

“The Lord was with Joseph”

Genesis 39-50

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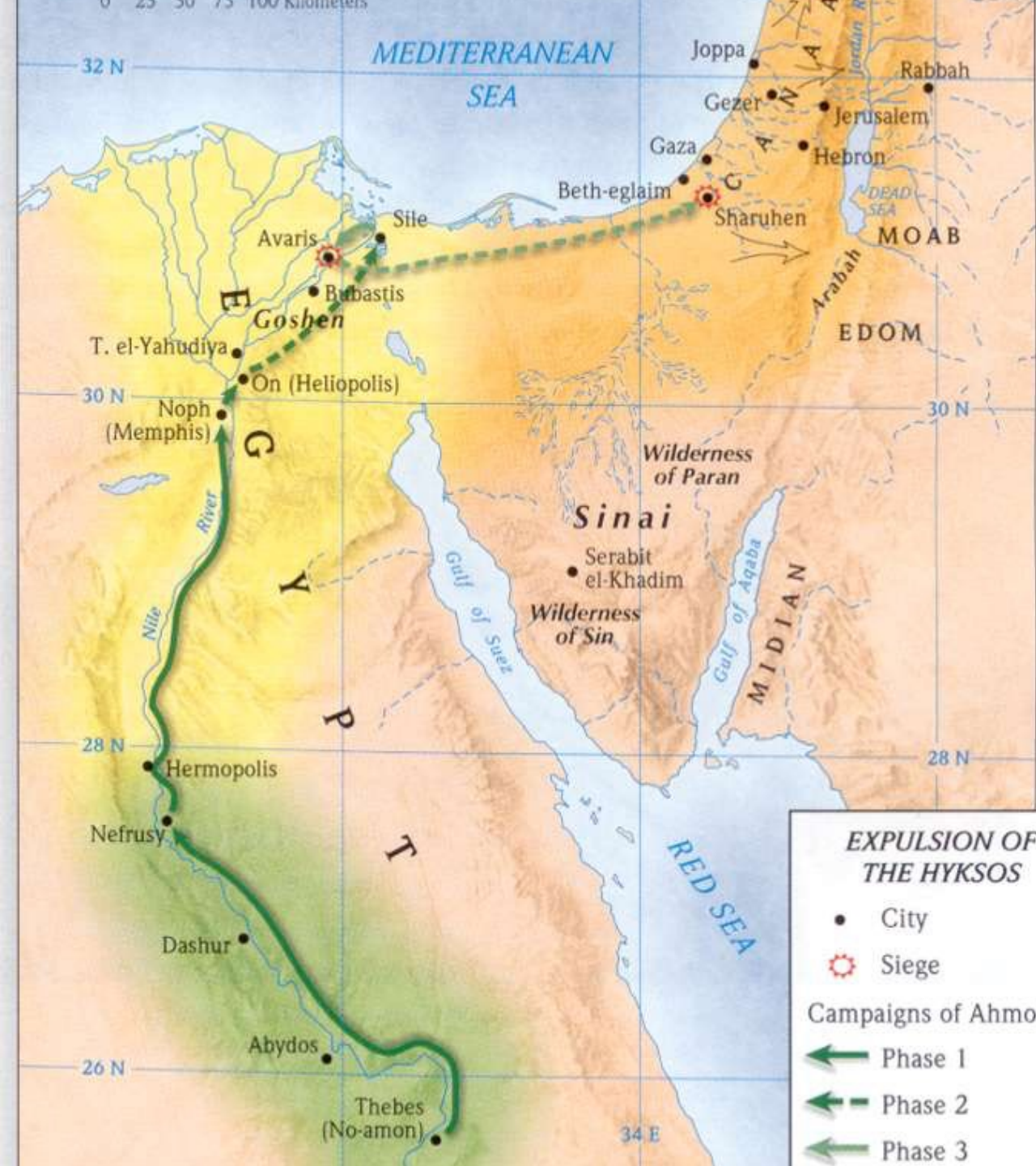


Question1: How Could Joseph, a foreign slave, Rise to Power?

► The Hyksos in Egypt

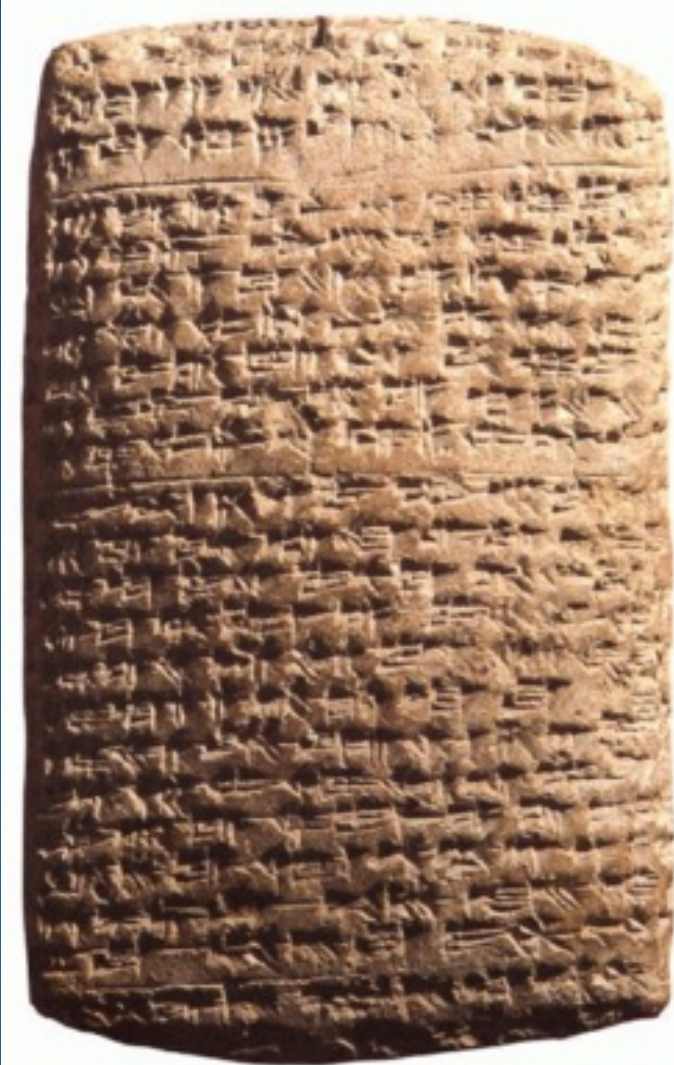


The Region of the Hyksos Rule



But really ... A Foreigner in Pharaoh's Court?

- ▶ Yanhamu—a Semitic nomad from the Canaan region was elevated to the role of Egyptian commissioner for all of Canaan and Syria in the days of Akhenaten (1370-1353 BCE)
- ▶ Ben Ozen—from the region near Sea of Galilee rose to the level of Royal Marshal in the court of Merneptah (1290-1224 BCE).



Question 2: What happened to that arrogant, brash Joseph?

Framing terms:

v. 2 “The LORD was with Joseph”

v. 3 “the LORD was with him

v. 21 “The LORD was with Joseph”

v. 23 “The LORD was with him”

v. 3b and v. 23 --the LORD caused everything to “prosper” or succeed in his hands.

v. 5b—return to theme of blessing

Question 3:

What happened with Joseph and Potiphar's Wife?

- ▶ Social dynamics in ancient world
- ▶ Comparing story of Judah with story of Joseph
- ▶ *hesed*—"steadfast love"; "solidarity"

The Making of an Egyptian Ruler

- ▶ Two Dreams (again)
- ▶ Vv. 40-43 The Son of Jacob becomes an Officer of Pharaoh
- ▶ New name: —Zaphenath-paneah —"he deciphers the concealed."
- ▶ Egyptian wife—Aseneth --"she who belongs to the goddess Neith"
- ▶ Two children, a new status, and a new start

Question 4:

How Will Joseph Respond to his Brothers?

- ▶ 42:6– Dreams Fulfilled
- ▶ 42:7 similar sounding words...
“he recognized (nakar) them
but he treated them like
strangers (nakar)”

The Sarajevo Haggadah, Spain, 13th c.



The Allegations by Joseph and the Response of the Brothers

- ▶ Chapter 42
- ▶ Family
- ▶ “Honest men” —42:11, 19, 31, 33, 34)
- ▶ Why this seemingly cruel request?

Changes are in the Air

▶ 42:21-22 For the brothers

▶ 42:25 For Joseph

Benjamin Comes to Egypt

- ▶ Focus text: 43:26-34
- ▶ Joseph weeps 43:30
- ▶ Joseph is still the Egyptian Outsider

Joseph Makes Himself Known to His Brothers

- ▶ Gen 45:1-15
- ▶ Zaphenath-paneah—the one who “reveals what is concealed”
- ▶ v. 3, 4 “I am Joseph . . . I am your brother Joseph.”
- ▶ The Outsider becomes the Insider once more (vv. 14-15)

Question 5:

Did Joseph Become a Repressive Tyrant Over Egypt?

▶ 47:13-27

▶ 47:11-12 family of Jacob

47:13-26 all of Egypt

47:27 family of Jacob (creational imagery)

Implications of this story?

Question 6:

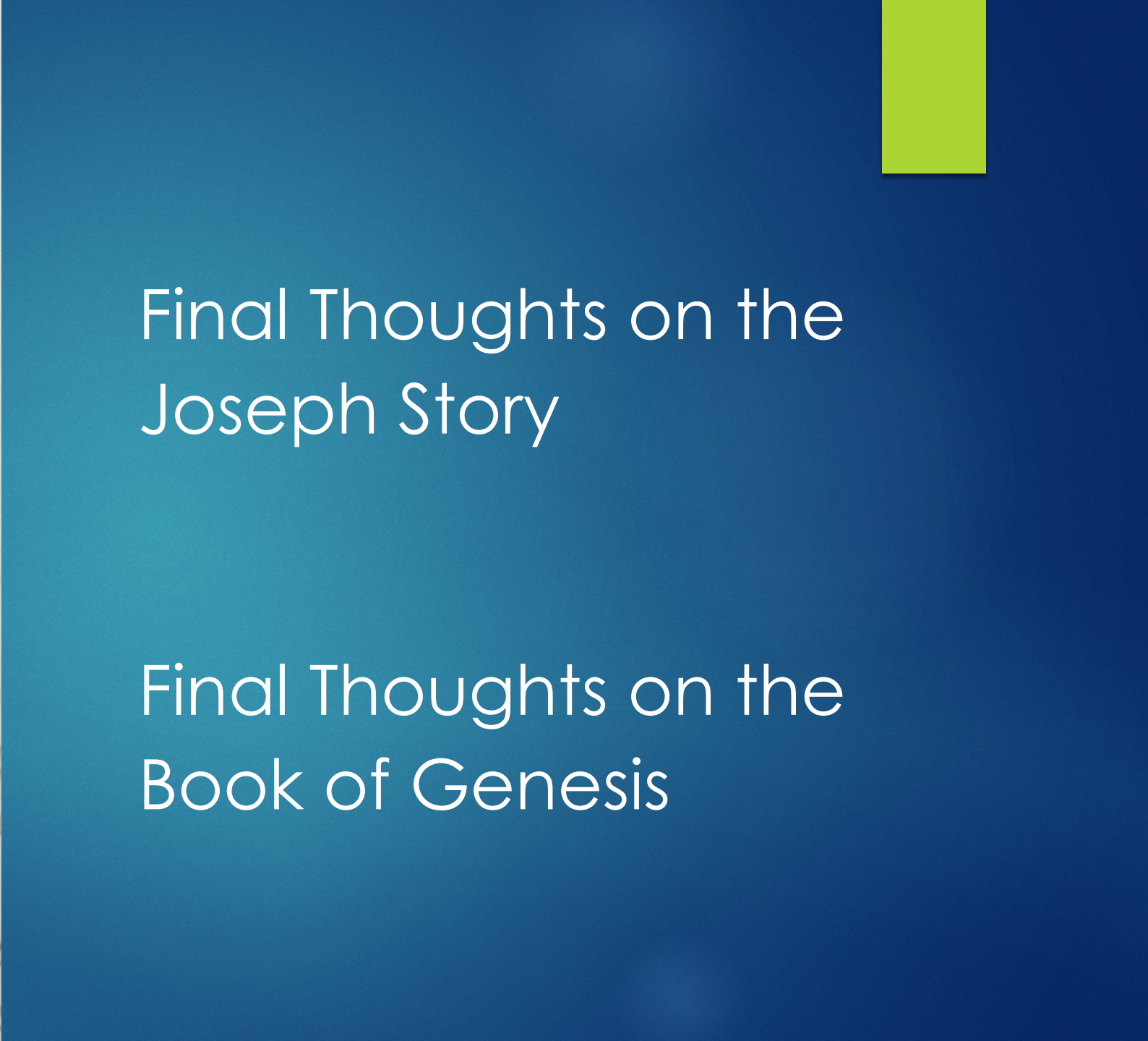
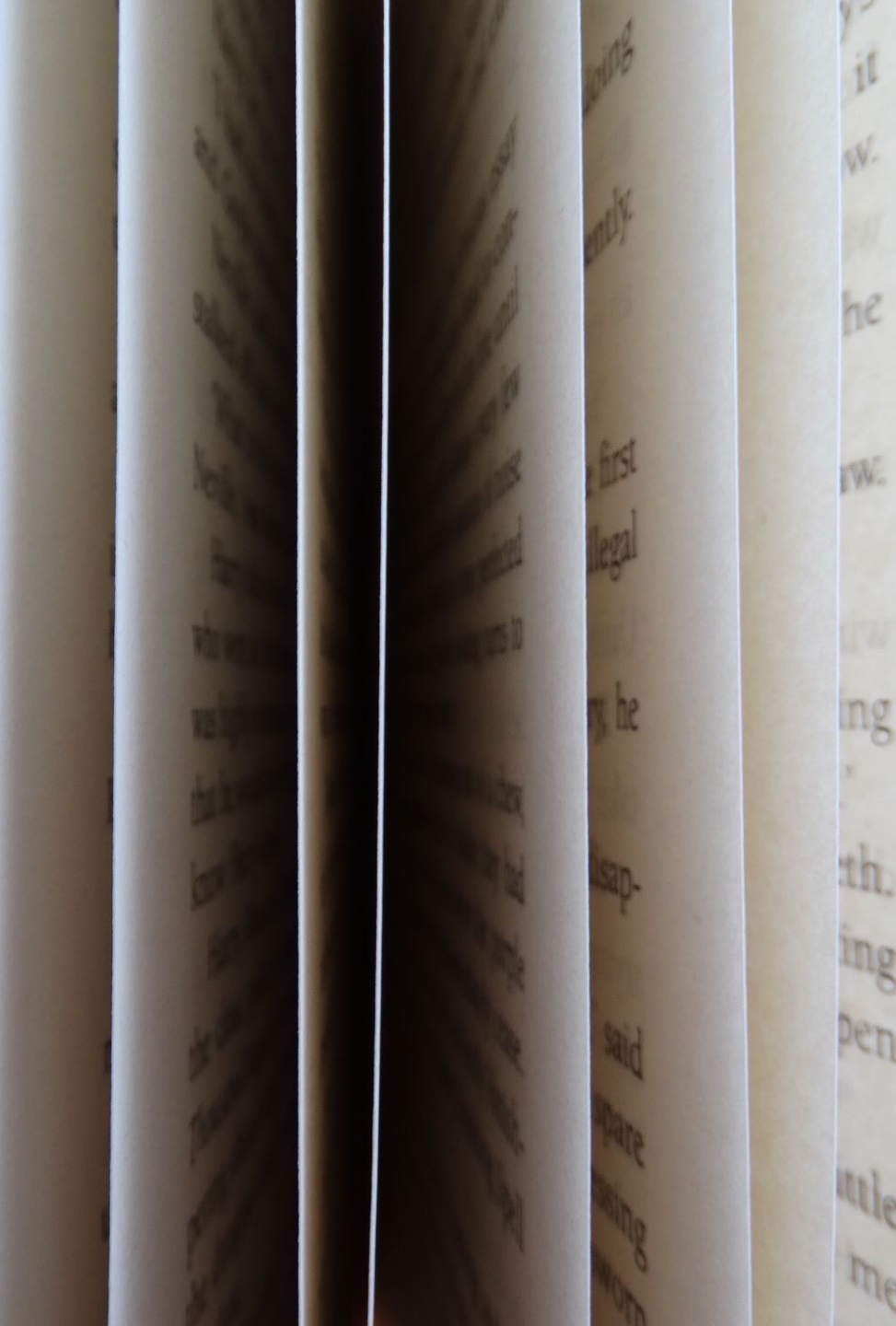
Can the Brothers Really Trust Joseph?

► Fear versus Consolation

Do not fear

Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people as he is doing today.

Have no fear.



Final Thoughts on the
Joseph Story

Final Thoughts on the
Book of Genesis