

## The Words of Joseph

Arthur Barry

As we learn about Joseph, we learn about God and His ways... how He birthed an entire nation, through an ancestor of Joseph and He guarded and guided that one nation through centuries of turmoil, disaster, trials, and drama...how He steadfastly preserved and provided for His promise to bless all nations through the seed of Abraham. We learn about covenant and faithfulness, blessings, and curses. We watch as God shapes world events, raising up, and crushing nations. His promise at times hangs by a thread that would cause you and me to give up and walk away, but God has a word for that thread - REMNANT.

Despite relentless disturbance and resistance from Satan and constant failures of those whom God has chosen to represent Him, our God never wavered in His commitment to save all of us. At every step of the way, He reminds us that He is all-knowing, all-powerful and in all places (omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent). Along with all that, we cannot overlook His gracious justice and His righteous mercy.

Joseph is just one of the many biblical accounts that draw us into this other-worldly adventure, but those we read about can often disappoint us. It is as if they did not know or had forgotten His marvelous deeds that affirmed His covenant faithfulness. We know the names of Joseph's brothers because they represent the twelve tribes of Israel. They are woven into this tapestry that we call history. Take those names out and the covenant hope crumbles; the revelation of God evaporates.

And here they are in Egypt, for the second time, seeking food supplies to take back to their father, Israel. Since their first visit, Simeon had remained in the custody of Joseph, until they returned with Benjamin. Jacob had very reluctantly agreed to let them take Benjamin on the second trip. You know the story...Benjamin was the second of Rachel's sons and Jacob believed the first, Joseph, was dead. Not only was Joseph not dead, but he was the most powerful man in the world.

He had just revealed that truth to his brothers, and it is hard to imagine what they were feeling. He had tortured them a bit...fair enough after what they had done to him. As the story unfolds, Jacob gets all his sons back, including Joseph, and the infant nation of Israel will move into Goshen where God will prepare them for the Exodus into the Promise Land. And, as Joseph opens their eyes and hearts to the reality of God's sovereign will and covenant faithfulness, he sums that all up in two statements that we need to think about today...



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

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**All the Churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

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### WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m. on Zoom

**Today's Sermon: The Words of Joseph**

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 45:16-24**

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

Notes for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes are available on the website.

**[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)**

Find us on Facebook:

**[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](https://www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc)**

**Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm January 24, on Zoom, Arthur will continue the study from G.R.O.W. We will be in lesson #36 (Working).
- ❖ **Ladies' Class** –Tuesday, January 23. We will continue our study of Zephaniah.
- ❖ **Next Potluck & Bring-a-Friend Sunday** – February 18.
- ❖ **Next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing-** March 31 at Horseheads.



**Listen for our church message** being broadcast on WEBO (FM) WATS (AM) and Choice 102.1. Pray this will be a source of contact with area residents.

**Preacher Search:** We have officially launched our preacher search as we seek to bring a minister who will live in this community and build this church in the coming years, LORD willing. Arthur has drafted an introductory letter and asks that we all share it with our network of contacts.

**POTLUCK DINNER TODAY!** Please plan to stay after worship today and enjoy a fellowship meal with us downstairs. We plan to take advantage of our time together today to plan our coffeehouse outreach, starting Saturday, February 10. We hope you each have a New Years resolution to share with us today.

We have two sad announcements to make: yesterday morning **Mary Wallenbeck** from the Horseheads church passed away in hospital surrounded by her family after being treated for an infection. She was suffering from both Parkinson's disease and leukemia.

Also, **Gay Lynn Testut's sister Jan** in AZ passed away yesterday morning after initially being taken to ER where it was determined that she needed heart surgery. Her condition worsened rapidly.

## PRAYERS

- **Please pray for peace and comfort for John Wallenbeck after the death of his wife, Mary. Also pray for their children and families.**
- **Please pray for strength and comfort for Gay Lynn, who lost her sister Jan yesterday, and pray for Jan's husband and family too. Gay Lynn just recently lost her brother Barry in TX and they lost their other brother earlier in the year.**
- Pray for Darlene and Doug Elsbree as they continue their sojourn in FL for two more weeks. They will be returning to Sayre in the first few days of February.
- **Dawn Cowles** will be having breast cancer surgery on Wednesday. Please pray that all cancer will be gone after the operation and she will be able to heal quickly.
- **Kathleen** is recovering well from a recent severe bout of RSV. Pray that she can stay resistant to further viruses.
- **Pray for the success of our outreach effort with the coffee house and an open mike program for the community.**

### Continue to pray for these people:

- **Monique (Miki's friend)-** gradual withdrawal from morphine pain killer
- **Bonnie's brother Greg** upcoming hernia surgery
- **Pat Guthrie-**he has lung cancer, stage 4, and his wife Robin
- **Paulette-** Pain coming from her spine and affecting her hip and leg.
- **Mike Walls,** frontal lobe dementia. Pray also for Carrie who was unable to handle the stress. Mike's health care is now being overseen by his sister.
- **Sue Barry-** stage 4 breast cancer. (currently in remission)
- **Steve's brother Brian-** prostate cancer
- **Steve's sister Deb-** leukemia, and breast cancer

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.