

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Jacob's favoritism towards Joseph provoked his other sons to jealousy. Are there circumstances in which parents are justified in showing favoritism?
2. Should Joseph have told his brothers his dream? Why or why not?
3. Children may often perceive that they are less favored than their siblings? What can they do?
4. What lessons apply to ourselves from Joseph's experience?

SUMMARY:

How could Joseph have imagined what God had in store as he waited in that uncomfortable dry well? He could certainly have given up as his brothers no doubt took the opportunity to tell him why he was being placed in the well. As he was removed from the well and sold for a slave to the caravan which "happened by," he could hardly have felt that he made much of a gain although he was not to die at that time.

The important thing to remember is that Joseph did not have to see what was in store for him, and he did not have to know that God was preparing him for a far more important job than that of his brothers. He had only to maintain trust in the true God and believe that God would care for Him. How fortunate for us that in the few minutes it takes us to read the account we can see the whole picture which was not seen by Joseph or his brothers for years. This should certainly serve to give us confidence in God and in His ability to "plan things out." So often, we do not give thanks to God for all things (Colossians 3:17). Years later we may find what God has in store for us but at the loss of many blessings.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #8

May 23, 2021

Second Quarter

JOSEPH SOLD INTO EGYPT

LESSON TEXT: *Genesis 37:1-36; Psalm 105:17-19*

LESSON SETTING: Joseph is hated by his brothers.

TIME: Approximately 1729 B.C.

- I. JOSEPH DESPISED BY HIS BROTHERS.** Genesis 37:1-19
 - A. Jealousy (vs. 4) 1 Samuel 18:8; Luke 15:28-29
 - B. Hatred (vs. 4-5) Proverbs 10:12; 1 John 2:9; 3:15
 - C. Envy (vs. 11) Proverbs 14:30; 1 Corinthians 13:4; Galatians 5:26
- II. JOSEPH DEPORTED FROM CANAAN.** Genesis 37:20-28; Psalm 105:17-19
 - A. Deceit (vs. 20) Jeremiah 17:9; Micah 6:12; Romans 3:13
 - B. Greed (vs. 27) Proverbs 15:27; Jeremiah 17:11; 1 Timothy 6:10
 - C. Selling of Men (vs. 28) Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:15; Revelation 18:13
- III. JACOB DECEIVED BY HIS SONS.** Genesis 37:29-36
 - A. Cunning (vs. 3) Genesis 27:16; Luke 20:23; Ephesians 4:14
 - B. Lying (vs. 32) Proverbs 12:22; 19:5; 21:6; Colossians 3:9
 - C. Jacob's Grief (vs. 34-35) Genesis 42:36

GOLDEN TEXT: *YE THOUGHT EVIL AGAINST ME: BUT GOD MEANT IT UNTO GOOD.*
Genesis 50:20

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Genesis 39:20-23; 40:1-15

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Acts 5:17-42

QUARTERLY THEME: The Patriarchs

TOPIC: JOSEPH IN PRISON

INTRODUCTION:

Joseph was a young man when he experienced great temptation in his master's house. But young though he was, he was "man" enough to stand up for God. *"How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"* (Genesis 39:9) God's delivering power is still the same today, as it was then. (1 Corinthians 10:13) God **is** able.

Because of Joseph's integrity, he was cast into prison. We see no evidence of bitterness, discouragement or despair. No giving up. God had a purpose—a then unknown purpose—for Joseph. And Joseph trusted God.

Joseph did not wait for better days ahead to start serving God. He served Him in prison. He remained faithful. He spoke about His God. And God blessed him and used him.

Joseph took notice of the sadness of the butler and the baker, and asked them the reason. He was interested in them, rather than feeling sorry for himself. Joseph then had opportunity to speak of God and to bring God's message of prophecy to the butler and the baker.

Joseph's time in prison gave God opportunity to prepare him for greater responsibilities ahead. During this time of preparation, however, God used Joseph to speak for Him and to live for Him.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Adversity cannot destroy the integrity and usefulness of the true child of God.

GOLDEN TEXT: *THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH, AND SHOWED HIM MERCY.* Genesis 39:21

Three times in this same chapter of Genesis we are told that the Lord was with Joseph (vs. 3, 21 and 23). God was with Noah during the flood. He was with Daniel in the lion's den; with David when Saul threatened his life; with the apostles when they were imprisoned for preaching Christ; with Paul during imprisonment and persecutions; and with Stephen as he was stoned to death. Today He has promised to His disciples *"Go ye ... teaching all nations ... and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."* (Matthew 28:19-20)

Real difficulties in life provide God the opportunity to demonstrate His sustaining grace in the lives of His children. God never promises a smooth and broad road, but He does promise His sustaining grace: *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"* The Lord was with Joseph, in good circumstances and in bad. Can anyone ask more than this?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 24 – 30

M. Joseph in Potiphar's House. Genesis 39:1-9
T. Joseph Accused Falsely. Genesis 39:9-16
W. *Joseph in Prison. Genesis 39:20-23; 40:1-15
T. Joseph's Predictions Fulfilled. Genesis 40:16-23
F. Micaiah Imprisoned. 1 Kings 22:13-28
S. The Disciples Imprisoned. Acts 5:17-25
S. Peter Imprisoned. Acts 12:3-10

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