**Survey of Old Testament**

**Joseph Ruler in Egypt Genesis 41**

1. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. (41:35) God always has a plan of action to accomplish His will.  Joseph gave all glory to God before Pharaoh.
2. So Pharaoh asked his officials, “Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?” (41:38) Joseph, like both Abraham and Isaac, reveal God in them by their life and the way they live.
3. Joseph was given an Egyptian name, Zaphenath-paneah meaning, “God speaks and lives”. He was thirty years old when he became ruler. He is also given a wife by Pharaoh and has two children.  He named the first child Manasseh, “God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father’s family” (41:51).  The second he named Ephraim, “God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief” (41:52).

**Joseph’s First Dream Fulfilled Genesis 42**

1. Jacob sends his ten older sons to Egypt to get corn.  There was a famine in Abraham's day, Isaac’s day and now in Jacob’s days.  This time Jacob needed to go to Egypt because this was God’s plan.
2. Joseph’s first dream is fulfilled as his ten brothers come and bow down before him. They don’t recognize who Joseph is, but Joseph remembers them.
3. God uses Joseph to work on his brothers. Joseph tells them, “I am a God fearing man. If you do as I say, you will live.” (42:18) The brothers talk among themselves not realizing Joseph can understand them. They know they are reaping what they have sown.
4. Joseph begins to weep revealing to us that he holds no bitterness or unforgiveness in his heart for his brothers. Simeon is chosen and bound before their eyes.
5. Joseph had given orders to his servant to fill the bags with grain and put the brothers’ money back in their bags.  The brothers find their money in their bags and say to each other, “What has God done to us?” (42:28) They return home and tell Jacob all that has happened. Reuben tries to convince his father to send Benjamin back with them but Jacob said no.

**Joseph’s Second Dream Fulfilled Genesis 43-46**

1. As the famine continues, Jacob tells his sons to go back to Egypt but Judah steps forward and says they can’t go back without Benjamin.  Judah tells Jacob, “you may hold me responsible if I don’t bring Benjamin back to you” (43:9).
2. After returning to Egypt, Joseph arranges for them to eat with him and the brothers are terrified.  The manager of Joseph’s house told the brothers, “Your God, the God of your father, must have put this treasure into your sacks” (43:23).  God is testing these guys. Joseph sees Benjamin and weeps again showing a heart of mercy and forgiveness (43:30). Joseph also seated the brothers by their age and gave Benjamin five times as much as the others (43:33-34).
3. They are sent away with their grain and also each man’s money was placed in his bag.  In Benjamin’s bag Joseph’s cup was placed as God is testing these brothers. (44:1-12) Judah confesses to Joseph that “God is punishing us for our sins” (44:16)
4. They all return to Joseph and Judah steps forward and asks Joseph to let Benjamin go and he will stay to be a slave (44:18,33).
5. Joseph reveals himself to his brothers. The brothers were speechless. Joseph tells them, “It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives.” (45:5) Joseph knew God had worked good out of a bad situation (Romans 8:28). Joseph kisses each of his brothers and wept over them revealing his love and forgiveness to them.(45:15)
6. Joseph reveals to his brothers there will be five more years of famine. They are instructed  by Joseph to return home and bring all their family and everything to Egypt.
7. Pharaoh tells Joseph to send the brothers with wagons and supplies to get all his family to Egypt. Pharaoh promises the best land of Egypt for them (45:19).
8. Jacob is told his son Joseph is alive and ruler over all of Egypt. It has been twenty two years since Jacob has seen Joseph (45:26).
9. As the family of Jacob heads to Egypt they stop at Beer-sheba, a place where God had appeared to Abraham, ﻿(21:33﻿) and to Isaac. (26:23﻿) Jacob chooses therefore to begin his journey with a visit to God’s house before going into a strange land. He feels it right to renew his covenant with God by sacrifice. God speaks to him saying, Genesis 46:3-4 “I am God, the God of your father,” the voice said. “Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make your family into a great nation. 4 I will go with you down to Egypt, and I will bring you back again. You will die in Egypt, but Joseph will be with you to close your eyes.” The family of Jacob that went into Egypt are listed. Jacob and Joseph are reunited.

**Jacob’s Blessings and Death Genesis 47-49**

1. Jacob blesses Pharaoh when he meets him and when he leaves. Though in worldly wealth Pharaoh was the greater, yet, in interest with God, Jacob was the greater.
2. Joseph’s leadership is seen in the seven years of famine as all people came to him for food. As Jacob’s time of death drew near, He asked Joseph to make an oath that he would not bury him in Egypt. Joseph makes this oath to his father 47:29-31).
3. Why was this so important to him? Well, because Canaan was the land of promise. Canaan was God’s land, and Jacob and his family were God’s people. So Jacob wanted even his burial to be a testament to the fact that the Lord was his God!
4. Jacob called for Joseph right before he died. The first thing he says to him is, “God Almighty (El Shaddai the all-sufficient God, the God of mercies) appeared to me”. (48:3). Jacob then makes Joseph’s two sons full sons equal to all his other sons.
5. Jacob then blessed the two sons of Joseph putting the greater blessing on Ephraim and not the oldest Manasseh. This was done by divine providence.
6. Read (48:15-16) Jacob tells Joseph, may the God who Abraham and Isaac walked with the God who has been my shepherd and the Angel who redeemed me bless these boys.
7. Jacob gave Joseph a promise (Read 48:21). The Children of Israel will return to Canaan. In calling his sons to his bedside, Jacob said he would tell them what would become of them in the days ahead. Because God transcends time, He can reveal to us what is going to happen in our future (49:1–2). God reveals through Jacob that Jesus, the promised one, would come through the descendants of Judah. (49:8-12).
8. Jacob instructed Joseph to bury him with his fathers in Canaan (49:29-33). So both in his burial request and in his last conversation with Joseph, Jacob was using the last moments of his life to remind his family of their commitments to God! That is why he was buried where he was buried, and why he spoke the way he spoke that he might give one last testimony to encourage his sons to follow the Lord with all their hearts! What a beautiful way for Jacob to die!
9. The book of Genesis closes with the death of Joseph, the hero of its final chapters. Like his father, Joseph finished well. He reminded his brothers of God’s providence (50:20) and his own forgiveness (50:21). And, like his father, he asked to be buried, not in Egypt, but in God’s country—Canaan. Generations later his request was fulfilled as Moses carried his bones up from Egypt in the Exodus (Exodus 13:19) and Joshua, eventually, buried them in Jacob’s field in Shechem (Joshua. 24:32).