

BIBLE STUDY LESSON:
10 PEOPLE IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS
JOSEPH

- Gen. 49:26 The blessings of your father surpass the blessing of my ancestors to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They will be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of the one who was separate from his brothers.
- Gen. 41:41 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.

I. CONTINUING THE WAY OF LIFE

- A. Joseph was special among the sons of Jacob and was separate from his brothers (Gen. 49:26)
- B. He continued the way of life that chooses God, the way taken by His forefathers (Gen. 37:7, 9)
- C. Eventually, he became the representative of all those who are mature in God's life and who reign for God and enter into glory.

II. SUFFERING THE ILL-TREATMENT OF HIS BROTHERS

- A. Joseph:
 - a. His father's favorite
 - b. Brought back evil reports about his brothers to his father
 - c. Hated by his brothers and they could not speak peaceably to him (Gen. 37:2-4)
- B. Joseph had two dreams in which he dreamed that his brothers, signified by sheaves and stars, were bowing down to him
 - a. His brothers were jealous of Joseph and hated him even more (Gen. 37:5-11)
- C. When Joseph, in obedience to his father's command, went to visit his brothers, they conspired against him and almost slew him
 - a. His oldest brother, Reuben, rescued him by proposing that they cast him into a pit that was in the wilderness (Gen. 37:21-22),
 - b. Judah suggested that they sell him to the Ishmaelites (Gen. 37:25-27)
 - c. Thus he was spared from death and was brought to Egypt and sold to an officer of Pharaoh's (Gen. 37:36)
- D. Joseph suffered all the ill-treatment from his brothers

III. REIGNING FOR GOD

- A. Genesis 37:2 says, "These are the generations of Jacob."
 - a. It goes on to tell us of the life of Joseph
 - b. This proves that Joseph's life was a part of Jacob's generation
- B. Because of this, the last fourteen chapters of Genesis combine the record of Joseph's life with the record of Jacob's, considering them as the biography of one person
- C. Joseph was an aspect, a part, of Jacob
 - a. He was Jacob's expression
 - b. When Joseph was in power, it was actually Jacob who was reigning through Joseph
- D. Joseph's reigning and ruling over Egypt signifies that all who are spiritually mature will:
 - a. Reign for God
 - b. Rule over the earth

IV. PARTICIPATING IN THE DOUBLE PORTION OF THE LAND AS A PORTION OF THE BIRTHRIGHT

- A. Because of his purity, Joseph overcame the temptation of the lust of the flesh (Gen. 39:7-12)
 - a. He conducted himself as a bright star shining in darkness

- b. The birthright was transferred from the lust-indulging Reuben to Joseph (1 Chron. 5:1-2)
- B. He received the double portion of the land
 - a. Signifying the enjoyment of Christ in full, as a portion of the birthright

V. TYPIFYING CHRIST

- A. According to the record of the Bible, Joseph was altogether perfect, without defect
 - a. Joseph is the perfect one in the Old Testament
 - b. Jesus is the perfect One in the New Testament
 - c. Joseph is a type, of Christ in His perfection
- B. He typifies Christ as:
 - a. The Father's Beloved (Gen. 37:3-4; Matt. 3:17; 17:5)
 - b. The One who ministered to God's people according to the will of God the Father (Gen. 37:12-17; John 6:38)
 - i. But was hated, harassed, and betrayed by them (Gen. 37:4-5, 8, 18-28);
 - c. The One who was delivered into the prison of death (Gen. 39:20; Acts 2:23)
 - i. Resurrected from the prison of death (Gen. 41:14; Acts 2:24)
 - d. The One who
 - i. Was enthroned with authority (Gen. 41:40-44; Matt. 28:18; Acts 2: 36; Rev. 3:21)
 - ii. Received glory (Gen. 41:42; Heb. 2:9)
 - iii. Keeps (Gen. 41:42; Acts 2:33)
 - iv. Became the Savior of the world, the Sustainer of Life (Gen. 41:56-57; Acts 5:31; John 6:50-51)
 - e. Joseph's taking the Egyptian woman Asenath as his wife
 - i. A type of Christ's taking the church as His wife from among the Gentiles after He was rejected by the Jews (Gen. 41:45)
- C. Joseph's brothers' being forced to turn to Joseph (Gen. 42:1-6) typifies the Israelites' being forced to turn to Christ (Zech. 12:10)
 - a. Eventually, Joseph acknowledged his ignorant brothers (Gen. 45:1-4, 14-15) and enabled them to participate in his reign (Gen. 45:18; 47:4-6)
 - b. A type showing how Christ will
 - i. Acknowledge the ignorant nation of Israel (Rom. 11:26-27)
 - ii. Will enable the Jews to participate in His reign in the earthly part of the millennial kingdom (Zech. 14:16-19)

Focus: Joseph as the continuation of Jacob, suffered ill treatment from his brothers. His purity allowed him to participate in the double-portion of good land, originally given the Reuben. Joseph's living typifies Christ's life. As a picture of the Christian life, Joseph signifies the maturation in God's life, manifested by reigning for God and entering into glory.