

# ***Challenge 2014: Bible in a Year***

## ***Week 3: Genesis 41 - Exodus 14 (January 12-18)***

### ***Summary:***

More so than anything, the final chapters of Genesis are an illustration of God's providence. It is here that God raises Joseph up to the role of Pharaoh's Vice-Chancellor over all of Egypt and in doing so, God used Joseph to prepare a place for his family to come and to become a nation. These are not random acts of chance, but the design of God as he works out his plan of redemption.

After two years of waiting, the Chief Cupbearer remembers Joseph and speaks of him to Pharaoh, who has been having perplexing dreams. Joseph is clear that just as the dreams are coming from God, so too are the interpretations. In interpreting the dreams, Joseph reveals that Egypt is going to have seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine and guides the Pharaoh in setting up a plan to prepare the people of the nation to be able to weather the famine to come (and it would be this famine that would bring Jacob and his family to Egypt as well).

When Joseph's brothers arrive in Egypt, Joseph plays a bit with them. This action is not so much a matter of malice as it is a way of finding out about his father and the rest of the family. Perhaps it is also a reminder of his sense of the dramatic that we saw earlier in Joseph's life. It is not long, though, before Joseph ceases to be able to hold back his tears of joy at this providential reunion and grace flows and the family will be situated in Goshen, the richest plot of pastureland by the Nile River.

Joseph does an interesting thing when it came to guiding Egypt through the famine. In history, prior to this event, Egypt was largely ruled by powerful princes in a confederation with the Pharaoh. Yet, during the seven years of plenty, Joseph imposes a tax to fill the grain houses and then during the seven years of famine, Joseph sold the people's food back to them, breaking the power of the rich land owners and consolidating Pharaoh's supreme authority. Again, God was setting Egypt up not only to provide a safe haven for Jacob but also to crush them in one fell swoop during the Exodus.

Genesis wraps up with Jacob giving blessings to his sons then his death and subsequently Joseph's death as well. Joseph's brothers are a bit fearful at their father's death thinking that Joseph would now get even with them, but Joseph's response was to say that though they meant evil in what they did; God intended their action to bring about Good.

Exodus begins about 400 years after the death of Joseph when there arose a king that did not remember Joseph. The Israelites had grown into a nation under the protection of Egypt and now it was the time for God to bring his people out, yet Egypt would not let go. Moses is born and at 40 years old he has to flee Egypt because he took matters into his own hands and slew an Egyptian. He ends up in the wilderness of Midian tending the sheep of his father-in-law for an additional 40 years, then, in Exodus 3, God calls Moses to return. There are excuses and God sends Aaron. There is resistance from the Pharaoh, and God sends plagues on Egypt. Eventually, the tenth plague takes place and God institutes the most significant feast in the Jewish

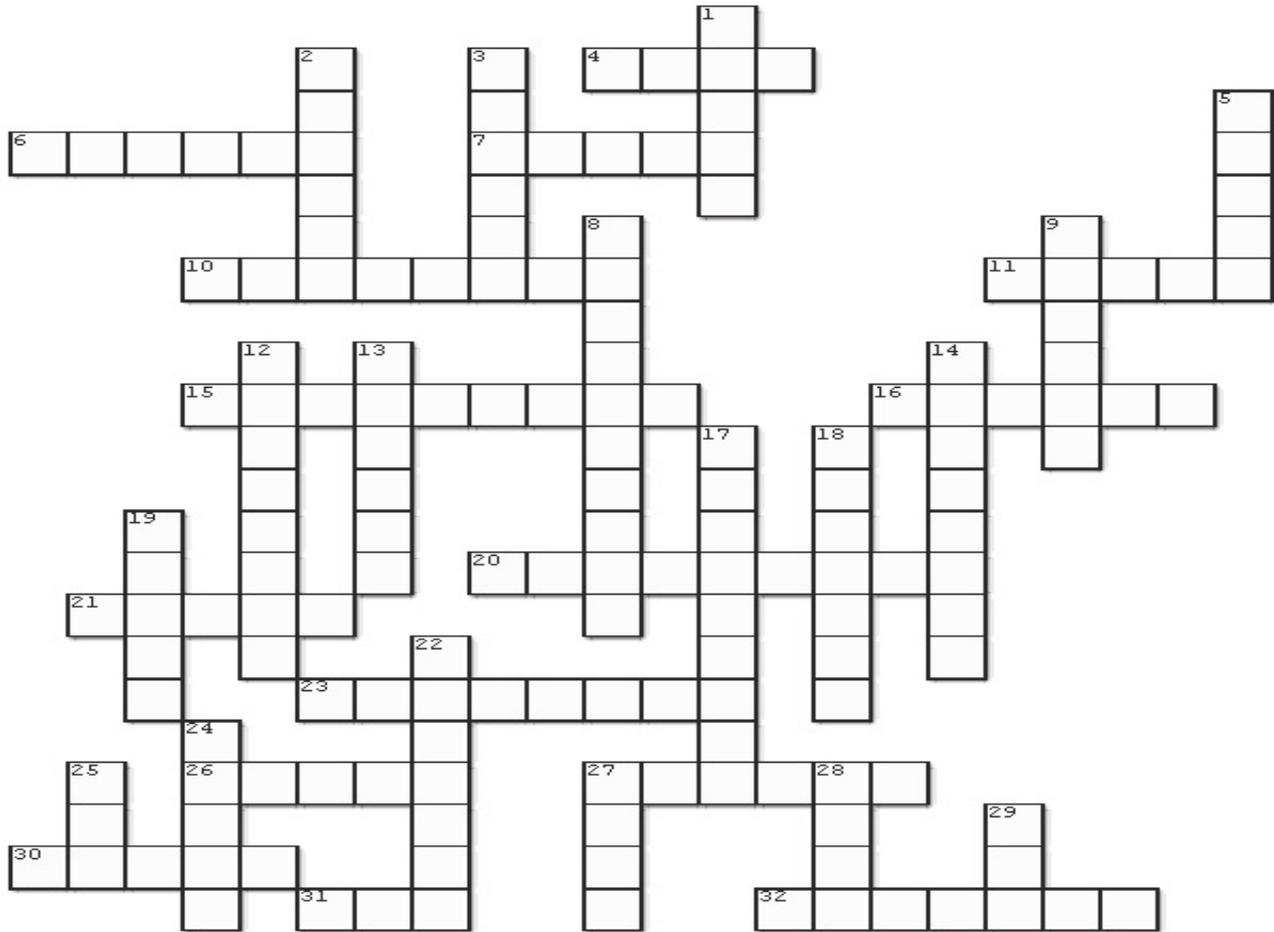
calendar: Passover, and Pharaoh lets the people go. Regrets it, and our passage comes to a close with the crossing of the Red Sea.

### ***Chromatic Notes:***

- Note the emphasis on "remembering" that you find in these chapters...the cupbearer remembering Joseph, God not forgetting Joseph, the Egyptians not remembering Joseph, etc... This is a major Biblical theme: memory helps keep us faithful; forgetfulness leads us into idolatry.
- Joseph was 17 years old when he was sent to Egypt and 30 when he went into the service of the Pharaoh. That is a long time to wait for God's hand to move — we can learn much about God's timing in our own lives from this simple reality.
- In Genesis 48, Jacob takes Joseph's son's, Manasseh and Ephraim as his own. This gave these children of Joseph each an inheritance in the land along with their uncles.
- Pay attention to the "blessings" of Jacob on his sons, for some of them, it is anything but a blessing...but the language is prophetic.
- Note too that when Joseph died his body was embalmed by the Egyptians, not simply buried like the Hebrews practiced.
- The last words of Genesis are "In Egypt" and are meant as a foreboding reminder that this is not the land promised to them.
- Note that the Midwives that did not destroy the Hebrew babies are commended and blessed by God not for their lie to Pharaoh, but because they feared God rather than men.
- The Hebrew word for the basket Moses' mother placed him in is the same word in Hebrew that is used of Noah's Ark.
- Moses' name means: "Son of" in Egyptian, but the object — son of whom — is left off.
- Moses' life can be divided into 3 groups of 40 years: 40 years in Egypt in Pharaoh's house, 40 years in the wilderness in Jethro's house, and 40 years in the wilderness in God's house.
- The name "I AM" that God offers is the source of the word "Yahweh" in modern documents and "Jehovah" in older ones. This name of God reflects his eternality and covenantal presence.
- While we often focus on the plagues on Egypt, we must remember that they are all focused on things that the Egyptians worshiped. The most important was the final plague of the death of the firstborn and the celebration of Passover. It is this celebration that Jesus transforms into the Lord's Supper.
- Notice that when the Red Sea event takes place, the waters take all night to recede and they begin on the other side...a reminder to the Israelites to trust God's timing. The event is reminiscent of Genesis 1 where God separates the sea from the dry land and in addition, the Apostle Paul connects this crossing with the sacrament of Christian baptism.

# Week 3: Genesis 41-Exodus 14

Complete the crossword below



Created on [TheTeachersCorner.net](http://TheTeachersCorner.net) Crossword Maker

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1/11/14, 4:51 PM

## Across

4. God used this from the east to part the Red Sea.
6. This is the region in Egypt where Jacob and his sons settle.
7. Moses' mother hid him this many months before she put him in the basket.
10. This was Jacob's youngest son that he did not send to Egypt (initially).
11. This was the portion that the people of Egypt were taxed on their harvest by Pharaoh (even during the lean years).
15. Jacob is buried in a cave in a field in this place, east of Mamre.
16. In the first encounter between Joseph and his brothers, this brother was bound by Joseph and left behind.
20. The brother's of Joseph were instructed to tell Pharaoh that they were of this occupation. (plural)
21. What mountain was Moses on when he saw the burning bush?
23. Moses married this daughter of the Priest of Midian (her name means 'bird').
26. This son will receive the richest farmland in Canaan once they settle there.
27. God used Pharaoh's dreams to warn them of seven years of this.
30. In the seventh plague, God rained down thunder and hail and fire, reminding us of the destruction of this city from Genesis.
31. By this name the generations are to know God. (2 words)
32. The Egyptians wept for Jacob for this many days after his death.

## Down

1. God led the people out of Egypt with a pillar of cloud and fire as well as with this 'messenger.'
2. Jacob was living in this land when the famine struck.
3. This was one of the store cities the Hebrews built for Pharaoh.
5. In Jacob's prophesy, the scepter (representing kingship) would never pass from this son and his descendants.
8. The bread used at Passover had this characteristic.
9. A cup made of this metal was put in the mouth of Benjamin's sack on their return trip.
12. The tenth plague brought death to those who did not paint the blood of the lamb on their doorposts and instituted an annual remembrance feast entitled:
13. This was how old Joseph was when he came into Pharaoh's service.
14. How many people belonging to Jacob, not including Jacob's son's wives. (2 words)
17. Rachel is buried on the way to the city of Ephrath, better known to us as \_\_\_\_\_.
18. As a sign that God was the one speaking to him, Moses was asked to put his hand in his cloak and it came out with this disease.
19. The second plague did not make the people very hoppy.
22. The name of Joseph's second son.
24. Moses' brother who was sent to be his mouthpiece.
25. The Chief Cupbearer forgot about Joseph for this many years.
27. How many changes of clothes did Joseph give to his brother Benjamin.
28. The fat and skinny cows in Pharaoh's dream were by this river.
29. This son of Jacob is described as being a viper and a serpent in the path.