**Feb.15, 2020**

**Observations related to Joseph’s story**

This story forms a necessary bridge between the saga of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and Exodus. This reading was preceded by Rachel’s death in childbirth and Isaac’s death, then the descendants of Esau.

Joseph was politically savvy. He was also ethical—never cheated his boss.

The story could focus on Jacob or Judah as well as Joseph.

Judah had to be tricked to do right by his daughter-in-law. Contrasts with Joseph not succumbing to passion.

There is a theme of dreams.

Jacob had a more direct relationship with God. Joseph didn’t.

The story emphasizes God working through events rather than direct intervention, as is seen before and after this story.

There is a theme of submitting to God’s will, or circumstances and adapting, rather than fighting fate.

There is a theme that God controls history.

Jacob’s “blessing” was more of a prediction.