



SAVED TO SERVE

Pastor Andrew Henriques

www.prophecyagain.com

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH, PART 1

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study the lessons of salvation and redemption that can be learned from the life of Joseph. This study will focus on Joseph's life, leading up to his enslavement.
2. **Note:** Joseph and his life experiences are a type of Jesus Christ.
3. What gift did Jacob give to his son Joseph? Genesis 37:3

4. Joseph's coat had many colors just like the rainbow in the sky. What does the rainbow represent? Genesis 9:13; Deuteronomy 4:13

5. After relaying his dream to his brothers that their sheaves would bow down to his, what did Joseph's brothers say? Genesis 37:8

6. What are many saying to Jesus today? Luke 19:12-14 _____

7. What is Jesus' instruction to humanity before His Second Coming, but what are many people doing instead? Luke 19:13, 20, 21

"When the Master went away, He gave to every man in every age and in every generation, his work; and He says, to us all, "Occupy till I come." Have ministers thought how much is comprehended in those words? Verily there may be but a step between them and death. **How stands the record of sacred trusts committed for wise improvement? Misused talents, wasted hours, neglected opportunities, duties left undone, sickly churches, the flock of God not strengthened by having their portion of that in due season.**" {ChL 66.4}

8. **Note:** In saying the phrase, "Occupy till I come," Jesus expects us to do the work of evangelism and improve upon the talents and gifts He has lent to us for the furtherance of His kingdom. Yet, many are occupying this life on earth how they please until Jesus comes. They will soon find out that living for themselves will only bring destruction (see Luke 19:27). To see some of the sins that people are engaging in while Jesus tarries in heaven, let us look at the sins of Joseph's brothers.

9. What sins did Joseph's brothers commit?

a) Reuben, Genesis 49:3, 4 _____

b) Simeon & Levi, Genesis 49:5-7 _____

c) Dan, Genesis 49:17 _____

d) All of them except Benjamin, Genesis 37:32 _____

10. **Note:** If we hold onto these sins and do not surrender them to Jesus, we will perish but if we surrender them, He will give us the power to overcome. Just like our Heavenly Father, Jacob recognized the sins of his children, but he still loved them and cared about their well-being and safety.

11. What did Jacob do to find his sons after not hearing from them since they left home? Genesis 37:13, 14

12. Who did God send to earth to reconcile His lost children to Himself? John 3:16; John 1:12; Romans 5:8; Matthew 1:21

13. As Joseph went on his journey to find his brothers, what did he endure which Christ also endured for us? See quotation. Also Hebrews 12:2, 3; 1 Peter 2:21
-

“With a joyful heart, Joseph parted from his father, neither the aged man nor the youth dreaming of what would happen before they should meet again. When, after his long and solitary journey, Joseph arrived at Shechem, his brothers and their flocks were not to be found. Upon inquiring for them, he was directed to Dothan. **He had already traveled more than fifty miles, and now an additional distance of fifteen lay before him, but he hastened on, forgetting his weariness in the thought of relieving the anxiety of his father, and meeting the brothers, whom, despite their unkindness, he still loved.**” {PP 210.5}

14. If Jacob had known the real feelings of his sons toward Joseph, would he have sent Joseph to find them? See quotation.

“Some time passed, bringing no tidings from them, and the father began to fear for their safety, on account of their former cruelty toward the Shechemites. He therefore sent Joseph to find them, and bring him words as to their welfare. **Had Jacob known the real feeling of his sons toward Joseph, he would not have trusted him alone with them; but this they had carefully concealed.**” {PP 210.4}

15. Was it a struggle for God the Father to offer up His Son to die for the human race? See quotation.

“Before the Father He pleaded in the sinner's behalf, while the host of heaven awaited the result with an intensity of interest that words cannot express. Long continued was that mysterious communing—“the counsel of peace” (Zechariah 6:13) for the fallen sons of men. **The plan of salvation had been laid before the creation of the earth; for Christ is “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8); yet it was a struggle, even with the King of the universe, to yield up His Son to die for the guilty race. But “God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. Oh, the mystery of redemption! the love of God for a world that did not love Him! Who can know the depths of that love which “passeth knowledge”? Through endless ages immortal minds, seeking to comprehend the mystery of that incomprehensible love, will wonder and adore.**” {PP 63.3}

16. At what point did Joseph's brothers conspire to kill him? Genesis 37:18
-

17. What did they see which confirmed that it was Joseph in the distance? Genesis 37:23
-

18. Why did the sight of Joseph fill them with ire? See quotation.
-

“As the lad stood before his brothers, his beautiful countenance lighted up with the Spirit of inspiration, they could not withhold their admiration; but they did not choose to renounce their evil ways, and they hated the purity that reproved their sins. The same spirit that actuated Cain was kindling in their hearts.” {PP 210.3}

“For the same reason that Cain slew Abel, did those who sought to throw off the restraint of the Holy Spirit, put to death God's people. It was for the same reason that the Jews rejected and crucified the Saviour—because the purity and holiness of His character was a constant rebuke to their selfishness and corruption. From the days of Christ until now His faithful disciples have excited the hatred and opposition of those who love and follow the ways of sin.” {GC 46.2}

19. **Note:** The coat the Joseph wore would also point to righteousness of character. Moreover, God's appearance is like the rainbow which is a reflection of His glory and character. Compare Ezekiel 1:27, 28; Exodus 33:18, 19; 34:5-7; Revelation 19:8.

20. Did the Jews see Christ's character and receive evidence that He was the Son of God? John 12:28-30; 18:5-7; Matthew 3:16; 17:1-5
-

“The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to Him.” But the inquiring Greeks saw the cloud, heard the voice, comprehended its meaning, and discerned Christ indeed; to them He was revealed as the Sent of God.” {DA 625.2}

“The voice of God had been heard at the baptism of Jesus at the beginning of His ministry, and again at His transfiguration on the mount. Now at the close of His ministry it was heard for the third time, by a larger number of persons, and under peculiar circumstances. Jesus had just spoken the most solemn truth regarding the condition of the

Jews. He had made His last appeal, and pronounced their doom. Now God again set His seal to the mission of His Son. He recognized the One whom Israel had rejected. "This voice came not because of Me," said Jesus, "but for your sakes." It was the crowning evidence of His Messiahship, the signal from the Father that Jesus had spoken the truth, and was the Son of God." {DA 625.3}

21. How did the Jews respond, and how will many today respond after seeing so much evidence of Christ's power? John 12:37

22. Which brother spared Joseph from premature death? Genesis 37:21, 22 _____

23. What man was instrumental in sparing Jesus' life from premature death? John 7:44, 47-52 _____

24. **Note:** The scenes of Joseph being thrown into the pit until he was sold as a slave are comparative to the scenes leading up to Jesus' crucifixion.

25. What did they do to Joseph which was also done to Christ? Genesis 37:23; Matthew 27:35

26. What did Joseph's brothers do after casting him into the pit? Genesis 37:24

27. **Note:** After crucifying Jesus, the Jews quickly went to keep the Sabbath as if everything done that day was normal. Evil was so intertwined in their hearts that it didn't bother them just as it didn't bother Joseph's brothers. How do we replicate these scenes today? When we kill Jesus during the week by living like devils and then quickly seek to keep the Sabbath from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. This is a reproach to God.

28. For how much money did Joseph's brothers sell him, and for how much was Jesus sold? Genesis 37:28; Matthew 27:3

29. What group of people bought Joseph? Genesis 37:28 _____

30. **Note:** The Ishmeelites were descendants of Abraham just as Isaac, the father of Jacob, was a descendant of Abraham. That would make Jacob's sons and the Ishmeelites cousins. Therefore, this shows us that our unconverted family members (immediate or remote) can lead us into sin and into bondage away from our Heavenly Father.

31. Where did Joseph's mind turn while on his way to exile? See quotation. _____

"Then his thoughts turned to his father's God. In his childhood he had been taught to love and fear Him. Often in his father's tent he had listened to the story of the vision that Jacob saw as he fled from his home an exile and a fugitive. He had been told of the Lord's promises to Jacob, and how they had been fulfilled—how, in the hour of need, the angels of God had come to instruct, comfort, and protect him. And he had learned of the love of God in providing for men a Redeemer. Now all these precious lessons came vividly before him. Joseph believed that the God of his fathers would be his God. He then and there gave himself fully to the Lord, and he prayed that the Keeper of Israel would be with him in the land of his exile." {PP 213.3}

32. How can we experience God's love? See quotation. _____

"It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit. If we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson of penitence and humiliation at the foot of the cross." {DA 83.4}

33. What explanation did Joseph's brothers give to their father about Joseph's absence, and how did Jacob react? Genesis 37:32-35

34. **Note:** God the Father and Jesus are saddened over every sinner who perishes apart from them. Seeing their creations lost brings sorrow to their heart. However, Luke 15:7 says, "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth." Will you bring joy to Jesus' heart by repentance, turning away from sin, and accepting His free gift of salvation?