

Chapter 11. The Account of the Faith of Joseph from The Book of Genesis

Isn't It Interesting? Joseph had a special coat. Jesus had a robe that was woven in one piece of cloth, and the soldiers did not want to tear it, but they "cast lots" to see who would get it. Joseph's brothers hated him. Jesus' own people hated him. Joseph's father sent him to his brothers while they were tending the sheep. God sent Jesus to his own brethren first.

Joseph told his brothers about things that would happen, and they did not like Joseph's dream, as they appeared in the dream as lesser than Joseph and bowing down to him. Jesus told the Jewish leaders that he would be sitting at the right hand of God. He also said he is the Son of God. They did not like it. Joseph's brothers plotted to kill him, but sold him instead. Jesus was sold to the Jewish leaders who wanted to kill him. Joseph was successful in Egypt under his new master, the Captain of the Guard. Because of his faith he would not sin against God, he was falsely accused and put into prison. Because Jesus claimed to be God's Son he was arrested after being falsely accused. Joseph was thrown into the prison where the political prisoners were. Jesus was crucified with two thieves.

In Genesis we read, "While Joseph was there the Lord was with him and showed him kindness and granted him favor with the prison warden. Joseph was put in charge of all those held in prison." Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Joseph interpreted two dreams while in prison: one for the baker and one for the wine steward. He said the baker would be put to death in three days, but the wine steward would return to his position and live. Jesus gave the disciples the bread and wine. The bread was broken, and Jesus said it was his body "given for them". Is the bread, Jesus' body, representing the First Covenant? Even when Jesus gave the bread to the disciples, He broke it. HE broke the bread. He ended the First Covenant.

Jesus gave the "cup" to the disciples, saying, "This is my blood of the New Covenant" Jesus said, "Drink all of it". Jesus is the only one who could give the New Covenant, but he had to die to do it. He did not pour some of the wine out on the floor, but they drank all of it. Jesus broke the bread (He did it, they did not break it off piece by piece), but the "cup" was drunk by all, nothing spilled. Jesus also talked of his crucifixion and being raised again on the third day. One of the accounts of when Judas left the supper states that after Judas received the bread "he went out into the night". He did not drink the "cup of the New Covenant".

The events of Joseph's interpretation of the dreams happened just as he said. When Jesus was resurrected the disciples remembered, "everything He had said and that it had happened just as He had said." Jesus had said, "I am telling you

these things before they happen, so that when they happen you will know that I am he." Joseph said that in three days the wine steward would be restored. Jesus rose on the third day. The Jewish calendar counts as one any part of a "first day". The first day was a Friday, the second was a Saturday, and the third day was a Sunday. The Scripture recounts that on the "first day of the week..." That was a Sunday.

So Pharaoh had a dream, and the wine steward said to send for Joseph. Joseph was reputed to be an interpreter of dreams. Jesus explained the Scripture. He spoke about events to John in The Book of Revelation: "What was, what is, and what will be". The interpretation of Pharaoh's dream was that Pharaoh should start to prepare for the famine that would follow the years of plenty. He took Joseph's advice, and it happened just as Joseph said it would. We can believe Jesus; it will happen just as he has said. We should pay attention to today, for tomorrow may bring something for which we will need more in our storehouse of faith. Jesus said, "Store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven where moth and rust do not corrupt, and where thieves do not break in and steal." There are more things that can be taken from us: our courage, our confidence, our peace of mind. We should store up what Jesus has said.

Joseph became governor of the land, and his brothers came to buy grain from him. They bowed down to him, something Joseph had predicted would happen when he had told his brothers about his dream before they sold him. It is written about Jesus, "And every knee shall bow." God chooses His words carefully. It says, "every." It will happen, and it won't be a dream.

Joseph was kind to his brothers, he forgave them, and even though they did not recognize him, he loaded up their donkeys and gave them back all their money. They did not have to pay for Joseph's kindness. However, this was not enough for Joseph. He wanted to see his younger brother, Benjamin. He insisted that the brothers return and bring Benjamin with them. They didn't like the idea, but they did so. God gives us freely His salvation. God gave us his Son to rescue us and bring us back to Him, clean and unstained by sin. Jesus said from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Joseph's brothers came a second time and brought Benjamin with them to present him to Joseph. Again, Joseph loaded up their donkeys and sent them home, hiding their money in their sacks. Along with those provisions, he put his own cup, the silver one, into Benjamin's sack. As they were traveling home, Joseph had his steward pursue them and search the party for the cup. It was found in Benjamin's sack. They had to return to Joseph. At this meeting Joseph reveals that he is their brother. The finality was that the one with whom was found the cup was to be Joseph's servant and stay in Egypt with him. Jesus gives us the "cup of Salvation". Joseph forgives the brothers and promises them that they return to Egypt with all of their families and father, and he will provide land in the "best part of Goshen" for them to live in. Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you...Where I am, there will you be also."

Jesus is the Son of God. All the earth is his. The Heavens are his. He invites us to be with him.

Among the provisions which Joseph sent with his brothers for their trip home was new clothing, but to Benjamin, he gave 300 shekels of silver and five sets of clothes! The "cup" found in Benjamin's sack may be a hint of what Jesus gives to us. The Apostle Paul brought the Gospel to the Gentiles. Paul is a descendant of the tribe of Benjamin. Five is the number of the Holy Spirit, some say, and Benjamin received five sets of clothes. The Holy Spirit, Jesus told the disciples, would be given because he said, "I will not leave you comfortless"

When Adam and Eve sinned, God banished them from the Garden of Eden, but first He clothed them with skins. He sent them out into the world with clothing. Certainly, the animals would not mind if they were naked, but God gave them clothing. I believe it was for comfort, protection from the elements, and something from Him to represent His caring for their needs. Jesus said He would send "The Comforter", the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came to the "church" after Jesus was resurrected. Jesus said, "Take no thought of what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear."

Previously, Joseph also told his brothers, "Do not be angry with yourselves, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance." This is exactly what Jesus has done for us. In Exodus we read, "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.'" (Exodus 6:6 NIV) **Jesus saved us with two outstretched arms.**

These notes are not new doctrines, nor is Joseph Jesus Christ. It is interesting that there are some similarities in the messages. Joseph lived by his faith, and many things that happened to him point us to Jesus. Those who revere Joseph may be interested in considering Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, our Salvation, the only Son of God who died so we may live. Only He can provide eternal life. The Scriptures always point to Jesus, no matter about whom we read. Some "Bible Scholars" say that Joseph was a "type" of Christ. One cannot be a "type" of Christ. No one has ever nor ever will be similar or even "close to" being Christ. These things which have been interesting in recounting Joseph's events are only circumstances which will point us to the true Christ, who is Jesus Christ, our only Savior. We should be careful not to invent anything other than just what has already been provided in God's Word.