

# "G.I. Joe" aka God's Interpreter, Joseph Episode 2

*Who's on your Top 20 world-changers list? Here's mine.*

Noah	3900 B.C. – 2950 B.C.	Reset the entire planet
Abraham	1813 - 1638 BCE	Father of Jews
Moses	1393 BCE - 1273 BCE	Given 10 Commandments
Jesus Christ	6-4 B.C. to 30-36 A.D.	Creator/Savior of all
Apostle Paul	5 A.D. - 67 A.D.	Spread Gospel of Grace
John Wycliffe	1331 – 1384	Translated Bible into English
Johannes Gutenberg	1398 – 1468	Invented printing press
Christopher Columbus	1451 – 1506	Discovered the New World
Martin Luther	1483 – 1546	Salvation by faith alone
Benjamin Franklin	1706 – 1790	Discovered electricity
William Wilberforce	1759 – 1833	Led England to end slavery
Charles Babbage	1791 – 1871	First computer (The "Difference Engine")
Alexander Graham Bell	1847 – 1892	Telephone
Thomas Edison	1847 - 1931	Light bulb, phonograph
Henry Ford	1863 – 1947	Moving assembly line
Guglielmo Marconi	1874 – 1937	Radio, wireless telegraph
J. Robert Oppenheimer	1904 – 1967	Atomic bomb
Billy Graham	1918 -	Global evangelist
Leonard Kleinrock	1934 -	Packet switching, Arpanet, early Internet
Steve Wozniak	1950 -	Personal computer

Like Paul, Joseph, Abraham's great-grandson, was a world-changer. Without his leadership the entire Egyptian and Jewish populations would have starved to death, severing the lineage into which Jesus would be born. However, since He's always true to His word, God would never allow that.

In c. 49 A.D. Paul, God's emissary to the Gentiles, shows up at a synagogue in Greece. When he tells Jewish worshippers that their Messiah is Jesus Christ, a mob begins shouting, "(Paul and Silas) have caused trouble all over the world, touting another king called Jesus" (Acts 17:1-9).

May Joseph's example inspire you and me to be one of God's world-changers. The times in which we now live cry out for us to man up.

## ***Daydream Believer***

### **Let's read Genesis 37:1-11 (p. 39 NIV).**

Joseph's brothers envy him for being his dad's favorite son to whom he'd given an amazing, technicolor dreamcoat. Further irritating the guys, God shows Joe in two dreams that one day he'll rule over them.

In Dream A a sheaf of grain stands while others bow to it. In Dream B the sun, moon and 11 stars (11 brothers) bow to Joe. The boys crazy-hate him and plot his ruin.

**DISCUSS: How has being treated unfairly touched your life?**

### ***From Pit to Pyramids***

**Let's read Genesis 37:12-36 (p. 39).**

Jacob sends Joe, age 17, to check on his brothers who'd taken their flock 65 miles north to better grazing. When these rascals see Joe coming, they murmur, "Let's kill the kid, soak his robe in goat's blood and tell Dad an animal got him." But Reuben, the oldest, talks them out of fratricide, planning to rescue Joe later.

Here comes a desert caravan of Ishmaelites with spices from Arabia and India to sell in Egypt. The brothers sell the lad to them for 20 shekels. Later, when Jacob sees his beloved boy's bloody cloak, he sobs, fearing the worst. The traders sell the teen as a slave to **Potiphar** ("*one devoted to the sun*"), captain of Pharaoh's secret service. Joseph no longer answers to a dad who serves God but to a sun worshipper. Can he put God first in this cultural and spiritual whirlpool? Can God turn jealousy and a screwed-up family into something positive to preserve His infant, Jewish nation?

**DISCUSS: Describe a time when you felt betrayed or enslaved.**

### ***The Price and Payoff of Purity***

**Let's read Genesis 39:1-23 (p. 41); Psalms 105:12-22 (p. 600).**

Noting Joseph's integrity, his leadership potential and the prosperity that accrues to him and those near him, Potiphar promotes him to oversee his household (**Ephesians 6:5-9 {p. 1177}; Colossians 3:22-25 {p. 1184}**).

Life's improving for Joe, but there's this workplace issue. Slipping into something revealing, Potiphar's wife hits on our young stud. He runs the palace, as Adam did in the Garden, yet he knew that nibbling this off-limits fruit would be a sin against God and his boss. So Joe scrams.

Mrs. P lies to Mr. P, saying Joe had eyes for her, plays the race card (blaming "that Hebrew"), waving the cloak he'd left as he fled. To defend her honor and keep this quiet, Potiphar jails innocent Joseph. Incarceration preps our man to be Egypt's #2 in command, enabling the world's most powerful monarch, Pharaoh, to see Joe's faith up close. World-changers often face the crucible before getting a crown.

**DISCUSS: Describe your experience of being falsely accused.**

**Let's read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (p. 1163); Ephesians 6:10-20 (p. 1177).**

When bad things attack us, it's easy to blame people. Wrong! Satan is the *real* culprit, intent on wreaking havoc in a believer. Feeling helpless, how do you respond? Paul cites weapons at our disposal:

1. Truth, like light, exposes reality (Roman 13:12).
2. Love, God's essence, is shown in our speech (Ephesians 4:15).
3. "Right with God" is *who we are* and *how we live* (2 Corinthians 6:7).
4. Trusting God is our way of life **(Ephesians 4:17-24 [p. 1175])**.

Abandoned and forgotten, yet Joseph (1) humbly serves God, (2) rejects self-pity and (3) does what's right; no compromising. He's learning that allegiance to God, even in pain, brings peace. Watching Joe's pure character, the jailer puts him in charge.

**DISCUSS: Describe how an adversity became your advantage.**

### ***Joseph, the Trailer; Jesus, the Coming Attraction***

Both Jesus and Joseph are beloved sons, were mistreated, and came to save their people. Joseph, thrown into a cistern; Jesus, died on a cross to pay for your sin and give you total forgiveness and unending life with Him. Have you accepted His free gift? We'll dedicate this next quiet moment for you to close the deal. .... Amen.

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