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The Written Account of the Generations of Jacob 37:1 to 50:26

After the section on the written account of the generations of Esau from **36:1** to **37:1**, we have the eleventh *toldot*, **the written account of the generations of Jacob**. **The previous toldot told us how the descendants of Esau became the great nation of Edom, and then the dispensing of that non-seed line. Therefore, what this eleventh family document tells us, is what became of Jacob. And what became of Jacob was Joseph. Actually, the story of Joseph completes the story of Ya'akov.**



Joseph went from the pit to the palace, and **Joseph's** story is your story. Everything that **Yosef** experienced, you will experience in your lifetime. In the journey of life you will experience rejection. You will experience betrayal. You are going to experience false accusation, sexual temptation, bitterness, and a burning desire for revenge for people who have hurt you deeply. You will experience the agony of being forgotten by those who you have helped the most. You will experience depression, when year after year things go wrong. Satan will sit on your bed at night and he will have this discussion with you. He will say, "You couldn't love **ADONAI** and be this messed up." But when you walk out of the prison into the palace to be with the King, all depression vanishes. **Joseph** will teach us how to move from tragedy to triumph, from bitterness to blessing and get past the pain and onto the promises of **God**.

The first eleven chapters of **Genesis** span 2,000 years. Four men dominate the last thirty-nine chapters: **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob** and **Joseph**. The last fourteen chapters of **Genesis** are devoted to **Joseph**, which is the same number of chapters that was devoted to Abraham.

There are probably more details about **Joseph's** personal life than any other biblical character except for **Christ Himself**. There are three shifts in emphasis within the fourteen chapters. It begins with **Yosef**, it then shifts to **the brothers**, then shifts again to **Jacob**. Although the line of **the Messiah** would come through Judah, it was **Joseph** who would save the family and the nation of Isra'el.

In the Jewish world view, Joseph the Patriarch has long been understood to be a prototype of the Messiah. The Talmud speaks about the "Meshiach ben Yoseph" (the Messiah the son of Joseph) and his death as the suffering servant who would bring in partial redemption to Isra'el and pave the way for the "Messiah ben David" (the Messiah the son of David). See the commentary on [The Life of Christ Mv - The Jewish Concept of Two Messiah's](#). While not identified as a type in the B'rit Chadashah, Joseph foreshadows the life of Christ. There are eighty ways that the life of Yosef prepares us for the coming of Messiah. There are just too many of these to be unintended and ignored. These will be numbered as we study the life of Joseph.⁵⁵¹

The narrative and plot of the story of **Joseph** has a beginning that is dramatic, a middle that is enchanting, and an end that is a happy ending. Here is the key: If you cut into any part of this story and separate it, and analyze it, you probably will come away with the opinion that this is a terrible tragedy of a family that is falling apart and of an old **father** who is not able to take care of **his** own family and make peace and order among **his** own **sons**. It would be considered as being a totally dysfunctional family. However, if you back up and look at the whole story of **Joseph** you will see that each picture in the story, each scene in the plot is like a freight train where each car is hooked to the next and is pulling the other cars, with each car connected to the other, and even though each car is full of sadness and horrible events, the train itself is headed in a happy direction toward and happy ending.

The entire account of **Joseph** follows a chiastic or an antithetical structure in **Chapters 37 to 50**. There is a parallelism, where the first letter is antithetical to the second letter, and so on, with the letter **E** being the turning point. We have also seen this chiastic structure in the Flood account with Noah in **Chapters 6-8**, the Tower of Babel in **Chapter 11**, and the Covenant of Circumcision in **Chapter 17**.

A Joseph's family is fractured (**Chapters 37-38**)

B Joseph interprets two dreams (**Chapters 39-40**)

C Joseph organizes Egypt's economy (**Chapter 41**)

D Joseph's brother's go down to Egypt for the first time (**Chapters 42-44**)

E Joseph makes himself known to his brothers (Chapter 45)

D Joseph's brother's go down to Egypt for the last time (**Chapter 46**)

C Joseph reforms Egypt's economy (**Chapter 47**)

B Joseph's two sons are blessed (**Chapter 48**)

A Joseph's family is reconciled (**Chapters 49-50**)