

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 13: JOSEPH - Dreams of Rulership

Aim: To show how Joseph's 2 dreams reveal 2 facets of the same picture – that of Joseph's future rulership over his brothers. And in so doing Joseph is a Type of Jesus Christ's and His relationship with His Brother, the nation of Israel.

Key Scriptures: Genesis 37:5-11. Genesis 1:14-19. Philippians 2:9-10.

To begin let's review the previous lesson by looking at our Idea Map from that lesson. (There was an Idea Map created for Lesson 12 on the last page of that lesson. It shows the parallels between Joseph & Jesus which reveal why Joseph is a Type of Jesus Christ.)

Q: How many sons did his father Jacob have, and with whom? There is a chart you can fill in on the last page. (See Gen.35)

A:

Joseph was the firstborn son of Jacob's favorite wife Rachel. Jacob demonstrated his love for Joseph and his wisdom by giving him a tunic/coat of many colors. (Literally a long garment with long sleeves and many breadths).

Genesis 37:3 *Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age* [lit. 'a son of old age to him', meaning a wise son with wisdom beyond his years] *Also he made him a tunic of many colors.*

We also saw that there are several parallels between JESUS and JOSEPH. Jesus is also greatly beloved by His Heavenly Father (Mat.3:17; 17:5) and from a young age He also exhibited much wisdom. At the age of 12 Jesus was found by his parents, in the temple in Jerusalem astounding the temple teachers with His understanding and answers (Lk.2:47).

In this lesson we shall study **2 dreams** that Joseph had which prophesied of a future time in his life when Joseph would rule over his brothers. Let's read Genesis 37:1-4 from last lesson followed by verses 5 to 8.

Observations:

Genesis 37:1 Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

2 This is the history [generations] of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father.

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors.

4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

5 Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.

6 So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed:

7 "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."

8 And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

Q: What was the brothers' response to Joseph telling them about his dream in verses 5 and 8?

A:

Q: What do we see taking place in the dream in v.7?

A:

Q: What do the brothers say as a result of hearing the dream?

A:

Q: Does that sound somewhat familiar to elsewhere?

A:

Joseph then dreamed a **2nd dream**. Let's read vv.9-11:

Genesis 37:9 Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

10 So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

11 And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Q: What other emotion does the 2nd dream bring out in the brothers?

A:

Q: How is the 2nd dream similar to the 1st dream?

A:

Both dreams place Joseph's brothers and father in a subservient position to Joseph, with him ruling over them. **Rulership** is the focus of both dreams!

Q: Read Genesis 27:27-29. How are the relative positions of the brothers to Joseph exactly the same as Esau to Jacob? What significance should we attach to this?

A:

Q: Where else in Genesis should we go to understand the significance of the sun, moon, and stars?

A:

***Genesis 1:14** Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;*

15 "and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

16 Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.

17 God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth,

18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

19 So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Q: What was the purpose for the 2 great lights and the stars?

A:

Q: What would the 2 great lights be?

A:

In Joseph's 2nd dream even the sun, moon and stars bow down to him, placing him in an even higher position of authority than them.

Q: As a result, what did his father Jacob say in Gen.37:10?

A:

But notice that while the brothers respond with envy, **Jacob** 'kept the matter in mind'.

Joseph had 2 dreams of a similar nature. In Genesis chapter 40 whilst in prison Joseph interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh's butler and baker. Then in chapter 41 Pharaoh also dreamed 2 dreams of a similar nature. Why would that be? The answer is in:

***Ge 41:32** "And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.*

In a future lesson we shall see what leads to the fulfillment of Joseph's dreams. But for now, let us read the exact verse where Joseph's dreams are fulfilled:

Genesis 42:6 *Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth. (also Gen.43:26 & 44:14)*

THE TYPE EXPLAINED:

In our series on Jesus in the Old Testament we are studying Joseph, a Type of Jesus Christ. We know that when Jesus's Kingdom is established in the 7th Day, He will rule as King from the heavens over the earth, and on the earth.

- In Joseph's first dream with the bound sheaves, earthly rulership was revealed.
- In the second dream with the sun, moon & stars, heavenly rulership was shown.
- Joseph's dreams of rulership from 2 realms are yet another example of him as a Type of Christ.
- And just as Joseph's dreams did come to pass, so we can be assured that for Jesus, who Joseph typifies, His Kingdom will come. His brothers, the nation of Israel, will one day bow at Jesus's feet!

And not only will the nation of Israel bow down to their brother Jesus as King, but also all those in the heavens and on the earth, and under the earth. Let's read a NT set of Scripture that talks of that future time when Jesus Christ will rule and all will be in subjection to Him:

Philippians 2:9 *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him [Jesus] and given Him the name which is above every name,*

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth.

(‘Under the earth’ would be those angels currently chained in darkness awaiting judgment referenced in Jude 1:6)

One day we shall bow down before Jesus in the heavens because no name is higher than His. One day Jesus's brethren, the nation of Israel, will bow down before Him on the earth, just like Joseph's brothers as foretold in his 2 dreams.

However there is one other place we must go before finishing that reveals something different concerning the nation of Israel in relation to the sun, moon, and stars.

Revelation 12:1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

Q: What is being portrayed in these verses?

A:

Q: How can we know this is Israel?

A:

Today we have seen the prophetic nature of Joseph's dreams have a near and far fulfillment. Near that Joseph was to be placed as a ruler over his brothers and the world power of the day, under Pharaoh. In its future fulfillment Christ will be given the Kingdom by His Father (who Pharaoh typifies in this instance), and Israel will look upon the Brother that they pierced and mourn just as Joseph's brothers did. The Book of Revelation, in keeping with the imagery of the sun, moon and stars, shows that in Israel's restoration she will be in a position of authority on the earth under Christ.

In our next lesson we will study how Joseph's brothers' hatred and envy led them to do a dreadful thing.

Let's pray...

The 12 Sons of Israel

