

JOSEPH



A Preview Of Jesus

as taught by Pastor Vic Rockhill

Water of Life Christian Center

Douglasville, Ga.

"And Pharaoh said unto his servants,
Can we find such a one as this is, a
man in whom the spirit of God is?
And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Foras-
much as God hath showed thee all this,
there is none so discreet and wise as
thou art: Thou shalt be over my
house, and according unto thy word
shall all my people be ruled: only
in the throne will I be greater than
thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph,
See, I have set thee over all the
land of Egypt. And Pharaoh took off
his ring from his hand, and put it
upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him
in vestures of fine linen, and put a
gold chain about his neck; And he
made him to ride in the second chariot
which he had; and they cried before
him, Bow the knee: and he made him
ruler over all the land of Egypt.
And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am
Pharaoh, and without thee shall no
man lift up his hand or foot in all
the land of Egypt."

Genesis 41:38-44

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NOTE:

Each of these lessons was taped as Pastor Vic originally taught them.

Lesson 1

THE FAITHFUL SON

A. Introduction

1. One-fourth of the book of Genesis is given to Joseph's story (chapters 37-50).
2. His life is a type and preview of Jesus in very many ways.
3. He was Jacob's 11th son, the 1st son born to Rebekah (Gen. 30:22-24).
4. Joseph was Abraham's great-grandson.
5. He lived 110 years and was born approximately 1746 BC.

B. His father's favorite son (Gen. 37:1-4)

1. Active in his family's work (2)
2. Faithful to his father to tell the truth (2)
3. First born son to Jacob's beloved Rachel, the only bride he ever wanted.
4. The beautiful coat symbolized to everyone the special place he held in his father's heart and of his inheritance (3).
5. He was hated by his brothers because of his father's love for him (4).

C. The boyhood dreams (Gen. 37:5-11)

1. Both dreams were prophetic, that the brothers and parents would bow to him.
 - a. The sheaves (7)
 - b. The sun, moon and stars (9)
2. No interpretation was necessary as the meaning was evident (8 & 10).
3. Note that none of the problems he would face were dreamed, only the good part.
4. Note also the similarity of the brothers' response and the response to Jesus when he declared his future reign.

D. His father's obedient servant (Gen. 37:12-17)

1. Jacob discusses with Joseph the mission to his rebellious, wayward sons (12-14).
 - a. His sons were busy in a distant place (12).
 - b. Jacob said, "Come, I will send you to them." (13)
 - c. The son Joseph, as a servant responded in total obedience: "Here am I" (13).
 - d. Read for comparison
 1. Luke 19:10
 2. Phil. 2:5-8
 3. Matt. 21:33-44

E. Betrayed by his brothers (Gen. 37:18-35)

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1. Their hatred was so great they didn't wait to hear his words before they plotted to kill him (18-20).
2. Reuben half-heartedly intercedes (21-22).
3. For money they betrayed him into slavery (23-28). Compare Matt. 26:14-16.
4. Then they lied to their father (29-32).
5. The father's grief (33-35)

Lesson 2

FROM SLAVE'S PRISON TO KING'S THRONE

A. A slave in Egypt (Gen. 39:1-6)

1. Joseph was sold to Potiphar, an Egyptian soldier (1-2).
2. What Potiphar noticed in Joseph
 - a. The testimony of the Lord (3)
 - b. The Lord prospered Joseph's every endeavor (3).
 - c. Joseph served Potiphar rather than grumble over his fate (3-4).
3. The result of Joseph's attitude and faithfulness
 - a. He found grace in his master's sight (4).
 - b. He was made overseer of all his master's possessions (4).
 - c. The Lord's blessing was on his master (5).
 - d. He was completely trusted (6).

B. The devil attacks (Gen. 39:6-23)

1. When all is going just right sin raises its head. See also Rev. 2:10.
2. Joseph was a handsome lad (6).
3. Potiphar's wife tempts him (7).
4. Joseph's answer is: "I cannot" (8-9).
5. Finally he fled her advances (10-12). See also II Tim. 2:22.

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6. Lying and a false witness condemn him to prison (13-20). Compare Mark 14:55-59.
7. The Lord never left Joseph, even though his circumstances were disastrous (21).
8. He prospered even in prison (22-23).

C. Type and shadow of Jesus

1. Came to the world (Egypt) as a slave--- Matt. 20:26-28 "I came to minister."
2. Everyone he touched prospered (healed, delivered, fed) -- Luke 6:17-19
3. Tempted by the "big shots"--Matt. 22:35, John 8:6
4. He stood firm - no "give in" to him.
5. Betrayed by false witnesses - Matt. 26: 59-62.
6. He went to the prison house of hell -- Acts.2:27.
7. Went willingly to prison (cross) -- John 10:17-18
8. Ministered to captives in prison -- I Peter 3:19

D. Pharoah's servants (Gen. 40:1-23)

1. Butler and baker have dreams (1-5)
2. Joseph given the correct interpretation by God (6-22).

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3. Joseph now has a supporter in Pharaoh's court but to no immediate or apparent benefit (23).

E. Pharaoh's dream (Gen. 41:1-44)

1. Joseph was prepared by God in prison not in college.
2. Forgotten by everyone except God.
3. Then God moved without Joseph's assistance (Ps. 18:36, 37:23).
4. The pharaoh's dream (1-4 & 17-21)
 - a. Out of the river Nile, the source of life for Egypt.
 - b. Seven fat cows - representing seven years of good and plenty
 - c. Seven lean cows - representing seven years of famine
 - d. Lean cows devour the fat---representing the ability of the famine to consume the plenty
 - e. Lean cows remained lean and starved-looking---meaning the famine would not be abated.
5. The second dream (5-7 & 22-24)
 - a. Seven lean ears of corn devoured seven good ears.
 - b. A confirmation of the first dream
6. Pharaoh's spirit was troubled, a sure sign this was more than a normal meaningless dream (8).
7. Pharaoh's wise men were unable to help him (8 & 24).

8. All was now ready. God's timing is always perfect. "In the fulness of time..."
 - a. Pharoah prepared by his dream and the failure of those he depended upon.
 - b. Joseph prepared by thirteen years in the school of hard knocks. He had learned discipline, self-denial, and faithfulness to commitment.
 - c. Thirteen years is not too long to wait (37:2 & 41:46).
9. The interpretation
 - a. First credit the true God (16).
 - b. The dream interpreted - word of knowledge (25-31)
 - c. Then wise counsel - word of wisdom (32-36)
10. Pharoah is moved to action (37-44).
 - a. Counsel is good (37)
 - b. He recognized God's hand on Joseph (38-39).
 - c. Joseph put over all Egypt (40-41)
 - d. Pharoah's authority given to him (42-44)
11. Don't verses 40-44 remind you of Jesus coming to rule the earth?
 - a. Rule all the people (40)
 - b. No one greater but the Father on the throne (40)
 - c. Rule over all the world--Egypt (41)
 - d. His royal apparel (42)
 - e. Every knee must bow (43)
 - f. Without him, we can do nothing (44).
 - g. Despised and rejected by men, God exalted Him to the throne.

Lesson 3

RULE AND RECONCILIATION

- A. Another beautiful preview---look for Jesus and His church (Gen. 41:45-52)
 - 1. Pharoah gives to Joseph a new name---
--Zaphnath-paaneah, which means:
 - a. To the Egyptian (the unsaved world) - Sustainer of Life or Savior of the World.
 - b. To the Hebrew (the people of God) ---Revealer of Secrets
 - 2. Now that Joseph has completed his suffering, has been exalted, and set on the right hand of the throne, Pharoah chooses a bride for him.
 - a. Name is Asenath which means "One who Belongs to Neith (a pagan goddess)
 - b. We aren't told much about her past because it's not important. It's blotted out. Her future is what matters. All we know is that she formerly knew not the true God.
 - c. Now she has a favored place on the throne with her husband.
 - 3. Her role was to aid in "bringing sons into glory" (Gen. 41:50-51).
 - 4. See I Pet. 2:9, Heb. 2:10.
- B. The famine comes (Gen. 41:50-42:4)
 - 1. God would use the famine to drive Joseph's brethren to him; the same

way will He use the tribulation to come to drive their descendents (Jews) to Jesus.

2. During the time of plenty as when the Holy Spirit is poured out on earth:
 - a. Sons are born to Joseph. All are born during the plenteous times before the tribulation (50). This represents the church born of the Gentiles.
 - b. The kingdom is strengthened and prepared for famine.
 3. When famine comes:
 - a. Egypt (the world) turns to Joseph (Jesus) for salvation (55-57).
 - b. The seven-year famine reminds us of a seven-year tribulation called "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7).
 - c. The Jews are driven to Joseph for survival (42:1-3).
 - d. Even though Jacob and his family were in obedience to God, living in Canaan, etc., their own sin from the past had brought this tribulation upon them.
 - e. Confrontation was necessary in order to bring repentance and forgiveness.
- C. Joseph draws (squeezes) his brethren to repentance, confession, and forgiveness (Gen. 42:5-38).
1. Steps from sin to restored fellowship.
 - a. Awareness - first the sinner must be made aware of his sinful condition.

- b. Conviction - the work of the Holy Spirit to produce a Godly sense of sorrow for sin.
 - c. Repentance/Confession - the act of the sinner where he abhors his sin, turns away from it and truly desires forgiveness. It is not simply remorse or a desire to escape the penalty or consequence of sin.
 - d. Forgiveness - always follows true repentance where the sin is forgiven and forgotten.
 - e. Fellowship/Communion - is restored when sin is cleansed. It is as if the sin never existed.
2. Watch Joseph deal with his brothers as God does with us.
3. The first meeting (42:5-24)
- a. Joseph's prophetic dream is fulfilled but brothers don't know it (6-8).
 - b. They were blind (7). See Rom. 11:25.
 - c. The dialog (42:9-24):
 - 42:9 Joseph, "You are spies and deceitful men."
 - 42:10-11 Brothers, denial and self-justification, "We are true and honest men."
 - 42:12 Joseph, "No you are spies. Your motives are not sincere."
 - 42:13 Brothers, Denial. Wouldn't face sin. Justify self by family. Veiled reference to old sin.
 - 42:14-16 Joseph, "We'll prove you and see if it's as you say."

You want to be counted right
by family and works, we'll
examine it very carefully.

"Send one and get your youngest
brother."

42:17-18 They apparently refuse.
Joseph identifies himself as
"of God".

42:19-20 Joseph, "To prove you,
go get brother. Leave one
here."

42:21-22 Brothers, Conviction comes.
Heart shows true state. No
repentance yet---just acknow-
ledgement of guilt.

42:23-24 Joseph, Feels the anguish
of unconfessed sin but cannot
relent. No repentance yet.

4. The return home (42:25-38)
 - a. Joseph will make them loathe money.
They sold him for money; he will
make it a snare for them (25-28).
 - b. Leaving Joseph's presence, the
conviction eases somewhat.
 - c. Discuss with rest of family (Jacob,
etc.) but no confession yet of
sin---only anxiety over the conse-
quences of it (30-35).

Lesson 4

THE REVELATION

A. Joseph's plan continues (Gen. 43:1-44:34).

1. The second trip (43:1-34)

- a. Hunger forced them back to the source. Their money did not satisfy (1-2).
- b. With them they bring Benjamin and an offering of their goods (11-12). Still no repentance (3-14).
- c. Jacob also is being squeezed - forced to give up his most precious possession, his son (11-14).
- d. The dialog:
 - 43:16 Joseph: "Take them to my house. I've provided for them." (An open invitation like salvation.)
 - 43:18 Brothers: Fear. Heart unsettled. No peace. But afraid for wrong reason. (Like today, a man having fear of God for his drinking rather than his rejection of Christ.)
 - 43:19-22 Brothers: Defend selves before Joseph's agent.
 - 43:23 Agent: "Peace. Fear not." The sin had long since been forgiven; but they didn't know it. Still condemned in their own heart.
 - 43:24 Outward cleanliness does not soothe inner fear.
 - 43:26-28 Brothers: Obeisance not the same as repentance.

Insufficient outward expression.

43:29-31 Joseph: Great love and compassion is shown. Wouldn't overwhelm them; just wooed them.

43:32-34 Joseph: Sat by himself; couldn't eat (sup) with sinners. (See Rev. 3:20.) Shows all knowledge as he seats brothers oldest to youngest.

2. Joseph sets a test to try their hearts (44:1-34).
 - a. Will they betray Benjamin the same as they betrayed Joseph; or have their hearts changed?
 - b. The plan (1-3)
 - c. Rash self-defense and denial (4-10)
 - d. Upon discovery, the brothers rent their clothes and humble themselves before Joseph (13-15).
 - e. They didn't have to do this. See verse 10 again.
 - f. They pass the test. Their hearts are changed - softer.
 1. Judah speaks for them (16-18).
 2. "I (we) will bear the blame and suffer the just penalty."
 3. They won't sell Benjamin for their own freedom (27-34).
 4. Willing to lay down the self-life, etc. Compare verse 33 and John 15:13.

B. The revelation of Joseph (Gen. 45:1-15)

1. He makes himself clearly known - is manifested plainly to them (1).

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2. Great release of soul - wept aloud (2).
 3. "I am Joseph" (3).
 - a. They had no answer.
 - b. The weight of their sin was full on them now.
 - c. They were "troubled" or terrified inside.
 - d. See Zech. 12:10.
 4. Sin is exposed; then pardoned. "Don't punish yourself; accept my forgiveness. (4-5)
 5. God's purpose was served in spite of your actions (6-8).
 6. Could verse 6 be a preview of tribulation timing?
 7. "Now go and get your whole family and come to me." (9-15)
 - a. "Pharoah (God) has made me lord of all Egypt (world)." See Phil. 2:9-11.
 - b. "Come live near me" (10). See John 14:3.
 - c. "I'll nourish thee." Provide for every need (11).
 - d. "Talked with him." Sweet fellowship (15).
- C. Pharoah (the Father) is pleased (Gen. 45: 16-24).
1. He was pleased to know Joseph's brethren were coming (16).
 2. Pharoah gave the full inheritance to

them (18). See Romans 8:17.

3. He also provided everything they needed for the trip.
4. "Leave all your stuff behind. It's no good here and you won't need it. (20)

D. Summary of Joseph's plan of restoration.

1. Brothers were hungry. Sensed a need. Had money but no satisfaction inside.
2. Forced by their hunger to go to Egypt for food where Joseph was. (Like going to church when an inner need is realized.)
3. They were blinded and did not recognize Joseph (Jesus).
4. When accused of being spies (sinners) they are offended and rise in vigorous self-defense.
5. They obtained a little food and took it home; but it only lasted a short time. The hunger returned.
6. They came back the second time with their own works or offerings, hoping to be counted worthy to receive more food.
7. Joseph all this time is teaching them to loathe what they had always trusted in---money in this case.
8. When first conviction of sin comes,

it results in acknowledgement only, not repentance.

9. To relieve the conviction, they discuss their problems with others.
10. Continuing conviction either softens the heart or hardens it. The choice is ours.
11. The brothers convicted of their sin, when they meet Joseph, do obeisance to him but not repentance.
12. They want free of the penalty or consequences of sin but have not yet felt heart sorrow for it. (See II Cor. 7:10.)
13. When they finally see Joseph face to face and realize who he is they see themselves as they really are. The horrible nature of sin is exposed and realized.
14. When they repent and are grieved for their sin, forgiveness is instant and complete.
15. Fellowship is restored as if the sin never existed and great rejoicing ensues.

Lesson 5

REUNION

A. The trip to glory (Gen. 45:24-46:30)

1. Joseph warns his brothers to be careful along the way (45:24).
2. The sons testify to Jacob that Joseph is yet alive (45:25-26).
 - a. Although he believed the lie earlier that Joseph was dead, he wouldn't now believe the truth.
 - b. Jacob didn't believe his word, but when he saw a sign (the wagons and goods) then his spirit was revived---his heart was touched (45:27-28).
 - c. Similar to telling someone today Jesus is alive. They prefer to believe a lie unless a sign is given.
3. Jacob sought guidance from God before acting on what "seemed" to be the right thing to do. (46:1-4).
 - a. Jacob worshipped God (1).
 - b. God gave specific direction (3-4).
 - c. He confirmed what Jacob wanted to do. He is not always against our desires as some think.
4. Notice the frequent references to the salvation of family members (45:9-10, 45:17-19, 46:5-7).
5. The nation of Israel went to Egypt, 66 persons to join the 4 already there. Total of 70. (46:8-27).

6. Glorious reunion (46:28-30)

B. In Egypt but not of it (Gen. 46:31-47:10).

1. The perfect mediator is Joseph (46:31-34).

- a. He had been a shepherd and also was familiar with the glory of Pharaoh's court.
- b. Therefore he could bridge the large gulf that existed between the two.
- c. Without Joseph, his brethren would have no access to the throne.
- d. Without Joseph they were and had nothing. With him they had everything.

2. A separation was necessary to keep the brethren from losing their influence for God (47:1-4).

- a. Joseph used the prejudice of the Egyptians to accomplish this.
- b. Shepherds and nomadic herders were forbidden to enter Egyptian temples or marry outside their caste.
- c. When they declared their occupation, they would automatically be separated.

3. Goshen was on the Canaan side of Egypt, making it easier to leave when the time came (47:4).

4. Pharaoh's response (47:5-6)

- a. Take the best of the land.
- b. Put the "men of activity" (force, virtue, strength) in charge of my possessions. A good lesson in stewardship for this present life.

See Luke 16:10.

5. Jacob blessed Pharoah (47:7-10).
- C. A new order in government---a preview of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ (Gen. 47:11-26).
1. First Joseph (prefiguring Christ) deals with his own people (11-12).
 - a. Given the best of the land
 - b. Nourished them and supplied every need.
 2. Then he deals with the rest of the world (13).
 - a. No coercion used. Men act still of their own free will.
 - b. Conditions (famine) force them to submit for survival.
 - c. Apart from Joseph (Christ) and his help, there is no hope.
 - d. His word is law, and all will accept it gladly.
 - e. Everything is brought under central control to eliminate selfishness and insure the rights of others.
 - f. Joseph (Jesus), a Godly administrator, insures the future for everyone.
 3. The method (14-20)
 - a. Money is removed (14).
 1. People will no longer be able to trust in money.
 2. The love of money which is the root of all evil will disappear. See I Tim. 6:10.

3. Every man is reduced to some level economically and socially.
 - b. Next the possessions were given up (15-17).
 - c. The lands and property were surrendered (18-20).
 - d. Lastly the people gave even themselves (18).
 4. When everything belonged to Pharoah (God), Joseph (Jesus) distributed the people as he desired (47:21). Refer to Gen. 11:4.
- D. The good reign of Joseph (Gen. 47:23-27)
1. He gave to the people what they needed. He made ample provision for them (23).
 2. They had given themselves to Pharoah. See I Cor. 6:19-20.
 3. The concentration of authority and power was meant to bless and not to oppress (24).
 4. He dealt bountifully with them out of a good heart when he had no obligation to treat them other than as conquered slaves.
 5. The people responded gladly (25).
 6. Joseph's word was law. The law was good. And the people welcomed it (26).
- E. Eternal stewardship (Gen. 47:24-26)

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1. Jacob and Abraham gave God 10% (Gen. 14:20 & 28:22).
2. The Egyptians gave Pharoah 20% (Gen. 47:26).
3. Zaccheus promised 50% (Luke 19:8).
4. The widow with her two mites gave 100% (Luke 12:4).
5. How about us?

F. Grace misunderstood (Gen. 50:15-21)

1. After Jacob's death Joseph's brothers fear reprisal for their old sin (15).
2. They concocted a lie to make things right and extract Joseph's forgiveness. (16-17).
3. Joseph's heart broke that they did not believe (17).
4. He reassures them and does not rail or chide (19-21).

G. Joseph's death (Gen. 50:22-26)

1. Lived to age 110 (22).
2. Was a grandfather (23). See Psalm 128:6.
3. Prophesied of the Exodus (24). Believed in God's literal promise and integrity of his Word.

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4. At death he left behind for his people not great wealth but his body as a memorial (25).
5. See Exodus 13:19 and Joshua 24:32.