

## **LESSON 9 - PROMISE ROAD DEVIATES THROUGH EGYPT**

### **Genesis 37 - 50**

**THEME:** *To give a preview of Israel's history in relation to Jesus Christ.*

Did you ever look through a telescope, the instrument for seeing things far away? If you did, you saw far off in the distance. Now we are going to meet a man on PROMISE ROAD whose life is like a telescope. Through his experience we can see far off in the distance on *THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE* to the time of Jesus Christ and even farther to the time of the KINGDOM. We call such a man a *type* because he is a picture of things beforehand. Joseph especially pictures the way the Lord Jesus Christ was treated by His people, the Jews, when He lived on this earth.

Jacob loved Joseph more than all his children because Joseph was the son of Jacob's old age and also the son of Rachel, Jacob's favorite wife. He gave Joseph a special coat woven of many colours as a sign of authority, and this coat caused Joseph's brothers to become very envious of him.

One day Jacob sent Joseph to a place called Shechem to see how his brothers were doing. Immediately the brothers began plotting together to kill Joseph because of his coat of authority and the jealousy they felt in their hearts. Soon a plan was decided upon to throw Joseph into a deep pit and then to tell their father that Joseph was dead. When they began to put this plan into action, they saw a caravan of traders passing enroute to the land of Egypt. They sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver. These merchants took him into Egypt and sold him as a slave to Potiphar, an Egyptian army captain.

Joseph was a very faithful and trustworthy servant and quickly rose to overseer of the house of Potiphar. But there the sin of lust confronted Joseph when Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him. When he avoided this woman she falsely accused him to her husband and Joseph was sent to prison. While in the prison Joseph had two companions: the butler and baker of the King. These two dreamed strange and unusual dreams which Joseph interpreted for them with the help of God. The meanings were that one was to die and the other to remain alive. The dreams came true, but Joseph was forgotten.

One day Pharaoh, the King of Egypt, dreamed. Only then did the butler remember Joseph in prison. He told Pharaoh about the true interpretations of the dreams while he was in prison. Pharaoh sent for Joseph who again gave the correct interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams. As a reward Joseph was made Governor in Egypt, second only to the King.

The dreams Joseph interpreted concerned a great famine soon to come upon the land of Egypt. Because Joseph had interpreted the dreams correctly, the people of Egypt were prepared ahead with much food and grain stored up. When the famine came, the Egyptians had plenty of food to eat.

Jacob sent his 10 sons into the land of Egypt to buy grain. They bowed before Joseph and begged to buy grain to prevent their families from starving. Of course, they did not know that the Governor was their own brother Joseph, whom they had sold as a slave many years before! They did not recognize Joseph, but Joseph recognized them. Joseph tested his brothers to see if their hearts had changed since he had been sold by them. Chapters 44-45 of Genesis tell of all these tests which Joseph used upon his brothers. They were finally proven to be sincerely repentant. Joseph then revealed himself to his brothers. We can imagine the weeping and rejoicing when they learned this was their brother! Joseph then sent for his father to come and bring the whole family to live in Egypt. God promised to bless Jacob in Egypt and to bring his descendants out again to travel PROMISE ROAD to the Promised Land, Genesis 46:3-4.

Now we will look through the telescope, far ahead. In how many ways are Joseph's life experiences like the experiences of Jesus?

1. Both were well-loved sons-Matthew 3:17.
2. Both were faithful to the will of the father-John 8:29.
3. Both wore a coat of authority, one of many colours, Jesus a seamless robe-John 19:23.
4. Both made errands of mercy to their brethren- John 1:11.
5. Both were hated without a cause-John 15:25.
6. Both were sold for pieces of silver-Matthew 26:15.
7. Both were falsely accused-Matthew 26:60.
8. Both were forgotten: Joseph by butler, Christ by the world-John 1:10.
9. Both had companions in humiliation: one lost, one saved-Luke 23:32.
10. Both were raised from a pit and exalted-Philippians 2:8-11.
11. Both saved many people from death unto life-John 3:16, John 1:12.
12. Both were finally honoured by their brethren-Zechariah 12:10.
13. Both provided all things for beloved ones-John 14:1-6, Romans 8:32.

Jacob and Joseph both died in Egypt, but they died in hope. Joseph's words: "I die, but God will surely visit you." Genesis 50:24-26. God who leads on PROMISE ROAD cannot lie and never forgets His promises.

Is this wonderful God your God? He can be if you receive His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as your Saviour and with Jesus you will receive all things. Romans 8:32.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all--how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?" Romans 8:32.

## LESSON 9 - WORK SHEET

You will find listed below 9 statements about our Lord Jesus Christ. Under each statement fill in the fact which concerned Joseph in a similar way.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ was the well-beloved Son of God, the Father. Matthew 3:17.

Joseph was the well-beloved son of \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 37:3.

2. Jesus came from Heaven on an errand of mercy to His brethren, the Jews. John 1:11.

Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 37:13.

3. Jesus was hated without a cause. John 15:25.

Joseph was \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 37:5,11.

4. Jesus had two companions in shame, one thief was lost, one was saved. Luke 23:32.

Joseph had two \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 40:1-3.

5. Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver. Matthew 26:15.

Joseph was sold for \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 37:28.

6. Jesus will one day be honoured by His brethren, the Jews, and will reign over them. Zechariah 12:10.

Joseph was honoured by \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 45:26.

7. Jesus saves people from death to eternal life. John 3:16.

Joseph saved \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 41:56-57.

8. Jesus provides all things for His loved ones. Romans 8:32.

Joseph provided \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 45:11-12.

9. Jesus was raised from the grave and exalted at God's right hand. Philippians 2:9-11.

Joseph was raised from the \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 41:14,41.

10. Write from memory the verse which tells us how God provides all things for us: Romans 8:32. \_\_\_\_\_
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