

**God Provides a Source of Life**  
**Series: E-100—Genesis 45:1-46:7**  
February 1, 2015      Pastor Bill Bump

God used Joseph to provide life to his people, which symbolized what He would do in the future for each of us by sending Jesus to be our source of life.

John 17:2-3 (NLT) For you have given him authority over everyone in all the earth. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.

Life for the people of Egypt and surrounding nations, including Jacob and his family, was in the hands of Joseph.

Genesis 45:1-15 (NLT) <sup>1</sup> Joseph could stand it no longer. “Out, all of you!” he cried out to his attendants. He wanted to be alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. <sup>2</sup> Then he broke down and wept aloud. His sobs could be heard throughout the palace, and the news was quickly carried to Pharaoh’s palace.

<sup>3</sup> “I am Joseph!” he said to his brothers. “Is my father still alive?” But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them. <sup>4</sup> “Come over here,” he said. So they came closer. And he said again, “I am Joseph, your brother whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> But don’t be angry with yourselves that you did this to me, for God did it. He sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. <sup>6</sup> These two years of famine will grow to seven, during which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God has sent me here to keep you and your families alive so that you will become a great nation. <sup>8</sup> Yes, it was God who sent me here, not you! And he has made me a counselor to Pharaoh—manager of his entire household and ruler over all Egypt.

<sup>9</sup> “Hurry, return to my father and tell him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all the land of Egypt. Come down to me right away!’ <sup>10</sup> You will live in the land of Goshen so you can be near me with all your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will take care of you there, for there are still five years of famine ahead of us. Otherwise you and your household will come to utter poverty.’”

<sup>12</sup> Then Joseph said, “You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that I really am Joseph! <sup>13</sup> Tell my father how I am honored here in Egypt. Tell him about everything you have seen, and bring him to me quickly.” <sup>14</sup> Weeping with joy, he embraced Benjamin, and Benjamin also began to weep. <sup>15</sup> Then Joseph kissed each of his brothers and wept over them, and then they began talking freely with him.

Joseph began to review what God had done, for, at last, he himself could see the hand of God behind every event leading up to the present moment.

Joseph represented life to the remnant God wanted to save. In this, he was an image of Jesus.

John 6:35,40 (NLT) <sup>35</sup> Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry again. Those who believe in me will never thirst...<sup>40</sup> For it is my Father’s will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life—that I should raise them at the last day.”

Joseph was able to provide for the remnant because he was alive and had power.

Genesis 45:16-28 (NLT) <sup>16</sup> The news soon reached Pharaoh: “Joseph’s brothers have come!” Pharaoh was

very happy to hear this and so were his officials.

<sup>17</sup> Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers to load their pack animals and return quickly to their homes in Canaan. <sup>18</sup> Tell them to bring your father and all of their families, and to come here to Egypt to live. Tell them, ‘Pharaoh will assign to you the very best territory in the land of Egypt. You will live off the fat of the land!’ <sup>19</sup> And tell your brothers to take wagons from Egypt to carry their wives and little ones and to bring your father here. <sup>20</sup> Don’t worry about your belongings, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.”

<sup>21</sup> So the sons of Jacob did as they were told. Joseph gave them wagons, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he supplied them with provisions for the journey. <sup>22</sup> And he gave each of them new clothes—but to Benjamin he gave five changes of clothes and three hundred pieces of silver! <sup>23</sup> He sent his father ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten donkeys loaded with grain and all kinds of other food to be eaten on his journey. <sup>24</sup> So he sent his brothers off, and as they left, he called after them, “Don’t quarrel along the way!” <sup>25</sup> And they left Egypt and returned to their father, Jacob, in the land of Canaan.

<sup>26</sup> “Joseph is still alive!” they told him. “And he is ruler over all the land of Egypt!” Jacob was stunned at the news—he couldn’t believe it. <sup>27</sup> But when they had given him Joseph’s messages, and when he saw the wagons loaded with the food sent by Joseph, his spirit revived.

<sup>28</sup> Then Jacob said, “It must be true! My son Joseph is alive! I will go and see him before I die.”

Joseph was an image of Jesus in two ways in this passage:

1. John 14:1-6 (NLT) <sup>1</sup> [Jesus said,] “Don’t be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me. <sup>2</sup> There are many rooms in my Father’s home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly. <sup>3</sup> When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. <sup>4</sup> And you know where I am going and how to get there.”

<sup>5</sup> “No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We haven’t any idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

<sup>6</sup> Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

2. Luke 24:5-7 (NLT) <sup>5</sup> The women were terrified and bowed low before them. Then the men asked, “Why are you looking in a tomb for someone who is alive? <sup>6</sup> He isn’t here! He has risen from the dead! Don’t you remember what he told you back in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again the third day?”

Joseph was able to save the remnant, and a nation was born.

Genesis 46:1-7 (NLT) <sup>1</sup> So Jacob set out for Egypt with all his possessions. And when he came to Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father, Isaac. <sup>2</sup> During the night God spoke to him in a vision. “Jacob! Jacob!” he called.

“Here I am,” Jacob replied.

<sup>3</sup> “I am God,” the voice said, “the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will see to it that you become a great nation there. <sup>4</sup> I will go with you down to Egypt, and I will bring your descendants back again. But you will die in Egypt with Joseph at your side.”

<sup>5</sup> So Jacob left Beersheba, and his sons brought him to Egypt. They carried their little ones and wives in the wagons Pharaoh had provided for them. <sup>6</sup> They brought their livestock, too, and all the belongings they had acquired in the land of Canaan. Jacob and his entire family arrived in Egypt—sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters—all his descendants.

As Joseph was God’s instrument to build the nation of Israel, so Jesus was God’s instrument to build His church.

Matthew 16:13-20 (NLT) <sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

<sup>14</sup> “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

<sup>15</sup> Then he asked them, “Who do you say I am?”

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. <sup>18</sup> Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. <sup>19</sup> And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you lock on earth will be locked in heaven, and whatever you open on earth will be opened in heaven.” <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly warned them not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

### Conclusion

Those of us who have placed our faith in Jesus have become recipients of eternal life. We have discovered that life is found in the Son.

We are called upon to reach out to those who are suffering spiritual, emotional, and physical famine, and to offer them the Bread and Water of life. His name is Jesus, the Son of the Living God.