

KINGDOM PRINCIPLES FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

Genesis 30:22-24; 37:2-36; Genesis, chapters 39-48; 49:22-26

God has remembered “RACHEL” (a type of the Church). When the “barren one” cries out to God, the life of Christ will be formed within. God has heard her prayers, opened up her womb, and has given her a “son” (ministry), named JOSEPH; Gen. 30:22-24.

A. The ministry of God’s deliverers will remove the shame and reproach that has come upon the Church; Genesis 30:23-24; Isaiah 61:7; Luke 1:24-25.

B. This “son” named Joseph, which means “Jehovah shall add; Increase”; the Lord shall “continue to do a thing”. He shall cause others to be born into His Kingdom.

C. This ministry brings forth LIFE: It PRESERVES, FEEDS and DELIVERS OTHERS.

D. The Father is raising up a “JOSEPH COMPANY” in the Earth:

1. Joseph’s Ministry Reveals The Father’s Heart:

- a. Joseph is sent by his Father on an “errand of mercy”; Genesis 37:13-14.
- b. Joseph seeks the welfare of his brethren, and is checking on the condition of the “Father’s flocks”. Jesus loves the sheep; He is the Good Shepherd; John 10:11.
- c. He finds his brethren in “Dothan” (means the place of “empty wells”); they were feeding the flocks where the wells are dried up; Genesis 37:17
- d. This Ministry sees the empty traditions, laws, rituals and religious practices, which contain no “living water”, no life-giving flow of the spirit.

2. Joseph’s Ministry Reveals The Hearts Of The Brethren:

- a. Their jealousy is aroused because the Father’s favor rests upon Joseph; Gen. 37:3-4.
- b. Joseph’s revelation offends them; he spoke the truth and it pricked their hearts.
- c. The brethren persecute him and plot against him; “they hated him yet the more for his dreams and for his words; Genesis 37:4-8.
- d. They cast Joseph into a pit, sold him for pieces of “silver”, and he was taken into exile, Egypt. (As with Jesus, they did not know that he would become their “savior”); Gen. 37:36

3. Joseph’s Ministry Reveals Coming Events And World Conditions:

- a. He had dreams which foretold the future of individuals. He has the answers and the understanding that is needed for his time; Genesis 40:5-23.
- b. Those like Joseph are visionaries: they have God’s interpretation of coming world events; Genesis 41:25-32; Luke 21:10-28.
- c. Joseph has the wisdom of God to prepare for the future; Genesis 41:34-39, 48-49
- d. Those like Joseph have a vision of the throne: they can see their role in God’s Earthly dominion (the field) and God’s Heavenly dominion (sun, moon, stars); Genesis 37:7-9.

KINGDOM PRINCIPLES ARE REVEALED THROUGH JOSEPH’S LIFE:

- 1.** Joseph is an outstanding type of the Lord Jesus Christ (also points to His Body)

2. Joseph by occupation was a shepherd; he fed the Father's flock. All who are called to rule and reign with Christ, are in some way, committed to caring for, feeding and nurturing the Lord's flock; Jeremiah 3:15; 23:4

3. Joseph learned humility and obedience through the things he suffered; Hebrews 5:8.

4. Psalm 105:16-22 speaks specifically of Joseph and the day in which he lived:

vs. 16: "Moreover he (God) "called for" (summoned) a famine upon the land: he "brake" (to burst, break down in pieces, crush) the whole "staff" (rod: with which grain was beaten out) of bread"; see Amos 8:11-14.

vs. 17: "He (God) sent a "man" (of high degree), even Joseph, who was sold for a servant (the overcomer was first a "slave" in the house of Potiphar, who worships a false god); Revelation 14:4-5

vs. 18: "whose feet they "hurt with fetters" (was afflicted, enemy attempts to hinder our "walk": advancement, spiritual progression): he was laid (bound) in iron"

vs. 19: "until the time that his word came (the appointed time of the Father): the word of the Lord" tried" (proved, refined) him"

vs. 20: "The king sent and "loosed" him (a sudden, springing motion); even the ruler (one with dominion) of the people, and let him go free (Jubilee)"

vs. 21: "He made him (Joseph) lord (manager, supervisor) of his house, and ruler of all his substance (property)"; Hebrews 3:5-6; Galatians 4:1-2

vs. 22: "to bind his princes at his pleasure (according to his will); and teach his senators (elders) wisdom"

5. As with Joseph, we receive three things from our Father:

- a. Our Identity – we are created in His likeness
- b. Our Birthright – we are given legal rights through inheritance (the New Birth)
- c. Our Blessing – we are given gifts by God's grace

6. Joseph was STRIPPED THREE TIMES. Each "stripping" was ordained by God; these experiences brought him to the place where God intended him to be:

1. He was stripped of his coat – this was the mantle of a favored son

a. This outward covering was a wide, long-sleeved tunic of diverse colors (a coat of many colors), which reveals the inward anointing of a royal person; Matthew 27:28. This was a garment worn by a ruler; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6.

b. Joseph had to be separated from his family members so that God could prepare him for the work he had to do. Jesus laid aside His "glorious garment" and was clothed in human flesh; John 1:14.

c. This initial stripping points to the humiliation he endured. The blood of a "scapegoat" is seen; the "coat" was "dipped in blood" and presented to the Father; Gen. 37:23, 32.

2. He was stripped by Potiphar's wife – She is a type of the "harlot", who desires to entice the people of God. This influence is "married" to one who worships the sun god.

a. This "woman" seeks to entrap Joseph through her "system" of control and seduction. She desires to be "intimate" with Joseph, causing him to compromise; Revelation 17:2.

b. She caught his “garment” and Joseph fled, refusing her advances. This stripping speaks of Joseph “fleeing” from Babylon’s corrupt, religious influence. Joseph is falsely accused and sent to prison. He endures isolation and misunderstanding; Gen. 39:7-20.

c. The gifts of the Spirit are at work through him in the prison house. It is the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit that preserves him and causes him to prosper. He became an overseer of all the prisoners; Genesis 39:22.

3. He was stripped of his prison clothes – The favor of God rests upon Joseph. His godly behavior was seen by all; his gift of revelation was revealed to Pharaoh, who sent for him

a. At the appointed time, “they brought him hastily out of the dungeon, and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh”; Genesis 41:14

b. Joseph shed his “prison clothing” after years of being faithful to God in the prison house. This stripping comes after great times of testing and affliction. The overcomer emerges after a long period of faithfulness, to reign with Christ; Genesis 41:41.

c. Pharaoh’s ring is placed upon Joseph’s hand; he is “arrayed in vestures of fine linen”, and they put a gold chain about his neck...and made him ruler over all the land of Egypt”. He was exalted to the throne and everything operated according to his word; Genesis 41:40-46

7. Joseph had to function in his ministry UNDER THE CUSTODY (jurisdiction) of Potiphar; “Potiphar” means “whom Re, the SUN god has given”.

a. Joseph, Jesus and His “overcomers” obey the Heavenly Father, while conducting their ministry within the “sphere of a false god”. They refuse to bow to the god of this age; Matthew 4:10.

b. “The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing UNDER THE SUN”; Ecclesiastes 1:9. Joseph’s life is a pattern, being repeated by those who follow in the footsteps of Jesus

c. Those who are in Potiphar’s house saw that the Lord was with Joseph by the way he conducted himself; the favor of the Lord rests upon him and the Lord prospers him.

d. Joseph was faithful to minister to others within Potiphar’s jurisdiction. Later he was released from Potiphar’s custody and raised up to minister to nations.

8. Joseph’s ministry is like “salt” (a preservative; brings a stinging rebuke to the rebellious) and “light” (delivers revelation knowledge) in the Earth; Matthew 5:13-14

9. Joseph is not a “tale-bearer”, he is a “truth-speaker”. He does not seek to defend himself or vindicate himself when falsely accused; Acts 8:32.

10. Joseph continually acknowledges his dependence upon the Lord. He would not seek recognition for himself. He told Pharaoh that the interpretation of dreams was not in him, but that “God would give him the answer”; Genesis 41:14-16.

11. Pharaoh called Joseph “Zaphnathpaaneah”, which means “revealer of secrets”. There is a God in heaven Who reveals secrets; Daniel 2:28.

12. Joseph was 30 years old when he stood before Pharaoh (the symbolic age of maturity), the same age as when Jesus began his public ministry; Genesis 41:41-46. God's rulers must come to "full stature"; Ephesians 4:13.

13. Joseph was sent ahead of the others as a "first fruits" ministry. He stores up CORN (the grain, the Word of God); lays up food in the CITY prior to the days of famine so that others could live:

- a. The Word of God dwells richly in those who are called to RULE and REIGN.
- b. The day comes when there will be no "corn", no anointed Word in "Egypt";
- c. In Babylon, there is no "sound of a millstone" (grinding grain), and there is no "water" because the wells are empty and dry; Revelation 18:22

14. Joseph rose above his circumstances; he was faithful in the "hard places". He is a type of the "Overcomer"; Revelation, chapters 2 and 3

15. Like Joseph, those who are "in Christ", know that promotion comes from the Lord. They discover that their circumstances are arranged by God to preserve their lives, and the lives of others.

16. Those who live a godly life in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution; 2 Timothy 3:12.

17. Joseph married a Gentile bride (Asenath), who bore him two sons before the "seven-year famine" (a "complete" period of time) had began; Genesis 41:50-52.

18. Joseph became a "savior" to all people of the Earth: his own brethren, the Egyptians, strangers from distant lands all came to him and were fed; Genesis 41:54-55; Rev. 5:9.

19. Joseph reveals himself to his brethren at the appointed time. In the fullness of time, God's "sons" are manifested; Genesis 45:1; Romans 8:19.

20. Joseph settles his brethren in a land of their own, and gave them the admonition to go forth and be faithful to the commission given them; Genesis 50:20.