**Notes on Genesis Chapters 37-50**

**Various scholars view this section as being**

* about the family of Jacob (New Interpreter’s Bible),
* about dreamers versus dream-killers (Walter Brueggemann),
* about how God works in the world (Bruggemann)
* a narrative bridge created to connect the story of the fathers (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) with the Exodus story (various),
* written during the time of Solomon (most scholars),
* including 3 sources (J, E, and P),
* unified (some) or patched together (some others),

**Interesting facts about the text**

* Israel refers first to a person then a family then a nation
* The term for “servant/slave” is used almost 100 times in this book
* God never appears to Joseph.
* Previous chapter of Genesis talked about Esau’s family and it becoming Edom.
* Egypt is viewed favorably.
* Government is generally viewed favorably.

**Mary’s observation**

This deals with family issues, use and abuse of power, and the relationship between family, God, and government.

Questions we may consider

Is it unified or patched together?

How much does wisdom literature influence it?

How does Egypt here contrast with the Egypt in Exodus?