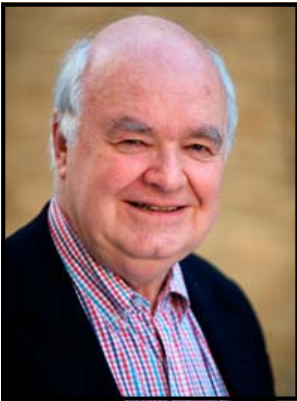


## ***What Does It Take to Run an Empire?***

# **DISCOVERING THE TRUTH TO LASTING LEADERSHIP - THE LIFE AND CAREER OF JOSEPH**



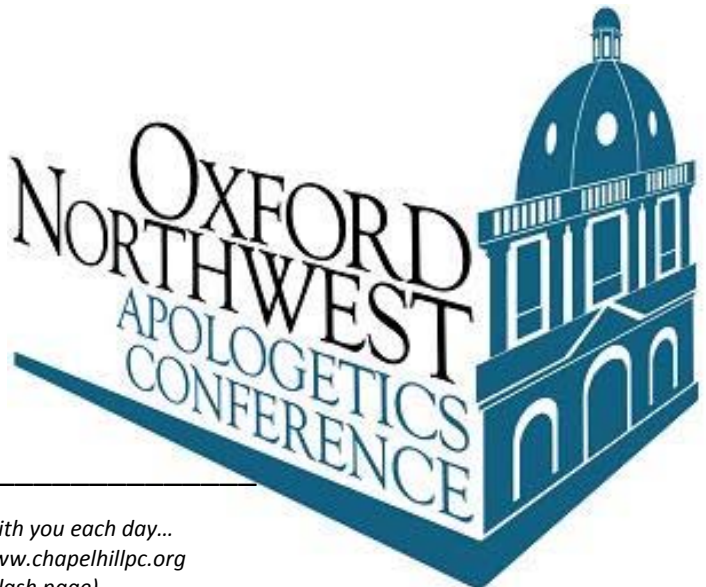
*with Professor John Lennox*

**Friday, September 23, 7-9pm**

**Saturday, September 24, 8:30am-Noon**

**Sunday, September 25, 9:00 & 10:47am**

**Sunday, September 25, 6:30-8:00pm**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please bring your program with you each day...*

*Electronic version available [www.chapelhillpc.org](http://www.chapelhillpc.org)*

*(click on the Oxford Flash page)*

# Welcome

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the third annual Oxford Northwest Apologetics Conference.

We hope you thoroughly enjoy your time at Chapel Hill. It's our pleasure to host this exciting event for you and our community. We know that some of you have traveled many miles to attend and we're glad you've decided to participate in this conference. Welcome to you.

Our guest speaker, Dr. John Lennox is a Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford, England. He is the author of several books including: *God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?*, *God and Stephen Hawking: Whose Design Is It Anyway?*, *Seven Days that Divide the World: The Beginning According to Genesis and Science* and—fresh off the presses—*Gunning for God: Why the New Atheists are Missing the Target*. John is a world-renowned speaker and has debated some of the leading voices in the so-called “New Atheism” movement such as Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens. His real passion, however, is teaching the Bible.

This weekend John will serve as our Bible-guide as we study one of the greatest leaders in history, Joseph, son of Jacob, whose story is found in the book of Genesis. He lived over 3,000 years ago and rose to become the most powerful leader in the world. He did so by overcoming huge obstacles and the lessons he gleaned from those experiences prepared him to govern an empire with wisdom and effectiveness.

All of us find ourselves in leadership roles at points in our lives. Whether or not you consider yourself a religious person, you will discover insights from Joseph's life that could transform your own leadership.

We invite your active participation. John will pose questions that will cause you to think. We encourage you to engage in the Q&A that will follow each presentation. You'll have an opportunity to write down questions that occur to you as you listen and ask them at the conclusion of each of John's talks.

We are grateful to be able to share John with our community and trust that you will benefit greatly from this experience.

May you be blessed,  
Rich Jasper  
Chairman of Oxford Northwest

# ***The Life and Career of Joseph***

## **Part 1.**

### **Joseph in context – the big story of Genesis**

From the beginning of everything to a coffin in Egypt.

## **Part 2.**

### **A dysfunctional family disintegrates**

Joseph's brothers' treatment of him. The fuel of hatred: favouritism and dreams of power: Judah and the selling of Joseph: the deception of Jacob by his family: the departure of Judah and his deception by his daughter-in-law, Tamar.

## **Part 3.**

### **The leader's training, testing and rise to power.**

In work and ethics: Potiphar's house and Potiphar's wife

In suffering and endurance: prison and the inmates' dreams

In witness and rule: from prison to palace as saviour and leader of the empire.

## **Part 4.**

### **The leader's use of his power: an anatomy of reconciliation.**

Joseph's treatment of his brothers: the path to honesty, repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation

**“Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good that many people be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear” Genesis 50.19-20.**

**An OT commentary: “When he summoned a famine on the land and broke the supply of bread, he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph who was sold as a slave. His feet were hurt with fetters: his neck was put in a collar of iron; until what he had said came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him...” Psalm 105.16-23**

**A NT commentary: “And the patriarchs jealous of Joseph sold him into Egypt, but God was with him...” Acts 7.9-1.**

## ***Part 1. Joseph in Context: The Big Story of Genesis***

### *Part I. Genesis 1.1-2.3*

The Creation and Organisation of the Universe

The Word creates: men and women – God’s Image

### *Part II. Genesis 2.4-4.26*

The meaning of human life and death [a. Heavens b. Earth]

The Word defines morality: temptation, sin and salvation

Cain and Abel

*Part III. Genesis 5.1-9.29*

The nature of human beings [a.Adam b.Noah]

The faith of Noah

The judgement of the Flood

*Part IV. Genesis 10.1-25.11*

The Rise of the Hebrew nation from the Gentile nations

[a) Noah, Shem b) Terah]

Abraham and his sons – Ishmael and Isaac

The death of Abraham

*Part V. Genesis 25.12-35-29*

The development of the Hebrews into Israelites

[a) Ishmael b) Isaac]

Isaac and his sons – Esau and Jacob

The death of Isaac.

*Part VI. Genesis 36.1-50.26*

The Israelites become a blessing to the Gentile world through Joseph

[a) Esau b) Jacob]

Jacob and his 12 sons

The deaths of Jacob and Joseph

## ***Part 2. Jacob's Family Disintegrates***

The problem of human favouritism – sowing the seeds of hatred.

1 Pet. 1.15-19, 1 Tim. 5.21

The content of Joseph's dreams fuels the flame of jealousy

Reuben's good intentions: "Shed no blood. Cast him in the pit".

The cruelty of the brothers (42.21)

Joseph sold for silver – suggested by Judah

The deceit – the sons deceive Jacob by showing him Joseph's cloak dipped in blood: "Please identify whether it is your son's robe or not."

Joseph lost to Jacob.

Judah 'goes down' from his brothers. Judah's sons: Er, Onan and Shelah.

Er dies childless. Onan refuses to fulfil the Levirate law and give Er's widow Tamar a child. Judah fails to give Shelah to Tamar.

The deceit – Tamar deceives Judah with her clothing: "Please identify whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff"

The birth of Perez – ancestor of David and of Christ.

## ***Questions...***

How might Jacob have learned about the dangers of favouritism from his own prior experience?

Have we experienced favouritism or rejection? How has it affected us? What steps can we take to avoid carrying into the next generation – of family, church, work etc?

Do we think that Joseph was a talebearer? Should he have mentioned his dreams?

What differences are there, if any, in the brothers' attitude to Joseph, and why?

## ***Part 3. The Leader's Training, Testing and Rise to Power***

**Joseph's first rise to power: administration in Potiphar's palace.**

### **Joseph's work ethic**

Gaining the trust of those who do not share our worldview.

The evidential basis for faith and trust: the Lord was with Joseph and Potiphar saw it.

The nature and significance of work: the key question – why do we work?

The origin of work: Genesis 2.

The goals and by-products of work: 2 Thess. 2.10, Matthew 6:25-34

The attitude to work: Colossians 3.22-4.1

Paul's commands and motivation

- a) 2 Thess. 2.6-12;
- b) Acts 20.33-35;
- c) 1 Corinthians 9.9 and 1 Tim.5.17-18.

The Lord gives Joseph success.

## **Joseph's ethics tested.**

The location of the test – the work-place.

The ingredients in the test: the essence of morality.

The secret of Joseph's fidelity – a matter of absolutes.

The base of ethics: the logical possibilities – God, nature, society.

The relationship of ethics to worldview: "If God does not exist everything is permissible" (Dostoievski). The contemporary problem: ethics and naturalism.

The deceit: the false evidence of Joseph's clothes and the deception of Potiphar.

Notes...

## ***Part 3. Continued...***

### ***The Leader's Training, Testing and Rise to Power***

#### **Joseph's second rise to power: administration of the prison**

Potiphar's choice – who is telling the truth?

The trust of the prison governor in Joseph – the Lord was with Joseph and made him succeed.

The dreams of the chief butler and the chief baker: Joseph's sensitivity and its implications.

Joseph's plea to the butler: "Remember me".

The delaying of justice: "How long o Lord?"

Notes...

## **Joseph's third rise to power: administration of the Egyptian Empire.**

Joseph's response to Pharaoh's dreams: "It is not in me – God will give Pharaoh a favourable answer"

Joseph's belief in and witness to the fact of revelation: his interpretation of the double dream, his economic analysis and recommendations.

Pharaoh perceives that there is such a thing as revelation.

Joseph's elevation to unprecedented authority: his economic strategy for saving Egypt from starvation.

Joseph's marriage and children: Manasseh = "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house"; Ephraim = "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction"

## ***Questions...***

Is our attitude to my work 'Christian' – and what does that really mean?

Do people trust me?

What principles and practice can we learn from Joseph's handling of attempted seduction?

How do we think Joseph resisted becoming bitter at the false accusation of Potiphar's wife?

What resources do we possess to do the same?

What does Joseph's attitude to the dreams of the butler and baker tell us about his attitude to his own dreams?



## ***Questions...***

Do we think I am being treated unfairly at the moment?

How does this affect me and how am I going to deal with it?

Am I treating anyone else unfairly? What am I going to do about it?

What was the essence of Joseph's witness to Pharaoh? What gave him courage? What about me?

How can I witness and encourage others to witness to the contemporary world that God speaks?

What do the names Joseph gives his children tell us about his processing and acceptance of his own experience?



## ***Part 4. The Leader's use of his Power: An Anatomy of Forgiveness***

### **The first visit of the brothers to Egypt**

The pressure of global famine: a 'natural' catastrophe?

A life or death choice for Jacob: he sends his sons to Egypt but refuses to allow Benjamin to go with them.

Joseph sees his dream come true – his brothers bow the first time.

The complex issues facing Joseph: he accuses his brothers of spying: are they "honest men"? Joseph determines: "that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you... that your words might be verified" (42.16, 20).

Notes...

Joseph commands they bring Benjamin next time.

The pressure of conscience and the beginning of repentance: “In truth we are guilty...” (42.21). Reuben: “Surely we are being punished because of our brother... so now there comes a reckoning for blood”.

Joseph’s weeping and its significance: the dimensions of forgiveness.

Joseph takes Simeon as prisoner and sends the others home.

On the journey, they find their money returned in their sacks.

The recognition that God is involved: “What is this that God has done to us” 42.28

Jacob’s reaction: “You have deprived me of my children” 42.36.

Reuben’s irrational offer: “Kill my two sons if...”.

## ***Part 4. Continued...The Leader's use of his Power: An Anatomy of Forgiveness***

### **The second visit of the brothers to Egypt.**

Jacob resists Benjamin going. Judah's plea: "I will be a pledge for the boy... If I do not bring him back I shall bear the blame for ever".

A meal with Joseph.

- a) The brothers bow for the second time;
- b) Joseph weeps when he sees Benjamin;
- c) The seating arrangement according to age;
- d) Favouritism shown to Benjamin?

Joseph now commands that the grain payment be returned in the brothers' sacks and his special silver cup placed in Benjamin's sack.

The discovery of the silver cup.

The decision that faced the brothers – they choose to return to the city.

Facing the judgment of Joseph. The brothers bow the third time.

Judah's plea: he begs to be allowed to take Benjamin's place as Joseph's slave so that Benjamin can go back to his father.

The climax: Joseph, weeping, reveals his identity to his repentant brothers and they are reconciled. "Do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here. For God sent me before you to preserve life".

"After that his brothers talked with him."

Jacob learns Joseph is alive and "his heart became numb because he did not believe them".

Notes...

## ***Part 4. Continued...The Leader's use of his Power: An Anatomy of Forgiveness***

### **Israel comes to Egypt.**

The meeting of Jacob with Joseph.

Arrangements with Pharaoh for family accommodation and work in Egypt.

Jacob meets Pharaoh: "Few and evil have been the days of my life".

Jacob prepares for death. Jacob blesses Joseph's sons and his own sons, he dies and is buried in Abraham's tomb in Canaan.

### **Complete forgiveness?**

The lingering doubt about Joseph's attitude now that Jacob was dead: "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back." A double plea for forgiveness from Jacob?

Joseph final tears and the brothers' final bow.

Notes...

**“Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good that many people be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones. Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them” 50.19-21.**

**The final expression of Joseph’s faith:** “God will surely visit you and you shall carry up my bones from here”.

**There is more to come:** “These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeing a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God for he has prepared for them a city.” Hebrews 11.13-16.

## Questions...

Why did Joseph not reveal himself to them at once when their conscience started to accuse them?

Do you think that Jacob knew deep down what had happened?

What does Judah's argument to Jacob (about why Benjamin should be allowed to go to Egypt) reveal about Judah?

Why did Joseph not reveal himself to the brothers immediately when he saw Benjamin?

What is the significance of his weeping?

What issue did Joseph force his brothers to consider by putting his cup in Benjamin's sack?

What did Judah say in his plea to Joseph that triggered Joseph's self-disclosure?

What does this story teach us about the nature of repentance and its relationship to forgiveness?

Notes...

## ***Upcoming Calendar of Events at Chapel Hill***

### **A Special Women's Breakfast with Margaret Manning**

November 12, 8:30am, Gathering Place, Chapel Hill

"Contemporary Spiritualities: Looking for God in *an Eat, Pray, Love* World". As part of our Oxford NW series, we invite you back to hear from this Seattle-based speaker with the RZIM Ministry. Margaret will share a message on how our Christian faith is relevant today as we engage our current culture. Come and invite a friend. Contact Patti Weaver at 853.0287.

### **Welcome to the Family Class**

Monday 6:30-8:15pm, October 3—November 16, Chapel Hill

Would you like to become a member of Chapel Hill? Join us for an upcoming Welcome to the Family Class! Contact Barb Wentlandt for more information at 853.0231.

### **GroupLink**

October 9, 7:00-8:00pm, Memorial Chapel

GroupLink is a 60-minute event where people looking to connect in a small group come together. LifeGroup Leaders representing post college, singles, couples, mixed groups, men's and women's will be available to meet and talk with you about their group. All in a safe and comfortable environment. Childcare is provided. For more information contact Patti Weaver at 853.0287.

### **Family Movie Night**

November 11, 6:30pm, Memorial Chapel, Chapel Hill

While this family-friendly event doesn't cost much, the opportunity to have fun as a family with other families is priceless.

### **Festival of Hope**

November 11-13, Chapel Hill

Our annual Fair Trade Marketplace—Christmas shopping that spreads glad tidings around the globe!

### **Thanksgiving Eve Worship**

November 23, 7:00pm, Chapel Hill

Join us as we gather to thank the Lord for His bounty and offer our praise to Him.

## **“Full of Life” 2011 Chapel Hill Youth Benefit**

December 3 & 4, Chapel Hill

The proceeds from this exciting annual event (silent and live auction) support two Student Ministry interns and administrative support for the Student Ministry Department. To donate or purchase tickets online, please visit [www.chapelhillpc.org](http://www.chapelhillpc.org).

## **The Christmas Lamp**

December 18; 9:00am and 10:47am, Chapel Hill

This original musical drama will be presented by our children’s drama department during regular Sunday services. Suitable for the whole family.

## **Christmas Eve Services**

December 24: 3:00, 4:30, 6:00, 7:30 and 9:00pm, Chapel Hill

All services include candlelight and carols. Family Services (geared to children) at 3:00 & 4:30; Choir & Orchestra at 6:00 & 7:30; Candlelight Communion at 9:00pm.

## **Couples Life**

January 14, 2012: 9:00am—3:00pm, Chapel Hill

Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott teach with biblical insight and practical advice. Everyone—(newlyweds, long married couples, seriously dating or engaged) who wants to learn the keys to making a bad relationship good or a good relationship great—will benefit from this one-day seminar. Their reality-in-marriage message is simple, sensible and can be applied to couples of all ages. Contact Sharon Price 853.0279.

## **Additional Couples Classes/Sessions**

- **Dynamic Marriage** - a group experience that enables couples to examine the unspoken expectations that lead to disappointment and conflict in a marriage and to choose a different future.
- **Couples Checkup** - an 8-week class which helps determine strengths you share in your marriage—as well as areas to improve—based on the results of your online inventory.
- **Love & Respect** an 8 week class that gives participants the opportunity to learn/reinforce skills needed for vital marriages and other relationships.

Contact Sharon Price at 853.0279.

## ***Upcoming Calendar Continued...***

### **Upward Basketball and Cheerleading** (for grades K-6<sup>th</sup>)

Upward basketball and cheer provides a positive sports experience for every child, teaching fundamentals and life lessons, and makes the most of your family's time and money. See [www.chapelhillkids.org/sports-a-drama.html](http://www.chapelhillkids.org/sports-a-drama.html) for more details.

### **Preschool Park**

Thursdays during the school year, 10:30am–12:00pm, Chapel Hill Gym

Join other parents, grandparents, nannies, and friends for an indoor playground for children birth to five years. Enjoy our toys, snacks, trikes, bikes, and tents—all for the low price of \$1 per family! No registration needed. Contact Janet Smith at 853.0288.

### **Celebrate Recovery**

Thursdays, 6:30–9:00pm, Memorial Chapel

A Christ-based 12-step recovery program for adults. Participants meet at Chapel Hill in weekly study groups that lay the foundation for the twelve steps to a recovery process and enable people to discover “what’s up” with them in a confidential, supportive setting. Participants come from diverse yet amazingly similar, life experiences. Contact Lori White at 853.0291.

**What's Next...** *(Please complete and drop in basket at the Connect Center)*

I'd like more information about Chapel Hill.

*Check this box if you are interested in attending this church, or finding out more about any of our ministries.*

I'd like to learn more about Christian apologetics.

*Check this box if you have big questions you would like answers to and would like to be pointed to resources or discussion groups where you can explore these more.*

I'd like to attend a group to investigate the claims of Christianity.

*Check this box if you would like to explore who Jesus is, why He came, and what that means for us today.*

I'd like to have a personal conversation with a member of the pastoral staff.

*Check this box if something personal has come up for you during this conference and you would like to discuss it more on a one-to-one basis.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Order Form for Media Ministry**

*(please bring with you to the connect center to process order and pay in advance)*

Please supply your contact information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the number and combination of recordings you would like

\_\_\_\_ Complete Set

\$35.00  CD  DVD

\_\_\_\_ Individual (circle your choice) Fri. Sat. Sun pm

\$10.00 each  CD  DVD

## ***Resources During Conference***

**Connect Center:** Books and DVDs on the following topics will be available for purchase: *general apologetics, the problem of evil, historicity of the Bible/Christianity, other religions, science, new atheism and postmodernism*. Professor John Lennox's books will be available.

You will also have an opportunity to purchase Media (CD/DVD's) of the entire series this weekend. See order form on previous page.

**Got Questions:** If you have any questions about Christianity and its claims, then head over to the "Got Questions?" sign in HeBrews coffee shop to speak with Ellis & Rachel White, our missionaries from Oxford, England.

**HeBrews Coffee Shop:** Specialty coffee and other beverages, and light snacks will be available on Saturday morning, 7:30—10:30am

**Looking for a church?** If you have no church home, please join us next Sunday for worship at 9:00am (Blended style) or 10:47am (Modern style). You can also learn more about Chapel Hill by completing the information card on the previous page.

**Saturday Childcare:** Reservations required. Call 853.0219. Sunday morning childcare during services does not require a reservation.



**CHAPEL HILL**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7700 SKANSIE, GIG HARBOR  
253.851.7779

[WWW.CHAPELHILLPC.ORG](http://WWW.CHAPELHILLPC.ORG)