

# **PASTOR RAY’S BIBLE SCHOOL 201**

## **THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS**

**(How To Apply The Prophetic View Of Scripture To The Book Of Genesis)**

### **Session Twelve**

#### **“Joseph, Jesus And You”**

##### **I. Overview**

###### **A. The 7<sup>th</sup> Man**

1. A prophetic perspective of the Book of Genesis sees God’s story primarily revealed through 7 major characters:

- Adam
- Abel
- Noah
- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Joseph

2. These 7 saints, (we believe there is ample evidence that after his fall, Adam repented and served God) show how the “scarlet thread of redemption” carries us from Creation to the founding of the nation of Israel, the “Kingdom Nation” which is the object of God’s salvation in history.

3. The 2<sup>nd</sup> major section of Genesis deals with the last 4 of these 7 saints, with each life a portrayal of a special facet of biblical truth:

- Abraham teaches us of Divine Election, one singled out and chosen by God as an object of God’s calling and saving grace
- Isaac is a picture of Divine Sonship, Abraham’s firstborn “child of promise”

- Jacob's life displays the Divine Conflict of the two natures at war within man, and how the spirit is ultimately victorious over the flesh

4. The Book of Genesis concludes with 14 chapters (37-50) that focus on the life of Jacob's 11<sup>th</sup> son, Joseph.

5. The fact that over 25% of the first Book of the Bible is about the one man ought to alert us to the importance of his life:

- He is the grand climax of the story, as is Christ to the history of man
- He is the "Savior" of his (deceitful) brethren, as is Christ to us
- His life is the link between Genesis and Exodus, which will focus more on the nation of Israel as the redemptive object rather than on individual saints

## **II. Joseph: A Prototype Of The Christ**

### **A. The Favored Son**

**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.**

**Genesis 37:3 KJV**

1. Jacob will have 12 sons who will become the "heads" of the 12 tribes that comprise the nation of Israel. But of all his children, Jacob loved Joseph most. In the same way Jesus is God's most favored son, so Joseph was the favorite of his father.

**And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

**Matthew 3:17 KJV**

*Application: Salvation gives us power to "become" the sons of God; but Jesus is the unique (only) Son of God by nature of His Deity and infinite life; the new birth makes us "joint heirs" with Christ; but our birth is an "adoption", while Christ is the Son of God in His Divine nature.*

2. Joseph was the son of Jacob's "old age"; a finite shadow of an infinite truth. "Old age" in spiritual language, means "eternity". Jesus' Sonship to the Father God existed before Creation!

**And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self,  
with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.**

**John 17:5**

**Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.**

**John 8:58 KJV**

*Application: We must never think of Jesus “becoming” the Son of God at His manger-birth in Bethlehem. The “Word” (Son of God) was “in the beginning”, active in the Creation. (John 1:1)*

3. The “coat of many colors” was a garment worn by those specially favored by the Father in the family, or by the King in authority; it was designed to convey special distinction and honor to the wearer. We can “connect the dots” here with other scriptures:

**Have they not sped? have they not divided the prey; to every man a damsel or two; to Sisera a prey of divers colours, a prey of divers colours of needlework, of divers colours of needlework on both sides, meet for the necks of them that take the spoil?**

**Judges 5:30 KJV**

**And she had a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters that were virgins apparelled.**

**2 Samuel 13:18 KJV**

**The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee.**

**Psalms 45:13-14 KJV**

4. The Father’s favor caused his brothers to hate him.

**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.**

**Genesis 37:4 KJV**

a. Jesus experienced the same hatred from His brethren, a hatred rooted in their jealousy of the Father’s favor!

*Application: We might well wonder why the so many in the world hate those who follow Christ, who can’t “speak peaceably” to us. With Joseph and Jesus as our models, we should wonder no longer!*

## **B. The Dreamer**

1. God gives Joseph 2 dreams, both showing him that he would eventually be exalted and promoted over his brothers and that he would reign over them. (Genesis 37:5-7)

a. First dream:

**And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.**

**Genesis 37:5 KJV**

*Application: There are basically 2 kinds of people in the world: those who have a vision (dream) for their lives and those who don't. People without a purpose resent those who have purpose. We should be careful who we share our dream with! We shouldn't be surprised when those around us don't get as excited about our dream for life as we are.*

b. Second dream:

**And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us?**

**And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.**

**Genesis 37:8**

**KJV**

*Application: If people without a purpose resent those who have purpose, they dislike the idea of "dominion" over them even more. The Adamic nature is rebellious at the core and is threatened by the idea of submission to authority. What they fail to understand is that dominion is the destiny of all God's children, (see Genesis 1:26-28), but that dominion will be expressed in service, not domination. Joseph's dream would come true. But instead of being a threat to them, it would prove to be their salvation from starvation!*

c. Joseph was rejected by those who should have been his greatest fans and boosters. And so it would be with Jesus.

**He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.**

**John 1:10-11**

**KJV**

d. Joseph was hated for 3 things: that he was his father's favorite, that he had a dream for dominion, and for his *words*.

**And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us?**

**And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.**

**Genesis 37:8**

*Application: With Joseph and Jesus as our examples, why should we be surprised when we proclaim the Deity and Dominion of Christ as His rightful place in the world, and for claiming our place of honor and favor as God's offspring? Why should we be surprised when they hate us for proclaiming God's word?*

## **D. Joseph: The Seeker Of His Brethren**

**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. 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...**

**Gen 37:12-14**

1. In the same way his father sent Joseph to seek out the welfare of his brethren, so God the Father sent Jesus the Son to seek out the welfare of His brethren, of all who would believe!

**So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.  
Genesis 27:14**

a. Notice he was sent out from Hebron, which means “fellowship” or “communion” in Hebrew. This is a beautiful foreshadowing of how “in the fulness of time”, God the Father would send Jesus the Son out of heaven, (the place of perfect fellowship and communion) into the “field” of the world to seek his brother who were lost!

*Application: The church is not just called to hold services and enjoy the presence of the Lord. That is well and good, but we also must be “sent out” to seek our brethren who are lost, to seek the welfare even of those who hate us.*

2. Joseph goes to Shechem because that is where his brothers were supposed to be. “Shechem” means “shoulder” in Hebrew and referred to the place of service.

- The “shoulder” is designed for burden-bearing, and thusly symbolizes work, service or carrying the weight of responsibility.

**And he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute.  
Genesis 49:15**

- Jesus was “servant of all”-He validated His right to rule through *servanthood*

**And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.  
Matthew 20:27-28**

**And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.  
Mark 9:35**

*Application: The way to promotion is through service. Joseph served Jacob. Jesus served His father. Both served their brethren. The right to rule is reserved for those who carry the weight of responsibility with diligence and honor. Promotion in the Kingdom of God cannot be separated from serving others.*

**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.**

## Isaiah 9:6

3. But Joseph's brothers aren't at Shechem, though that's where they were supposed to be. He finds them at Dothan. "Dothan" in Hebrew means "law" or "custom".

*Application: When Jesus came, the religious leaders of the day weren't where they were supposed to be, loving and caring for God's sheep. Instead, they were mired in legalism and the customs of men. We should not be surprised to find people are not where they are supposed to be. The Father has sent us to seek the welfare, and most of the time, we'll have to go look for them because they aren't in church!*

### D. Joseph As The Suffering Servant

1. Joseph's life now enters a season of suffering.

- a. He will suffer betrayal by his brethren
- b. He will suffer false accusation in the house of Potiphar the Egyptian
- c. He will suffer 13 years of imprisonment for something he did not do

Application: The picture of the "suffering servant", modeled by Joseph, is a "seed" doctrine which will be repeated throughout scripture. Private victory always precedes public victory. There is no reaping without sowing. If we truly follow Christ, there will be some betrayals, some false accusations, and some seasons of suffering for things we didn't do.

**Yes, truth is gone, and anyone who renounces evil is attacked.**

**Isaiah 59:15      NLT**

**And he who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey.**

**Isaiah 59:15      NASB**

**As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.**

**Romans 8:36      KJV**

**Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

**2 Timothy 3:12-13      NLT**

**Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Matthew 5:10      KJV**

**And all nations will hate you because you are my followers. But everyone who endures to the end will be saved.**

**Matthew 10:22-23      NLT.**

**The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.**

**John 15:19 NLT**

**For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God.**

**John 16:3 NLT**

**I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.**

**John 16:33 NLT**

*Application: I am personally persuaded that one of the greatest dangers of our day is an “Americanized” version of Christianity that preaches a “Crown” without a “Cross”. Our motive of desperately wanting to see the lost come to Christ may be pure. But the temptation to popularize the Gospel by focusing on the “happy side” of the Christian life ultimately amounts to heresy when divorced from the Joseph/Jesus model. Scripture never separates the incredible blessings of serving the Lord from the harsh realities of what it will take to be “light” in a “dark” world. We ought to emulate the Apostle Paul, who did not shrink back from declaring the “whole counsel of God” to his hearers. (Acts 20:27) The words of Jesus ought to be taken seriously:*

**"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.**

**Matthew 7:13-14 NLT**

### **III. End Of Story: The Cross And The Crown**

#### **A. Waiting On God**

1. We have seen how the Old Testament believers provide us a model of “those who through faith and patience inherit the promises”. (Hebrews 6:12)

2. The life of Joseph is a saga of suffering until God promotes him. There’s always a “cross” before there’s a “crown”.

3. Learning to wait on the Lord for our promotion is a theme in scripture. We must avoid self-promotion.

**For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.**

**Psalms 75:6-7 KJV**

4. Joseph establishes a pattern of sweet submission to God's will and timing. God uses this season of "waiting" to build godly character.

**Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread. He sent a man before them — Joseph — who was sold as a slave. They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons. Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him. The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free. He made him lord of his house,**

**And ruler of all his possessions, To bind his princes at his pleasure, and teach his elders wisdom.**

**Psalm 105:16-22 NKJV**

a. In Hebrew, "He was laid in irons" could literally be translated as "iron came into his soul"! While Joseph languished in prison, God worked character into Joseph's being, the kind of character that would be required for high leadership.

5. Joseph was not promoted until the age of 30.

a. This would be the case in the life of David, who was not anointed King over all Israel until he was 30.

b. The antitype of all this would be the Son of God. Jesus did not begin His earthly ministry and be released to reveal the Kingdom of God on earth until age 30!

*Application: We must be prepared to submit ourselves to God, in faith and patience, knowing that our promotion into the fulness of the ministry He has for us will come in God's timing, not ours.*

## **B. The Ultimate Promotion**

1. The story of Joseph ends in triumphant glory:

- He is delivered from his imprisonment and promoted to first place in the Kingdom, ruling at the right hand of Pharaoh (As Jesus came forth from the tomb to be exalted to the right hand of the Father)
- He literally becomes the "Savior of the World"; His wise provision of food and grain fed not only the people of the world, but the peoples of the nations suffering under famine (Just as the sufficiency of the work of Jesus has provided the "Bread of Life" for all who come to Him in faith; just as He has become the Savior, not only for the Jews, but also for the Gentiles, the whole "world"!)
- He restores his unfaithful brethren to fellowship with him by means of forgiveness



2. We could multiply examples here, but instead would refer to the student to the chapters on the life of Joseph contained in A.W. Pink's wonderful book, "Gleanings From Genesis", (Moody Press, 1922, 1950). This volume belongs on the bookshelf of every serious Bible student, and we acknowledge it as the source for some of the material taught in this Course. In this book, Pink finds 101 details in the life of Joseph that prefigures and foreshadows the life and ministry of Jesus Christ!

### **C. Joseph: The Life-Link To Exodus**

1. Joseph's does not end in Egypt.

**By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.**

**Hebrews 11:22      KJV**

2. Joseph's faith held fast to the covenant promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; that the "seed of Abraham" would inherit and inhabit the "Promised Land" of Canaan.

3. All of the hungry people of the world gathered themselves to Joseph in Egypt so their lives could be saved from famine. Just as all the peoples of the world come to Christ in the midst of the world, ("spiritual Egypt"). But they will not stay there! God will not leave His people in Egypt! He will bring them OUT of Egypt to take them INTO the land of His promises!

**But he (God) brought us (His redeemed) out from there (Egypt, the world), to bring us in and give us the land that he promised on oath to our forefathers.**

**Deuteronomy 6:23      NIV**

4. As we leave this study of the Book of Genesis, we need to see that in many ways, the central focus of the rest of the Old Testament is THE LAND.

- God promised Abraham THE LAND (Genesis)
- God brings Israel out of Egypt to take them into THE LAND (Exodus-Deuteronomy)
- God actually brings Israel into THE LAND and establishes the Kingdom (Joshua-2 Chronicles)
- Israel's idolatry brings the judgment of God, they are displaced from THE LAND (The Prophets)
- The Old Testament closes with the story of Israel's gradual return to THE LAND under the ministries of Nehemiah, Ezra, Zerubabel, Zechariah, Malachi, etc.)

**THE 'PROMISED LAND' IS OUR DESTINY!**

5. In a future course, we'll study the details of the story. But for now, we rest.