

Seeing Jesus in Joseph

1 Corinthians 10:11

11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

A corollary scripture with this is 2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV) 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

But there are some scriptures that are more than we see on the surface. In 1 Corinthians 10 Paul is using the example of Israel in the wilderness as a illustration. An illustration that shows that God was doing more than simply working out His plan but He is giving us some examples.

In other words God means for us to take these things more than on face value.

I think it is the same way with Joseph. Bible scholars have long seen the illustration of Jesus in the life of Joseph. This sermon may set us up for a series of messages that we will bring next year of they types of Jesus in the Bible.

Let's give you an example. Jesus said, "There will be no sign given . . . except that of Jonah the prophet. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the grave."

Jesus has taken the teaching of the book of Jonah and applied it to His death and resurrection. As we open up the teachings of the Old Testament we will be amazed to find that God has supplied us with hundreds of such types. All the way from Adam to a lion to the tabernacle in the wilderness to the priesthood of Israel.

So this morning I want to give you just a few of the ways in which Joseph foretells of the ministry of Jesus.

One of my favorite writers, and founder of Our Daily Bread, Doctor M.R. DeHaan identifies a number of these in his little book *Portraits of Christ in Genesis*.

And A.W. Pink in his *Gleanings in Genesis* lists 101 ways in which Joseph portrays Jesus Christ.

What difference does that make? You might say. But what we need to understand that the Bible has one theme all the way through. That theme is redemption through Jesus Christ. And we ought to love to learn more about Jesus. We sing that song, More About Jesus, don't we.

So let us see the wisdom and plan of God this morning as we see in Joseph what God would do through His only begotten Son in order to save us from our sins.

I. Joseph is never accused of any wrong in the Bible.

A. Jesus was sinless, the only one who ever was.

1. Heb 7:26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

2. Heb 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.
 3. Joseph was no doubt tempted many times.
 4. Not only by Potiphar's wife but to take revenge on his brothers.
- B. Every honest person admitted that Jesus was sinless.
1. Lu 23:22 Then he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go."
 2. Lu 23:41 "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."
 3. Lu 23:47 So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!"
- II. Joseph was beloved of his father.
- A. Remember the coat of many colors.
1. He was the beloved son of the beloved wife.
- B. So too Jesus is supremely loved of the Father.
1. Joh 10:17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.
- III. Joseph was sent to his brothers to seek their good.
- A. Joseph went to look for his brothers because he and his father were concerned about them.
1. It was only their good that he sought.
- B. Jesus came to give life, to deliver from sin, to seek and to save the lost.
- IV. He was rejected by them and delivered to death.
- A. John 1:11 (NKJV) 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
1. Isa 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.
 2. Isa 53:8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.
- V. He was raised from the pit and sent to Egypt as a slave.
- A. Jesus did not come to be served but to serve and give His life a ransom for many.

- B. Joseph seemed to be very much a willing slave.
 - 1. He served well at every point in his life.
 - 2. Like Jesus he fully surrendered his life to the hands of God.
- VI. But God did not forsake him there.
- A. Ps 16:10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.
 - B. Rather God favored him at every turn.
 - 1. He brought Joseph into the favor of everyone.
 - 2. The boy who could not please his own brothers pleased foreigners very well.
 - 3. So it was that Jesus was rejected by His own people but accepted by the Gentiles.
- VII. Eventually he was exalted to the throne of Egypt.
- A. Phil 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 - B. Just like Joseph who's brethren hated him and tried unsuccessfully to destroy him and then eventually had to come before him and bow down.
 - C. So those who have rejected Jesus will one day be made to bow before Him only it will be too late for them.
- VIII. He was concerned with his brothers.
- A. When they came he sat out to understand if they had changed.
 - B. He puts them all in prison for three days.
 - C. After that he leaves Simeon in prison and sends the rest back home.
 - D. Later when they return again with Benjamin he arrests Benjamin to see what the brothers will do.
 - E. They confess their sin concerning Joseph and he knows they have repented.
- IX. He saves his family from the famine, brings them to him and gives them the best of the land.
- A. He supplies all their needs.

- B. Gen 45: 9 "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. 10 "You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have. 11 "There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine.'" 12 "And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you. 13 "So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here."
- C. So it is that one day Jesus will send for us and rescue us from the famine of this world and bring us to be with Him forever.
- D. He will provide everything we need and bless us beyond all that we could ask or think.

X. Joseph forgave his brothers.

But that is for next week's message.

Oh can you see the wisdom and plan of God in the life of Joseph.

He gives us just a glimpse of all that Jesus went through and how much he loves us even when we did not love Him.

He loves us and cares for us. And He wants us to love Him with all our hearts.