



# FEED MY SHEEP

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## Joseph's Brothers Appear Before Him—Blind

*The Story of Joseph, Part 14*

Joseph and his life story is given “more ink” in the Old Testament than anyone else, with just a few exceptions (the life of David comes to mind), and for good reason. Joseph’s life story is not only one of the greatest stories of human drama ever authored, but it is also embedded with types, shadows and prophetic significance of astounding proportions.

It is indeed a story for such a time as this, for we who are alive today are on the threshold of a new age—the Age of Tabernacles—when Christ appears a second time, this time to do the “Joseph work.” At His first appearing, He did the “Judah work,” establishing His rights to His Kingship—the scepter and crown. This time He is appearing to fully establish His Kingdom. Joseph represents the Kingdom.

Thus, it behooves believers to become thoroughly familiar with the story of Joseph. We have been supplementing the biblical account of the life of Joseph with that found in the book of Jasher. New readers, please see our disclaimer about the book of Jasher in FMS #147, or an extensive study of the subject in FMS #23 & 24 which can be downloaded for free at our website.

Last month we were in the midst of the story and, unavoidably, had to leave you hanging. We saw how Joseph had wisely stored grain during the seven years of plenty—with insect infestation prevention measures in place—unlike the people of Egypt themselves who, when the famine struck, found their stores of grain ruined by the pests. The famine extended far beyond the borders of Egypt thus foreigners came to Joseph for food. Joseph knew or strongly suspected that his own family would need to come to Egypt for food, so he set in place very specific rules which would provide him with the “intel” when they arrived. Now we continue from chapter 50 of the book of Jasher:

38 And all the inhabitants of the east and west country, and of all the earth, heard of the statutes and regulations which Joseph had enacted in Egypt, and the inhabitants of the extreme parts of the earth came and they bought corn in Egypt day after day, and then went away.

39 And all the officers of Egypt did as Joseph had commanded, and all that came to Egypt to buy corn, the gate keepers would write their names, and their fathers’ names, and daily bring them in the evening before Joseph.

### CHAPTER 51

1 And Jacob afterward heard that there was corn in Egypt, and he called unto his sons to go to Egypt to buy corn, for upon them also did the famine prevail, and he called unto his sons, saying,...at this point, let’s go back to Genesis and pick up the condensed version of the story.

**Genesis 42:2 And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die.**

**3 And Joseph’s ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt.**

**4 But Benjamin, Joseph’s brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him.**

**5 And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan.**

**6 And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph’s brethren came, and bowed**

**down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.**

Let's stop there a moment and think about this. There is only so much space in the Bible, and so it goes without saying that God inspired Moses to give us the condensed account, but also that it was perfectly condensed; no errors, no omissions that are essential to our salvation. Is that fair to say? Yes?

But.... Egypt was a big country. And it is obvious that Joseph could not be everywhere at once, looking for his brothers to come rolling into this town or that town. Nor did he have the time to spend all day, every day, hanging out at the granary office, hoping they would show up at that particular one. So let's get the rest of the story from Jasher once again.

Jasher 51:1 And Jacob afterward heard that there was corn in Egypt, and he called unto his sons to go to Egypt to buy corn, for upon them also did the famine prevail, and he called unto his sons, saying,

2 Behold I hear that there is corn in Egypt, and all the people of the earth go there to purchase, now therefore why will you show yourselves satisfied before the whole earth? go you also down to Egypt and buy us a little corn amongst those that come there, that we may not die.

3 And the sons of Jacob hearkened to the voice of their father, and they rose up to go down to Egypt in order to buy corn amongst the rest that came there.

4 And Jacob their father commanded them, saying, When you come into the city do not enter together in one gate, on account of the inhabitants of the land.

5 And the sons of Jacob went forth and they went to Egypt, and the sons of Jacob did all as their father had commanded them, and Jacob did not send Benjamin, for he said, Lest an accident might befall him on the road like his brother; and ten of Jacob's sons went forth.

6 And whilst the sons of Jacob were going on the road, **they repented** of what they had done to Joseph, and they spoke to each other, saying, We know that our brother Joseph went down to Egypt, and now we will seek him where we go, and if we find him we will take him from his master for a ransom, and if not, by force, and we will die for him.

Does that touch you like it does me? If you are reading this in private and in quietude, does that not bring tears to your eyes? ...to see this change of heart

in Joseph's brothers? ...to the point that they would vow that they would die in attempting to rescue Joseph? That is powerful drama!

7 And the sons of Jacob agreed to this thing and strengthened themselves on account of Joseph, to deliver him from the hand of his master, and the sons of Jacob went to Egypt; and when they came near to Egypt they separated from each other, and they came through ten gates of Egypt, and the gate keepers wrote their names on that day, and brought them to Joseph in the evening.

8 And Joseph read the names from the hand of the gate-keepers of the city, and he found that his brethren had entered at the ten gates of the city, and Joseph at that time commanded that it should be proclaimed throughout the land of Egypt, saying,

9 Go forth all ye store guards, close all the corn stores and let only one remain open, that those who come may purchase from it.

10 And all the officers of Joseph did so at that time, and they closed all the stores and left only one open.

So to use a modern psychology laboratory analogy, the ten brothers are like mice in a maze. They are being observed and are unaware of it. Furthermore, other paths in the maze are being systematically closed to them, so that they must end up appearing before their brother.

11 And Joseph gave the written names of his brethren to him that was set over the open store, and he said unto him, Whosoever shall come to thee to buy corn, ask his name, and when men of these names shall come before thee, seize them and send them, and they did so.

12 And when the sons of Jacob came into the city, they joined together in the city to seek Joseph before they bought themselves corn.

That is another good indicator of their change of heart, isn't it? They are willing to die to free him from his master, if necessary; and they put his redemption and his restoration to the family above the basic necessity of food. Good for them! .... Ah, but don't get too excited just yet. Listen now, to *where* they search for Joseph.

13 And they went to the walls of the harlots, and they sought Joseph in the walls of the harlots for three days, for they thought that Joseph would come in the

walls of the harlots, for Joseph was very comely and well favored, and the sons of Jacob sought Joseph for three days, and they could not find him.

Oh my goodness, what is this? While it was touching to see the remorse and the regret of the ten brethren over what they did to Joseph, this indicates that they have a rather low opinion of his virtue and character, don't they? Expecting to find him carousing in a whore house!

In all fairness, however, let us remember that they really did not know Joseph as a mature adult, only as an arrogant and proud teenager of 17. They are wholly unaware of the humbling and the character maturation process that has occurred to Joseph over these past many years.

14 And the man who was set over the open store sought for those names which Joseph had given him, and he did not find them.

15 And he sent to Joseph, saying, These three days have passed, and those men whose names thou didst give unto me have not come; and Joseph sent servants to seek the men in all Egypt, and to bring them before Joseph.

16 And Joseph's servants went and came into Egypt and could not find them, and went to Goshen and they were not there, and then went to the city of Rameses and could not find them.

17 And Joseph continued to send sixteen servants to seek his brothers, and they went and spread themselves in the four corners of the city, and four of the servants went into the house of the harlots, and they found the ten men there seeking their brother.

18 And those four men took them and brought them before him, and they bowed down to him to the ground, and Joseph was sitting upon his throne in his temple, clothed with princely garments, and upon his head was a large crown of gold, and all the mighty men were sitting around him.

19 And the sons of Jacob saw Joseph, and his figure and comeliness and dignity of countenance seemed wonderful in their eyes, and they again bowed down to him to the ground.

20 And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but they knew him not, for Joseph was very great in their eyes, therefore they knew him not.

We will stop the reading from the book of Jasher

at this point. Granted, we did not do an extensive exposition and analysis of all the details of the story, nor draw out the numerous applications inherent in the Jasher version of the story.

I thought, however, that you might enjoy getting the inside story from Jasher and to see how well it compliments the condensed version we have in Genesis. As you have seen, there is nothing in Jasher thus far that contradicts the Holy Writ.

We will pick up the story here next time, but before I close this issue, I do want to leave you with one application and one heavy thought to ponder, at least I think it's a heavy thought.

We spoke earlier of overcomers attaining to the realm of glory, of inhabiting glowing, glorified bodies. But to attain to that status, overcomers must first go through the dungeon, just as Joseph did. And how do we spell dungeon? D-u-n-g- e-o-n.

So it's the dung eon, if you will. It's the period of time in your life when our heavenly Father has you situated like a beggar in the dunghill (1 Samuel 2:8). And there we learn various virtues which Paul alludes to here in Romans 5. I am going to give you the "Bruggeman Amplified Version" as you read along.

**Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:**

**2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

**3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh [brings about] **patience**; [and perseverance]**

**4 And patience** [and perseverance brings about] **experience** [literally; tried or proven character]; and [proven character brings about] **hope**:

**5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**

Everyone—even the wicked and those who do not know Christ—goes through various trials and tribulations. The salient question is: do these God-ordained trials and testings bring about a change of character in us?

Verse 5 tells us what is the proof of changed char-

acter. It will manifest in God’s love shed abroad in our hearts. In other words, when our character is changed, our heart, our soul, our personality will be permeated with love, and *this will be clearly visible in the manner in which we treat others.*

The type of relationships we have with others—good, bad or indifferent—are a measure of our spiritual progress, of how well we manifest the fruits of the Spirit, and the greatest of these is love.

So let each of us examine his or her own character and when we find ourselves falling short, let us make humble petition to our Father to mold us by His grace so that we become more and more like his only begotten Son, the greater Joseph, Jesus the Christ.

That is a personal application and now here is something to ponder in terms of its implication for the near future, corporately speaking. Those of us who know that we are the literal descendants of Jacob-Israel also recognize that America is Joseph’s land, and the land of all the tribes of Israel regathered .

Many of us, in our earlier years of understanding our Israelite identity, would get frustrated that the vast majority of our Christian brothers and sisters were blind to the fact of our identity. May I suggest that we never fret about that again.

Why do I say that? Because look at the types and shadows. You know how that soon in the story of Joseph, he reveals his identity to his brothers and it is one of the most poignant moments in all the Bible. But what struck me is that ...

**Joseph the overcomer was ruler of the world before he revealed his identity to his brethren!**

And we closed the narrative for this issue with the brothers *in his very presence, and yet they did not recognize his identity.*

That *might mean* that the 99 percent of our people who are blinded to our identity as true Israel may not have their eyes opened until after the first resurrection when Jesus in his Joseph role, along with the overcomers, rule the world in righteousness.

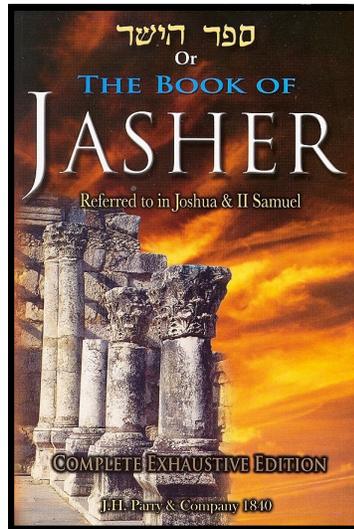
Then it will be revealed unto them Then their eyes of understanding will be opened. Then they will weep with us for the joy and the marvel of Father’s magnificent Plan. Hallelujah and Amen! *(To be continued.)*

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