



Carrying the offenses myself

TO FORGIVE



Joseph



Giving the offenses to God

JOSEPH COULD HAVE HAD MAJOR RESENTMENT TOWARD HIS FATHER ONCE HE BECAME AWARE OF THE FAMILY HISTORY.

1. What kind of a relationship did Jacob apparently have with his first wife, Leah? (Gen. 29:31-35) _____

2. Why did Leah want to have children for Jacob? _____

3. (Gen. 30:1-8) Why did wife #2, Rachel, want to have children for Jacob? _____

4. What is your overall evaluation of Jacob's family? _____

5. Yes No Have you ever blamed your current troubles and consequences on your family, especially your father?

DON'T FORGET THE STORY OF WHEN JACOB CHEATED HIS BROTHER, ESAU, OUT OF HIS FATHER'S BLESSING AND ESTATE (WITH HIS MOTHER'S HELP). AND THEN LEFT THE COUNTRY.

6. Twenty-one years have passed; Jacob has grown through his successes & failures through the years. In Genesis 32:6, what unfinished business does Jacob still have to deal with? _____

7. (Gen. 33:1) Possibly a few days later, Jacob saw Esau coming in the distance. What exactly did he see coming down the road? _____
8. Yes No If you were Jacob and you had cheated your brother, would you assume that your brother was furious & vengeful and that something bad was about to happen?
9. Read Genesis 33:1-11. What strange thing did Jacob do?

HERE IS JACOB'S FAMILY LINE OF DEFENSE (OR WAS IT OFFENSE).

Line 1	Maidens	Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher (Plus individual families)
Line 2	Leah	Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun (Plus individual families)
Line 3	Rachel	Joseph, Benjamin, (Plus individual families)

10. Why do you think Jacob did this? _____

11. Was it a ___ good thing to do or a ___ bad thing to do?

12. Another story of family history. In Genesis 33:18-20, Joseph could have hated his father (Jacob) for doing business with a family whose son raped his sister, Dinah?

Your comments: _____

13. What if Joseph heard that his father was more concerned about his reputation than about his daughter's rape? (Gen. 34:30-31)

Your comments: _____

14. In Genesis 37:3, what does it say about the relationship between Joseph and his dad?

15. How did Jacob deal with the tension between his older sons and Joseph (Gen 37:11)

Jacob's family was a mess.

16. ___Yes ___No Is it so hard to believe that **Joseph** could have blamed all his troubles in life on his dad?

17. ___Yes ___No Isn't it possible that Joseph could have hated his brothers for all those 13 years in the Egyptian prison?

18. ___Yes ___No Joseph became famous and successful in the Egyptian government. Couldn't he have hated his father & brothers all that time?

I cannot answer for you, but I became a successful professional man, raised a family, became involved in our local church, and yet, I hated my father every step of the way. Outwardly, I avoided him. Inwardly, he deeply regretted the way he raised me.

19. Where does your life fit into all of this? _____

Genesis 47:9 And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my life are 130 years; few and evil have been the days of My life."

20. ___Yes ___No Was Joseph standing there when Jacob admitted to Pharaoh that he had done evil in his life through the years?

WE DO NOT ALWAYS GET THE PRIVILEGE TO HEAR OUR FATHER APOLOGIZE FOR THE PAST.

21. ___Yes ___No In Genesis 47:11, does it appear that whatever Joseph knew about His father's past actions, he had forgiven his dad already?

22. ___Yes ___No In Genesis 50:19-20, does it appear that Joseph had already forgiven his brothers?

23. Describe the attitude Joseph had through all of this based on Gen. 50:19-20.

Joseph choose to NOT carry the offenses on his back all his life. He chose rather to give those same offenses to God. He chose to forgive. Yes, it is a miracle.