

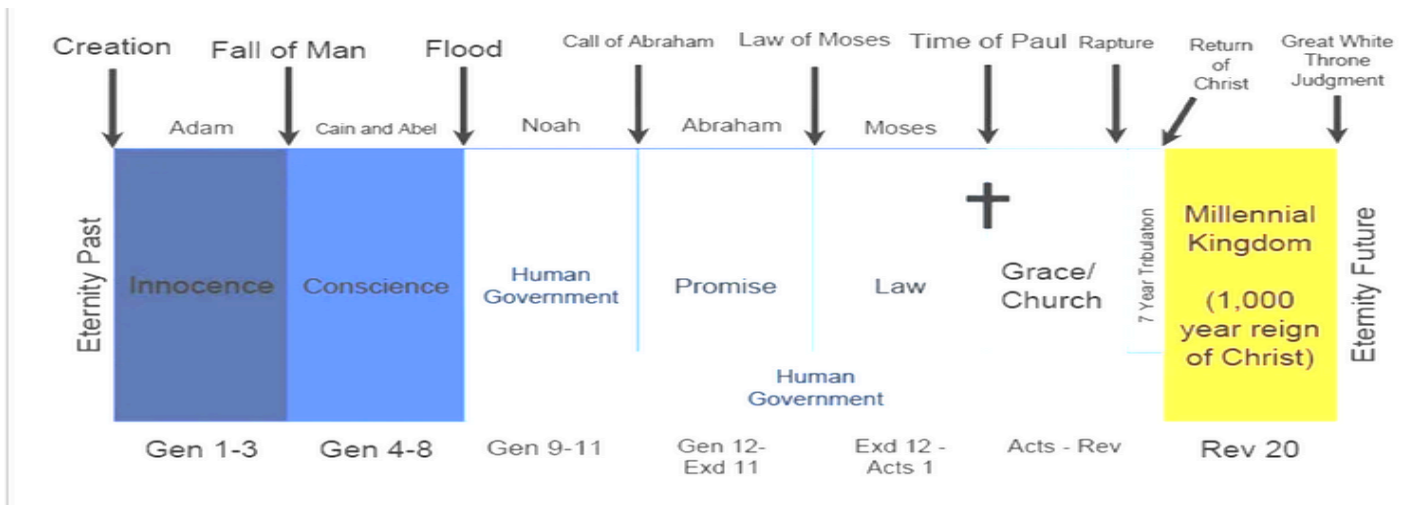
Christ & His Bride

Lesson #29

Joseph: Type of Jesus Christ

Aug. 27, 2025

The Seven Dispensations of the Bible



The Dispensation of Promise [4th dispensation] lasted approximately 430 years, starting with God's covenant and promises to Abraham and continuing through the patriarchs Isaac and Jacob. It ended with the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage.

This period is covered in the Bible from approximately from Genesis 12 to Exodus 12.

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. [choice]

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.

Jacob's discipline by The Father leads him to a participation of God's holiness.

Note: Joseph occupies the most space. He is the chief link which connects Exodus with *Genesis*.

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.

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4. Joseph = Illustrates heirship preceded by suffering. Suffering Before Glory

Ps. 105:18 They forced his feet into shackles, He was put in irons;

- It suggests that through his severe trials—the shackling of his feet and the iron around his neck—Joseph developed profound inner strength and resilience.
- This phrase highlights how God used suffering to build Joseph's character and

prepare him to fulfill his destiny.

- This period of suffering was a divine process that refined Joseph's character, making him strong and steadfast, ready for the greater responsibilities God had planned for him.

Key: The sufferings of Joseph and his suffering for righteousness marked his path to glory.

Powerful Reminder: Difficult times, even when they feel like soul-crushing experiences,

can be instrumental in strengthening faith and character,

ultimately leading to God's promised fulfillment.

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 our 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.

Joseph As A Type of Jesus Christ

- Joseph's Occupation As A Shepherd

Gen. 37:2a Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his half-brothers.

- 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.

- Joseph's Opposition To Evil

Gen. 37:2c Joseph brought to his father an evil report. He is a truth-speaker.

No cowardly silence!

John 7:7 The world cannot hate you; but Me it hates,

because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

- The Hatred Of His Brothers

Gen. 37:3-4 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.

But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them.

They hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

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

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

- 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]

- Joseph Was Envied by His Brethren

Gen. 37:4 when his brethren saw their father loved him more than all his brethren,

they hated him. The prime cause of their hatred was envy.

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.'

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.

- Hated Joseph's person - Father's special love for him

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

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.

John 6:41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said,

I am the bread which came down from heaven.

John 10:30-31 I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.

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

5 One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. 6 "Listen to this dream," he said. 7 "We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!"

8 His brothers responded, "So you think you will be our king, do you?

Do you actually think you will reign over us?"

And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them.

9 Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. "Listen, I have had another dream," he said. "The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!"

11 His brothers were jealous of Joseph,...

- Joseph Is Hated Because Of His Words

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

Jesus Christ Was Hated Because Of His Teachings

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.

John 8:40 Instead, you are trying to kill me because I told you the truth,

which I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing.

- Joseph Was To Enjoy A Remarkable Future
- Joseph's dreams were announcements of future exaltation.

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 forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

- Joseph Foretold His Future Sovereignty

The 2 dreams of Joseph prophesied a double sovereignty for Jesus Christ.
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.

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.

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. 26:64-65 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;

what further need have we of witnesses? Behold, now ye have heard his 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.

Gen. 37:12-13 And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.

And Jacob 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.

- Joseph Was Sent Forth By His Father.
- Joseph's brethren are seen as away from the father.
- Jacob sends his beloved son on an errand of mercy, seeking their good.
- Note the promptness of Joseph's response! Here I am!

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.

- 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.

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

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.

- Joseph Was Sent Forth From The Vale Of Hebron Genesis 37:14b

Hebron = fellowship or communion Vale = quiet peacefulness & rest

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.

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.

L. 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..

- When Joseph arrived at Shechem his brothers had departed.
- Now is his chance to return to Hebron [place of communion & fellowship with the Father].
- But His heart was fully devoted to his father's mission. Joseph went after his brothers.

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.

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.

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

M. 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.

- The hatred of the brothers found opportunity in the love that sought them.
- The conspiracy was formed against Joseph before he drew near to them.

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.

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.

N. 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 has devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

- They regarded Joseph's prophetic dreams as idle tales; refused to believe him.
- Their skepticism comes out in their wicked proposal.

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."

O. Joseph Is Insulted

Gen. 37:23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren,

that they stripped Joseph of his coat of many colors that was on him;
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.

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.

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

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

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.

P. 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.

John 19:28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished,
that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

Q. 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.

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.

Matt. 27:35-36 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots:...

And sitting down they watched him there;

R. 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

S. Joseph Is Sold - Betrayal

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

Matt. 26:15 How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?"

And they gave him thirty 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.

T. 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.

Heb. 9:12 With His own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—

He entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.

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

- Speaks of Christ being rejected by Israel and delivered to the Gentiles.

Gen. 39:1-3 Joseph was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer.

Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

2The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served

in the home of his Egyptian master. 3Potiphar noticed this and realized that

the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did.

- Joseph finds favor with Potiphar and is put in charge of his household.
- Potiphar's wife falsely accuses Joseph of attempted rape, leading to his imprisonment.
- But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. [v.21]
- He is eventually given charge over the other prisoners.
- The Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.

Gen. 40:1-23 Joseph interprets the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker while imprisoned. Both men had troubling dreams and Joseph, with God's help, interprets them accurately.

- Joseph was numbered with two transgressors, the baker and the cupbearer as Jesus was numbered with two thieves.

The cupbearer is restored to his position, but the baker is executed, just as Joseph predicted.

Despite Joseph's request, the cupbearer forgets to mention Joseph's situation to Pharaoh.

- Joseph's message to them meant blessings to one and judgment to the other, just as Jesus' message was with the two thieves.

Gen. 41:1-4 Two full years later, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing on the bank of the Nile River. **2** In his dream he saw seven fat, healthy cows come up out of the river and begin grazing in the marsh grass. **3** Then he saw seven more cows come up behind them from the Nile, but these were scrawny and thin. These cows stood beside the fat cows on the riverbank.

4 Then the scrawny, thin cows ate the seven healthy, fat cows! Pharaoh woke up!

Gen. 41:5-7 But he fell asleep again and had a second dream. This time he saw seven heads of grain, plump and beautiful, growing on a single stalk. **6** Then seven more heads of grain appeared, but these were shriveled and withered by the east wind. **7** And these thin heads swallowed up the seven plump, well-formed heads! Then Pharaoh woke up again and realized it was a dream.

Gen. 41:8-13 The chief cupbearer then remembers Joseph, whom they had imprisoned together with the chief baker. The cupbearer recounts that Joseph had interpreted his and the baker's dreams, which came true, and that Joseph had prophesied his restoration to his position and the baker's hanging.

Gen. 41:14-15 Pharaoh summons Joseph from prison, after which Joseph is quickly groomed, shaves, & puts on clean clothes to appear before the king. Pharaoh tells Joseph that he has had a disturbing dream but that none of his wise men can interpret it.

I have heard that you possess the ability to interpret dreams.

Gen. 41:16 It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied.

"But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease."

Gen. 41:17-24 Pharaoh recounts his 2 dreams to Joseph.

Gen. 41:25-32 Joseph tells Pharaoh that his two dreams have the same meaning: God is showing what He is about to do. He explains that the seven healthy cows and healthy grain represent seven years of prosperity and abundance, followed by seven years of severe famine that will completely

deplete the land. The doubling of the dream signifies that God has firmly decided and will quickly carry out this plan.

Gen. 41:33-36 Joseph advises Pharaoh to find a wise and capable person to oversee a plan for Egypt's future: appoint managers to collect a fifth of the harvest during the seven years of abundance and store it in cities, creating a food reserve for the coming seven years of famine to prevent devastation. This advice provides a comprehensive strategy for the nation to manage the predictable crisis of famine that Pharaoh's dream foretold.

Gen. 41:37-46 So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. **38** And Pharaoh said to his servants,

"Can we find *such a one* as this, a man in whom *is the Spirit of God?*"

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. [type of the world]

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."

Despite the trials and tribulations he faced, including being sold into slavery, falsely accused and imprisoned, Joseph's faithfulness to God ultimately leads to his exaltation and the salvation of his family during the famine. This aligns with the overarching theme in the Bible of God's sovereignty and His ability to bring about good from any situation, even those that seem hopeless or unjust.

The people crying out to bow the knee before Joseph signifies their submission and recognition of his authority as ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Phil. 2:5-11 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

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

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

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

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Joseph's story can also be seen as a precursor to the biblical theme of redemption and salvation. Just as Joseph's presence in Egypt ultimately leads to the salvation of his family during the famine, Jesus Christ, who is often seen as a type of Joseph in the Old Testament, brings about salvation for all who believe in Him through His life, death, and resurrection.

Ps. 2:6, 8-9 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

- The act of setting a king on Zion signifies God's ultimate authority and plan for His anointed one to reign over His people and the entire earth.

8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance,

and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Signifies that God the Father grants His Son, Jesus Christ, the dominion and possession of all the nations and peoples of the world as His inheritance. This is an affirmation of Christ's ultimate authority and the boundless nature of His kingdom, promising that all nations will ultimately belong to Him and be subject to His rule, which brings joy to believers who are part of His inheritance.

For those who are called to be Christ's inheritance, being part of His kingdom brings joy and a new perspective of service and purpose, as they serve His kingdom and live under His authority.

I Thess. 2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto His kingdom and glory.

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, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 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.