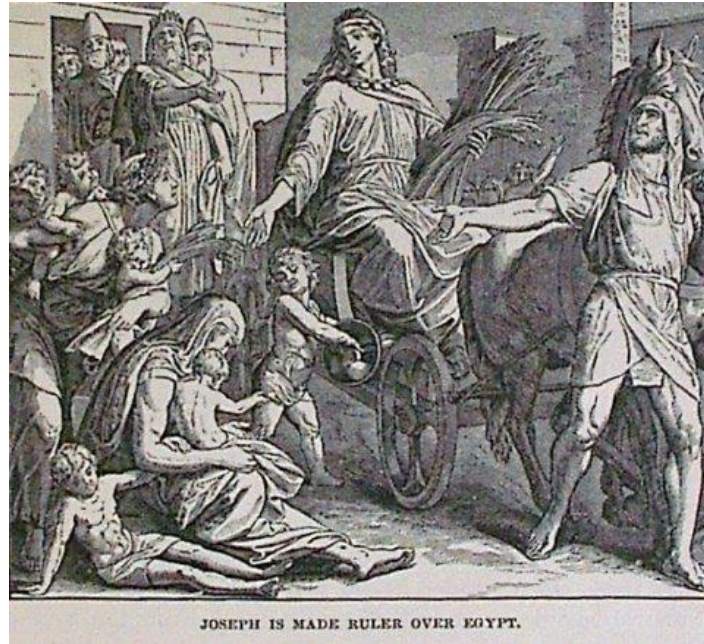


## Conflict Resolution



### Joseph in Egypt

Anyone who has siblings has had a conflict with them? All of that living in the same household thinking that your parents favored one over the other, and/or conflicts consistent with familiarity, as the ancient idiom depicts, saying, “Familiarity breeds contempt.” Conflict among siblings appears to be as natural as breathing, however, when it is compounded by favoritism it sets the stage for a disastrous conclusion, as we noted in our last segment. In this segment we want to consider the pending Resolution, and the conflicts that came with it: remembering the words of Jacob, saying, “I will go down to Sheol to my son mourning. And his father wept for him” (Genesis 37:35). This was a circumstance in life, from which, Jacob would not recover, for twenty years to come.

Joseph, having been sold by his brothers was taken to Egypt, and sold into the house of Potiphar, and officer of Pharaoh. What thoughts would have permeated the mind of Joseph? “My father is wealthy, he will come to save me:” only he didn’t come. Joseph, being unaware of the treachery of his brothers would not have known his father thought him dead. So there you are, a once beloved son, the next, sold into bondage and not even a wisp of activity to indicate that his father was seeking to deliver him. What would you have thought?

Following some false charges made by Potiphar's wife, Joseph is cast into prison. Once again, Joseph had been forgotten by his father, forgotten by the chief butler, and remained in prison for two years, following which time, Pharaoh dreamed a dream, the chief butler recalled Joseph's interpretation of his dream, and Joseph is brought before Pharaoh, and as a result of his wisdom in the matter, Pharaoh said, "Forasmuch as God hath showed thee all of this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou: thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; and he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he set him over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or his foot in all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Za-phe-nath-pan-e-ah; and he gave him to wife As-e-nath, the daughter of Poti-phe-ra priest of On. And Joseph went out over the land of Egypt. And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt" (Genesis 41:39). But yet, after thirteen years had passed, and still no sign that his father cared enough about him to seek him out, and not once over the next seven plus years did Joseph seek out the well-being of his father, nor his brothers. Rather, "unto Joseph were born two sons before the year of famine came, whom Asenath, the doughtrer of Poti-phares priest of On, bare unto him. And Joseph called the name of the first-born Manasseh: For, said he, God hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house" (Genesis 41:50-51), and Joseph resigned himself to his station in life.

The Resolution approaches: (Genesis 42:1—45:28). You are encouraged to read the entirety of the Biblical account, however, for the sake of our inquiry we will consider a few excerpts from Joseph's meeting with his brothers: "Now Jacob

saw that there was grain in Egypt, and Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is grain in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy grain from Egypt. But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure harm befall him. And the sons of Israel came to buy among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan” (Genesis 42:1–4)