

# THE JOSEPH CHRONICLES

## The Test of the Pardon

Genesis 45:1-8, 50:14-21

### *The Joseph Chronicles*

There are some things that God has to change in us before He can do what He plans to do for us!

- 1) The Test of the Pit - take responsibility for our character
- 2) The Test of the Pot - protect your character from compromise.
- 3) The Test of the Prison - build the strength of your character
- 4) The Test of the Palace - prove your character through stewardship
- 5) The Test of the Pardon

### The Issue that the Test reveals

When **Jacob** heard that grain was available in **Egypt**, he said to his sons, "Why are you standing around looking at one another? I have heard there is grain in Egypt. **Go down there**, and buy enough grain to keep us alive. Otherwise we'll **die**." Since **Joseph** was governor of all Egypt and **in charge** of selling grain to all the people, it was to him that his **brothers** came. When they arrived, they **bowed** before him with their faces to the ground. Joseph **recognized** his brothers **instantly**... (Genesis 42:1-2, 7, NLT)

*The character issue is the need to enlarge your character through forgiveness.*

*To step into the bigger dream and the greater destiny God has for you, you have to enlarge your character.*

### The Change that Must be Made

#### Release the pain.

Joseph recognized his brothers instantly, but he pretended to be a stranger and **spoke harshly** to them. Although Joseph **recognized** his brothers, they didn't **recognize** him. And he remembered the **dreams** he'd had about them many years before... (Genesis 42:7-9, NLT)

**When you hide the pain, you only make things worse!**

#### 1) Own the pain and take the first step.

Joseph could stand it **no longer**. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, "Out, all of you!" So he was alone with his brothers when **he told them** who he was. Then he broke down and **wept**. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace. "**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. "Please, come **closer**," he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt." (Genesis 45:1-4, NLT)

**2) Frame the pain and give it to God.**

*“But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was **God who sent me** here ahead of you to **preserve** your lives. This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. **God has sent me** ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to **preserve** many survivors. So it was **God who sent me** here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt.” (Genesis 45:5-8, NLT)*

**You expand the dream when you release the pain.**

**Release the people.**

*After **burying** Jacob, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had accompanied him to his father’s burial. But now that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers became **fearful**. “Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him,” they said. So they sent this message to Joseph: “Before your father died, he instructed us to say to you: ‘Please **forgive** your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.’ So we, the **servants of the God** of your father, **beg you to forgive** our sin.” (Genesis 50:14-17, NLT)*

**When you release the people, you rescue the prisoner.**

**1) Choose compassion over bitterness.**

*When Joseph received the message, he broke down and **wept**. (Genesis 50:16–17, NLT)*

**2) Accept your place over playing God.**

*Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. “Look, we are your slaves!” they said. But Joseph replied, “Don’t be afraid of me. **Am I God**, that I can punish you?” (Genesis 50:18–19, NLT)*

**3) Embrace God’s intentions over people’s intentions.**

*“You **intended** to **harm** me, but God **intended** it all for **good**. He brought me to this position so I could **save the lives of many people**. (Genesis 50:20, NLT)*

**You can make your plans; but God will accomplish his plans.**

**4) Create reassurance rather than fear.**

*“No, don’t be afraid. I will continue to **take care** of you and your children.” So he **reassured** them by speaking **kindly** to them. (Genesis 50:21, NLT)*

**You extend the destiny when you release the people.**