

## JOSEPH - “HE will add”

**Joseph** means “he will add” When Joseph was born to his mother, his father Jacob named him such, believing that GOD added to his joy through Joseph, and will continue to add - to his promise made to his grandfather – Abraham. Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob, he was “beloved” of his father Jacob, borne of his “beloved” wife Rachel. The Hebrew name **יֹסֵף** (*Yosef*) meaning "he will add", is derived from the root **יָסַף** (*yasaf*) meaning "to add, to increase" Genesis 37:1 “These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; ...”

### Key Moments in Mission and Scriptures

#### Joseph the Prophet

Joseph was gifted by GOD with the gift of Prophecy – though the latter did not fully manifest until after Joseph had “humbled” himself while in prison – serving as a prison keeper of other prisoners. GOD spoke to Joseph in dreams: showing Joseph what was to come in the future. Because of his dreams and because he was favorite by his father, his older brothers hated him, and could not even speak kindly with him. Genesis 37: 3. “Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors.

#### Joseph the Dreamer

One day Joseph had a dream, after he shared his dreams with his brothers of them bowing down to him, and even of his father and mother doing obeisance to him, (as subjects under his “rulership) – the older ten brothers hated him for his dream – and so they sold him into slavery, to Ishmeelite slave traders, who then sold him in Egypt and then lied to their father Jacob, inferring that he was killed by an evil beast. “And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. Genesis 37:4-5. “And they sent the coat of many colors, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no. Genesis 37:32”

#### Joseph the Ruler

In Egypt, after his “humbling years” Joseph became the second most powerful ruler, and an advisor to the Pharaoh. As the seven year famine worsened, Joseph's ten brothers went to Egypt to buy grain, and eventually they did bow down to him, as GOD had shown him many years prior, eventually even his father also journeyed to Egypt, with his entire family, to live under Joseph's rulership, during and after the seven year famine in the entire region.

### Popular Era and People name Joseph

In the Middle Ages, **Joseph** was a common Jewish name, however it was less popular among Christians. In the late Middle Ages *Saint Joseph* became more highly revered, and the name became popular in Spain and Italy, under the Catholic church. In England it became common after the Protestant Reformation. In the United States it remains within the top 25 names for boys since 1880, making it one of the most enduring popular names of this era.

The name **Joseph** was the name of Jesus' earthly stepfather – Matthew 1:20 “But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, **Joseph**, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: ...”

**Joseph** was the name of the “secret disciple” of Jesus whom begged Pilate for the body of Jesus after he was crucified,... John 19:38 “And after this **Joseph** of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.”