

## *Joseph Discussion*

*Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.*

*Did Jacob's obviously favored treatment of Joseph enter into his trouble with the brothers?*

*Was it still the LORD's will that all these things happen?*

*If you had been Joseph's sibling how do you think you would have reacted?*

*Is it reasonable that Jacob told Joseph about his struggles with Laban and Esau?*

*Do you think the forgiveness Jacob experienced from Esau made a difference in his life?*

*Is it possible to be a good father to one of your children and not a good father to the others?*

*Does Jacob seem oblivious to the hatred directed towards Joseph by the brothers?*

*Clearly, the LORD would not let the brothers kill Joseph but allowed them to discuss the option. Could this have been to give opportunity for Reuban and Judah to exercise mercy?*

*Joseph obviously had organizational talent that was recognized by Potiphar. Can his ability to resist temptation be attributed to his training at home? Was it also part of his gift for planning?*

*Do you think that his father's experience of enduring hardship and coming to a favorable end would have had influence on Joseph?*

*His correct interpretation of the two prisoners' dreams would not have meant anything to the Pharaoh until he had a dream of his own. Would Joseph's pre-captivity personality likely have sent complaints to the forgetful steward?*

*Why do you think Pharaoh made him the administrator of the program to save the nation?*

*Can you think of other Jewish advisors to rulers, both Biblical and after the Biblical era? (Daniel, Benjamin Disraeli, Henry Kissinger)*

*Do you think that Pharaoh attributed the success of the program entirely to Joseph's ability or would he have suspected supernatural influence?*

*Might it be considered unethical for Joseph to take the people's money, livestock, property and freedom on behalf of Pharaoh in payment for food?*

*Was revenge something that must have gone through Joseph's mind when his brothers came?*

*Is it reasonable that he wanted most of all to know if they had repented?*

*Jacob was told in a vision to go into Egypt and that he would become a great nation there. He had previously been told that the land of Canaan would belong to his descendants. Might he have wondered how this would all come true?*

*After Jacob died, Joseph reassured his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." How does that apply to our lives?*

*Have you ever dealt with whether or not to forgive someone who meant you harm?*

*What is the standard of forgiveness against which we need to measure our own decisions whether or not to forgive?*

*Have you ever been in the place of being the one deliberately wanting to harm someone?*

*What does experiencing or giving forgiveness do to our attitudes?*

*What ought it do to our actions?*