

## Lessons From the Life of Joseph

Of all the Old Testament character studies, none present a more clear and distinct picture of our Lord Jesus, than that of Joseph, the son of Jacob. The life of Joseph clearly illustrates in picture and type the words of Peter, *“the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow”* (1<sup>st</sup> Pet. 1:11). But none, dear child of God, no matter how distinguished, or how notable their story, could ever adequately set forth the fullness of the beauties and glories of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the first things we learn about Joseph, is that he was loved of his father (Gen. 37:3). Think, dear beloved of the Lord, of how the Lord Jesus was loved of the Father. John the Baptist testified, *“the Father loveth the Son and hath given all things into his hand”* (Jn. 3:35).

The Lord Jesus, Himself, said likewise, *“the Father loveth the Son”* (Jn. 5:20). In His prayer to the Father, just prior to His going to the cross, He said, *“thou lovest me before the foundation of the world”* (Jn. 17:24). The Father Himself declared, *“this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”* (Matt. 3:17, 17:5).

But did you know, dear, precious child of God, that you are also loved of the Father? In fact, the Father loves you as He loves the Son. The Lord Jesus prayed these words, *“thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me”* (Jn. 17:23).

Joseph’s father made him a coat of many colours, or many pieces (Gen. 37:3). I think, dear loved one of the Lord, of the many virtues and glories of our blessed Lord Jesus. John wrote, *“we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth”* (Jn. 1:14).

Although Joseph was loved by his father, he was hated by his brethren, and they could not even speak peaceably to him (Gen. 37:4). The same was true of our blessed Lord, dear redeemed of God. The psalmist wrote prophetically of Him, *“They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head”* (Ps. 69:4). Isaiah wrote, *“He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief”* (Isa. 53:3). Throughout the Gospel record, we read how He was derided (Luke 16:14) and laughed to scorn (Matt. 9:24).

Joseph was sent by his father to seek for his brethren. When a man found him wandering in the field, and asked him, *“what seekest thou?”*, he replied, *“I seek my brethren”* (Gen. 37:14-16). The Lord Jesus said, *“the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”* (Luke 19:10).

Joseph was sent out from the vale of Hebron (Gen. 37:14). The word, *“Hebron”*, means, *“communion”*. What fellowship and communion the Father and Son must have enjoyed in Heaven, before the Son ever came to this earth. Yet, He willingly left the scenes of glory and came into this world, to do the will of the Father (Ps. 40:7-8).

Whether it was in the house of his master, Potiphar, or in the prison, we read concerning Joseph, *“the Lord was with him”* (Gen. 39:3, 21, 23). Beloved of the Lord, even while our blessed Saviour was here, throughout His earthly sojourn among men, He ever and always enjoyed communion with the Father. He said, *“I am not alone, for the Father is with me”* (Jn. 8:16, 29; 16:32).

When Joseph’s brothers saw him, they conspired to slay him (Gen. 37:18). John wrote in his Gospel account, *“He came unto his own and his own received him not”* (Jn.

1:11). All through His earthly ministry, the religious leaders and elders of the Jewish people sought opportunity to take the Lord Jesus and kill Him (Mk. 14:1).

Joseph's brothers were envious of him (Gen. 37:11; Acts 7:9). They eventually sold him for twenty pieces of silver (Gen. 37:25-28). Our Lord Jesus was betrayed and sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12-13; Matt. 26:15). Pilate understood that the Lord Jesus was delivered to him because of envy (Matt. 27:18). Dear beloved child of God, thirty shekels of silver was the price paid for a slave that had been gored by an ox (Ex. 21:32). What a price for the blessed Son of God!

Joseph was falsely accused (Gen. 39:7-19). The Lord Jesus was betrayed by Judas (Matt. 26:16-48). He was falsely accused (Matt. 26:60). The psalmist wrote, "*False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not*" (Ps. 35:11).

Joseph was put in prison (Gen. 39:20). The psalmist wrote how Joseph was in chains and his feet were hurt with fetters (Ps. 105:18). Our Lord Jesus was crucified (Luke 23:33). Prophetically, He said, "*they pierced my hands and my feet*" (Ps. 22:16).

Joseph was taken out of prison and eventually made ruler of Egypt (Gen. 41:14-45). The Lord Jesus was buried and on the third day, He rose from the dead (Matt. 20:19; Acts 10:40). Following the glorious triumph of the cross and His victory over death in resurrection power, He was exalted to the right hand of God and seated on the throne (Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 1:3, 10:12).

Joseph forgave his brethren and invited them to come near to him (Gen. 45:4) and promised to take care of them and provide for them (Gen. 50:21). Dear child of God, your sins have been forgiven you through the precious blood of Christ (Eph. 1:7). Now He ever lives to make intercession for you (Heb. 7:25) and provide for your every need (Phil. 4:19).

*O Lord, when we the path retrace  
Which thou on earth hast trod'  
To man thy wondrous love and grace,  
Thy faithfulness to God.*

*Thy love to man so sorely tried,  
Proved stronger than the grave;  
The very spear that pierced thy side  
Drew forth the blood to save.*

*Unmoved by Satan's subtle wiles,  
By suffering, shame and loss;  
Thy path uncheered by earthly smiles,  
Led only to the cross.*