

Message Seven

**The Life of Joseph
as a Copy of the Life of Christ
and**

Living as a Sheaf of Life and as a Star of Light

Scripture Reading: Gen. 37:2, 5-11, 19; 41:40-46

I. Joseph's life was a copy of the life of Christ in the following aspects:

- A. In his being a shepherd—Gen. 37:2; John 10:11-16.
- B. In his being his father's beloved—Gen. 37:3-4; Matt. 3:17; 17:5.
- C. In his being sent by his father to minister to his brothers according to his father's will—Gen. 37:12-17; John 6:38.
- D. In his being hated, persecuted, and betrayed (sold) by his brothers—Gen. 37:5, 18-36; John 15:25; Matt. 26:4, 14-16.
- E. In his being cast into the prison of death with two criminals, one of whom was restored, and the other, executed—Gen. 39:20; 40:1-23; Acts 2:23; Luke 23:32, 39-43.
- F. In his being released (resurrected) from the prison of death—Gen. 41:14; Acts 2:24.
- G. In his being enthroned with authority—Gen. 41:40-44; Matt. 28:18; Acts 2:36; Rev. 3:21.
- H. In his receiving glory and gifts—Gen. 41:42; Heb. 2:9; Psa. 68:18; Acts 2:33.
- I. In his becoming the savior of the world, the sustainer of life (the revealer of secrets)—Gen. 41:45; Acts 5:31; John 6:50-51:
 - 1. First, Joseph was the revealer of secrets—Gen. 40:9-19; 41:17-32.
 - 2. Then, because he sustained the life of the people (vv. 47-57; 47:12-24), he became the savior of the world (v. 25).
- J. In his taking a wife from the Gentiles—41:45; John 3:29; Eph. 5:23-27; Rev. 19:7.
- K. In his supplying people with food—Gen. 41:56-57; John 6:35.
- L. In his acknowledging his ignorant brothers and being recognized by them—Gen. 45:1-4, 14-15; Rom. 11:26; Zech. 12:10; Rev. 1:7.
- M. In his reigning in the kingdom over the whole earth—Gen. 41:40—50:26; Rev. 11:15; Dan. 7:13-14.

II. Joseph, a "master of dreams" (Gen. 37:19), dreamed that according to God's view, His people are sheaves of wheat full of life and heavenly bodies full of light (vv. 5-11):

Message Seven (continuation)

- A. Joseph's two dreams (vv. 7-9), both from God, unveiled to him God's divine view concerning the nature, position, function, and goal of God's people on earth:
1. In his first dream Joseph saw sheaves in the field bowing down to his sheaf; this dream reveals that, at the most, Joseph was just a sheaf and that, at the worst, his brothers were also sheaves; Joseph was a sheaf, and his brothers were sheaves—vv. 7-8:
 - a. The only difference between him and them was that God had chosen him to reign, but this does not mean that he was better than they were; God's people are all sheaves of life in Christ.
 - b. God spoke through Balaam, and Balaam said, "He has not beheld iniquity in Jacob, / Nor has He seen trouble in Israel"—Num. 23:21a:
 - 1) This word was spoken not according to the human view but according to the divine view; in the sight of God, Israel is without fault.
 - 2) In themselves God's people have many defects, but in God's redemption and in Christ they have no defects; when God looks at His people, He does not see them according to what they are in themselves but according to what they are in Christ—cf. 2 Cor. 5:16-17.
 - c. Elijah complained against Israel, saying, "The children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, thrown down Your altars, and slain Your prophets with the sword; and I alone am left, and they seek to take my life"; however, Jehovah replied, "Yet I have left Myself seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed unto Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him"—1 Kings 19:10, 18; cf. Rom. 11:2-5.
 - d. If we have seen the heavenly dream, then we have seen that in God's view all His people are sheaves full of life to produce food for the meal offering to satisfy God and man—Lev. 2:4-5.
 2. In his second dream Joseph saw the sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowing down to him—Gen. 37:9:
 - a. According to their fallen nature, God's people are evil and unclean, but in God's eternal view, His people are heavenly bodies full of light—cf. Rev. 12:1 and footnote.

CRYSTALLIZATION-STUDY OUTLINES

Message Seven (continuation)

- b. The reigning aspect of the mature life never condemns God's people; rather, it shepherds and appreciates them—Gen. 37:5-11; cf. 1 Cor. 13:4-8, 13.
 - c. One thing is certain: whoever condemns the church or blames the saints will suffer the loss of life; however, if we praise the Lord for His saints being full of life and light, we will be the first to participate in life—Gen. 12:2-3; Num. 24:9.
- B. Although God's people are positioned in heaven as the sun, the moon, and the stars, they are living on earth as sheaves (Phil. 3:20; 2:15), for sheaves grow in the field; today we are the heavenly people living on earth.
 - C. We have to use the "divine telescope" to see through time and behold the New Jerusalem, where there is nothing but sheaves full of life and stars full of light.
 - D. Although the sons of Jacob were sinful, Christ still came in through them—Gen. 38:27-30; Matt. 1:3.
 - E. The more mature in life we become, the less we will speak negatively concerning the saints or the church; we are not the ones to judge—7:1-5; Rom. 14:4.

III. Joseph's dreams controlled his life and directed his behavior—cf. Acts 26:19:

- A. Joseph behaved so excellently and marvelously because he was directed by the vision that he saw in his dreams.
- B. Joseph lived a life that corresponded to the vision he saw in his two dreams; his brothers vented their anger (Gen. 37:18-31) and indulged in their lust (38:15-18), but Joseph subdued his anger and conquered his lust (39:7-23), behaving as a sheaf full of life and conducting himself like a heavenly star shining in the darkness:
 - 1. While Joseph's brothers were drowning in the water of human anger, Joseph, representing the reigning aspect of a mature life, lived as a sheaf of life and emerged from the death water of human anger—37:18.
 - 2. Judah behaved in a blind way, indulging in his lust in darkness (38:15-18); in contrast, Joseph, living as a star of light, overcame his lust (39:7-12).

GENESIS (3)

Message Seven (continuation)

- C. Joseph's life under the heavenly vision was the life of the kingdom of the heavens described in Matthew 5—7; by living such a life, he was fully prepared to reign as a king; according to the constitution of the heavenly kingdom revealed in these chapters in Matthew, our anger must be subdued, and our lust must be conquered (5:21-32).
- D. As the kingdom people in the kingdom life, we are being trained to be kings, to be Josephs, to manifest the reigning aspect of the mature life.