

Genesis Final

1. Our Situation thus far: Joseph has become the Vizir, probably to a Hyksos king in the Delta region.
 - a. Vizir: one of two men who governed a portion of the Two Lands. Where is the other one – or is there another one?
 - b. This is the end of the 2nd Intermediate period when the Hyksos were in the Delta. The King – if he is a historical person – was probably Merenfer Ay, the last king of the 12th Dynasty. There were 54 kings in that dynasty suggesting power was not certain – only four kings ruled longer than 10 years. There is considerable debate on whether the Pharaoh was a Hyksos or an actual Egyptian
2. The Story of Joseph is one of the longer narratives and it has remained popular. Voltaire thought it to be the best of the OT
 - a. There are six scenes leading up to the revelation of Joseph (ch 39-44) and six followings 45- to 50 making it the central part of the story
 - b. The first six are stories of trickery: the taking of the money and the effective kidnapping of Benjamin. Joseph is showing them what it is like to be treated like property, a kind of rehabilitation
 - c. The Revelation scene: Joseph is overcome with emotion : but...the brothers are busted (ref. busting in American Beauty) they are confronted with the reality of their actions. People have a tendency to gloss over the evidence when confronted Eichmann: “not guilty in the sense of the charges”. Also the confrontation with the president of the Reichsbank at Nuremberg. This was what God did with Adam and Eve, and what Jesus did with the Apostles.. Moral: only what you honestly admit to brings healing. But Joseph is not out for vengeance.
 - d. Following stories: Even Pharaoh is inclined to be generous Jacob’s migration and the “lesser Hyksos” There was in fact a Semitic migration into the Delta. The “pick of the land” 47:11 – they had water – and it was a known military post
 - e. Joseph’s land policy: he is taking advantage of the Egyptians. But this also solves the central government’s ongoing land problem. This plundering of the Egyptians will occur again in the Exodus
 - f. The priests: a very powerful group to whom previous attempts had failed miserably, here Joseph opts them into the arrangement

- g. The blessing of Ephraim and Manassah: legitimizing a 13th tribe. It also makes legit the later power of Ephraim. Ch 49: recognizing the status after the Hebrew Conquest of Canaan
- h. The burial of Jacob in Canaan – he will later be taken to Judah in his own land, as he desired, but again this reminds us of the Hebrew's just claim to the land note 50:25 a final reconciliation; only when the will is read does one learn the truth