



John 5:39, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

INTRODUCTION: The Old Testament was written before Jesus ever came to be born as a man. Yet it is the Old Testament scriptures that Jesus spoke of when he said that they speak of him. One of these scriptures that testify of Jesus is the life of Joseph. Joseph became a portrait of Jesus Christ.

I. JOSEPH, THE BELOVED SON (GENESIS 37:1-3)

A. HIS FATHER'S DEVOTION (GENESIS 37:3)

Matthew 3:17, "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Just as Jesus has a special name, Joseph was given a special name from his father. Joseph means abundance. The name Jesus means Jehovah saves. Jesus came to save us from a life of sin to a life of abundance.

John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

B. HIS FAULTLESS DISTINCTION (GENESIS 37:2)

Although we know Joseph was a sinner, not one of his sins is ever mentioned. Why? Because he was to be a picture of Christ.

Hebrews 7:26, "For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;"

Joseph was hated for his distinction; the same reason the world hates Christ.

John 7:7, "The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil."

Just as Joseph brought an evil report, Jesus has testified that this world is evil. The mark of Joseph's distinction is the coat of many colors (Genesis 37:3). It represents the multiplicity of the many wonders of the Lord Jesus.

John 1:14, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

Psalm 45:7, "God, thy God, hath anointed thee (Jesus Christ) with the oil of gladness above thy fellows."

C. HIS FUTURE DOMINION (GENESIS 37:5, 9-10)

Matthew 26:64, "Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: 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."

II. JOSEPH, THE SUFFERING SERVANT

A. HE WAS THE SENT ONE (GENESIS 37:12-13)

Jacob says, "I am sending you to your brethren."

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."

B. HE WAS THE SCORNED ONE (GENESIS 37:4)

John 1:11, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

John 15:24, "If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father."

Jesus, the very Son of God, came to his own people, the Jews, yet they hated him and scorned him. And to hate the Son is to hate the Father.

Why has this world turned against Jesus? Because, like Joseph's brothers, this world refuses to have Jesus rule over it!

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."

C. HE WAS THE SUFFERING ONE (GENESIS 37:18)

1. There was the suffering of a conspiracy.

Matthew 26:3-4, "³ Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, ⁴ And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtlety, and kill him."

2. Joseph suffered abuse (Genesis 37:23-24).

Matthew 27:26-28, "26 Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. 27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. 28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe."

3. Joseph suffered betrayal (Genesis 37:28).

The brother, whose idea it was to sell Joseph for 20 pieces of silver, was Judah. The New Testament name for Judah is Judas.

Matthew 1:2, "Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;"

Matthew 26:14-15, "14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, 15 And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver."

D. JOSEPH IS THE SLAIN ONE (GENESIS 37:31-34)

Joseph is slain in type only. He is to picture Christ's death without actually having to die to do so.

The true definition of death is separation. Adam & Eve died the day they took of the fruit, but it wasn't a physical death; it was separation from God.

The true death of Christ was when our sin was placed upon him and he was separated from the Father.

This is why Joseph's separation from his father is a perfect picture of Christ's death. Joseph's death was his separation from his father.

In the eyes of Joseph's brothers, he was dead as well (Genesis 42:21-22).

III. JOSEPH, THE EXALTED SOVEREIGN

A. HE IS GLORIFIED (GENESIS 41:38-44)

This Jewish boy, despised, rejected and considered slain, languishing in prison is brought up, brought out and placed on a throne to rule over the entire world. What a picture of Christ!

I Peter 3:22, "Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him."

Philippians 2:9-11, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

As Joseph is riding in that chariot, there is a herald going before him shouting, "Bow the knee!"

B. HE IS GIVEN A NEW NAME (GENESIS 41:45)

Zaphnath-paaneah means "Savior of the World." Our Savior is also given a new name:

Revelation 19:12, "His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself."

C. HE IS GIVEN A GENTILE BRIDE (GENESIS 41:45)

Ephesians 5:25-32, "25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

Joseph, a despised and rejected Jew, was the only hope of the entire world (Genesis 41:55-57).

Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Like Christ, Joseph's supply was an unending supply (Genesis 41:49).

Romans 10:12, "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him."

IV. JOSEPH, THE SEEKING SAVIOR

A. HE REVEALED HIMSELF TO HIS BROTHERS (GENESIS 45:1-3)

The only way we can know Jesus today is for Jesus to reveal himself to us.

B. HE FORGAVE AND RESTORED HIS BROTHERS (GENESIS 45:4-5)

When Joseph tells them not to feel bad, he's not minimizing their sin, he's maximizing his mercy and grace. Calvary, from man's view point, was earth's greatest tragedy, but from God's viewpoint it was earth's greatest triumph. Man meant it for evil, but God meant it for good to save much people alive.

C. HE COMMISSIONS HIS BROTHERS (GENESIS 45:4, 9)

The Commission is simple: Come unto me. Go to all the World (45:26-27).