

Sunday, September 11, 2022
Summary of Backdrop of Joseph – Structure of Genesis
Genesis 37:2; Psalm 105:16-19
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Since the story of Joseph's life comes at the end of Genesis, the background of Genesis is considerable. Yet, this background enriches the story considerably since the book is a unity. After all, the author of Genesis anticipates that you read all of the book and not just the last part. As is the custom in that part of the world, Joseph would have grown up on a diet of stories of the great heroes of Israel's tribal history. He would have been steeped in the fascinating narratives of his father, Jacob, his grandfather Isaac, and his great-grandfather Abraham. But not only that – he would have been acquainted with their prehistory right back to the beginning. In other words, he would have known a good deal of the plotline of the book of Genesis, so it is there that we must begin, for we need to be reminded of some of what Joseph knew. Genesis is more than a story; it is foundational. It is the meta-narrative giving us a grand framework for our understanding of the universe and life. The author gives us help in understanding how he has arranged the book as he uses a key phrase (*"These are the generations of..."*) in six key locations to indicate the main sections of the book. The six main sections the phrase indicates are: 1:1-2:4; 2:5-4:26; 5:1-9:29; 10:1-25:11; 25:12-35:29; and 36:1-50:26.