

SERMON NOTES:



October 4, 2026

A Real Life that points to a Greater Life
GENESIS 1, 37-50 (JOSEPH PART 3)

Pastor Mick Spann

1. Scripture tells a unified story

- The Bible is not merely a collection of disconnected stories.
- Themes, images and “melodies” are repeated, developed and fulfilled throughout Scripture.
- These patterns are intended to form wisdom in us.
- Ultimately, the story points us toward Jesus.

2. Wisdom is a gift to receive, not something to grasp

- Pharaoh recognises Joseph as wise and discerning.
- Joseph responds: “I cannot do it... but God will give Pharaoh the answer.”
- Solomon asks God for a discerning heart to distinguish good and evil.
- Adam grasped for the knowledge of good and evil; Solomon looked to God for it.
- One took from God. One looked to God.
- True wisdom begins with humility and trust.

3. God’s wisdom enables us to rule and serve well

- Humanity was created to bear God's image and exercise wise stewardship.
- God blesses through people who trust Him rather than grasp for control.
- Wisdom is not simply knowing what is right—it is learning to live it faithfully.
- Joseph uses authority to preserve life, forgive and reconcile.

4. Joseph points beyond himself

Joseph’s story contains a pattern:

- Favoured son → Faithful Servant
- Honoured God → Wrongly convicted
- Pit → Exaltation
- Authority → Salvation and Reconciliation

Joseph is not Jesus, but his story gives us a glimpse of the kind of faithful servant God would ultimately provide.

5. Jesus fulfils the patterns

- Where humanity failed to trust God → Jesus obeys
- Where humanity grasped → Jesus gave
- Where humans use power for themselves → Jesus serves
- Where sin, deceit and betrayal produces death → Jesus enters death and brings life

6. We can live in a way that highlights Christ as well

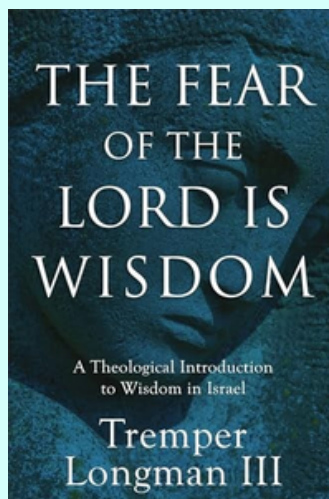
- We can become people through whom God's life and blessing can flow.
- Joseph helps us recognise the pattern. Jesus fulfils the pattern. And by the Spirit, our lives can participate in the pattern by pointing back to Jesus.

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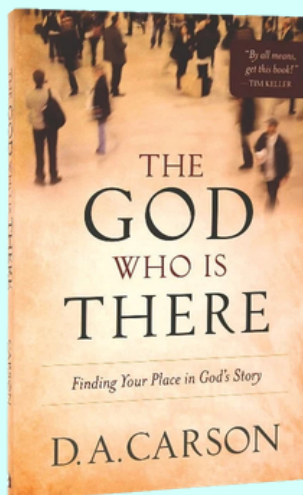
Resources that Mick found helpful in the development of this message:



Joseph
Genesis 37:2-50:26
Dr. Tim Mackie



The Fear of the Lord
is Wisdom
Tremper Longman III



The God
Who Is There
D.A. Carson



HOME GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

Consider the flood of Noah's time, and the famine of Joseph's.

Noah - Genesis 6:9 - 8:22

Joseph - Genesis 41-50

Discuss

- What things are similar?
- What things are different?
- Both Noah and Joseph experienced a 'de-creation' event (God's ordered world suddenly no longer supporting life and human flourishing). Noah through a abundance of water, Joseph through a lack of water!
 - Why did God warn humans about these coming events?
- In many ways, Joseph is presented like a new Noah. How did Noah and Joseph act as God's vessel to preserve life and be the conduit of future blessing?
 - What kind of character traits did these men display which enabled them to act in such a role?
- How did Jesus become the ultimate 'Noah'?
 - As reflectors of Christ, what are some practical ways we can highlight HIS saving work by living as preservers of life and blessing in our world?

Fun Fact:

A little literary easter egg that makes me giggle comes from Genesis 41:40. Joseph is told that he will act to save all Egypt (and surrounding people) by ruling from/over Pharaoh's own "house" (הבית), which is the word "ark" spelled backward (תבה)!