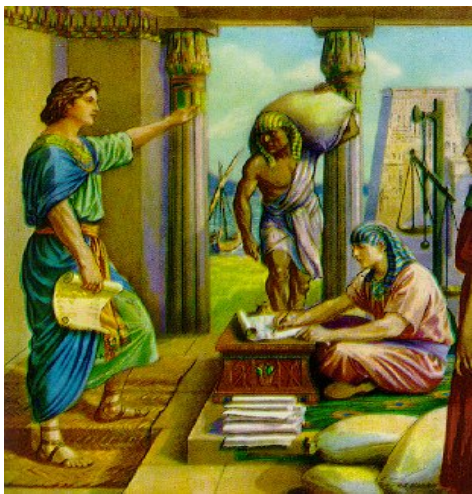


LESSON 13



THE DEATH OF JOSEPH

Scripture Texts: *Genesis 50:22-26*

Joseph is a type of Christ. He fully forgave his brothers. He loved them and provided for their needs. Christ fully forgives all repentant sinners. He loves them and provides for all their needs.

God accomplishes His purposes. His purpose was to take the Israelites to Egypt. It was done. Joseph did not fail in bringing salvation to literal Israel. Christ did not fail in bringing salvation to spiritual Israel.

MEMORY VERSE: *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."*

Psalm 116:15

Joseph's Last Days

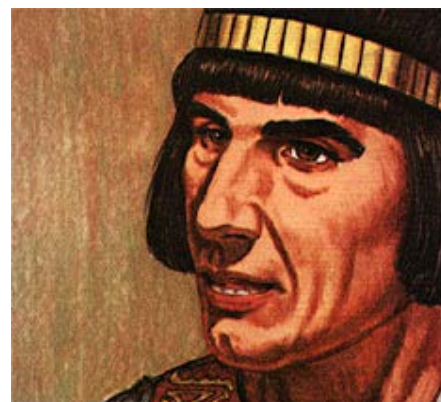
Genesis 50:22-25 God does not work fast, but He works in a steady and sure manner. He carries out His plan on time. The latter years of Joseph's life were peaceful ones spent in the happy company of his family. Unlike his father, Jacob, who had sown troublesome seed and reaped trouble, Joseph had lived a peaceable life with God and now he could live his last days in peace with God and mankind. Joseph learned the secret for success early in life. He refused, time after time, to cut corners on the formula for a successful life which God had given to him. He did not look for an easier way because he knew there was none.

As his active duties lessened he could spend more time with his grandchildren. Perhaps some of Manasseh's family lived with him and Ephraim's farther away, for he saw Ephraim's grandchildren, but the children of Manasseh's son, Machir, **were brought up upon Joseph's knees.**

Joseph made a request of his family similar to the one his father had made. He believed God's promise to Jacob to bring the Israelites back to Canaan. He wanted his body to be near them. He took their oath to carry up his bones with them. His wishes were carried out some years later as the Scriptures explain.

Joseph's Death

Genesis 50:26 No doubt as Joseph was taken through the tests that God had placed upon him down through the years, he did not recognize them as being such. Now as he had time to look back over his life, he understood more about how God had used him, and the importance of the decisions he had made. He could see more clearly now how important the attitudes he had formed had been in carrying out God's plan. He could look back over a life of one hundred ten years as something beautiful. Now he was ready to die. He died with no regrets of failure in his life in carrying out God's plan.



Joseph's Heritage

Joseph was a godly man and manifested the nature of God. As Joseph was to his brothers, so, in a greater way, is God to us. God is love. Psalm 106:1 tells us, ". . . his mercy endureth for ever." In Psalm 86:5 we read, "For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee." Because of His great love for us, He sent Jesus to die in our place that we might be forgiven.

What led Joseph to the faith in God which he held? Joseph found the secret of success early in his life. As a boy he was close to his father. He honored him. Jacob could tell him of the times God had spoken to him, how He had led and blessed him, of how God had spoken to him, how He had led and blessed him, of how God had called his grandfather, Abraham, to Canaan and taught him His truths. Those truths and his faith in God, Abraham passed on to Isaac, and Isaac to Jacob. Jacob passed them on to his sons. Joseph listened and believed his words, watched his example and obeyed his training. Within his heart, faith grew. Real faith leads one to action.

This is a day of much separation between parents and children. With many, little time is spent together. Teaching is scanty and hurried. Training is almost forgotten completely. Family worship is left out. The result is ignorance of God and lack of trust in him. Parents neglect children and children dishonor parents. We need to get back to the ways of God in the home. Honor of parents brings one the heritage of the parents' faith. We reap as we sow.

In the life of Joseph, we have one of the most complete biographies found in the Bible. From his birth in Haran (Genesis 30:22-24) to his death in Egypt, we have Joseph's record, much of it in great detail. After a study of these lessons, we should be able to see why God gave this story to us. What kind of biography can be written of you?

JUST A THOUGHT

True greatness stoops to bless others.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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