

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. If God was pleased with Joseph, why did He allow him to be unjustly cast into prison?
2. Discuss the effects that Joseph's imprisonment had on his usefulness to God.
3. Under what circumstances do we prefer to witness for the Lord? Why?

SUMMARY:

Because of his integrity Joseph was placed in prison. But "the Lord was with Joseph." Even during his years in prison, "that which he did, the Lord made it to prosper." "Circumstances" were "against" Joseph. But because of his faithfulness, God was able to use him to fulfill His divine purpose. God gave a message to the butler and the baker in dreams. God revealed the interpretation of the dreams to Joseph, who immediately spoke for Him.

Joseph didn't know all that God had in store for him. But he knew God. Do we today implicitly trust God and do His bidding in ALL circumstances? Or do "circumstances" defeat us?

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #9

June 1, 2014

Second Quarter

JOSEPH IN PRISON

LESSON TEXT: *Genesis 39:20-23; 40:1-15*

LESSON SETTING: Joseph in Egypt.

TIME: Approximately 1729 B.C.

- I. JOSEPH PLACED IN PRISON.** Genesis 39:20-23
 - A. Unjust Punishment (vs. 20) Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 3:18
 - B. The Lord with His Own (vs. 21, 23) Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 7:9
 - C. Joseph Finds Favor (vs. 21-23) Daniel 1:9; Acts 7:10
- II. JOSEPH INTERPRETS DREAMS.** Genesis 40:1-13
 - A. Reason for Sadness (vs. 6-7) Luke 24:17
 - B. Witness of God's Wisdom (vs. 8) Daniel 2:20-22, 28
 - C. The Butler Tells His Dream (vs. 9-11)
 - D. Dreams Interpreted (vs. 12-13) Daniel 2:36-45; 4:19-27
- III. JOSEPH PLEADS FOR REMEMBRANCE.** Genesis 40:14-15
 - A. Intercession (vs. 14) Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1
 - B. Joseph Explains His Innocence (vs. 15)

GOLDEN TEXT: *THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH, AND SHOWED HIM MERCY.* Genesis 39:21

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Genesis 41:38-57

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Philippians 2:5-11

QUARTERLY THEME: The Patriarchs

TOPIC: JOSEPH, RULER IN EGYPT

INTRODUCTION:

Two years after Joseph's interpretation of dreams for the butler and the baker, Pharaoh was troubled by two dreams. The butler then remembered Joseph, still in prison. Joseph, now 30 years of age, was called before Pharaoh. Of Egypt's wise men and magicians, none could interpret. Joseph acknowledged: *"It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer .. God hath showed Pharaoh what He is about to do."*

Joseph's acknowledgment of God, his God-revealed interpretation, and his God-inspired recommendations led Pharaoh to exclaim: *"Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the spirit of God is?"* Accordingly, Joseph was made ruler over all Egypt, and subject only to Pharaoh. What a privilege—and WHAT RESPONSIBILITY! Joseph served well. He was a wise administrator. The interests of Pharaoh—and of God—were well served.

Today the world needs a man—the man Christ Jesus! And today, God is looking for a man to proclaim Christ—"A man in whom the Spirit of God is." Will you be that man?

CENTRAL TRUTH: Faith in God and faithfulness in our work will result in God's blessing and direction.

GOLDEN TEXT: ... ***THEM THAT HONOR ME I WILL HONOR.***

1 Samuel 2:30

Joseph **sought** honor for God, not for himself. God was honored in Joseph's conduct, in his ambitions, in his integrity, in his humility, and in his ready acknowledgment of the wisdom and the sovereignty of God. Consequently, the Lord honored him with great privilege and responsibility. Joseph was faithful in **small** things, so God entrusted him with **greater** things.

Eli the priest honored his sons above God (1 Samuel 2:29). As a result he experienced the displeasure and rebuke of God.

We are here for one purpose alone: the pleasure and the honor and the glory of God. (Revelation 4:11; Isaiah 43:7, 21) If we honor HIM, He will honor us. By His grace may we someday be accorded the honor of His commendation: *"Well done ..."* *"Children ... heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ."*

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 2 – 8

M. Pharaoh's Troublesome Dream. Genesis 41:1-8
T. The Butler Remembered Joseph. Genesis 41:9-16
W. The Dream is Related. Genesis 41:17-24
T. The Dream is Interpreted. Genesis 41:25-37
F. *Joseph, Ruler in Egypt. Genesis 41:38-46
S. *Joseph's Provision for Famine. Genesis 41:47-57
S. Joseph's Fidelity Rewarded. Psalm 105:16-22

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