD's blessing was on everything he owned, both in his house and in his field. 6So Potiphar left all that he owned in Joseph's care; he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.*

1. What do you see?
2. What happens when the Lord is with a person?
3. Again, recall the prophecy of the prophet Hanani to king Asa when he was stricken with pride: 2 Chronicles 16:9 [For the eyes of the LORD roam to and fro over all the earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are fully devoted to Him. You have acted foolishly in this matter. From now on, therefore, you will be at war.](#) How does this principle that the prophet announces work here?
4. What does this say of Joseph's heart?
5. What does it take to make your heart perfect toward God?
6. What happens next in the story? Why?

Look up Genesis 39: *6Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, 7and after some time his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph and said, "Sleep with me." 8But he refused. "Look," he said to his master's wife, "with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in his house, and he has entrusted everything he owns to my care. 9No one in this house is greater than I am. He has withheld nothing from me except you because you are his wife. So how could I do such a great evil and sin against God?"*

10Although Potiphar's wife spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be near her. 11One day, however, Joseph went into the house to attend to his work, and not a single household servant was inside. 12She grabbed Joseph by his cloak and said, "Sleep with me!" But leaving his cloak in her hand, he escaped and ran outside.

13When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, 14she called her household servants. "Look," she said, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us. He came to me so he could sleep with me, but I screamed as loud as I could. 15When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

16So Potiphar's wife kept Joseph's cloak beside her until his master came home. 17Then she told him the same story: "The Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport

of me, [18](#)but when I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

[19](#)When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is what your slave did to me,” he burned with anger. [20](#)So Joseph’s master took him and had him thrown into the prison where the king’s prisoners were confined.

1. What do you see?
2. Explain in your own words how Joseph ends up in Pharaoh’s dungeon. Do you have a testimony?
3. Does the favor of the Lord ever bring favor with others?
4. How does the one favored person improve the position of the company?
5. Does the favor of the Lord ALWAYS bring favor with others?
6. Contrast Potiphar’s regard for Joseph with his wife’s. What is at the root of each? (What moved Potiphar to promote Joseph? What moved his wife to desire him?)
7. What destroyed Joseph’s reputation with Potiphar?
8. Contrast Joseph’s brothers regard for Joseph with their father’s. What was at the root of each?
9. What else might the favor of the Lord bring? Why must we be cautious, awake and alert?
10. Can persecution and imprisonment lead to anything good? Give examples.
11. Recite Romans 8:28. What confidence can we have in times of persecution?

Now look at the rest of chapter 39: [20](#)So Joseph’s master took him and had him thrown into the prison where the king’s prisoners were confined. While Joseph was there in the prison, [21](#)the LORD was with him and extended kindness to him, granting him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. [22](#)And the warden put all the prisoners under Joseph’s care, so that he was responsible for all that was done in the prison. [23](#)The warden did not concern himself with anything under Joseph’s care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

1. What do you see?
2. To what degree does Joseph show self-pity? Anger? Bitterness? Why?
3. What continued with Joseph in Pharaoh’s dungeon?
4. Look again at the verse from 2 Chronicles. To what degree does God show Himself strong on behalf of the one whose heart is perfect toward Him?
5. How is Joseph being tested in prison? To what degree?
6. Look up Psalm 105:[19](#)*Until the time that his Word came to pass, the Word of the Lord tested him [Joseph].* NKJ How does time become the test of Joseph’s faith in the Word of the Lord?
7. When did Joseph first receive the promise of Pharaoh’s right hand? About how old was he?
8. Does this principle of time testing faith apply to our faith as well? Explain.
9. To what degree does God “show Himself strong” on Joseph’s behalf?
10. How many dreams are left until Joseph is standing at Pharaoh’s right hand?

Reading on, looking at Genesis 40, two of Pharaoh’s servants are imprisoned with Joseph, and Joseph tends to their needs. Each has a dream.

1. Recount their dreams.
2. Recount Joseph’s interpretation. How accurate are his interpretations?
3. What does Joseph ask the two to remember upon interpreting their dreams? Why?

4. Does it help? When?
5. What happens to the cupbearer? What happens to the chief baker?
6. What does the cupbearer forget to do?
7. Now how many dreams are now left until Joseph is standing at Pharaoh's right hand?
8. Does Joseph know?

Now look at Genesis 41: **1**After two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing beside the Nile, **2**when seven cows, sleek and well-fed, came up from the river and began to graze among the reeds. **3**After them, seven other cows, sickly and thin, came up from the Nile and stood beside the well-fed cows on the bank of the river. **4**And the cows that were sickly and thin devoured the seven sleek, well-fed cows.

Then Pharaoh woke up, **5**but he fell back asleep and dreamed a second time: Seven heads of grain, plump and ripe, came up on one stalk. **6**After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted, thin and scorched by the east wind. **7**And the thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven plump, ripe ones. Then Pharaoh awoke and realized it was a dream.

8In the morning his spirit was troubled, so he summoned all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.

9Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today I recall my failures. **10**Pharaoh was once angry with his servants, and he put me and the chief baker in the custody of the captain of the guard. **11**One night both the chief baker and I had dreams, and each dream had its own meaning. **12**Now a young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams and he interpreted them for us individually. **13**And it happened to us just as he had interpreted: I was restored to my position, and the other man was hanged."

1. How much more time was necessary before the dreams came to Pharaoh?
2. Describe Joseph's last two years in the dungeon, using your own experience with awaiting a promise that has been delayed.
3. Does Joseph do anything to remind the cupbearer of his situation? How does the cupbearer remember Joseph? Whose doing is this?
4. What was Joseph in the eyes of the cupbearer?

Continuing our reading of Chapter 41, after Joseph interprets the dreams, he advises Pharaoh: **32**Moreover, because the dream was given to Pharaoh in two versions, the matter has been decreed by God, and He will carry it out shortly. **33**Now, therefore, Pharaoh should look for a discerning and wise man and set him over the land of Egypt. **34**Let Pharaoh take action and appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. **35**Under the authority of Pharaoh, let them collect all the excess food from these good years, that they may come and lay up the grain to be preserved as food in the cities. **36**This food will be a reserve for the land during the seven years of famine to come upon the land of Egypt. Then the country will not perish in the famine."

37This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his officials. **38**So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, in whom the Spirit of God abides?"

39Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. **40**You shall be in charge of my house, and all my people are to obey your commands. Only with regard to the throne will I be greater than you."

41Pharaoh also told Joseph, "I hereby place you over all the land of Egypt." **42**Then Pharaoh removed the signet ring from his finger, put it on Joseph's finger, clothed him in garments of fine linen, and placed a gold chain around his neck. **43**He had Joseph ride in his second

chariot, with men calling out before him, "Bow the knee!" So he placed him over all the land of Egypt.

[44](#)And Pharaoh declared to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your permission, no one in all the land of Egypt shall lift his hand or foot."

[45](#)Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-paneah, and he gave him Asenath, daughter of Potiphara, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph took charge of all the land of Egypt.

[46](#)Now Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph left Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout the land of Egypt.

1. What do you see?
2. To what degree is Egypt obligated to pay taxes? What percentage?
3. Where does Joseph go to learn accounting? Where does he go to learn architecture and the principles of long-term grain storage?
4. Explain this: Once Pharaoh has had his two dreams, Pharaoh's right hand is only a bath and a shave away. From the bath and the shave, how long did it take for Joseph to become second in Egypt?
5. What did Joseph do to earn his position? To what degree does God show Himself strong on Joseph's behalf? How is Joseph's heart toward God?
6. Look at Pharaoh's response. Besides Joseph, Whom else does he recognize?
7. About how old was Joseph when he had his first dream? How old is he now, standing at Pharaoh's right hand? How accurate were his dreams?
8. According to Psalm 105:19 above, how long did the test take to complete?
9. What were the final results of Joseph's test? Was the wait worth it?
10. For whom was it worth it? Who profits from one man's faithfulness?
11. It's been said, "A righteous heart is the playground of the Lord." Explain. What are the limits to what a righteous person can do?
12. Look up Philippians 4: [12](#)I know how to live humbly, and I know how to abound. I am accustomed to any and every situation—to being filled and being hungry, to having plenty and having need. [13](#)[I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.](#) What does all things include? Does it include granaries that feed nations? What does it not include?
13. Look at what Joseph tells his brothers in Genesis 50:[19](#)*But Joseph? replied, "Do not be afraid. Am I in the place of God? [20](#)As for you, what you intended against me for evil, God intended for good, in order to accomplish a day like this—to preserve the lives of many people. [21](#)Therefore do not be afraid. I will provide for you and your little ones."* So Joseph reassured his brothers and spoke kindly to them. Discuss Joseph's understanding and discernment. How did he come to forgive his brothers?
14. Propose a theory: When do you think this forgiveness took place? What was the process? How long was the process? Do you have a testimony?
15. Exactly of which people did God intend to save the lives? How do we know that God is the God of all, not just of Israel, or even of the church? Why does His eye go "to and fro throughout the whole earth...?"
16. Why is that remarkable? How do polytheistic societies know God? (Romans 1:[18](#)*The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. [19](#)For what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to*

them. [20](#)For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from His workmanship, so that men are without excuse. [21](#)For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking and darkened in their foolish hearts.)

17. According to Paul, who does not know God? What prevents their acknowledging Him?
18. Review John 3:16. To what degree does God love the world? Who is included in that love? Who is excluded?
19. Thinking of this story of Joseph's trials and ultimate triumph, what is the ultimate fruit of our faith being tried?
20. Review James 1:[2](#)Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of many kinds, [3](#)because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. [4](#)Allow perseverance to finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. How much of James' exhortation is drawn from Joseph's example? Talk of the test. Discuss the trials Joseph faced. Talk of the perseverance.
21. Look at what James says next: [5](#)Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. [6](#)But he must ask in faith, without doubting, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. Where did Joseph get his wisdom?
22. How often do you think he asked?
23. How do you know he "asked in faith without doubting?" What was the outcome of his faith?

Pastor Mark's wrap, considering Joseph:

- Resiliency in adversity—How does this apply to Joseph? At what point do you see Joseph behaving in any way downtrodden? How resilient was he? Describe the most resilient person you have met. Pastor says, "We can control how those circumstances that come against us affect us."
 1. Do you have a testimony?
 2. Do you have a plan?
 3. Review Romans 8:[28](#)[And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.](#) List the things that are *not* included in the "all things" that God works together for good. Is your situation left out of the promise in anyway? How long will you wait until this promise is realized? What happens to bitterness, resentment or unforgiveness?
- The transformative force of forgiveness—There is power in the ability to say, "I forgive you," with no strings attached. There is power to discern the good that God is working in the midst of adversity.
 1. Review Colossians 3:[13](#)[Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.](#) Describe the power and the freedom in obedience to this principle.
 2. Assess: Is there someone you need to forgive? Take the time to pray in the group.

Watch what happens in chapter 50: **15** When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge? Then he will surely repay us for all the evil that we did to him." **16** So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Before he died, your father commanded, **17** 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I beg you, please forgive the transgression and sin of your brothers, for they did you wrong.' So now, Joseph, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. **18** His brothers also came to him, bowed down before him, and said, "We are your slaves!" **19** But Joseph replied, "Do not be afraid. Am I in the place of God? Notice, the brothers lied to Joseph about the last desires of their father Israel.

3. Did they need to lie? Look at [question 14](#) above: When did Joseph forgive them?

4. Why did Joseph weep?

- Trusting in God's sovereignty—Who was ultimately responsible for the timing of Joseph's release?

1. What was the only thing Joseph was required or even able to contribute?

2. Look at 1 Peter 1: **6** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in various trials **7** [so that the proven character of your faith—more precious than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire— may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.](#)

Why does Peter say that our faith is "more precious than gold?" To whom is our faith precious? Again, what was the only thing Joseph could contribute and why is that so precious to God? (Do you remember why God was so pleased with Job's faith? What did Job NOT do or even consider?)

3. Look at Proverbs 3 **5** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; **6** in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.* Why does Pastor Mark call this the ultimate faith verse? Why is the decision to obey this so precious to God? Mark says, "Sometimes God's ways are not our ways. We do not see the bigger picture." Why does that matter? How much of Joseph's years of trials was he warned of in his dream? Explain.

4. Look again at verse 6: "*In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.*" Look at what Joseph tells Pharaoh when asked to interpret his dream in Genesis 41: **16** "*I myself cannot do it,*" Joseph replied, "*but God will give Pharaoh a sound answer.*" Explain what Joseph is doing.

5. Again, why do the eyes of the Lord search so long and so far to find that heart that is perfect? What does it take for a heart to be "perfect towards Him?"

6. Compare your heart to Joseph's heart.

Pastor Mark also points out that Joseph received in actuality the double portion of the firstborn that Reuben lost. (See [footnote 3 below](#).) He also points out that Manasseh, Joseph's firstborn's name means "Allow/Cause me to forget," from the Hebrew verb to forget. Both of these children were born before the arrival of his family in Canaan.

1. Why is this significant?

2. What does the son's name say of Joseph's character and determination to forget the wrong done to him?

Pastor Mark's wrap, part 2: The nature and character of the God.

- His faithfulness—He promised, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” He says, He will never let you down. Look up Deuteronomy 31:8 “The LORD Himself goes before you; He will be with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid or discouraged.” Who said something similar to this? Who said, “I am with you always, even to the ends of the earth?” To whom? When? Is He? Did He ever leave us or forsake us? Have we ever left Him? Where is God in the midst of your trial? Why is your own faith so precious to God?
- God’s redemptive plan—Recall what Joseph told his brothers in chapter 50: You intended to harm me, but God intended to save many lives. Pastor says, “God is always weaving a tapestry with your life, but He always wants to redeem something, to take something lost and make it precious again. He wants to take fractured things and make them whole. He added this prophecy: God is working something good in your life. He is going to redeem it.
- God’s compassionate heart—We mistake some of the violence of the Old Testament for anger, and ascribe that to God. But God’s compassionate heart is seen in Joseph’s willingness to plan the wealth of Egypt for the saving of surrounding nations. Look up Psalm 86: 15 *But You, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God slow to anger, abounding in loving devotion and faithfulness.* Pastor points out that God’s desire to restore Jacob’s family was part of the plan. The brothers committed an act that was tantamount to murder, but the life and hope and the promise of the coming Messiah was interwoven into Israel’s destiny. Joseph’s act of forgiveness redeemed a family and the destiny of the entire world. Mark says, “Let God continue to soften hearts. Let God continue to work in your situation.” What is the redemption you are beginning to see in your own life?

The Follow-up Application

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. List the most difficult situations you are facing. Assess: How are you doing?
3. Decide: What would Joseph do? Can you? Compare your heart to Joseph’s heart?
4. Discern: In what way has bitterness, resentment or unforgiveness robbed you of the joy James speaks of in chapter 1:2?
5. Make today be the day you decide to forgive.

Take the time to pray.

Scribe’s Notes:

1. **On favoritism, rivalry, Joseph and the coat of many colors**—Many do not understand the degree of strife there was in the household of Jacob, who was to become Israel. To begin with, Jacob’s first choice, to have a monogamous relationship and wed Rachel, was thwarted by Laban her

father, who gave Jacob Leah, the firstborn daughter, to wed instead of Rachel, the younger, after his first seven years of service. This prompted the second case of bigamy spoken of in the Bible. (The first was in Genesis 4, where Lamech, a descendant of Cain, married two women and also committed the second known murder. Note: As we saw last week with Hannah, there were no cases in the Bible of harmonious bigamy or polygamy.) The second was this case. Rivalry began as soon as Jacob married Rachel. Jacob loved Rachel. Leah bore children, in fact, six sons and a daughter, Dinah. The strife and rivalry went on for all the years Jacob was in Haran, and throughout the birthing of the twelve children that Leah and Rachel bore, with the assistance of their slave women, Rachel's being Bilhah and Leah's being Zilpah. Even the children were implicated in the strife. At a time when Leah was not fruitful Reuben found mandrakes, the fertility solution of the day, for his mother, and Rachel persuaded Leah to exchange her son's mandrakes for a night out of turn with Jacob. This same Reuben even went so far as to lose his position as firstborn by sleeping with Rachel's slave Bilhah. And Jacob did not contribute wisely to this rivalry. When Rachel at last bore her first son, Joseph, Jacob set him apart, the youngest of eleven brothers, and clothed him in a "coat of many colors." That is tantamount to dressing him in a tuxedo today. It means, that while the other boys/men/older brothers worked in jeans and t-shirts to tend the flocks, Joseph could not step out lest he soil his outfit in the filth of the fields. Even the law of Moses warns against this in Deuteronomy 21: *15* *if a man has two wives, one beloved and the other unloved, and both bear him sons, but the unloved wife has the firstborn son, 16* *when that man assigns his inheritance to his sons he must not appoint the son of the beloved wife as the firstborn over the son of the unloved wife. 17* *Instead, he must acknowledge the firstborn, the son of his unloved wife, by giving him a double portion of all that he has. For that son is the first fruits of his father's strength; the right of the firstborn belongs to him.* Did Jacob, then, do what was unlawful? No, because Reuben's sin against his father's bed ended his rights as firstborn, and they were, ironically, passed to Joseph, Rachel's firstborn son. All of this, coupled with Joseph's childhood dreams and his willingness to share them with brothers who despised him, is the background to the entire story of Joseph as he proceeds from the pit to slavery, to the dungeon to a bath and a shave and Pharaoh's right hand. His faith throughout his journey, from dream to fulfillment is highlighted in Psalm 105:19 *"Until the Word of the Lord came to pass, the Word of the Lord tested [Joseph]."* NKJ Joseph had a choice from the days of his first two dreams: to believe the Word of God in the promise of those dreams, or to denounce his dreams altogether. That is the epitome of faith's challenge to all who claim to believe the promise they have heard from God.

2. **On Joseph's grain storage facilities**—There are remarkable buildings in Saqqara in Egypt that are described in this short video. <https://youtu.be/BeFk5HA6tRI?si=cjejkfLBcU35bHLg> Ron Wyatt, a controversial archaeologist who is known for many remarkable finds in the

ancient lands of the Bible, uncovered and published studies of buildings with deep pits with interconnecting chutes, and areas for business transactions. In the cursory searches I made for these notes, I did not find a single site to refute Ron's claims.

3. **On Joseph's double portion, Manasseh and Ephraim**—As Pastor Mark said, Joseph received the portion of the firstborn. In fact, his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh his firstborn, each received an equal share of the promised land, as whole tribes in Israel and they are numbered always among the tribes, making indeed a thirteenth tribe. When Jacob, on his deathbed, blesses Joseph's two sons, to Joseph's great displeasure, he lays his right hand deliberately on Ephraim's head, and his left on Manasseh the firstborn, again changing the order of inheritance. Interestingly, when the twelve tribes are numbered in Revelation 7, Manasseh and Joseph are numbered, and Ephraim and Dan are not on the list.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP**... (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) ...method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Psalm 105:17-19 NKJ
Tuesday: Genesis 50:19-21
Wednesday: Romans 8:28-30
Thursday: Romans 8:31-34
Friday: Romans 1:18-21
Saturday: Philippians 4:12-13
Sunday: James 1:2-6