

# Three Brothers CFM

## Come Follow Me March 14-20

### Genesis 42-50

### “God Meant It unto Good”

Hello/welcome members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, our names are Ammon, Topher, and Micah and we are “Three Brothers”, welcome to this week’s CFM discussion where we will give you our three favorite insights in under three minutes and then talk about them.

As always we provide all papers for free, follow the links provided to get both our “three insights” papers as well as our “weekly readings” papers totally for free. The three insights paper is what we will be going over in this video, whereas the “weekly readings” is a paper in which we combine this weeks “Come Follow Me” scriptures (which are the words in gold) with the church’s student manuals (which are the words in purple) with obviously the church’s Come Follow Me family program (which are the words in black) into one easy to read document.

#### Ammon’s Insight #1

[Joseph tested his brethren. They passed the test and received an inheritance. We must also be tested for our inheritance.](#)

Genesis 42: 5-16

15 Hereby ye shall be proved: By the life of Pharaoh ye shall not go forth hence, except your youngest brother come hither.

16 Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be kept in prison, that your words may be proved, whether *there be any* truth in you: or else by the life of Pharaoh surely ye *are* spies.

#### (8-16) [Genesis 43:8-9](#)

By demanding that Benjamin be brought back to Egypt (see [Genesis 42:15](#)), Joseph allowed his brothers to show whether or not they truly were sorry for what they had done to him so many years before. Would they now show the same lack of concern for Benjamin? It is significant that Judah, who suggested that Joseph be sold (see [Genesis 37:26-27](#)), became the one who was willing to become “the surety” for Benjamin. There does seem to be evidence of sincere repentance on the brothers’ part, and Joseph’s stratagem allowed them to demonstrate this repentance. When the pressure was on, Judah’s change of heart was shown to be complete (see [Genesis 44:33](#)).

The fact that Joseph tested his brethren implies that if they failed to show honesty and repentance after all these years, that he may not have dealt with them as well as he did in providing them with food, safety and a land of inheritance (evidence of this is shown in how he specifically favoured Benjamin over the other brothers).

As discussed in last weeks CFM podcast the entire story of Joseph in Egypt typifies the life of Joseph Smith and the redemption and building of Zion in the latter-days. In preparation of redeeming and building Zion we need to be prepared for testing – To see if we will abide by all the principles we were commanded to live by.

President Kimball said that prior to the rebuilding of the Church in Missouri, "The Saints will be put to tests that will try the integrity of the best of them. The pressure will become so great that the more righteous among them will cry unto the Lord day and night until deliverance comes."

- Neal A. Maxwell (Wherefore Ye Must Press Forward, Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1977, pp.109-123)

## Topher's Insight #1

### **(8-17) Genesis 43:28. "And They Bowed Down Their Heads, and Made Obeisance"**

The phraseology in this verse is the same as that used in Genesis 37:7, 9. It had taken over two decades, but the Lord's revelations were now fulfilled.

Revelations and blessings are not fulfilled in our time but the Lord's time. After two decades do you think Joseph or his brothers or even Jacob could expect Joseph's dreams or revelations to come true. Obviously, Jacob and the brothers would never expect it but Joseph being the man he was possibly still knew it would come to pass. Imagine receiving some revelation from God and then going through the roller coaster that Joseph went through in Egypt. At some point whilst sitting in a dark prison cell in Egypt would you finally give up and blame God and stop expecting the Revelation to come to pass?

Elder Dallin H. Oaks said "Faith means trust—trust in God's will, trust in His way of doing things, and trust in His timetable. We should not try to impose our timetable on His." (GC Oct 2003 – Timing)

Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has said: "The issue for us is trusting God enough to trust also His timing. If we can truly believe He has our welfare at heart, may we not let His plans unfold as He thinks best? The same is true with the second coming and with all those matters wherein our faith needs to include faith in the Lord's timing for us personally, not just in His overall plans and purposes."

We could even add here, the redemption of Zion and the building of the New Jerusalem. Do we trust that these things will happen, but happen in the Lords time – but also require us to continue to prepare and become a Zion people in the meantime? Or will we be like the people in the time of Samuel the Lamanite who kept saying "the time has past for these revelations to be fulfilled"?

31 And behold, I, the Lord, declare unto you, and my words are sure and shall not fail, that they shall obtain it.

32 But all things must come to pass in their time.

Patience and diligence – no matter what happens or how long we wait – the Lord doesn't lie.

## Micah's Insight #1

### (8-14) Genesis 42:8. Why Did Joseph's Brothers Fail to Recognize Him?

It had been twenty-two years since the sons of Jacob had last seen Joseph—thirteen years of slavery and prison for Joseph, seven years of plenty, and two years of famine (see [Genesis 45:11](#))—before Jacob's family was forced to go to Egypt for grain. Joseph was a teenager when his family had last seen him. Now he was a mature, middle-aged man. And, even if Joseph still looked very much as he did when he was younger, *who would believe* that a brother who was sold as a slave to a caravan of Arabians would have become the second most powerful man in Egypt?

#### Hebrews 13

2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

#### 3 Nephi 21

8 And when that day shall come, it shall come to pass that kings shall shut their mouths; for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

9 For in that day, for my sake shall the Father work a work, which shall be a great and a marvelous work among them; and there shall be among them those who will not believe it, although a man shall declare it unto them.

#### Luke 16

34 Abraham said unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

35 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

36 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one should rise from the dead.

#### Brigham Young

“Will the Saints arise from the dead? Yes. Who will know it? But a few. When the resurrection commences, I say but few will know it; and allow me to inform you, when you have seen Joseph, and Hyrum, and Father Smith, and many others, risen from the dead, and you elders go abroad preaching, you will not tell the world of their resurrection, for *they will not believe it*.

“You may testify that Father Smith has arisen, that Joseph and Hyrum again possess their bodies; that they again live in the flesh, and they will laugh you to scorn, and persecute you to the death, if they have the power, for your testimony's sake.

“Will the Saints rise from the dead before the world is converted? Yes. You may despair of ever seeing all creation converted to the Lord Jesus, or to the faith of the holy gospel. Will you see the resurrection? Yes, you will be in it, and enjoy it; you will be in the first

resurrection. Will the world believe it, and know of it? They will not.” (October 3, 1852, Millennial Star 16:594 and Deseret News, May 11, 1854)

## Ammon's Insight #2

If you were in Joseph's position and being cast into a pit, would you consider it a blessing? How about riding in the back of a slave traders wagon? Or being falsely imprisoned?

D&C 101:4-5

4 Therefore, they must needs be chastened and tried, even as Abraham, who was commanded to offer up his only son.

5 **For all those who will not endure chastening, but deny me, cannot be sanctified.**

As mentioned in our podcast last week, we need to be tried and tested in order to be sanctified and therefore worthy of the Lord's greatest blessings. When we are 'riding in the back of a slave traders wagon' in our own lives we need to remember not to curse God for our challenges, but endure them faithfully and rely on Him to sanctify you through the process. As mentioned in D&C 121: 7 "...all these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good."

You may not recognize the Lords intentions for you to experience the trial you are facing whilst still in the process. But you WILL recognize it at its completion. Here Joseph reflects on his experience:

Genesis 45:5-8

5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

6 For these two years *hath* the famine *been* in the land: and yet *there are* five years, in the which *there shall* neither *be* earing nor harvest.

7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 So now *it was* not you *that* sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

He recognized that the entire process of him being dragged away into Egypt was to bless and preserve the lives of the people in Egypt and his family. His faith in the Lord would no doubt have become unshakable and he would have been sanctified.

Are we asked to endure trials that seem unfair? Or trials that we cannot see the sanctifying purpose for in our own lives? Let's be more like Joseph and endure them

faithfully, relying wholly on the Lord and then at the end look back at what the Lord has helped us become.

## Topher's Insight #2

### **(8-19) Genesis 45:4–8. Joseph—A Type of Christ**

This touching scene, in which Joseph finally revealed himself to his brothers, demonstrates the Christlike nature of his character. He forgave without bitterness, extended love when undeserved, and saw the Lord's hand in all that happened. But his similarities to Christ go much deeper. As Nephi said, all things from the beginning of the world were given to typify, or symbolize, Christ (see 2 Nephi 11:4; Moses 6:63). It has already been shown how Abraham was a type of the Father and Isaac a type of Jesus when Abraham was commanded to offer Isaac in sacrifice. This act was "a similitude of God and his Only Begotten Son" (Jacob 4:5).

Elder Bruce R. McConkie taught that all prophets are types of Christ: "A prophet is one who has the testimony of Jesus, who knows by the revelations of the Holy Ghost to his soul that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. In addition to this divine knowledge, many of them lived in special situations or did particular things that singled them out as types and patterns and shadows of that which was to be in the life of him who is our Lord." (*The Promised Messiah*, p. 448.)

Likewise, the life and mission of Joseph typifies the life and mission of Jesus. Consider the following:

1. Joseph was the favored son of his father; so was Jesus (see Genesis 37:3; Matthew 3:17).
2. Joseph was rejected by his brothers, the Israelites, as was Jesus (see Genesis 37:4; John 1:11; Isaiah 53:3; 1 Nephi 19:13–14).
3. Joseph was sold by his brothers into the hands of the Gentiles, just as Jesus was (see Genesis 37:25–27; Matthew 20:19).
4. Judah, the head of the tribe of Judah, proposed the sale of Joseph. Certain leaders of the Jews in Jesus' day turned Jesus over to the Romans. Judas (the Greek spelling of *Judah*) was the one who actually sold Jesus. (See Genesis 37:26; Matthew 27:3.)
5. Joseph was sold for twenty pieces of silver, the price of a slave his age. Christ was sold for thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave His age. (See Genesis 37:28; Matthew 27:3; Exodus 21:32; Leviticus 27:5.)
6. In their very attempt to destroy Joseph, his brothers actually set up the conditions that would bring about their eventual temporal salvation—that is, Joseph, by virtue of being sold, would become their deliverer. Jesus, by His being given into the hands of the Gentiles, was crucified and completed the atoning sacrifice, becoming the Deliverer for all mankind.
7. Joseph began his mission of preparing salvation for Israel at age thirty, just as Jesus began His ministry of preparing salvation for the world at age thirty (see Genesis 41:46; Luke 3:23).

8. When Joseph was finally raised to his exalted position in Egypt, all bowed the knee to him. All will eventually bow the knee to Jesus. (See [Genesis 41:43](#); [D&C 88:104](#).)
9. Joseph provided bread for Israel and saved them from death, all without cost. Jesus, the Bread of Life, did the same for all men. (See [Genesis 42:35](#); [John 6:48–57](#); [2 Nephi 9:50](#).)

Why did the Lord bless Joseph so much? He was a man like Christ. His attributes. Everything always points back to Christ.

## Micah's Insight #2

### [Genesis 45:3–11](#); [50:19–21](#).

Joseph recognized that although his experience in Egypt had been difficult, “God meant it unto good” ([Genesis 50:20](#)). Has your family experienced any trials that God turned into blessings?

I'm just going to bear my testimony of this one... I know it offends some people, but having stood up for my faith while yet being young, I went through trials that shaped me in ways that could be obtained in no other way- one can't retroactively become young again and stand up for the gospel and what is right. The same is said for my mission- there are experiences that are gained when one *faithfully* serves the Lord on a mission that can be gained in no other way than by going on a mission in one's youth. I also, with my wife Ashley, had to make tough choices about being sealed in the temple when we were married as her family would not be able to attend- once again, making the choice to put the Lord first burned us through the refining process in a way that those who did not go through something similar will just never know. I was worried that if I ever did get back into the presence of the early brethren, Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor, etc. that I would not be able to stand in their presence- that I would be as Elder Maxwell (and later Elder Holland) described, that I have on my cloud of comfortable Christianity passed by all the trials that would make me like them. Following the Lord's prompting to go online and share what I know to be true and do what I have done in the last two years, I have learned more than I could have in twenty missions... I know this offends some people, mostly because they have not done, they have no fruit and therefore they have to rationalize growth in some other way- but let me here bear my solemn testimony that I know the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord's true and living church, that The Book of Mormon is literally true, and that Joseph Smith Jr. was and is the prophet head of this the last dispensation and that I know more about what that man, Joseph Smith Jr. went through and experienced personally than almost all members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints because of the difficult experiences in my life that God has “meant unto my good”. I know “great big elders”, I know “many who you thought were your friends will betray you”, I know- I KNOW! And others cannot know what I know because they simply have not walked the same walk- as I could not know until I walked it. We need these experiences, and we need to plead with the Lord for the strength to grow righteously in them, for if we don't grow and become “we shall not be like Him when he appears”. Don't be found “without”.

## Ammon's Insight #3

## **(8-24) Genesis 49:8–12. What Significant Portion of the Birthright Blessing Was Given to Judah?**

The blessing given to Judah indicates that kings would come from his lineage (see [1 Chronicles 5:1–2](#); [Hebrews 7:14](#)). Old Testament history teaches that this promise was fulfilled. King David, King Solomon, and King Rehoboam are just three of the kings who came through Judah's lineage. The King of Kings, Jesus Christ, referred to here as Shiloh, also came through this line. Elder Ezra Taft Benson said of this promise:

“The great blessing to Judah is that it contemplated the coming of Shiloh who would gather his people to him. This prophecy concerning Shiloh has been subject to several rabbinic and Christian interpretations and the object of considerable controversy. The interpretation given this passage by the Mormon Church is one based on revelation to modern prophets, not on scholarly commentary. It was revealed to Joseph Smith that Shiloh is the Messiah. (See [[JST, Genesis 50:24](#)].)” (“[A Message to Judah from Joseph](#),” *Ensign*, Dec. 1976, p. 71.)

The Old Testament was filled the symbolism of the coming of Jesus Christ and his divine mission. It was the great mystery of the Old Testament.

Abinadi, testifying before the court of the wicked King Noah, bore witness that all the prophets from the earliest times had testified that God (Jehovah) would “come down among the children of men, and take upon him the form of man” ([Mosiah 13:34](#); see also [v. 33](#)). Latter-day Saints, who have the benefit of additional scripture, are taught this truth very clearly. For example, the Doctrine and Covenants shows that Jesus Christ is Jehovah and the great “I Am” (see [D&C 110:3–4](#); [29:1](#)).

This blessing given to Judah notes that ‘Shiloh’ would come through his lineage. The reason the blessing named him ‘Shiloh’ rather than simply stating ‘Jesus Christ’ was the same reason that any mystery was given since the beginning of time! The same reason the temple uses symbolism, why the Saviour taught in parables. We are commanded to ‘Hunger and thirst after righteousness’ and to seek knowledge:

What does it mean to ‘Hunger and Thirst after righteousness’?

“Knowledge of ‘the only true God, and Jesus Christ’ (John 17:3) is the most important knowledge in the universe; it is the knowledge without which the Prophet Joseph Smith said no man could be saved. The lack of it is the ignorance referred to in the revelation wherein it is written: ‘It is impossible for a man to be saved in ignorance.’ (D&C 131:6.)” (“[Except a Man Be Born Again](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1981, 14).

On April 7, 1844, the Prophet Joseph Smith delivered a sermon at the funeral of his friend King Follett. In the sermon, he taught about the value of knowledge:

Brother Joseph

“Knowledge saves a man; and in the world of spirits no man can be exalted but by knowledge. So long as a man will not give heed to the commandments, he must abide without salvation. If a man has knowledge, he can be saved” (“The King Follett Sermon,” Ensign, May 1971, 15).

What is the great mystery of our time? The Book of Mormon and Doctrine & Covenants were preserved and written with the intent of preparing the Latter-Day Saints for the building up of Zion and preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. Joseph in Egypt was quoted by Lehi in the Third Chapter of the Second book of Nephi about the coming forth of the restoration of the Gospel by the hand of Joseph Smith. The role of this servant was discussed in greater detail in both the Book of Mormon and Doctrine & Covenants. As part of this process of building up Zion, I personally believe that one of (if not the greatest) mysteries of our time is to truly understand the role and mission of Joseph Smith - The choice seer, the Root of Jesse, one mighty and strong, the marred servant and the one like unto Moses.

### Topher’s Insight #3

When Joseph’s brothers had thrown him into the pit and wanted to kill him, it was **Judah** who came up with the plan to sell Joseph as a slave. All those years later in Egypt, Joseph curated a way that he would be able to see his younger brother Benjamin and by stashing the cup in his bag, Benjamin was also sworn to become Joseph’s servant. It was again **Judah** who stood in, and this time took the place of Benjamin.

**Gen 44:18** ¶ Then Judah came near unto him, and said, Oh my <sup>a</sup>lord, let thy servant, I pray thee, speak a word in my lord’s ears, and let not thine <sup>b</sup>anger burn against thy servant: for thou *art* even as Pharaoh.

**33** Now therefore, I pray thee, let thy servant abide instead of the lad a bondman to my lord; and let the lad go up with his brethren.

### **(8-16) Genesis 43:8–9**

By demanding that Benjamin be brought back to Egypt (see [Genesis 42:15](#)), Joseph allowed his brothers to show whether or not they truly were sorry for what they had done to him so many years before. Would they now show the same lack of concern for Benjamin? It is significant that Judah, who suggested that Joseph be sold (see [Genesis 37:26–27](#)), became the one who was willing to become “the surety” for Benjamin. There does seem to be evidence of sincere repentance on the brothers’ part, and Joseph’s stratagem allowed them to demonstrate this repentance. When the pressure was on, Judah’s change of heart was shown to be complete (see [Genesis 44:33](#)).

This is the guilt of 22 years of thinking about what he did to his brother Joseph as a boy. We need to forgive ourselves, and others even quicker. Holding onto the grief of mistakes, the shame of sin or hurt caused by others only weighs us down.

Joseph, by his Wisdom was not only able to bless his family multiple times during the famine but also, he received that sweet justice we mentioned in last week’s CFM. Except, because of the man Joseph was, it wasn’t just vengeful Justice, it was a forgiving, humble and loving justice that brought them all back together again in unity and love allowed Joseph to bless his Father and his family with



the wealth of Egypt during a famine and helping to fulfill the Abrahamic blessing that was upon their bloodline. God keeps his promises and his covenants. God will cause a man to become nearly a Pharaoh to keep his covenants of preserving the posterity of Abraham. What will he do for us when we need much simpler things than ruling all of Egypt to serve him and keep his commandments?

Lastly, a random thought:

**Gen 45:20** Also regard not your stuff; for the good of all the land of Egypt *is* yours.  
Also regard not your possessions for the good of the Land of Zion is yours

### Micah's Insight #3

[Genesis 50:24–25](#); [Joseph Smith Translation, Genesis 50:24–38](#) (in the Bible appendix)

**“A seer shall the Lord my God raise up.”**

Through Joseph's dreams (see [Genesis 37:5–11](#)) and his interpretations of others' dreams (see [Genesis 40–41](#)), the Lord revealed things that would happen days or years in the future. But the Lord also revealed to Joseph what would happen in the coming centuries. Specifically, he learned about the prophetic missions of Moses and Joseph Smith. As you read Joseph's words in [Genesis 50:24–25](#) and in [Joseph Smith Translation, Genesis 50:24–38](#) (in the Bible appendix), ask yourself how knowing these things might have blessed Joseph and the children of Israel. Why do you think it was important for the Lord to restore this prophecy through Joseph Smith? (see also [2 Nephi 3](#)).

How has Joseph Smith fulfilled the prophecies in Joseph Smith Translation, Genesis 50: 27–28, 30–33? (see [Doctrine and Covenants 1:17–23](#); [20:7–12](#); [39:11](#); [135:3](#)).



“Thus saith the Lord God of my fathers unto me, A choice seer will I raise up” ([JST, Genesis 50:27](#)).

How has knowing these things blessed my life? Brothers and sisters, knowing these things and being grounded in them not only has blessed my life through all the standard means/answers provided in the gospel, but in ways that I would never have even anticipated. I will tell you flat out, there are many “members of the church” who do not have a testimony of this and because of their lack of

testimony on this- that Joseph Smith Jr. Is the man like unto Moses, that Joseph Smith Jr. is the one Mighty and Strong, that their minds have been retarded and they have wandered down strange paths and they have become lost. This is the doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and we need to get right before God and cry unto him until we get that testimony.

### **Elder Craig C. Christensen**

Perhaps the most stunning passage in the Book of Mormon to young Joseph may have been the third chapter of 2 Nephi This chapter contains an ancient prophecy about a “choice seer” whom the Lord would raise up in the latter days—a seer named Joseph, named after his father. This future prophet would be “esteemed highly” and would do a work “of great worth” unto his people. He would “be great like unto Moses” and would be given “power to bring forth [God’s] word.”<sup>15</sup> [See 2 Nephi 3:6–15 Consider how Joseph Smith must have felt as he realized that this prophecy was about him! He was not just translating history; he was translating a vision of the last days, of the miraculous Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ—and Joseph himself would help fulfill it!

Today, almost 200 years later, [it should be] easy to see how this prophecy has been realized. We know about the great things Joseph accomplished as the Lord’s prophet. But remember that when Joseph translated this prophecy, he had done few of the things the prophets foretold. He was still a young man in his early 20s. The Church had not yet been organized. There were no wards or branches, no missionaries, and no temples. Hardly anyone had heard of Joseph Smith, and some of those who had, actively opposed him. Now look at the great work the Lord has wrought by the hand of His servant Joseph, notwithstanding the opposition against him. Is not the fulfillment of this prophecy compelling evidence of the prophetic calling of Joseph Smith?

To any who may be questioning their testimony of Joseph Smith or are struggling with erroneous, misleading, or superficial information about his life and ministry, I invite you to consider the fruits—the many blessings that have come to us through the miraculous mission of Joseph Smith, the Prophet of the Restoration. (“A Choice Seer Will I Raise Up”)

in the [name of Jesus Christ, amen!](#)

Thank you for taking the time to listen to this today, we just feel so blessed to be alive in this day, the days in which the Lord will perform His most wonderful works, the days directly before the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior. We are “Zion or Bust!”, or as President Taylor said “the Kingdom of God or nothing! We know The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord’s church and we are doing everything we can to prepare the world for the Savior’s second coming! If you are interested in learning more, you can check us out on Discord or on Facebook, links always provided below.