



SESSION 7: JOSEPH AND THE MANY-COLORED DREAM COAT

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this session is to show the importance of history and politics in the Abrahamic faiths. To achieve this goal, the session will focus on the following objectives:

1. Participants learn how the scale of Joseph's story changes from the story of a clan to the story of a nation.
2. Participants will become explicitly aware of the role of Egypt in the historical and theological development of Abrahamic faiths.

ACTIVITIES

Discussion

- ❖ Review and discuss the NOS chapter, "The Matriarch."
 - What new knowledge did you gain?
 - What does Brian Brown say about historical reality of Joseph?
 - What questions do you have?
- ❖ Review and discuss the story of Joseph.
 - Compare and contrast the biblical and Qur'anic versions of the story of Joseph. What's similar, what's different and what do these similarities/difference mean theologically?
 - What is the relevance of Egypt in the story?
 - Does Joseph's story differ from Adam's, Cain's, Noah's, Abraham's, Lot's and Jacob's?
 - What did Joseph learn from the Egyptians and what did they learn from him?
- ❖ If time allows, review NOS Ch. 11, "The Foundation," pp.122-133.
 - Focus on the three surahs that appear on p. 133 (5:47, 5:50, and 5:51). What does the Qur'an say about the evolution of the Word? About the relationship between God and humanity? About the importance of diversity?
 - What are the themes of the Law? (Note the theme of social justice among God's people ranks as important as a righteous relationship between people and God.)

READINGS AND ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT SESSION

Below is a list of women to consider. At minimum, the Wikipedia article should be considered, and some of links this article provides should be explored. Also input the names into Google in order to come up with more links. Stick to the Websites that look reputable (e.g., The Catholic Encyclopedia, The Discovery Channel Online, university and denominational Websites.)

Participants should keep in mind the following questions: Who were these women? What role did they play in the development and history of the faith? Why are they important to today?



Noah's Other Son

Session 7

Muslim: Khadijah and Fatima, **Judaic:** Ruth and Eve, **Christian:** Mary Magdalene, & Priscilla.
For next session, participants should read the following:

1. NOS: Ch. 13, "Women Who Have Names," pp.143-152

a. Optional: NOS Ch. 12 "Three Kings," pp.134-142