

## JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

### **Lesson 16: JOSEPH, Savior of the World**

Aim: To show how the brothers' 2<sup>nd</sup> encounter with Joseph after he became the governor over Egypt is a picture of the nation of Israel's future encounter, deliverance, and restoration with their Brother Jesus Christ.

Key Scriptures: Several sections of verses in Genesis chapters 41, 42, 44, 45 & 50. John 3:16-17; Zechariah 12:10

This is our fifth and final lesson in our mini study of JOSEPH a TYPE of Jesus Christ. We have already discovered a wealth of information about Joseph's life that confirms he is a Type of Jesus Christ.

Have you ever noticed in your reading of the Book of Genesis how there are more details and chapters dedicated to Joseph than to any other OT Patriarch except Abraham? This should not be surprising considering that he is a major Type for Jesus Christ.

The details we are about to uncover will show the fulfillment of Joseph's dreams of rulership and the prophecy that his brothers will bow down to him. We will also see how they are pointing to a time yet future when the nation of Israel will be reconciled with its Brother and Messiah, Jesus Christ.

In our previous session Joseph had interpreted 4 dreams by 3 men

- Pharaoh's chief butler
- Pharaoh's chief baker
- The interpretation of their dreams by Joseph did come to pass exactly as he said it would. And then
- Pharaoh himself, whose 2 dreams revealed that there would be 7 years of plentiful harvests followed by 7 years of extreme famine

Joseph told Pharaoh why he had had **2 dreams**:

***Genesis 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.*

*33 "Now therefore, let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt.*

*34 "Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, to collect one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the **seven plentiful years**.*

*35 "And let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming, and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.*

*36 "Then that food shall be as a reserve for the land for the **seven years of famine** which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land [the people and animals] may not perish during the famine."*

Joseph's advice to Pharaoh was to appoint someone who was discerning and wise to have authority over the land of Egypt, who would then oversee the collection of food and grain during the 7 years of abundance. Pharaoh decided that Joseph's advice was good.

**Q:** Do you remember what we discovered about the reason for Jacob's great love for Joseph in **Gen.37:3**?

**A:**

Joseph had been wise from a young age (another reason why he was a Type of Christ), and so it is not surprising that Pharaoh decided to act on his good advice and appoint Joseph to that very position:

**Genesis 41:39** *Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you.*

*40 "You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you."*

*41 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."*

*42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.*

*43 And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, "Bow the knee!" So he set him over all the land of Egypt.*

*44 Pharaoh also said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."*

**Q:** What did Pharaoh give to Joseph, and what would that show?

**A:**

So just as Joseph had been set over all the affairs of Potiphar's house, then over all the affairs relating to the prisoners in the prison, so Pharaoh set him over all the affairs in the land of Egypt. And when Joseph, now dressed as the most important person under Pharaoh, went throughout Egypt riding in Pharaoh's 2<sup>nd</sup> chariot so those who went before him cried out "Bow the knee!" And the people would have done so.

**Genesis 41:45** *And Pharaoh called Joseph's name ZaphnathPaaneah. And he gave him as a wife Asenath, the daughter of PotiPherah priest of On. So Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.*

*46 Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.*

*47 Now in the seven plentiful years the ground brought forth abundantly.*

*48 So he gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities; he laid up in every city the food of the fields which surrounded them.*

**Q:** What 2 things did Pharaoh give Joseph in **v.45**?

**A:**

The name that Pharaoh gave Joseph (Zaphnath-Paaneah), is Egyptian and was really a description of his role. Bible dictionaries define it various ways, and they all describe Joseph:

- One who discovers hidden things
- The man to whom secrets are revealed
  - The preserver of life. And finally
- Savior of the world!

**Genesis 41:53** *Then the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Egypt ended,*

*54 and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. The famine was in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.*

*55 So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Then Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, do."*

*56 The famine was over all the face of the earth, and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. And the famine became severe in the land of Egypt.*

*57 So all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all lands.*

Just as God had revealed to Joseph through Pharaoh's dreams, so 7 years of an abundant harvest ensued, which were then followed by 7 years of famine. And when we consider what transpired following the onset of the 7 years of famine with all countries experiencing the famine and going to Joseph for food, then it becomes very obvious that Joseph was indeed a **'preserver of life'** and the **'savior of the world'**.

Finish this very familiar Scripture:

***John 3:16** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not..."*

Now look at the very next verse:

***John 3:17** "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."*

Wow! These verses clearly show that not only is Jesus the Son of God who was sent into the world so that those who believe in Him should not perish. But also 'the world through Him might be saved'. Just like Joseph in his day, so Jesus is the 'Savior of the World', and as such once again we can see that Joseph is a TYPE of Jesus Christ!

## **The Brothers go to Joseph for Help**

When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt he sent his sons down there to buy grain for them all that they might not die.

*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.*

*7 Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he acted as a stranger to them and spoke roughly to them. Then he said to them, "Where do you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food."*

*8 So Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.*

*9 Then Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed about them, and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land!"*

The brothers did not recognize Joseph and he didn't reveal himself to them on their first visit to buy grain. When they went a 2<sup>nd</sup> time to buy grain they still didn't know him initially because he spoke to them through an interpreter (Gen.42:23), but Joseph knew exactly what they were saying.

On their 2<sup>nd</sup> visit, through a series of incidents that Joseph had engineered the 1<sup>st</sup> time, his brother Benjamin was with them. Benjamin was not a half-brother like the others but a full brother to Joseph. Their mother was Rachel, Jacob's favorite wife. Rachel had died in childbirth to Benjamin and he was the youngest of Jacob's 12 sons. Jacob did not want Benjamin to go on the trip, which was a condition of them being able to purchase more grain from Joseph. Judah knew that without Benjamin they could not buy further grain so he pledged to bear the blame forever if he did not bring Benjamin back to his father Jacob.

As the brothers left to return home from the purchase of grain the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, Joseph had a silver cup secretly put into Benjamin's sack and all their monies to

buy the grain also returned to their sacks. This was done so that Joseph's servants might accuse him and cause the return of the 'thief' to become a slave. Despite only Benjamin being accused all the brothers returned to the city and came before Joseph.

*Genesis 44:14 So Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, and he was still there; and they fell before him on the ground.*

*15 And Joseph said to them, "What deed is this you have done? Did you not know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?"*

*16 Then Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; here we are, my lord's slaves, both we and he also with whom the cup was found."*

*17 But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so; the man in whose hand the cup was found, he shall be my slave. And as for you, go up in peace to your father."*

*18 Then Judah came near to him and said: "O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's hearing, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you are even like Pharaoh."*

**Q:** What iniquity (sin) do you think Judah was referring to in **v.16**?

**A:**

Judah pleaded with Joseph to let him take his place as a slave and let Benjamin go free, because he had vowed he would return Benjamin to his father.

Judah:

*Genesis 44:25 "And our father said, 'Go back and buy us a little food.'*

26 *"But we said, 'We cannot go down; if our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down; for we may not see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.'*

27 *"Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons;*

28 *'and the one went out from me, and I said, "Surely he is torn to pieces"; and I have not seen him since.*

29 *'But if you take this one also from me, and calamity befalls him, you shall bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave.'* Judah continues:

... 33 *"Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers.*

34 *"For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?"*

As a result of Judah pleading for his brother Benjamin, Joseph knew that his brothers were repentant of their sin of selling him into slavery. They were willing to become slaves themselves (just as Joseph had been), rather than Benjamin not return to their father due to the grief Jacob still bore from the loss of Joseph. To lose Benjamin as well was more than Jacob could have borne, and the brothers knew they had been responsible for such grief.

### **Joseph Reveals His Identity to His Brothers**

**Genesis 45:1** *Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers.*

2 *And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.*



*3 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.*

*4 And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.*

*5 "But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.*

*6 "For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.*

*7 "And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.*

*8 "So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.*

**Q:** Who does Joseph say sent him to Egypt?

**A:**

**Q:** What was the purpose for God sending Joseph to Egypt?

**A:**

**Q:** Connect the last question to **Matthew 24:22**: *"And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.)*

**A:**

## Conclusion:

There is so much more that we could learn from the lives of Joseph and his brothers. We have already seen how the relationship with Joseph and his brothers is a TYPE of Christ and the nation of Israel at His first Advent. Their animosity and hatred towards Christ resulted in Israel killing their King.

The nation today still doesn't recognize who Christ was at that first Advent, just as the brothers didn't know they were dealing with Joseph on their first encounter either. However ...

### **The Antitype must follow the Type.**

During a time of 'a great famine' (the great Tribulation), the nation of Israel will cry out to God and He will send a Deliverer, a Preserver of Life, His Son. At Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, Israel will be in 'Egypt' (a Type of the world) and will recognize their Brother that they killed and will mourn, just as Joseph's brothers were dismayed in his presence when he revealed himself to them!

***Zechariah 12:10** ... "then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.*

Following their mourning, the One who typifies Joseph will deliver His people and bring comfort to them, just as Joseph comforted his brothers:

***Genesis 50:20** "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*

*21 "Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

In our next lesson we will return to the topic of the deliverance of Israel, when we study MOSES, the Deliverer.