

Message Five

The Reigning Aspect of the Mature Life Seen in the Life of Joseph

EM Hymns: 280, 395

Scripture Reading: Gen. 41:39-44, 51-52; 45:5-8; 47:14-23; 50:15-21

- Gen 41:39 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, Since God let you know all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you.
- Gen 41:40 You shall be over my household, and according to your word all my people shall be ruled; only in the throne will I be greater than you.
- Gen 41:41 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.
- Gen 41:42 And Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it upon Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck.
- Gen 41:43 And he made him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command, and they cried out before him, Bow the knee! And he set him over all the land of Egypt.
- Gen 41:44 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, I am Pharaoh, yet without your consent no man will lift up his hand or his foot in all the land of Egypt.
- Gen 41:51 And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh, for, he said, God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's house.
- Gen 41:52 And he called the name of the second Ephraim, for, he said, God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.
- Gen 45:5 And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.
- Gen 45:6 For the famine has been in the midst of the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.
- Gen 45:7 And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth and to keep you alive by a great deliverance.
- Gen 45:8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.
- Gen 47:14 And Joseph collected all the money that was to be found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan for the grain which they bought, and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.
- Gen 47:15 And when the money from the land of Egypt and from the land of Canaan had been spent, all the Egyptians came to Joseph saying, Give us food, for why should we die in your presence? For our money is gone.
- Gen 47:16 And Joseph said, Bring your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for your livestock, if your money is gone.
- Gen 47:17 And they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses and for the flocks of sheep and for the herds of cattle and for the donkeys; and he fed them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year.
- Gen 47:18 And when that year had ended, they came to him the second year and said to him, We cannot hide from my lord that our money has been spent, and the herds of cattle are my lord's. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord except our bodies and our lands.
- Gen 47:19 Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land in exchange for food, and we and our land will become servants to Pharaoh. And give us seed that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate.
- Gen 47:20 So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every Egyptian sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them; and the land became Pharaoh's.
- Gen 47:21 And as for the people, he removed them to the cities from one end of the border of Egypt even to the other end.
- Gen 47:22 Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had an assigned portion from Pharaoh, and they lived off their portion which Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their land.
- Gen 47:23 Then Joseph said to the people, Now that I have this day bought you and your land for Pharaoh, here is seed for you that you may sow the land.
- Gen 50:15 And when Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the evil which we did to him?
- Gen 50:16 And they sent a message to Joseph, saying, Your father charged before he died, saying,
- Gen 50:17 Thus shall you say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong. So now please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father. And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.
- Gen 50:18 And his brothers also went and fell down before him and said, We are here as your servants.

- Gen 50:19 And Joseph said to them, Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?
 Gen 50:20 Even though you intended evil against me, God intended it for good, to do as it is this day, to preserve alive a numerous people.
 Gen 50:21 Now therefore do not be afraid; I will sustain you and your little ones. And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

I. According to spiritual experience, Jacob and Joseph are one person; Joseph represents the reigning aspect of the mature Israel, the constitution of Christ in Jacob's mature nature; as a mature saint constituted with Christ, the perfect One, Jacob reigned through Joseph—Gen. 41:39-44; Heb. 6:1a; Gal. 6:8; 5:22-23:

- Gen 41:39 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, Since God let you know all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you.
 Gen 41:40 You shall be over my household, and according to your word all my people shall be ruled; only in the throne will I be greater than you.
 Gen 41:41 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.
 Gen 41:42 And Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it upon Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck.
 Gen 41:43 And he made him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command, and they cried out before him, Bow the knee! And he set him over all the land of Egypt.
 Gen 41:44 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, I am Pharaoh, yet without your consent no man will lift up his hand or his foot in all the land of Egypt.
 Heb 6:1a Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity, ...
 Gal 6:8 For he who sows unto his own flesh will reap corruption of the flesh, but he who sows unto the Spirit will of the Spirit reap eternal life.
 Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
 Gal 5:23 Meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- A. The reigning aspect typified by Joseph is Christ constituted into our being—4:19.
 Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,
- B. Joseph, a “master of dreams” (Gen. 37:19), dreamed that, according to God's view, His people are sheaves of wheat full of life and heavenly bodies full of light (vv. 5-11); Joseph's two dreams (vv. 7, 9), both from God, unveiled to him God's divine view concerning the nature, position, function, and goal of God's people on earth:
 Gen 37:19 And they said one to another, Here comes this master of dreams.
 Gen 37:5 Then Joseph had a dream; and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more.
 Gen 37:6 And he said to them, Listen to this dream which I have had:
 Gen 37:7 There we were, binding sheaves in the field, when suddenly my sheaf rose up and remained standing; and then your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf.
 Gen 37:8 And his brothers said to him, Will you indeed reign over us and actually be a ruler among us? So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.
 Gen 37:9 And he had still another dream and told it to his brothers and said, Now I have had another dream: There were the sun and the moon and eleven stars, bowing down to me.
 Gen 37:10 And he told it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the ground to you?
 Gen 37:11 And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in his heart.
1. We have to use the “divine telescope” to see through time and behold the New Jerusalem, where there is nothing but sheaves full of life and stars full of light; thus, the reigning aspect of the mature life never speaks negatively concerning the saints or the church—cf. 38:27-30; Matt. 7:1-5; 1 Pet. 3:8-9.
 Gen 38:27 And at the time of her delivery, there were twins in her womb.
 Gen 38:28 And while she was giving birth, one put out a hand; and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, This one came out first.

- Gen 38:29 But when he drew back his hand, his brother suddenly came out; and she said, What a breach you have made for yourself! Therefore his name was called Perez.
- Gen 38:30 And afterward his brother came out, who had the scarlet thread on his hand; and his name was called Zerah.
- Matt 7:1 Do not judge, that you be not judged.
- Matt 7:2 For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged; and with what measure you measure, it shall be measured to you.
- Matt 7:3 And why do you look at the splinter which is in your brother's eye, but the beam in your eye you do not consider?
- Matt 7:4 Or how can you say to your brother, Let me remove the splinter from your eye, and behold, the beam is in your eye?
- Matt 7:5 Hypocrite, first remove the beam from your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye.
- 1 Pet 3:8 And finally be all of the same mind, sympathetic, loving the brothers, tenderhearted, humble-minded;
- 1 Pet 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing one another, because you were called to this, that you might inherit blessing.
2. Joseph's dreams controlled his life and directed his behavior; he behaved so excellently and marvelously because he was directed by the vision that he saw in his dreams (cf. Acts 26:19); his brothers vented their anger (Gen. 37:18-31) and indulged in their lust (38:15-18), but Joseph subdued his anger and conquered his lust (39:7-23), behaving as a sheaf full of life and conducting himself like a heavenly star shining in the darkness.
- Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,
- Gen 37:18 And when they saw him from a distance and before he came near to them, they conspired against him to put him to death.
- Gen 37:19 And they said one to another, Here comes this master of dreams.
- Gen 37:20 Now then, come and let us slay him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, A wild beast has devoured him; then we will see what will become of his dreams.
- Gen 37:21 But when Reuben heard it, he tried to deliver him out of their hand and said, Let us not take his life.
- Gen 37:22 And Reuben said to them, Shed no blood; throw him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him-that he might deliver him out of their hand to restore him to his father.
- Gen 37:23 And when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped Joseph of his coat, the coat of many colors that was on him;
- Gen 37:24 And they took him and threw him into the pit. Now the pit was empty; there was no water in it.
- Gen 37:25 Then they sat down to eat food; and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and there was a caravan of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing aromatic gum and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.
- Gen 37:26 Then Judah said to his brothers, What gain is there if we slay our brother and conceal his blood?
- Gen 37:27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let our hand not be on him; for he is our brother, our flesh. And his brothers listened to him.
- Gen 37:28 So when some Midianite traders passed by, they pulled Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and they sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And these brought Joseph into Egypt.
- Gen 37:29 And when Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes.
- Gen 37:30 And he returned to his brothers and said, The boy is not there; so as for me, what shall I do?
- Gen 37:31 Then they took Joseph's coat and slaughtered a male goat and dipped the coat in the blood.
- Gen 38:15 And when Judah saw her, he thought she was a harlot, for she had covered her face.

Gen 38:16 And he turned aside to her by the way and said, Come now, let me come in to you; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. And she said, What will you give me, that you may come in to me?

Gen 38:17 And he said, I will send you a kid from the flock. And she said, Only if you give me a pledge until you send it.

Gen 38:18 And he said, What pledge shall I give you? And she said, Your seal and your cord and your staff that is in your hand. And he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him.

Gen 39:7 Now after these things his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph and said, Lie with me.

Gen 39:8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, Behold, with me here, my master is not concerned about anything in the house, and he has put everything he has in my charge.

Gen 39:9 There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great evil, and sin against God?

Gen 39:10 And although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her to lie beside her or be with her.

Gen 39:11 And one such day he went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house were there in the house.

Gen 39:12 And she grabbed him by his garment, saying, Lie with me! But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and went outside.

Gen 39:13 And when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside,

Gen 39:14 She called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, See, he has brought in a Hebrew man to us to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I called out with a loud voice;

Gen 39:15 And when he heard that I lifted up my voice and called out, he left his garment beside me, and fled and went outside.

Gen 39:16 And she placed his garment beside her until his master came home.

Gen 39:17 And she spoke to him with these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought to us, came in to me to mock me.

Gen 39:18 And when I lifted up my voice and called out, he left his garment beside me and fled outside.

Gen 39:19 And when his master heard the words of his wife that she had spoken to him, saying, This is the way your servant treated me; his anger burned.

Gen 39:20 And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while he was there in the prison,

Gen 39:21 Jehovah was with Joseph; and He extended kindness to him and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.

Gen 39:22 And the chief jailer put in Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the prison; and whatever was done there, he was the one to do it.

Gen 39:23 The chief jailer did not supervise anything that was in his charge, because Jehovah was with him; and whatever he did, Jehovah caused it to prosper.

C. Joseph's life under the heavenly vision was the life of the kingdom of the heavens described in Matthew 5-7; by living such a life, he was fully prepared to reign as a king; according to the constitution of the heavenly kingdom revealed in these chapters in Matthew, our anger must be subdued, and our lust must be conquered (5:21-32).

Matt 5~7 be omitted.

Matt 5:21 You have heard that it was said to the ancients, "You shall not murder, and whoever murders shall be liable to the judgment."

Matt 5:22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, Raca, shall be liable to the judgment of the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, Moreh, shall be liable to the Gehenna of fire.

Matt 5:23 Therefore if you are offering your gift at the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you,

Matt 5:24 Leave your gift there before the altar, and first go and be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

- Matt 5:25 Be well disposed quickly toward your opponent at law, while you are with him on the way, lest the opponent deliver you to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.
- Matt 5:26 Truly I say to you, You shall by no means come out from there until you pay the last quadrans.
- Matt 5:27 You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery."
- Matt 5:28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman in order to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- Matt 5:29 So if your right eye stumbles you, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish than for your whole body to be cast into Gehenna.
- Matt 5:30 And if your right hand stumbles you, cut it off and cast it from you, for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish than for your whole body to pass away into Gehenna.
- Matt 5:31 And it was said, Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.
- Matt 5:32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the cause of fornication, causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries her who has been divorced commits adultery.

D. The reigning aspect of the mature life is a life that always enjoys the presence of the Lord (Acts 7:9); wherever His presence is, there is authority, the ruling power (Gen. 39:2-5, 21-23):

- Acts 7:9 And the patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt; yet God was with him
- Gen 39:2 And Jehovah was with Joseph, and he became a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian.
- Gen 39:3 And his master saw that Jehovah was with him and that Jehovah caused all that he did to prosper in his hand.
- Gen 39:4 And Joseph found favor in his sight, and he ministered to him; and he made him overseer of his house and put all that he had in his charge.
- Gen 39:5 And from the time he made him overseer in his house and put him over all that he had, Jehovah blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; and the blessing of Jehovah was upon all that he had, in the house and in the field.
- Gen 39:21 Jehovah was with Joseph; and He extended kindness to him and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.
- Gen 39:22 And the chief jailer put in Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the prison; and whatever was done there, he was the one to do it.
- Gen 39:23 The chief jailer did not supervise anything that was in his charge, because Jehovah was with him; and whatever he did, Jehovah caused it to prosper.

1. In the presence of the Lord, Joseph was prospered by Him; while Joseph was undergoing ill-treatment, he enjoyed the Lord's prosperity that came to him under the Lord's sovereignty.
2. In the presence of the Lord, Joseph was favored with the Lord's blessing wherever he was; when Joseph enjoyed prosperity, he and those who were involved with him were blessed—vv. 4-5, 22-23.

- Gen 39:4 And Joseph found favor in his sight, and he ministered to him; and he made him overseer of his house and put all that he had in his charge.
- Gen 39:5 And from the time he made him overseer in his house and put him over all that he had, Jehovah blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; and the blessing of Jehovah was upon all that he had, in the house and in the field.
- Gen 39:22 And the chief jailer put in Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the prison; and whatever was done there, he was the one to do it.
- Gen 39:23 The chief jailer did not supervise anything that was in his charge, because Jehovah was with him; and whatever he did, Jehovah caused it to prosper.

E. Although his own dreams were not yet fulfilled, Joseph had the faith and the boldness to interpret the dreams of his two companions in prison (40:8); eventually, Joseph was released from prison indirectly through his speaking by faith in interpreting the cupbearer's dream

(41:9-13), and he was ushered to the throne directly through his speaking boldly in interpreting Pharaoh's dreams (vv. 14-46); both release and authority came to him through his speaking:

- Gen 40:8 And they said to him, We have had a dream, and there is no one to interpret it. And Joseph said to them, Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell it to me.
- Gen 41:9 Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my sins today.
- Gen 41:10 Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and he put me in custody at the house of the captain of the guard, both me and the chief baker.
- Gen 41:11 And we both had a dream in one night, I and he; each of us had a dream with its own interpretation.
- Gen 41:12 And a young Hebrew man was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. And we told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us; to each one he interpreted according to his dream.
- Gen 41:13 And as he interpreted to us, so it happened; Pharaoh restored me to my office, and he hanged the baker.
- Gen 41:14 Then Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon; and he shaved himself and changed his garments, and he came to Pharaoh.
- Gen 41:15 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, I have had a dream, but there is no one who can interpret it; and I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.
- Gen 41:16 And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not of me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.
- Gen 41:17 And Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, In my dream, there I was, standing on the bank of the River.
- Gen 41:18 And there came up out of the River seven cows, fat-fleshed and fine-looking; and they grazed in the reed grass.
- Gen 41:19 Then there came up after them seven other cows, poor and very ugly-looking and thin-fleshed; I had never seen such in all the land of Egypt for ugliness.
- Gen 41:20 And the thin and ugly-looking cows ate up the first seven fat cows.
- Gen 41:21 And when they had swallowed them, no one would have known that they had swallowed them, for they were still as ugly-looking as at the beginning. Then I awoke.
- Gen 41:22 And I saw this in my dream: There were seven ears of grain, coming up on one stalk, full and good.
- Gen 41:23 Then there were seven ears, withered, thin, and scorched by the east wind, that sprouted after them.
- Gen 41:24 And the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears. And I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me.
- Gen 41:25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, Pharaoh's dream is one dream; what God is about to do He has told Pharaoh.
- Gen 41:26 The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dream is one.
- Gen 41:27 And the seven thin and ugly-looking cows that came up after them are seven years, and so are the seven empty ears scorched by the east wind; they will be seven years of famine.
- Gen 41:28 This matter is just as I have spoken to Pharaoh; what God is about to do He has shown to Pharaoh.
- Gen 41:29 Seven years of great abundance are now about to come throughout all the land of Egypt.
- Gen 41:30 Then seven years of famine will arise after them, and all the abundance in the land of Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will consume the land.
- Gen 41:31 And the abundance will be unknown in the land because of that famine which follows, for it will be very severe.
- Gen 41:32 And as for the repeating of the dream to Pharaoh twice, it means that the matter is determined by God, and God will quickly bring it about.
- Gen 41:33 Now therefore let Pharaoh look out for a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:34 Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers over the land and take a fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance.

Gen 41:35 And let them gather all the food of these coming good years and lay up grain under Pharaoh's authority for food in the cities, and let them keep it.

Gen 41:36 And let the food become a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that will be in the land of Egypt, so that the land does not perish in the famine.

Gen 41:37 And the word seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his servants.

Gen 41:38 And Pharaoh said to his servants, Can we find such a man like this, in whom the Spirit of God is?

Gen 41:39 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, Since God let you know all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you.

Gen 41:40 You shall be over my household, and according to your word all my people shall be ruled; only in the throne will I be greater than you.

Gen 41:41 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:42 And Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it upon Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck.

Gen 41:43 And he made him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command, and they cried out before him, Bow the knee! And he set him over all the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:44 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, I am Pharaoh, yet without your consent no man will lift up his hand or his foot in all the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah, and he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphra priest of On, as his wife. And Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:46 Now Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and passed through all the land of Egypt.

1. Andrew Murray once said a word like this: the good minister of the Word should always minister more than he has experienced; this means that we should speak more according to the vision than according to the fulfillment of the vision.
2. Even if our vision has not been fulfilled, we should still speak of it to others; the time will come when our vision will be fulfilled; Joseph's dreams were eventually fulfilled through his interpretation of the dream of the cupbearer.
3. We should not speak according to our feelings but according to the heavenly vision; we are visionaries, seers, of God's eternal economy, so we should speak according to the absoluteness of the truth of His economy—Acts 26:16-19.

Acts 26:16 But rise up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you;

Acts 26:17 Delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles, to whom I send you,

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

- F. If we are living out Christ, we will bring either life or death wherever we are (2 Cor. 2:14-16); to the cupbearer, Joseph brought restoration; to the baker, he brought execution (Gen. 41:12-13).

2 Cor 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in the Christ and manifests the savor of the knowledge of Him through us in every place.

2 Cor 2:15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God in those who are being saved and in those who are perishing:

2 Cor 2:16 To some a savor out of death unto death, and to the others a savor out of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?

Gen 41:12 And a young Hebrew man was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. And we told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us; to each one he interpreted according to his dream.

Gen 41:13 And as he interpreted to us, so it happened; Pharaoh restored me to my office, and he hanged the baker.

- G. If we seek the Lord, He will put us into a “dungeon”; without the dungeon we cannot ascend to the throne; we must not be a “dungeon dropout”; we must stay in the dungeon until we graduate and receive the crown—Eph. 3:1; 4:1; James 1:12.

Eph 3:1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you, the Gentiles-

Eph 4:1 I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures trial, because when he has become approved by testing, he will receive the crown of life, which He promised to those who love Him.

II. Joseph as a fruitful bough (Gen. 49:22) typifies Christ as the branch (Isa. 11:1-2) for the branching out of God through His believers as His branches (John 15:1, 5); in Genesis 49:22 the fountain signifies God, the source of fruitfulness (Psa. 36:9; Jer. 2:13), and the branches’ running over the wall signifies that Christ’s believers as His branches spread Christ over every restriction, magnifying Him in all circumstances (Phil. 1:20; 4:22; Philem. 10):

Gen 49:22 Joseph is a fruitful bough, / A fruitful bough by a fountain; / His branches run over the wall.

Isa 11:1 Then a sprout will come forth from the stump of Jesse, / And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

Isa 11:2 And the Spirit of Jehovah will rest upon Him, / The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, / The Spirit of counsel and might, / The Spirit of the knowledge and fear of Jehovah.

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.

Jer 2:13 For My people have committed two evils: / They have forsaken Me, / The fountain of living waters, / To hew out for themselves cisterns, / Broken cisterns, / Which hold no water.

Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

Phil 4:22 All the saints greet you, and especially those of Caesar's household.

Philem 10 I entreat you concerning my child, whom I have begotten in my bonds, Onesimus,

- A. In his receiving glory and gifts in his enthronement, Joseph typifies Christ, who received glory (Heb. 2:9) and gifts (Psa. 68:18; Acts 2:33) in His ascension (Gen. 41:42):

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little inferior to the angels because of the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death on behalf of everything.

Psa 68:18 You have ascended on high; You have led captive those taken captive; / You have received gifts among men, / Even the rebellious ones also, / That Jehovah God may dwell among them.

Acts 2:33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, He has poured out this which you both see and hear.

Gen 41:42 And Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it upon Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck.

1. The ring, the garments, and the gold chain portray the gifts that Christ received in His ascension to the heavens, which gifts He has passed on to the church—v. 42:

Gen 41:42 And Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it upon Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck.

- a. The signet ring signifies the Holy Spirit as a seal within and upon Christ’s believers—Acts 2:33; Eph. 1:13; 4:30; cf. Luke 15:22.

Acts 2:33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, He has poured out this which you both see and hear.

Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.

Luke 15:22 But the father said to his slaves, Bring out quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

- b. The garments signify Christ as our objective righteousness for our justification before God (1 Cor. 1:30; cf. Psa. 45:9, 13; Luke 15:22) and as our subjective righteousness lived out of us that we may be qualified to participate in the marriage of the Lamb (Phil. 3:9; Psa. 45:14; Rev. 19:7-9).

1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

Psa 45:9 The daughters of kings are among Your most prized; / The queen stands at Your right hand in the gold of Ophir.

Psa 45:13 The king's daughter is all glorious within the royal abode; / Her garment is a woven work inwrought with gold.

Luke 15:22 But the father said to his slaves, Bring out quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

Phil 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,

Psa 45:14 She will be led to the King in embroidered clothing; / The virgins behind her, her companions, / Will be brought to You.

Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.

Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.

- c. The gold chain signifies the beauty of the Holy Spirit given for obedience expressed in submission (cf. Acts 5:32); a chained neck signifies a will that has been conquered and subdued to obey God's commandment (Gen. 41:42; cf. S. S. 1:10; Prov. 1:8-9).

Acts 5:32 And we are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.

Gen 41:42 And Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it upon Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck.

S. S. 1:10 Your cheeks are lovely with plaits of ornaments, / Your neck with strings of jewels.

Prov 1:8 Hear, my son, the instruction of your father, / And do not reject the teaching of your mother;

Prov 1:9 For they will be a wreath of grace for your head / And ornaments for your neck.

2. According to the sequence of spiritual experience, we first receive the sealing of the Spirit for salvation; then we receive the garment of righteousness and begin to live Christ (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:20-21a); in order for us to live Christ, our neck must be chained, our will must be conquered and subdued, by the Holy Spirit.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...

- B. After being resurrected from the prison of death and ushered into the position of ascension, Joseph married Asenath, who portrays the church taken out of the Gentile world during Christ's rejection by the children of Israel (Gen. 41:45); Joseph called the name of his firstborn Manasseh (meaning "making to forget") and the name of his second Ephraim (meaning "twice fruitful"); Joseph declared, "God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's house," and "God has made me [twice] fruitful in the land of my affliction" (vv. 51-52).

Gen 41:45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah, and he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, as his wife. And Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.

III. The record of Joseph's life is a revelation of the rulership of the Spirit, for the rulership of the Spirit is the reigning aspect of a mature saint; the rulership of the Spirit (a life of reigning in life, being under the restriction and limitation of the divine life in the reality of God's kingdom) is higher than any other aspect of the Spirit—Rom. 5:17, 21; 14:17-18; cf. 2 Cor. 3:17-18; 2 Tim. 4:22; Rev. 4:1-3:

Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Rom 14:18 For he who serves Christ in this is well pleasing to God and approved by men.

2 Cor 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

Rev 4:1 After these things I saw, and behold, a door opened in heaven, and the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, Come up here, and I will show you the things that must take place after these things.

Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;

Rev 4:3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and there was a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.

- A. Although Joseph was full of human feelings and sentiments toward his brothers, he kept himself with all his feelings under the rulership of the Spirit; he dealt with his brothers soberly, wisely, and with discernment, disciplining them according to their need in order to perfect them and build them up that they might be a collective people living together as God's testimony on earth; the life manifested in the story of Joseph is the resurrection life, the life of God—Gen. 42:9, 24; 43:30-31; 45:1-2, 24.

Gen 42:9 And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed about them, and he said to them, You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land.

Gen 42:24 And he turned away from them and wept. Then he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from among them and bound him before their eyes.

Gen 43:30 And Joseph hurried-for his inward parts burned for his brother-and sought a place to weep. So he entered into his chamber and wept there.

Gen 43:31 Then he washed his face and came out, and he controlled himself and said, Serve the meal.

Gen 45:1 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who attended him; and he cried out, Have everyone go out from me. So there was no one standing with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

- Gen 45:2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.
- Gen 45:24 So he sent his brothers away; and as they departed, he said to them, Do not quarrel on the way.
- B. Joseph's living under God's restriction, a portrait of the human living of Christ, manifested the maturity and perfection of the divine life and brought in God's kingdom— John 5:19, 30b; 7:16, 18; 14:10; Matt. 8:9-10.
- John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.
- John 5:30b ... because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
- John 7:16 Jesus therefore answered them and said, My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me.
- John 7:18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of Him who sent Him, this One is true, and unrighteousness is not in Him.
- John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.
- Matt 8:9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my slave, Do this, and he does it.
- Matt 8:10 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who followed, Truly I say to you, With no one in Israel have I found such great faith.
- C. In Joseph's dealings with his brothers, we see that he lived a calm life, a sober life, and a discerning life with love for the brothers—a self-denying life as the practice of the kingdom life—Gen. 45:24; Matt. 16:24; 2 Chron. 1:10; Isa. 30:15a; Phil. 1:9; 1 Tim. 5:1-2; 1 Thes. 3:12; 4:9; 2 Thes. 1:3; Rom. 12:10; 1 John 4:9; Heb. 13:1.
- Gen 45:24 So he sent his brothers away; and as they departed, he said to them, Do not quarrel on the way.
- Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- 2 Chron 1:10 Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?
- Isa 30:15a For thus says the Lord Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel, / In returning and rest you will be saved; / In quietness and in trust will be your strength; ...
- Phil 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in full knowledge and all discernment,
- 1 Tim 5:1 Do not upbraid an elderly man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers,
- 1 Tim 5:2 Elderly women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.
- 1 Thes 3:12 And the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we also to you,
- 1 Thes 4:9 Now concerning brotherly love, you have no need for me to write to you, for you yourselves are taught of God to love one another;
- 2 Thes 1:3 We ought to thank God always concerning you, brothers, even as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly and the love of each one of you all to one another is increasing,
- Rom 12:10 Love one another warmly in brotherly love; take the lead in showing honor one to another.
- 1 John 4:9 In this the love of God was manifested among us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might have life and live through Him.
- Heb 13:1 Let brotherly love continue.
- D. The most powerful person is the one who has the strength not to do what he is able to do—this is the real denial of the self and the genuine bearing of the cross—Matt. 16:24; cf. 26:53; 2 Cor. 2:12-16.
- Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Matt 26:53 Or do you think that I cannot beseech My Father, and He will provide Me at once with more than twelve legions of angels?

- 2 Cor 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and a door was open to me in the Lord,
- 2 Cor 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, for I did not find Titus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia.
- 2 Cor 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in the Christ and manifests the savor of the knowledge of Him through us in every place.
- 2 Cor 2:15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God in those who are being saved and in those who are perishing:
- 2 Cor 2:16 To some a savor out of death unto death, and to the others a savor out of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?
- E. Joseph's realization was that it was God who sent him to Egypt; in Genesis 50:20 he said to his brothers, "Even though you intended evil against me, God intended it for good" (45:5, 7; 50:19-21; cf. 41:51-52); this is the reality of Paul's word in Romans 8:28-29; Joseph received as from God all that his brothers had done to him, and he comforted those who had offended him (Gen. 45:5-8; 50:15-21); what grace, and what an excellent spirit, he had!
- Gen 41:51 And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh, for, he said, God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's house.
- Gen 41:52 And he called the name of the second Ephraim, for, he said, God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.
- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- Gen 45:5 And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.
- Gen 45:6 For the famine has been in the midst of the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.
- Gen 45:7 And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth and to keep you alive by a great deliverance.
- Gen 45:8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.
- Gen 50:15 And when Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the evil which we did to him?
- Gen 50:16 And they sent a message to Joseph, saying, Your father charged before he died, saying,
- Gen 50:17 Thus shall you say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong. So now please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father. And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.
- Gen 50:18 And his brothers also went and fell down before him and said, We are here as your servants.
- Gen 50:19 And Joseph said to them, Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?
- Gen 50:20 Even though you intended evil against me, God intended it for good, to do as it is this day, to preserve alive a numerous people.
- Gen 50:21 Now therefore do not be afraid; I will sustain you and your little ones. And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

IV. Because Joseph suffered and denied himself, he gained the riches of the life supply (*Hymns*, #635); in order to receive food from him as a type of Christ, the people had to pay four kinds of prices: their money, their livestock, their land, and themselves—47:14-23; cf. Rev. 3:18:

Hymns #635

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Let us contemplate the grape vine,
How its growth is fraught with suff'ring,
How unlike the untamed flowers
In a maze of wild confusion, | From its life now let us learn,
Midst environment so stern;
Growing in the wilderness
Making patterns numberless. |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

<p>2 But the blossoms of the grape vine Though they do have some expression, But a day since they have flowered Never may they wave corollas</p> <p>3 To a post the vine is fastened; When its branches are extended, To the stony soil committed, It can never choose its own way,</p> <p>4 Oh, how beautiful its verdure, From life's energy and fullness Till it's full of tender branches Stretching 'gainst the sky's deep azure</p> <p>5 But the master of the vineyard But with knife and pruning scissors Caring not the vine is tender, All the pretty, excess branches</p> <p>6 In this time of loss and ruin, Nay, it gives itself more fully To the hand that strips its branches, That its life may not be wasted,</p> <p>7 Into hard wood slowly hardens Each remaining branch becoming Then, beneath the scorching sunshine, Thus the fruit more richly ripens</p> <p>8 Bowed beneath its fruitful burden, Labor of its growth thru suff'ring Now its fruit is fully ripened, But the harvest soon is coming,</p> <p>9 Hands will pick and feet will trample Till from out the reddened wine-press All the day its flow continues, Gushing freely, richly, sweetly,</p> <p>10 In appearance now the grape vine Having given all, it enters No one offers to repay it But 'tis stripped and cut e'en further</p> <p>11 Yet its wine throughout the winter Unto those in coldness shiv'ring, Yet without, alone, the grape vine Steadfastly its lot enduring,</p> <p>12 Winter o'er, the vine prepareth Budding forth and growing branches, Never murmuring or complaining Or for all its loss desiring</p> <p>13 Breathing air, untainted, heavenly, Earth's impure, defiled affections Facing sacrifice, yet smiling, Strokes it bears as if it never</p> <p>14 From the branches of the grape vine Does the vine, for all it suffered, Drunkards of the earth and wanderers, From their pleasure and enjoyment</p> <p>15 Not by gain our life is measured, 'Tis not how much wine is drunken, For the strength of love e'er standeth He who has the greatest suff'ring</p>	<p>Without glory are and small; They are hardly seen withal. Into fruit the blooms have grown; With luxuriant beauty shown.</p> <p>Thus it cannot freely grow; To the trellis tied they go. Drawing thence its food supply; Or from difficulty fly.</p> <p>Which in spring spreads o'er the field. Growth abundant doth it yield. Twining freely everywhere, Tasting sweetly of the air.</p> <p>Not in lenience doth abide, Then would strip it of its pride. But with deep, precision stroke From the vine are neatly broke.</p> <p>Dare the vine self-pity show? To the one who wounds it so, Till of beauty destitute, But preserved for bearing fruit.</p> <p>Every stump of bleeding shoot, Clusters of abundant fruit. Leaves are dried and from it drop; Till the harvest of the crop.</p> <p>Loaded branches are brought low— Many a purposed, cutting blow. Comforted the vine would be; And its days of comfort flee.</p> <p>All the riches of the vine, Flows a river full of wine. Bloody-red, without alloy, Filling all the earth with joy.</p> <p>Barren is and pitiful; Into night inscrutable. For the cheering wine that's drunk, To a bare and branchless trunk.</p> <p>Warmth and sweetness ever bears Pressed with sorrow, pain, and cares. Midst the ice and snow doth stand, Though 'tis hard to understand.</p> <p>Fruit again itself to bear; Beauteous green again to wear; For the winter's sore abuse, Its fresh off'ring to reduce.</p> <p>As it lifts its arms on high, Ne'er the vine may occupy. And while love doth prune once more, Suffered loss and pain before.</p> <p>Sap and blood and wine doth flow. Lost, and yielded, poorer grow? From it drink and merry make. Do they richer thereby wake?</p> <p>But by what we've lost 'tis scored; But how much has been outpoured. In the sacrifice we bear; Ever has the most to share.</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

16	He who treats himself severely He who hurts himself most dearly He who suffering never beareth He who self-life never spareth	Is the best for God to gain; Most can comfort those in pain. Is but empty "sounding brass"; Has the joys which all surpass.
Gen 47:14	And Joseph collected all the money that was to be found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan for the grain which they bought, and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.	
Gen 47:15	And when the money from the land of Egypt and from the land of Canaan had been spent, all the Egyptians came to Joseph saying, Give us food, for why should we die in your presence? For our money is gone.	
Gen 47:16	And Joseph said, Bring your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for your livestock, if your money is gone.	
Gen 47:17	And they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses and for the flocks of sheep and for the herds of cattle and for the donkeys; and he fed them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year.	
Gen 47:18	And when that year had ended, they came to him the second year and said to him, We cannot hide from my lord that our money has been spent, and the herds of cattle are my lord's. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord except our bodies and our lands.	
Gen 47:19	Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land in exchange for food, and we and our land will become servants to Pharaoh. And give us seed that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate.	
Gen 47:20	So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every Egyptian sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them; and the land became Pharaoh's.	
Gen 47:21	And as for the people, he removed them to the cities from one end of the border of Egypt even to the other end.	
Gen 47:22	Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had an assigned portion from Pharaoh, and they lived off their portion which Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their land.	
Gen 47:23	Then Joseph said to the people, Now that I have this day bought you and your land for Pharaoh, here is seed for you that you may sow the land.	
Rev 3:18	I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire that you may be rich, and white garments that you may be clothed and that the shame of your nakedness may not be manifested, and eyesalve to anoint your eyes that you may see.	

- A. Money represents convenience, livestock signifies the means of living, and land represents resources; if we would receive the life supply from the Lord as the Dispenser, we must give Him our convenience, our means of livelihood, and our resources; the more we give Him, the more life supply we will receive from Him.
- B. Ultimately, in order to receive the best portion from the Lord, including food for satisfaction and seed to produce something for others (Gen. 47:23), we must hand ourselves, every part of our being, over to Him (Lev. 1:4).
 - Gen 47:23 Then Joseph said to the people, Now that I have this day bought you and your land for Pharaoh, here is seed for you that you may sow the land.
 - Lev 1:4 And he shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him, to make expiation for him.
- C. When we pay the highest price by handing over every part of our being to Him, we enjoy the best portion of the enjoyment of Christ.

V. The universal blessing on Joseph consummates in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth, in which everything will be new as a blessing to Christ and His believers—Gen. 49:25-26; Deut. 33:13-16; Rev. 21:5:

Gen 49:25	From the God of your father, who will help you, / And from the All-sufficient One, who will bless you / With blessings of heaven above, / Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, / Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.
Gen 49:26	The blessings of your father surpass / The blessings of my ancestors / To the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. / They will be on the head of Joseph, / And on the crown of the head of the one who was separate from his / brothers.

Deut 33:13 And concerning Joseph he said, May his land be blessed of Jehovah / With the choicest things of heaven, with the dew / And with the deep waters that couch beneath;
 Deut 33:14 With the choicest of the crops of the sun, / And with the choicest of the yield of the moons;
 Deut 33:15 With the top of the ancient mountains, / And with the choicest things of the eternal hills;
 Deut 33:16 With the choicest things of the earth, and the fullness thereof, / And the favor of Him who dwelt in the thornbush. / May they come upon the head of Joseph, / And upon the top of the head of him who is separated among his brothers.
 Rev 21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said, Write, for these words are faithful and true.

A. Transformation is to be metabolically changed with the newness of the divine life, maturity is to be filled with the newness of the divine life that changes us, and blessing is the overflow of life; the ending of Jacob's life with Joseph was a life of blessing as the zenith of his shining—Prov. 4:18; Heb. 11:21; Gen. 47:7; 48:15-16.

Prov 4:18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, / Which shines brighter and brighter until the full day.

Heb 11:21 By faith Jacob, while he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph and worshipped God, while leaning on the top of his staff.

Gen 47:7 And Joseph brought in Jacob his father and set him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

Gen 48:15 And he blessed Joseph and said, / The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, / The God who has shepherded me all my life to this day,

Gen 48:16 The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; / And may my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; / And may they be a teeming multitude in the midst of the earth.

B. Only God is new; anything that is kept away from God is old, but anything that comes back to God is new (2 Cor. 5:17); to be renewed means to come back to God and have something of God put into us so that we are mingled with God and one with God for the Body life (4:16; Rom. 12:1-2).

2 Cor 5:17 So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.

2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

Rom 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

C. The secret of receiving God as our blessing of newness is to bring everything to God and let Him get into everything; the universal blessing on Joseph means that blessing is everywhere; our praises turn everything of the curse of the fall into a blessing—Eph. 5:20; 1 Thes. 5:16-18.

Eph 5:20 Giving thanks at all times for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father,

1 Thes 5:16 Always rejoice,

1 Thes 5:17 Unceasingly pray,

1 Thes 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.