

Jesus and Joseph

IN CHAPTER 37...

Joseph is in Hebron, which means "*communion*", and that is exactly what Joseph is enjoying – communion with His father, Jacob. But from Hebron Jacob sends Joseph to Shechem to find his brothers and inquire of their welfare. Throughout the Bible Shechem is associated with sin and sorrow.

Now apply this to Jesus. The Gospel story begins with the Father and Son in heaven communing with each other, until the Son is sent into a world of sin and sorrow. Jesus was on a mission to check on his brothers, the Jewish people... but just like the brothers did to Joseph, the Jews conspired to kill Jesus.

IN CHAPTER 41...

What happens to Joseph after his brothers reject him is also beautifully prophetic of what happens to Jesus.

In Genesis 41:46 we're told Joseph was exalted by Pharaoh when he was 30 years old - about the age of Jesus when He started his ministry.

Like Joseph, Jesus rose from the grave or pit, and was exalted to the right hand of the king. From His exalted position, Jesus, just like Joseph, is willing to forgive the very

same people who rejected Him.

Joseph pinned his hopes of being remembered on two men – a baker and butler, or wine taster. Jesus commanded us to remember Him with the ordinance of communion – which includes the bread (or baker), and the wine (or butler).

As with Joseph, Philippians 2:10 teaches us that one day every knee will bow to Jesus. Notice in verse 43 what they shout when Joseph rides by on his chariot, "*Bow the knee.*"

In verse 45 Joseph receives an Egyptian name, "*Zaphnath-Paaneah*", which means "*Savior of the world*" – there's no better name for Jesus.

In verse 50, after his promotion Joseph is given a gentile bride, Asenath. In perfect parallel after Jesus' exaltation He also receives a gentile bride, the Church!

IN CHAPTERS 42-48...

The rest of Joseph's story tells us how he treats his brothers when they're reunited. And pictures for us how Jesus will treat Israel in the last days.

There are three phases in Joseph's dealings with his brothers. At first he keeps his identity a secret. He relies on *mystery*. When he lets them know who he is he reveals his *majesty*. Finally, as ruler over the land He provides them *ministry*.

This is also how Christ will deal with Israel in the last days. When Jesus returns at the Second Coming He will come in His *majesty*. Afterwards He will minister to the Jews throughout the Kingdom age. But at the moment, He's relying on *mystery*. The Jews don't recognize their brother.

It's sad that for 20 years Jacob thought his son was dead, but he was alive and well. What's even sadder, is the plight of the nation Israel. For 1950 years now, the Hebrew people, have assumed that Jesus is dead, when in reality He's

Pretty "P"s in the Story of Joseph

Joseph's life is an amazing testimony to God's *providence*—His sovereignty in the affairs of man.

For 14 chapters we follow Joseph from the *pit*, to *Potiphar's house*, to *prison*, to the *palace*.

Two more "P"s are important to his story—*picture* and *prophecy*. Joseph's story is a prophetic picture of many aspects of the life of Christ.

W "tunic of many colors" can also be translated "long sleeve coat"
O "Hebron" means "communion"
R "Levir" means "brother-in-law"
D "Zaphnath-Paaneah" is an Egyptian name which means "Savior of the world"
S "dismayed" can also be translated "to tremble inwardly, or palpitate"
"Shiloh" means "He whose right it is"
"he shall yield royal dainties" can also be translated "he shall dip his foot in oil"

Bible Scan - Genesis 39-50

Joseph in the Pit ch 37

Just like a letter jacket Joseph's coat spoke of privilege and favor. One translation of the phrase "*tunic of many colors*" is "*a long sleeve coat*" which was a landowner's attire. Common workers wore short sleeves. The impression the coat left on the brothers was that Joseph was white-collar - they were all blue-collar.

Every time Adam and Hoss saw Little Joe strutting around the Ponderosa in his letter jacket their hatred grew. Bitterness was brewing - boiling - ready to explode in this family. None of the brothers could even speak to Joseph without seething!

And Joseph didn't do a lot to help matters. Apparently he was a brat. In verse 2 he tattletales, and in verses 5-11 he infuriated his brothers with his dreams. Joseph needed to learn that some things are better left unsaid.

The brothers throw Little Joe into an empty pit; then end up selling him into slavery to a caravan of Midianites headed for Egypt. They concoct a ruse for Jacob. They tear his letter jacket and dip it in goat's blood. Then they tell Jacob how Joseph was attacked and killed by wild animals.

Jacob believes the lie, and mourns Joseph's loss for 20 years.

Isn't it ironic - call it poetic justice - but Jacob gets tricked by the same means he used to trick his father, Isaac. Jacob killed a goat, and put the wool on his arms to mimic Esau's hairy arms. Here the brothers kill a goat and dip Joseph's coat in it's blood to make Jacob think His son has been killed. The chickens have come home to roost. As is so often the case a man's sin comes back to bite him.

The sordid story of Judah's sin with Tamar in chapter 38 serves an important purpose—it communicates God's purpose in orchestrating events that lead the Hebrews to Egypt.

If God had left them in the land the sons of Jacob would've intermarried with the Canaanites, just as Judah did. They would've spoiled Israel's ethnic identity, and spiritual purity. But the Egyptians had a strict caste system that prohibited them from even eating with Hebrews. Thus, by sending them to Egypt God was insuring that they would not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. God sent Joseph ahead to prepare the way!

Joseph in Potiphar's house ch 39

Today, we live in a world of rationalizations. Listen to how we've redefined our terms: it's no longer "*adultery*", it's now an "*affair*". Marriages are "*open*". Divorces are "*creative*". Adulterers are "*significant others*". J. Allan Peterson describes how we've glamorized adultery, "*Affair*, what a nice-sounding, almost inviting word wrapped in mystery, fascination, and excitement. A relationship, not sin."

One psychologist has coined a term - he calls "*healthy adultery*". There're a million hurting, bleeding hearts who'll testify there's nothing healthy about it.

Listen to a victim of adultery, in her letter to Ann Landers, "My husband and I have been married for 30 years. I was a virgin bride and have been a faithful wife. A young woman (our daughter's age) came on to him and he took her to bed. He was so guilt-ridden and miserable that he told me about it the next day. I forgave him, did not mention it to a soul, and he never saw her again. He believes no harm was done. She thinks no harm was done, but she destroyed me. I'm unable to grow old gracefully.... I cry for hours when I am alone."

This woman's heartbreak is tragic, but adultery is not only a sin against a spouse, notice what Joseph says, "*How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*" Your marital vows are a vow to God, not just your mate. Sex carries heavy spiritual overtones. Sex is sacred because it speaks of God's relationship with His people. Sexual sin is a sin against man and God.

Finally, Mrs. Potiphar sets a trap. She gave her servants the afternoon off so when Joseph walked in the house they would be alone. She was probably naked when she grabbed him and tried to tear off his clothes. Joseph just ran!

Guys, sometimes temptation becomes so fierce the only option is to flee! Leave the premises. Remove yourself logistically from the source of the temptation. This is what Paul tells Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:22, "Flee also youthful lusts..."

Day by day Mrs. Potiphar propositioned Joseph, yet he refused. This is impressive. Joseph was a virile young man. He had hormones. A fling with an older woman was tempting. There were days when he was tired and his defenses were down, but he maintained his purity.

Many believers are virtuous only because of a lack of opportunity. If they were baited day in and day out like Joseph it wouldn't take long for them to cave in. Guys, godly convictions, personal integrity, and moral purity

were priorities for Joseph, and they need to be priorities for us.

Let me make one more point, don't believe them when you hear the lie, "*Everybody is doing it.*" That's simply not true! Everybody is not doing it. Joseph didn't do it, and there are still Josephs today. Why don't you also be a Joseph!

Devotion Box - Sexual Purity

There are two prerequisites for the blessings of God – *repentance and faith*.

When his brothers come to Egypt, Joseph waits to reveal himself to them until he tests their repentance. Likewise, Jesus will sometimes wait to bestow His blessing on us, until He tests us for a repentant heart.

Are we sorry for what we've done and the damage it has caused, or are we just sorry we got caught? Do we simply want to shake the consequences of our sin or do we want to shake up our lives and invite real change? Are we willing to surrender our will, and do whatever it takes to cooperate with the work God plans for our lives?

Guys, are we bearing the fruits of genuine repentance in our lives?

Joseph in the Prison ch 40-41

While in prison both the butler and baker have a dream they can't interpret. Joseph tells them, "*Do not interpretations belong to God?*"

God can speak through dreams. Dreams have one of three sources: God, Satan, or the pizza. But don't discount every dream. When you dream pray for the interpretation.

Think of all the opportunities Joseph had to get discouraged. His brothers shafted him, literally - threw him in a pit. He was treated unfairly, and lied about by Potiphar's wife. Then he was lied to by the butler. I'm sure he felt his life was a wash. He was headed nowhere fast.

But all the while God was at work positioning him perfectly for a special purpose. William Cowper once put it, "*Behind a frowning providence there shines a smiling face*." Joseph doesn't see God in his life, but He's right there.

Longfellow once said, "*By going a few minutes sooner or later, by stopping to speak to a friend on the corner, by meeting this man or that, or by turning down this street instead of the*

other... the whole current of our lives can be changed. There is no possible solution in the dark enigma, but the one word "providence".

So often what we think is just happenstance is God working out His purposes. As the rabbis put it, "*Coincidence is not a kosher word.*"

After Joseph interprets the pharaoh's dream, the king makes note about Joseph that here is "*a man in whom is the Spirit of God.*"

Hey, when you're filled with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit it becomes obvious to the people around you.

The great Pentecostal preacher, Donald Gee, use to say about the filling of the Holy Spirit, "*When you are baptized in the Holy Spirit you know it, and need no one to acquaint you with the fact; you will soon be acquainting them.*"

Devotion Box — The Issachar Strong Donkeys

The tribe of Issachar was strong, but lazy. When Israel returns to the land it would've been easy for this tribe to drive out the Canaanites, but in the end they become "*a band of slaves*".

The Strong Donkeys were lazy. Jacob sees them lying by the load, napping - rather than lifting the load, and getting to work.

Believers can also have a problem with laziness. The key to living the Christian life is realizing *you can't do God's part, and God won't do your part*. The patriarchs of Israel pleased God by faith. But faith is not passive, its active. It requires effort and diligence.

To grow in faith you have to apply yourself to God's Word, and apply the Word to your life. Renewing the mind requires a concentrated effort to replace old ideas with new truth. It takes a little brain drain to rethink unbiblical assumptions, and change the way your approach certain situations. The Christian life takes effort— diligence and vigilance.

Joseph in the Palace ch 42-50

Overnight, Joseph goes from *the pit to the pinnacle*! Joseph came to Egypt with an iron chain around his neck. Now his neck is adorned with a gold neck. It was an amazing turnaround.

Joseph was probably 17 when he arrived in Egypt. He may've spent 10 years in prison. I'm sure there're many ways God could've gotten Joseph from Canaan to Egypt, but by doing it this way God not only made a way, He made a man, too. The circumstances Joseph went through caused him to understand that God's privileges don't justify a pompous attitude. Promotion is from God, and it's a result of His grace, not our greatness. While in the *pit*, Joseph got the *point*.

Genesis 50:20, "*you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good.*"

The key to avoiding bitterness is a strong trust in the providence of God. If God had wanted to He could've stepped in and rescued Joseph from the pit. He could've stopped Mrs. Potiphar from telling her lies. He could've even jarred the memory of the butler. But He didn't... God had His purposes...

And now with perfect vision – 20/20 hindsight - Joseph sees that God's providence was at work in his life. Remember, God's intention was not simply to position Joseph's career – it was to prepare His character. And that's God's intent for you. God is using the circumstances in your life to both *position you and prepare you*.

Common to all three Hebrew patriarchs is that the custom of the firstborn was violated in their families. Abraham honored Isaac, not Ishamel. Isaac blessed Jacob over Esau. And now Jacob blessed Ephraim over Manasseh.

It was God's way of saying that His blessing is not awarded according to natural advantage, custom or tradi-

Devotion Box—Faith Alone

tion, or the endowment of man – but by faith alone!

Faith is what matters most to God. Without faith it is impossible to please Him. How strong is your faith? In what area or life is God waiting on you to trust Him more?

Bible Scan - Genesis 39-50

Calvary Chapel

If you have questions on tonight's study email Pastor Sandy - sandyadams@calvarychapel.org

Calvary Chapel Announcements - September 19, 1999

Cafe Calvary - every Wednesday @ 7:30 pm - Bible Study this week with Pastor Randy

If you're interested in getting involved in our worship ministry see Pastor Kevin (770) 736-2828.

High School meets every Wednesday @ 7:30 pm - Junior High every Sunday night @ 6:30 pm.

A Christmas musical production for kids, grades 1st - 8th, entitled "*Mission Incredible*" is in the works. An information meeting for interested parents and kids is scheduled for September 30 at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Hope to see you there. If you need more info call Pastor Kevin.

Next Bible Scan - September 26 - Exodus 1-12

"you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good..."
- Genesis 50:20

Bible Scan Memory Verse

Until Shiloh Comes

Genesis 49:10 records one of the most fascinating prophecies in the Bible. *"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people."* "Shiloh" means *"He whose right it is"*.

Since the ultimate right to the throne of God's kingdom belongs to the Messiah, the rabbis always took "Shiloh" to be another name for the Messiah.

This prophecy says the scepter, or the right to self-rule, which was commonly associated with the right to capital punishment, would not pass from the kingdom of Judah until the Messiah had come. This is why the rabbis in Jerusalem wept in 19 AD when the Romans stripped them of their right to capital punishment. This is why later the Sanhedrin had to seek Pilate's approval to execute Jesus.

In AD 19, when the edict was issued by the Roman authority the Jews were crestfallen. The Babylonian Talmud records their reaction, *"Woe unto us, for the scepter has been taken from Judah and the Messiah has not appeared."*

In the minds of the rabbis Shiloh had not come, yet the scepter had passed from Judah. God's prophecy had failed. But what they didn't realize is that Shiloh had come! At that very moment He was working in a carpenter's shop in Nazareth.

Bits and Pieces

"Typology is a species of prophecy."

"What's concealed in the Old is revealed in the New, and what's revealed in the New is concealed in the Old."

"Thus ends Genesis. It begins with creation and ends with a coffin. It begins with the glory and ends with a grave. It begins with the vastness of eternity and ends with the shortness of time. It begins with a living God and ends with a dead man. It begins with a blaze of brightness in heaven and ends with a box of bones in Egypt. That is the Holy Spirit's final comment in the book on the nature and tragedy of human sin. That is the final exposure of the devil's lie, "Thou shalt not surely die." - John Phillips

Devotion Box - Pilgrimage

Life is a pilgrimage. This world is not our home - we're just passing through - headed for heaven - and the experiences we encounter along the way are all intended to deepen our relationship with God.

Family Focus

Joseph's "tunic of many colors" was a gift from his father he would've done better without. Parents with multiple children need to be careful of showing favoritism among siblings.

Joseph learned the hard way, some things are better left unsaid. Even though his dreams were true he didn't need to blab them to his brothers. Often the key to a happy family life is leaving a few things unsaid.

"Marry an unbeliever, and you get the devil as a father-in-law."

Put a career before your marriage, and you might turn your spouse into a Mrs. Potiphar.

Devotion Box - Providence

Joseph's life teaches us, that our *disappointments* are really *God's appointments*.

The merciful providence of God can cause us to rejoice tomorrow in the very same circumstances, that today, may be causing us to mourn.