

# **Joseph Dreamed**

## **4) Joseph's Brothers**

- ✓ **The hatred of Joseph's brothers towards him was provoked by Jacob's preferential love for him**
- ✓ **The way they treated their father was also bad**
- ✓ **This was the Messianic family, the founding fathers of the 12 tribes of Israel**
- ✓ **Knowing our identity should give us a sense of dignity and destiny**

- ✓ **The family started to feel the effects of the famine**
- ✓ **Everyone from a foreign land who wanted to buy grain had to get a permit from Joseph first**
- ✓ **Thus, Joseph's 10 brothers appeared before him twice**
- ✓ **The first time he recognized them, but they did not recognize him. He spoke through an interpreter**
- ✓ **They bowed before him**

- ✓ **Joseph acted harshly, accusing them of lying and of being spies**
- ✓ **They told him of their family, including Benjamin and Jacob**
- ✓ **Were they telling the truth? Had they killed Benjamin, too?**
- ✓ **He kept Simeon in prison as hostage while they returned to bring Benjamin**
- ✓ **When they arrived home their money was found in all their sacks**
- ✓ **Jacob accused his 9 sons for the loss of Joseph and Simeon and now for placing Benjamin in danger**
- ✓ **Also, if they did return to Egypt it is they would be accused of stealing**

- ✓ They stayed at home until the supplies ran out. Then they had to return
- ✓ They took gifts and 'double money'. Money in the Hebrew is the same as silver (*keseph*). 20 bundles of silver
- ✓ The last time Joseph saw Benjamin he was just a little child. Jacob spoiled him too. Would his brothers treat him the same way as him they treated him?
- ✓ Joseph invited them for a meal
- ✓ They explained about the money but it was returned to them
- ✓ Simeon rejoined them
- ✓ Joseph arrived and they all bowed to him

- **Joseph saw Benjamin and was unable to control his emotions**
- **They were seated in order of age**
- **Benjamin received five times the portions from the head table**
- **They had shown themselves to be sorry for their sin, to be honest, God-fearing men who respected their father and showed no resentment towards Benjamin**
- **One more test was needed**
- **While they were resting their sacks were loaded with grain, their money and Joseph's cup in Benjamin's sack**

- ✓ **Joseph sent his steward after them**
- ✓ **Their sacks were searched. The one with the cup would be punished**
- ✓ **They could get themselves out of trouble and return home**
- ✓ **This would likely cause Jacob's death**
- ✓ **But they also had an opportunity to prove how much they loved Benjamin and their father**
- ✓ **They all stood with Benjamin. They had changed**
- ✓ **They all returned and appeared before Joseph again, bowing down again**

- ✓ **Judah pleaded for Benjamin and Jacob**
- ✓ **Joseph revealed himself to his brothers**
- ✓ **He said that God was sovereign in all**
- ✓ ***'Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him'* (Gen.45:15)**  
**Every brother was embraced and reassured of forgiveness**
- ✓ **News reached Pharaoh. He told them to leave all behind and move to Egypt**
- ✓ ***'So he sent his brothers away, and they departed; and he said to them, "See that you do not become troubled along the way"'* (Gen.45:23)**



- ✓ **Joseph, a picture of the Beloved of the Father, was sent to His brethren according to the flesh, seeking their welfare**
- ✓ **But they despised and rejected Him**
- ✓ **They sold Him, and delivered Him up to the Gentiles**
- ✓ **Death, burial, resurrection, ascension**
- ✓ **Ministry to the Gentiles**
- ✓ **The years of Joseph's absence from them speak, in type, of the times of the Gentiles**

- ✓ **Note: Joseph's brethren wished to pay for what they received. 'So Joseph's ten brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt' (Gen.42:3)**
- ✓ **The word 'buy' occurs five times in the first ten verses of this chapter**
- ✓ **'Then Joseph gave a command to fill their sacks with grain, to restore every man's money to his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. Thus he did for them' (Gen.42:25)**
- ✓ **The Bread of Life cannot be purchased. It is a gift. It is free**

- **But they continued to manifest a legal spirit.**  
*'And their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: Take some of the best fruits of the land in your vessels and carry down a present for the man—a little balm and a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds... So the men took that present and Benjamin, and they took double money in their hand...'* **(Gen.43:11, 15)**
- *'For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes'* **(Rom.10:2-4)**

**At the first coming**

***'So Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him'***

**(Gen. 42:8)**

**Joseph was made known to his brethren at the second coming**

***'And the second time Joseph was made known to his brothers'***

**(Acts 7:13)**

**Joseph's brethren were troubled in his presence:**

*'Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence'*

**(Gen.45:3)**

**When Israel gaze upon their Messiah, we are told:**

*'And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn'*

**(Zech. 12:10)**

- ✓ **Joseph showed grace to them.** *'And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life... Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him' (Gen.45:4,5,15)*
- ✓ **So too when Israel is reconciled to Christ. He will say to them,** *'For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," says the LORD, your Redeemer' (Isa. 54:7-8)*

- ✓ *'Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it' (Gen.45:1-2)*
- ✓ **Seven times we read of Joseph weeping**
- ✓ *'Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants." Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive' (Gen.50:18,19)*
- ✓ **The dream of Joseph comes to pass**