

re-think No.52

TODAY'S JOSEPHITES

THE STORY OF JOSEPH OF OLD that describes the 'Josephites' of today

The name of JOSEPH means LET HIM ADD OR AUGMENT. This fruitfulness attaches to Joseph in two respects. First, he is the prudent gatherer of life-giving food and the inexhaustible dispenser (of the produce of Egypt), by which the lives of his family and others were preserved.

Gen 30:22 *And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. (23) And she conceived, and bore a son; and said, God has taken away my reproach: (24) And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.* Today's Josephs (or Josephites!) will take away the reproach of Mother-Church! Joseph pictures for us the 'manchild' that comes forth from the woman (Church) in Revelation 12 and who will be caught up to the Throne of God to exercise his God-given authority for the benefit of all. Joseph was and is labelled 'the son of the last days' when there is a crippling lack or famine of the life-giving word (as well as food) in the land.

JOSEPH'S UNSHAKABLE VISION

Joseph was given a vision by God of ruling ... a position of responsibility ... via two dreams.

Gen 37:6 *And Joseph said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: (7) For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. (8) 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. (9) And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.* Joseph would experience many dealings from God to prepare him for this calling. Later Joseph became an interpreter of dreams. The ministry-nature of Joseph is that he is willing to experience all that the three feasts the Lord would bring to him. *Passover* at the hands of his half brothers; *Pentecost* at the hands of Potiphar 'Church-system' household and *Tabernacles* in prison separated from all expectations of others.

Lack of wisdom caused him to share the dreams with his parents and half-brothers. The vision wasn't wrong but sharing it when he did, was wrong. Lack of understanding on behalf of all resulted in animosity being created between these ones of his family. Gen 37:11 *And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.*

Jacob later prophesied over Joseph ...

Gen 49:23 *The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: (24) But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)* Joseph a forerunner type of Christ.

The word 'archer' literally means MASTER OF ARROWS ... one who is most adept and experienced at shooting arrows. Prov.26:18-9 ... one who deceives his neighbour with jocular jibes is one who casts arrows; Psalm 64:3 shows that bitter words are as arrows. Jerem.9:8 indicates that false accusations, lies, verbal injuries are all symbolized as arrows. Joseph was hurt by such arrows from his half-brothers and also Potiphar's wife. Joseph had no intent of returning evil for evil for all Josephites are known by their readiness to forgive and not spread malice.

This special, never-been-seen-before calling was reinforced by Jacob giving Joseph a coat of many colours ... like a downpayment for the priesthood. Joseph's calling was an expression of God's 'new thing' of his day.

JACOB'S BLESSING ON JOSEPH(ITES)

The word of the Lord via Jacob for the firstborn of his true love. Gen 49:25 *Even by the God of thy*

father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: (26) The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills (blessings beyond what has been so far known): they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.

The blessings are fourfold:

1. *The blessings of heaven above* (heaven is in the plural ... heavens).
2. *The blessings of the deep.*
3. *The blessings of the breasts and of the womb.*
4. *The blessings of thy father.*

‘Four’ is the number of the world and every Josephite is known by the desire in his heart for the blessings of God to reach the farthest ends of the earth. It is very significant to note that these blessings rest on the head of Joseph and especially on the crown of his head.

SPECIAL BLESSINGS ON THE CROWN OF THE HEAD

The head ... particularly the mind ... is divided into three major parts. The ‘medula oblongata, the cerebellum and the cerebrum. The first is at the top of the spinal column and controls the involuntary muscles such as the heart and breathing. The cerebellum is located at the back of the head immediately above the medula oblongata. It is concerned with the equilibrium of the body and the coordination of the voluntary muscles. The cerebrum is located on the top or crown of the head and is the seat of the intelligence or brain or mind. It consists of **five** lobes each of which handles special functions such as taste, seeing, hearing, speech, emotions, intellect, memory etc. Five is the number of ‘grace’ and it is great to know that grace is linked with our mind.

Some folk are only interested with the natural blessings realm of their physical well-being and the comforts of life including ‘*Lord, bless my ministry!*’ However with Josephites, they are interested with the touch of the Lord (blessings from Father) for spiritual understanding, of having their own intelligence replaced by the mind of Christ. This revision comes from the heart where Christ dwells in them and affects their thinking to line up with the plan and purposes of God for mankind.

The word ‘separate’ in Hb. is *NAZIR* ... such as seen in the NAZARITE vow of separation that was on his head. Note Josephites are found separated from their **brethren**, not just unbelievers! Joseph loved his half brothers dearly for he had forgiven them a long time ago and in his heart he probably believed that they would come to full understanding in due time.

THE BLESSINGS OF THE HEAVENS

Then there are the blessings of the heavens ... the galaxies, constellations and stars and the understanding that *the heavens declare the glory of God* (Psalm 19).

Deut. 33:14 *And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon, (15) And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills.* Josephites will have been schooled by the Spirit in the headlines of the blessings of the heavens and of the precious provision in the hills. Then there is the three major heavens and the heaven of heavens depicting the absolute control of the Almighty in the affairs of man.

THE BLESSINGS OF THE DEEP

The blessings of the deep ... Psa 36:6 *Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast.* Josephites know that God’s judgments are to bring forth righteousness, correction and restoration for all men. These called-out ones will also be uncovering the mysteries of God releasing God’s wisdom, knowledge and ways. True fellowship is when *deep calls unto deep* and the heart of God is shared and received.

THE BLESSINGS OF THE BREASTS AND WOMB

The blessings of the breasts and womb. God’s Josephs know many parables locked up in natural

childbirth, however, they also know what it is like to feed and comfort the hungry and hurting. Such is an outworking of El Shaddai, THE BREASTED ONE who is the aspect of Father-God who is blessing Joseph at this time (see 49:25 above), which is the mothering, caring expression in God's character.

Psa 110:3 *Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.* Josephites will work to bring forth holiness from within each. 'Womb of the morning' also speaks of a new day dawning, a new age, new beginnings, God's 'new thing' that He is doing in these days and the Josephites will have this operation of God foremost in their minds.

THE BLESSINGS OF THY FATHER

The mysteries of who God really is and what He is truly like ... how His word is 100% reliable as it declares who we are in Him ... how He sees each one. The blessings of thy father will include understanding on things inherited and passed on to the next generation — God's DNA in each that needs activating and so on (see re-think No.42).

Now we will see the outworking of all these bestowed blessings as Joseph's life unfolds and God's great plan for him is accomplished.

JOSEPH'S TESTIMONY OR JOURNEY

At 17 years of age, Joseph had a willing heart to please his father. Sent by his father Jacob, to bless his half-brothers who are a picture of Christians without a throne-vision. The cost was great, for Joseph's half-brothers stripped him of his anointing (in which was his true calling), making it of none effect in their lives. Joseph experienced '*The Feast of Passover*' having a goat die in his place and being buried in the pit and brought out of that pit and sold as a slave for 30 pieces of silver to Egyptian traders. He experienced in his way what it is like to be crucified with Christ and live. His half-brothers used the 'world' to accomplish their brain-wave for it was only later that they listened to their heart. It was almost like Joseph was excommunicated from his first 'evangelical' family who didn't want to hear anything more than their normal expectations . . . just because he had received a revelation from God!

POTIPHAR'S PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Bought by 'Pastor' Potiphar as his personal assistant (to help in the office!), he must have thought that things were beginning to look up with such a reasonable taskmaster! Joseph's 'open-prison' gave him certain liberties but he didn't stretch them to better his position. In Potiphar's house, Joseph experiences '*the Feast of Pentecost*' as God blessed him and continued his training towards his calling that looked to be years and years away if it would ever be experienced. Joseph was trained in money matters and natural wisdom concerning; he could be trusted with money that was not his own even though he was penniless (shekel-less!)! A glimpse of authority was given to Joseph and he was advanced in this *Pentecostal-Potiphar Church*! God had other plans for Joseph. He was kept from fully joining that household which did not sit well with the membership! Potiphar's wife Zelicah (viz.Jasher), pictures the desire of the pentecostal religious spirit to fully envelop any who have the genuine life of God in them for the furtherance of their programs. Joseph escaped and in so doing left his 'covering' that belonged to that household. This was Joseph's second stripping ... in this case, of the 'covering' that this 'house' tried to put on him 'You must be under a ministry covering' is often bandied around concerning today's Josephites! The power of the indwelling Spirit enabled him to stand.

It is amazing how quickly people (members?) can change their opinion of someone. Blessed and honoured one day and the next they cry 'Crucify him!'. The *Pentecostal-Potiphar Church* use the 'law' in an unjust way to keep their people in bondage. Joseph refuses the advances of the 'harlot-nature' system subjecting himself to the alternative ... prison and being cut off from his former colleagues and his lifelong friends. In becoming a '*prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ*', one will experience being hidden in a dark dungeon away from all the expected activities and religious pressures of that day.

The life of a prisoner (of our Lord Jesus Christ) was Joseph's next step as he started to experience *the Feast of Tabernacles* — the leaving of all things of the natural, logical realm and moving in the presence of God in the darkness where his trust in things not seen would develop his faith. The spirit-word is alive to all Josephites.

HOW TO DEAL WITH DISGRUNTLED PEOPLE

God was with Joseph. God was training him further on how to deal with strangers and other disgruntled, negative prisoners. He was soon raised to a place of responsibility in which he had to learn the languages of the prisoners who came from all the 70 provinces under Pharaoh's jurisdiction. Joseph's patience and care soon won respect and he was seen as a reliable man and thus found himself overseeing all the prisoners who did not have a calling upon their life right then and certainly had no vision beyond their four walls and they probably couldn't see them clearly either! Josephites today have learned to be able to communicate with all the types of people found in the kingdoms of this world.

ELEVEN YEARS OF PRISON LIFE

Eleven years since he was cut off from fellowship, Joseph was introduced to two special prisoners of Pharaoh. There was his Butler and Baker who had an 'its not fair' complaint. Each of these prisoners were to play an important part in Joseph's next step of be brought to maturity by the Lord. Each had a dream and the Lord had Joseph right there to be the one to interpret those dreams. Until this time Joseph had many dreams but now he was to get their true meanings. The Butler and Baker were delighted to have some answers to their strange situations. Dream interpretations were fulfilled. Merod the Butler was reinstated and the Baker removed from the scene.

Joseph wanted out for he still had his original vision but could not see it coming forth while he was stuck in jail. 'It must be time, Lord?' *Though the vision tarry, wait for it, for it will surely come.* So like many of us, Joseph decided that a small hint would be OK. He requested that the Butler remember his case when the Butler was restored to his former position. However, God had him forget all about Joseph for there was still a bit of preparation work to be achieved in Joseph. He had yet to learn that in such situations, God didn't need any help and that Joseph's faith should stand alone in the Lord, his God.

NOW THE TIME IS RIGHT

God's timing for Joseph's release from prison was two years later. Joseph's own efforts to help himself attain the original dream, such 'Jacob-thoughts' had to also go. It had to be all of God and none of Joseph. God gives Pharaoh a couple of dreams (God's timing) which He knew none of the trained aides could interpret — not even under the threat of death! Then God brought to the Butler's remembrance about his own dream and how the interpretation given by Joseph was fulfilled. The King's situation was getting desperate ... and it affected all around him. Reluctantly the Butler plucked up courage and he mentioned Joseph to the King.

Pharaoh ordered, "*Get him here at once ... and don't terrify him in case he becomes confused!*" (*viz.* Jasher). Joseph stripped of his identity for the third time, shaved to make him look like an Egyptian and he received a new coat etc. This was the covering that came from the king ... one the king could recognise. All the effects of the dealings while in prison were washed off of Joseph so that no stigma or complaint was in him. It is estimated that Joseph arrived in the presence of Pharaoh inside a couple of hours from the giving of the command. When God moves, He certainly moves quickly so that all the waiting and hoping are swallowed up in the moment.

THE THRONE IN SIGHT

It is interesting to see how *The Book of Jasher* adds some light on how this happened. There were 70 steps up to the throne where Pharaoh sat {Jasher 48:43}. Verse 44 onwards reads: 'And it was their

custom throughout the land of Egypt, that every man who came to speak to the king, if he were a prince or one that was estimable in the sight of the king, he ascended to the king's throne as far as the 31st. step, and the king would descend to the 36th. step and speak with him. (45) If he was one of the common people, he ascended to the 3rd. step and the king would descend to the 4th. and speak to him, and their custom was, moreover, that any man who understood to speak in all the 70 languages, he ascended the 70 steps and went up and spoke till he reached the king. (47) And it was customary in those days in Egypt that no one should reign over them, but who understood to speak in the 70 languages.

The Book of Jasher goes on to say that Joseph ascended to the 3rd. step and the king descended and sat upon the 4th. step and they talked. The humility of Joseph is seen here for to later be given the high position at the right hand of the king, according to their custom, Joseph must have learned the 70 languages as he communicated with the prisoners in his care.

God's timing of giving Pharaoh two dreams, Joseph being ready (in God's eyes) and the prompting of the Butler's memory ... a true work of God's spirit. God gave Pharaoh two dramatic dreams. Gen 41:17 *And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the river: (18) And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fatfleshed and well favored; and they fed in a meadow: (19) And, behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and very ill favored and leanfleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness: (20) And the lean and the ill favored kine did eat up the first seven fat kine: (21) And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still ill favored, as at the beginning. So I awoke.* It was a 'mad-cow' disease that removed all the good cows! (22) *And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears (of corn) came up in one stalk, full and good: (23) And, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them: (24) And the thin ears devoured the seven good ears: and I told this unto the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.* Genetically modified food removes the life from the *God-saw-that-it-was-good* food. The Church System has genetically modified the word of God so that all the good food value is removed from the menu of most Christians.

FEAST AND FAMINE

The king's two dreams were interpreted by Joseph that there would be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. The interpretation was accepted ... God was at work through the yielded heart and mind of Joseph where further wisdom would be forthcoming.

JOSEPH'S PROMOTION

God orchestrated Joseph's appointment to the right hand of the king — in a position of responsibility requiring that Joseph would have to lean upon the Lord 100%. Joseph organized the storing and distribution from the increase that the Lord gave and he travelled all over the land of Egypt in the outworking of his original calling. Gen 41:38 *And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? (40) Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. (42) And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck* (Joseph was adopted by the King).

God gave Joseph wisdom for the calling . . . Joseph's dream, his vision and calling were now coming into reality. Gen 41:46 *And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.* ('30' is the number that speaks of maturity). Joseph received a new name from the king now that he was no longer in prison: it was *Zaphnathpaneah* which means THE ONE TO WHOM SECRETS ARE REVEALED. Pharaoh also gave *Asenath*, the daughter of the prince of On to be his wife and royalty was joined into Joseph. With his new attire, Joseph received again, as it were, the coat of many colours making bringing him

into the royal priesthood.

THE TIME OF RECKONING

Jacob and his family had heard of the fame of Joseph although he was not called by that name. Their own supplies ran out and they were beginning to experience some lack ... so it was time to send to Egypt for food. The people of Israel would sometimes infect fear in some and respect in others for they had a history of 'don't mess with us'! Jacob, the old wily man had some planning to do. Gen 43:14 *And God Almighty give you mercy before THE MAN*. They had heard that this 'man' was endued with wisdom and was not to be trifled with.

Joseph knew that his family would be coming eventually for food for the lack was widespread and he knew he would have to deal wisely with his 'half-brothers' without any vindictive thought entering his mind. Church folks and Church visions too receive of the Lord's bounty but only at His word. The dealing of Joseph with his brothers who had done him mischief earlier, was very wise. Using His authority he knew that his brethren would be coming for food (ref. *The Book of Jasher*), so he set sentries at each gate of the city with instructions to request the name of each foreigner entering complete with who their father was! Jacob had instructed (the 'old' Jacob that was still around!) his ten sons to each enter by a different gate so as to not draw attention to themselves for the Israelites were known as a powerful people and Jacob did not want to cause any stir among the Egyptians . . . to obtain food was the all important issue. The lists of visitors was sent to Joseph each evening.

These brothers had agreed to search for Joseph unobtrusively in all the lower quarters of the city. The guards eventually found these ten brothers in a whore house thinking that a slave would be used in such activities! Then these brothers were arrested and brought before the 'Prime Minister' who declared that they must be spies. His half-brothers honoured his position, authority and power ... even to acknowledging that it was more than they had themselves. They bowed before him! Gen 42:8 *And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him. (9) And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come*. He had good reason to call them that for they had been about three days looking for Joseph and the guards expected them, having entered the city, to go straight to the storehouse for their corn. Then follows the dealings of the Lord through Joseph with a happy conclusion. This account is found in the Book of Jasher also.

VISION FULFILLED

Joseph brought forth for such a time as this! God had it planned all along. The processing of all Josephites takes a while so they can be vessels to bring forth *the Kingdom of God which is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit*. Joseph's gentle spirit coupled with compassion produced great joy and restoration to the point where his father saw that Joseph was picturing resurrection life. Gen 46:4, God said to Jacob, *I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes*. The former generation seen in Jacob came to Joseph so that he could lay hands on his eyes to bring forth a clear vision and insight into present truth.

JOSEPH REUNITED WITH HIS HALF-BROTHERS

The wisdom of God was operating in Joseph as step by step he tested their sincerity before adding further blessings to them. Joseph knew them in detail and set them in order. Benjamin, now with them, was given special added blessings for he represents those of the same spirit (i.e. mother) as Joseph. Benjamin was adopted too and pictures for us an '11th. hour' extension of the Josephites.

Joseph distributed to all for each life was valuable. The remuneration for the food he distributed increased until he possessed '*the riches of the gentiles*'. The increase was first finances into Joseph's hand followed by goods and then lands. God controls the timing as He creates a hunger in men for truth. They then have a desire *to buy the truth and sell it not*.

JOSEPH'S OFFSPRING

Jacob's prophecy regarding Joseph and his descendants. Gen.49:22 *Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall:*

The word 'bough' is the Hb. word *BEN* which means son, whereas the word 'branch' is the Hb. word *BATH* which means daughter. It thus appears that Joseph had daughters as well as sons. Joseph's daughters today seem to be running over every obstacle that tries to hem them in and impede them.

The word 'well' is Hb. *AYIN* which means EYE (497 times), SIGHT (217 times), WELL (19 times) and FOUNTAIN (11 times). Joseph is a fruitful son as an eye, the organ of sight. The eye always speaks of the spirit of God (or man). The blessings of God rest upon Joseph's head giving him spiritual insight and fresh living waters from the Word; the effect of which causes the daughters to run over any wall.

The word 'wall' in Hb. comes from *SHUR* which means going about with the root meaning of TURNING OR TRAVELLING ABOUT AS A HARLOT OR MERCHANT. The religious systems are referred to as a harlot and, as such, they make merchants of God's word. They twist and turn it into a wall to hem people in and keep them in confusion whilst they sing songs of liberty! But not so the daughters of the Joseph clan.

EPHRAIM AND MANASSEH

Moses speaks of Joseph and his sons. Deut 33:16 *And for the precious things of the earth and fullness thereof, and for the good will of Him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren. (17) His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh.* Moses speaks of Joseph's sons as being the horns of a unicorn. Horns are the projection on the head but they are not the head.

God that was in the burning Bush identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob thus signifying that He was/is the God of the living. Josephites will certainly have an understanding and a belief to experience resurrection life . . . that of this mortality putting on immortality. Next observe that of Joseph it was said, 'His glory is like the firstlings of his bullock'. The word 'glory' in this instance means MAGNIFICENCE, EXCELLENCY OR HONOUR. The excellency and honour bestowed by God on His Josephites of this hour is not for their own glory but His. Firstling can also read first-born . . . the firstfruits of this calling.

Horns of unicorns have nothing to do with the old mythical animal with one long horn in the centre of their head. The horns (plural) add strength to the head but in themselves they have no brainpower. These horns represent the strength that will enable the Joseph Company of saints to 'push people together' rather than seeing them segregated more ... there is a compelling of folk to come together and be as one, be in unity of spirit and of the faith, as Jesus prayed in John 18.

JOSEPH'S DOUBLE PORTION

Joseph's two portions of his inheritance lines him up with those of the first-born/firstfruits company who will minister from the throne with all the resources of the adopted son. The adopted son receives Father's full nature, Father's full authority (throne) and Father's full resources so that he might meet the needs of God's people ... setting them free as well as giving them the food to sustain life.

Eze 47:13 *Thus saith the Lord GOD; This shall be the border, whereby ye shall inherit the land according to the twelve tribes of Israel: Joseph shall have two portions. (14) And ye shall inherit it, one as well as another: concerning the which I lifted up mine hand to give it unto your fathers: and this land shall fall unto you for inheritance.*

All Josephites to whom God has given a vision of the throne — He will surely bring each one through to manifesting His plan in and through them. §