

# Unlocking The Mystery & Treasure Of My Inheritance

## Lesson #20 This Portrait Is No Accident

Dispensation [#4] Of Promise: Each patriarch in Genesis illustrates a basic spiritual truth.

The chronological order of their lives agrees with the doctrinal order of truth.

1. Abraham = Doctrine of Election = He was singled out by God from all the heathen and chosen to be the head of the Jewish nation.
2. Isaac = Divine sonship = He represents the new man born by the miraculous power of God.
3. Jacob = Illustrates the conflict between the 2 natures. His life exemplified God's gracious discipline which slowly but surely resulted in the triumph of the spirit over the flesh.
  - a. Jacob's discipline by The Father leads him to a participation of God's holiness.
4. Joseph = Illustrates heirship preceded by suffering. Suffering Before Glory
  - a. The sufferings of Joseph and his suffering for righteousness marked his path to glory.

Note: Jacob shows discipline as a child who is growing into maturity.

Joseph shows sufferings to make us more like Christ as a joint-heir.

- b. Joseph occupies the most space. He is the chief link which connects Exodus with Genesis.
- c. His life explains the remarkable development of the Hebrews from a mere handful of wandering shepherds to a numerous and settled colony in Egypt.

A study of the OT reveals God's preparing the way for the coming of His Son.

The events of the life of Jesus Christ are prefigured or shadowed in the OT.

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|----------------|--|
| 1. Adam        | The Headship of Jesus Christ                                   |
| 2. Abel        | The Death Of Jesus Christ                                      |
| 3. Noah        | The Work Of Jesus Christ in providing a refuge for His people. |
| 4. Melchizedek | Pointed To Jesus Christ as a Priest.                           |
| 5. Moses       | Pointed To Jesus Christ as a Prophet.                          |
| 6. David       | Pointed To Jesus Christ as a King.                             |
| 7. Joseph      | Picture or Type of Jesus Christ                                |

In Genesis 37-50 the hand of God is evident in every scene, ruling and overruling the decisions people make. God builds a hero, saves a family and creates a nation that will bring blessing to the whole world. We see the heart of the covenant making God who always keeps His promises.

John 5:39 Search the Scriptures diligently;... these are they which testify of me.

When you study the Bible, keep your spiritual antennae up. Standing somewhere in the shadows, you'll find Jesus. There is a marvelous parallel between the life of Joseph and the life of Jesus.

1. We see Jesus as God's beloved Son.
2. We see Jesus as He becomes the suffering servant who came to earth to die.
3. We see Jesus raised as the exalted sovereign.
4. Now we know Jesus as the-wonderful Savior of the entire world.

Keep these 4 events and those great divisions of the life of Christ in your mind.

"*The Gospel According to Joseph*" Joseph was the older son of Rachel and Jacob. He was around 5 or 6 when his family left Mesopotamia. In Genesis 37, he is now 17 and they live in Canaan.

Gen. 37:2-4 These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report. Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors. And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

### Joseph As A Type of Jesus Christ

I. The Meaning Of His Name: Joseph had 2 names:

A. Joseph = Adding [Gen. 30:24]; multiplier; abundance

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Adam was the great subtractor      Men became Lost  
The Last Adam is the great Adder      ALL Who Believe Are Saved

B. Zaphnath-paaneah [Gen. 41:45] - Rabbis translate = Revealer of Secrets  
Given to him by Pharaoh in acknowledgement of the Divine wisdom in Joseph

1. Joseph = human name      Zaphnath = Divine name

Note: Jesus = human name      Son of Man = His humanity

Christ = the Anointed of God      Son of God = His Deity

2. He not only interpreted dreams, but his dealings with people revealed their secret condition.

3. He revealed his father's heart. Joseph is the special object of Jacob's affections.

4. He revealed his brethren's hearts by making manifest their wicked hatred.

C. Jesus Christ: Luke 2:34-35 Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the Thoughts Of Many Hearts May Be Revealed.

1. He revealed the Father's heart. John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

2. Jesus also made manifest and exposed the secret hearts of men.

3. Jesus detected, displayed, uncovered and brought to light the hidden things of darkness.

II. Joseph's Occupation As A Shepherd

A. In this passage, Joseph is seen as feeding the flock.

B. Points to the earthly ministry of Christ who, sent unto the "lost sheep of the House of Israel," [Matt. 15:24] spent Himself in tending the needs of others.

III. Joseph's Opposition To Evil

A. Joseph brought to his father an evil report. He is a truth-speaker. No cowardly silence!

B. John 7:7 The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

IV. His Father's Love

A. Israel loved Joseph more than all his brethren.

1. His mark of special esteem in making him the coat of many colors

2. The father's inconsolable grief when he believed Joseph had been devoured by beasts

3. The father taking a long journey to look upon Joseph before he died

B. Speaks of God the Father's love for His only begotten Son

1. Matt. 3:17 Lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

[repeated in Matt. 17:5 when the Son's earthly ministry was drawing to a close.]

2. Phil. 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

3. Rev. 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in MY THRONE,

V. Joseph's Relation To His Father's Age

A. Joseph was the son of Jacob's old age.

B. Old age applied to God = Eternity

1. From all eternity, Jesus Christ was God's Son.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.

Col. 2:9 For in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

I Tim. 3:16...God was manifest in the flesh,

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

VI. His Coat Of Many Colors

Judges 5:30 - Garments of divers colors were to be worn as a mark of distinction.

II Sam. 13:18 - Garments of divers colors were the attire of unmarried princesses; a mark of honor; mark of noble birth

A. Jacob's purpose was to distinguish Joseph, born of Rachel, from his half-brothers, born of the slave-wives.

B. Jesus was marked off from His brethren according to the flesh.

1. No other baby born was welcomed by the Heavenly hosts.

2. The star that appeared to the wise men gave evidence of the Heavenly Origin of the new-born King.

3. At His baptism, the Heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended upon Him in the form of a dove.

4. In John 13, the feet of the disciples [picture of their walk] were defiled and needed to be washed with water [type of the Word]. In John 12, the feet of Jesus were not washed with water [there was no defilement in Him], but were anointed with precious ointment, the fragrance of which filled the house. The walk of Jesus was a sweet smelling savor to the Father. Jesus was distinguished from and elevated above others.

5. Even at the cross we see the distinguishing coat of many colors.

a. Death of Jesus Christ was very unique. He laid down His life.

b. 3 hours of darkness, quaking of the earth, rending of the veil.

VII. The Hatred Of His Brethren

A. They hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

1. It was his father's love which brought out the heart's enmity.

B. Jesus Christ also revealed His Father's love and He exposed man's enmity.

1. Men hated Jesus Christ for exposing them OR they accepted it and took refuge in the Grace He revealed. [Pharisees versus woman at the well]

In Genesis 37: 5-11, Joseph relates the content of his 2 dreams to his brothers and father.

#### VIII. Joseph Is Hated Because Of His Words

A. The hatred of Joseph by his brothers is enumerated 3 times in 11 verses.

1. V. 4 - hated him and could not speak peaceably unto him
2. V. 5 - hated him yet the more
3. V. 8 - hated him yet the more for his dreams and his words
4. Hated Joseph's person - Father's special love for him

B. Jesus Christ - Many hated Him because He was the beloved Son of the Father.

1. John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.
2. John 6:41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.
3. John 10:30-31 I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

B. Hated Because Of His Teachings

1. Luke 4:28-29 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.
2. John 8:40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

#### IX. Joseph Was To Enjoy A Remarkable Future

A. Joseph's dreams were announcements of future exaltation.

B. Jesus Christ: Isa. 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Luke 1:31-33 Thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever: and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

#### X. Joseph Foretold His Future Sovereignty

A. The 2 dreams of Joseph prophesied a double sovereignty.

Dream #1 = The Field = Earthly dominion of Jesus Christ

Dreams #2 = Sun, moon & stars = Heavenly dominion of Jesus Christ

Note: ALL power has been given to Him in heaven and on earth.

1. Joseph's announcement of his future exaltation fanned the fires of enmity and intensified his brother's hatred. We are not going to let you have dominion over us.

B. The more Jesus unfolded the glory of His person and future exaltation, the more the Jews [his brethren according to the flesh] hated him.

Matt. 26:64-65a Nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy;

Luke 19:14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

#### XI. Joseph Was Envied by His Brethren

v. 4 when his brethren saw their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him,  
A. The prime cause of their hatred was envy.

B. Jesus Christ: Jesus was "envied" by His brethren. Parable of the Wicked Husbandman  
Mark 12:6-7 Having yet therefore one son, his well beloved, he sent him also last unto them, saying, They will reverence my son. But those husbandmen said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours.'

John 12:18-19 For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle. The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, You see how futile your efforts are *and* how you accomplish nothing. See! The whole world is running after Him!

Matt 27:17-18 Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ? For he knew that For Envy They Had Delivered Him.

Gen. 37:12-13 And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? Come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I.

#### XII. Joseph Was Sent Forth By His Father

1. Joseph's brethren are seen as away from the father.
2. Jacob sends his beloved son on an errand of mercy, seeking their good.
3. Note the promptness of Joseph's response!

B. Jesus Christ: God in His divine omniscience foresaw the fall of man, and the alienation of the race from Himself. Out of the marvelous grace of His heart, He proposed His beloved Son should go forth on a mission of mercy and seek those who were away from the Father's house.

I John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Heb. 10:7 Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

#### XIII. Joseph Seeks The Welfare Of His Brethren

Gen. 37:14a And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again.

A. Joseph is sent with a definite purpose before him. To seek his brethren and their welfare

B. Jesus Christ John 1:11 He came unto his own [Jews], and his own received him not.

Matt. 15:24 He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

#### XIV. Joseph Was Sent Forth From The Vale Of Hebron

Gen. 37:14b So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron,

Note: Hebron = fellowship or communion                      Vale = quiet peacefulness & rest

A. The peaceful vale of Hebron was where Joseph dwelled in fellowship with his father; here he was known, loved and understood. He is sent to a place characterized by strife and bloodshed, unto those who envied and hated him.

B. Pictures the fellowship of the Son with the Father in heaven's eternal calm and peace previous to His entrance into a world of sin, toil and sorrow.

Jesus left His Home and descended to a hostile realm where He is hated without a cause.

#### XV. Joseph Came To Shechem

Gen. 37:14c and he came to Shechem. [means shoulder]

A. The "shoulder" speaks of burden-bearing and suggests the thought of service and subjection.

Gen. 49:15 bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute.

B. This is what Jesus Christ did. He left the place of Glory to come to the scene of sin and suffering and took on place of submission and subjection.

Phil. 2:6-7 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Side Note: Shechem has been mentioned before in Gen. 34:25-30. It was a place of sin and sorrow, of evil passions and bloodshed. Jacob's concern: sent Joseph

#### XVI. Joseph Seeks Until He Finds His Brethren

Gen. 37:15-17 ...the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou? And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks. They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan.

A. When Joseph arrived at Shechem his brothers had departed.

Now is his chance to return to Hebron [place of communion & fellowship with the Father].

His heart was fully devoted to his father's mission. Joseph went after his brothers.

B. From start to finish, Jesus Christ displayed unswerving devotion to His Father and unwearied love toward His lost sheep. He continued the search until He found them.

Jesus Christ went from place to place. When He entered the synagogue, He read from Isaiah to reach the brethren. He walked by the Sea of Galilee seeking the brethren.

He "must needs go through Samaria." Jesus Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost.

Consider: How patiently and untiringly has Jesus "gone after me!" "How many years His unwearied love pursued me over the mountains of unbelief and across the precipices of sin.

All praise to His marvelous grace."

Note: Joseph found them in Dothan = law or custom.

1. Jesus Christ found His brethren dwelling under the bondage of the Law and slaves to mere religious formalism.

Mark 7:8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

#### XVII. Joseph Was Conspired Against

Gen. 37:18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

1. The hatred of the brothers found opportunity in the love that sought them.

2. The conspiracy was formed against Joseph before he drew near unto them.

B. Jesus Christ No sooner was He born than the enmity of the carnal mind against God displayed itself. A horrible "conspiracy" was hatched by Herod in an attempt to slay the newly born Savior. These were the days "He was afar off;" Thirty years before He presented Himself publicly to the Jews. **His claims to be from heaven, to be greater than Abraham or to be the one of whom Moses wrote, met with venomous reactions and culminated in a plot to kill him.**

a. This was repeated time and again during His public ministry. Matt. 12:14

Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.

#### XVIII. Joseph's Words Disbelieved

Gen. 37:19-20 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

A. They regarded Joseph's prophetic dreams as idle tales; refused to believe him.

Their skepticism comes out in their wicked proposal.

B. Jesus Christ After He was nailed to the cross, those who passed by reviled Him, wagging their heads and said: "Thou that destroyed the temple and built it in 3 days, save Thyself.

If Thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

#### XIX. Joseph Is Insulted

Gen. 37:23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colors that was on him;

A. This brings to light the wicked hatred of the brothers for the one who had come seeking only their welfare. They put him to open shame by stripping him of his coat.

B. Jesus Christ: Matt. 27:27-28 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

#### XX. Joseph Is Cast Into A Pit & Suffers Abuse

Gen. 37:24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

Zech. 9:11 As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water.

#### XXI. Joseph's Brethren Mingle Hypocrisy With Their Hatred

Gen. 37:25-27 They sat down to eat bread: [Joseph=helpless in the pit] And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? Come, and let us sell

him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh  
B. Matt. 27:35-36 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots:...  
And sitting down they watched him there;

John 18:28 Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early;  
and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled;  
but that they might eat the passover.

John 18:31 Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law.  
The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:

XXII. Joseph Was Taken Out Of The Pit, Alive, In His Body

Gen. 37:28 they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit,  
The lifting out of the pit is in anticipation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ

XXIII. Joseph Is Sold - Betrayal

Gen. 37:28 sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver:

Note: From among the sons of Jacob, it was Judah who made this horrible bargain. From the 12  
disciples, it was Judas [anglicized form of the Greek equivalent] who bargained to sell Jesus.

XXIV. Joseph's Blood-Sprinkled Coat Is Presented To His Father

Gen. 37:32 And they sent the coat of many colors, and they brought it to their father;  
The blood of Jesus Christ as the blood of a scapegoat, **a sin offering, was presented to the  
Father and sprinkled on the mercy seat.**

**Genesis 37 closes with Joseph being sold to the Midianites who in turn sell him into Egypt.**

- 1. Speaks of Christ being rejected by Israel and delivered to the Gentiles.**
- 2. From the time the Jewish leaders delivered their Messiah into the hands of Pilate they have, as a nation, had no further dealings with Him.**

Note: Before we are told what happened to Joseph in Egypt, the Holy Spirit traces the history  
of the Jews while Joseph is absent.

- 1. Gen. 38 records the history of Judah and history of the Jews since their rejection of Christ.**
- 2. 38:2 - Judah saw a daughter of a certain Canaanite, whose name was Shuah. He took her and went in to her."**
- 3. Canaanite = merchantman Shuah = riches**
- 4. These are the leading traits of the Jews during the centuries since the cross.**
- 5. They have become merchants and are engaged in the pursuit of riches.**
- 6. Three sons born to Judah: Er = enmity Onan = Iniquity Shelah = sprout**
- 7. Enmity against Jesus Christ has marked the Jewish people.**
- 8. Chapter 38 ends with the sordid story of Tamar which foreshadows the end-time conditions of the Jews. In the time of her travail, twins were in her womb. [38:27]**
- 9. During the Tribulation Period there will be 2 companies in Israel.**
  - a. Pharez = Breach = majority of Israel will break completely with God, receive and worship the Antichrist.**
  - b. Zerah = scarlet thread = points to the Godly remnant who will be saved.**

Zech 12:10a And I will pour out upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
the Spirit of grace *or* unmerited favor and supplication.