



FEED MY SHEEP

PUBLISHED BY DR. JAMES W. BRUGGEMAN
STONE KINGDOM MINISTRIES
P. O. Box 5695
ASHEVILLE, NC 28813 U.S.A.
See my blog at www.stonekingdom.org

Issue #147

April 2011

Joseph Before Pharaoh—Behind the Scenes

The Story of Joseph, Part 12

At this point I want to do something quite unusual, and that is to provide some passages on the life of Joseph as given in the book of Jasher. We have mentioned this book many times in the past, but once more for the record, and because we are going to read at length from Jasher in our Joseph series, we offer these assurances to you. First, we do not consider the book of Jasher to be part of the Bible. And yet, of all the various apocryphal, pseudepigraphical and other ancient books, we consider the book of Jasher to be THE most reliable of them all.

Many of those extra-biblical books, I give no credence to whatsoever because I believe they are the equivalent of ancient novels, which were never meant to be taken as true stories. The so-called *Lost Books of the Bible* and *The Forgotten Books of Eden* fall into that category.

The book of Jasher, however, was apparently one of the sources for Bible writers because it is referenced as such in both the book of Joshua (10:13), and the book of 2 Samuel (1:18). However, I must call your very special attention to the fact that there are two books generally available these days by the title “The Book of Jasher.”

The one, which was translated and published initially in 1829 is, in our opinion, a bogus and false book of Jasher. I have read it cover to cover and studied it in detail. We spent two issues of *Feed My Sheep* some years ago (October and November, 2000—available for free downloading at our website), contrasting and comparing the two versions. We pointed out numerous outright errors and contradictions to the Bible which are found in the 1829 edition. The 1840 edition, on the other hand—which is the one we stock—is a much larger work. It provides a totally different narrative as compared to the bogus 1840 version. I have also read it through from cover-to-cover several times over the decades and I have yet to find anything in it which cannot

be reconciled with the Scripture itself.

All that is to say, that if you are going to obtain one for yourself, be sure to get the 1840 edition. And so now, since I know that most of you do not have, or have not yet read the book of Jasher, for your enrichment and for your appreciation of the story of Joseph, I will give some excerpts from the book of Jasher.

To set the stage, this is the point in the story where Joseph has just finished giving his Holy Spirit-inspired interpretation of Pharaoh’s dreams. He advises Pharaoh that he should appoint a wise person to head up the famine prevention program. From the condensed version of the story which we have in the Bible, it appears that Pharaoh *immediately*—and we’ll use modern slang in an overt attempt to inject a bit of humor here—Pharaoh immediately said “You da man, Joseph!” But if Jasher is accurate, there was a lot more that transpired between the end of Joseph’s interpretation and his being appointed vizier of Egypt.

Jasher 48:44 And it was their custom throughout the land of Egypt, that every man who came to speak to the king, if he was a prince or one that was estimable in the sight of the king, he ascended to the king’s throne as far as the thirty-first step, and the king would descend to the thirty-sixth step, and speak with him. 45 If he was one of the common people, he ascended to the third step, and the king would descend to the fourth and speak to him, and their custom was, moreover, that any man who understood to speak in all the seventy languages, he ascended the seventy steps, and went up and spoke till he reached the king. 46 And any man who could not complete the seventy, he ascended as many steps as the languages which he knew to speak in. 47 And it was customary in those days in Egypt that no one should reign over them, but who understood to speak in the seventy languages. 48 And when Joseph came before the king he bowed down to the ground before the king, and he ascended to the third step, and the king sat upon the fourth step and spoke with Joseph.

And then it relates how Joseph interpreted the dream, and then we pick up again in Jasher 48, verse 62. You see, Pharaoh did *not* immediately say “You da man, Joseph!” This is a man who had just been yanked out of the federal prison, plus he was an alien, a Hebrew at that! The ruler of Egypt was not such a fool as to immediately appoint this alien prisoner to be number two man in Egypt just like that. Here is what actually occurred according to Jasher.

Jasher 48:62 And the king answered and said unto Joseph, Who sayeth and who knoweth that thy words are correct? And he said unto the king, This shall be a sign for thee respecting all my words, that they are true and that my advice is good for thee. 63 Behold thy wife sitteth this day upon the stool of delivery, and she will bear thee a son and thou wilt rejoice with him; when thy child shall have gone forth from his mother’s womb, thy first born son that has been born these two years back shall die, and thou wilt be comforted in the child that will be born unto thee this day. [all emphasis mine—JWB] 64 And Joseph finished speaking these words to the king, and he bowed down to the king and he went out, and when Joseph had gone out from the king’s presence, those signs which Joseph had spoken unto the king came to pass on that day. 65 And the queen bare a son on that day and the king heard the glad tidings about his son, and he rejoiced, and when the reporter had gone forth from the king’s presence, the king’s servants found the first born son of the king fallen dead upon the ground.

66 And there was great lamentation and noise in the king’s house, and the king heard it, and he said, What is the noise and lamentation that I have heard in the house? and they told the king that his first born son had died; then the king knew that all Joseph’s words that he had spoken were correct, and the king was consoled for his son by the child that was born to him on that day as Joseph had spoken.

CHAPTER 49

1 After these things the king sent and assembled all his officers and servants, and all the princes and nobles belonging to the king, and they all came before the king. 2 And the king said unto them, Behold you have seen and heard all the words of this Hebrew man, and all the signs which he declared would come to pass, and not any of his words have fallen to the ground. 3 You know that he has given a proper interpretation of the dream, and it will surely come to pass, now therefore take counsel, and know what you will do and how the land will be delivered from the famine. 4 Seek now and see whether the like can be found, in whose heart there is wisdom and knowledge, and I will appoint him over the land.

5 For you have heard what the Hebrew man has advised concerning this to save the land therewith from the famine, and I know that the land will not be deliv-

ered from the famine but with the advice of the Hebrew man, him that advised me. 6 And they all answered the king and said, The counsel which the Hebrew has given concerning this is good; now therefore, our lord and king, behold the whole land is in thy hand, do that which seemeth good in thy sight.

7 Him whom thou chooses, and whom thou in thy wisdom knowest to be wise and capable of delivering the land with his wisdom, him shall the king appoint to be under him over the land. 8 And the king said to all the officers: I have thought that since God has made known to the Hebrew man all that he has spoken, there is none so discreet and wise in the whole land as he is; if it seem good in your sight I will place him over the land, for he will save the land with his wisdom. 9 And all the officers answered the king and said, But surely it is written in the laws of Egypt, and it should not be violated, that no man shall reign over Egypt, nor be the second to the king, but one who has knowledge in all the languages of the sons of men.

10 Now therefore our lord and king, behold this Hebrew man can only speak the Hebrew language, and how then can he be over us the second under government, a man who not even knoweth our language? 11 Now we pray thee send for him, and let him come before thee, and prove him in all things, and do as thou see fit. 12 And the king said, It shall be done tomorrow, and the thing that you have spoken is good; and all the officers came on that day before the king. 13 And on that night the Lord sent one of his ministering angels, and he came into the land of Egypt unto Joseph, and the angel of the Lord stood over Joseph, and behold Joseph was lying in the bed at night in his master’s house in the dungeon, for his master had put him back into the dungeon on account of his wife. 14 And the angel roused him from his sleep, and Joseph rose up and stood upon his legs, and behold the angel of the Lord was standing opposite to him; and the angel of the Lord spoke with Joseph, and he taught him all the languages of man in that night, and he called his name Jehoseph. 15 And the angel of the Lord went from him, and Joseph returned and lay upon his bed, and Joseph was astonished at the vision which he saw. 16 And it came to pass in the morning that the king sent for all his officers and servants, and they all came and sat before the king, and the king ordered Joseph to be brought, and the king’s servants went and brought Joseph before Pharaoh. 17 And the king came forth and ascended the steps of the throne, and Joseph spoke unto the king in all languages, and Joseph went up to him and spoke unto the king until he arrived before the king in the seventieth step, and he sat before the king. 18 And the king greatly rejoiced on account of Joseph, and all the king’s officers rejoiced greatly with the king when they heard all the words of Joseph. 19 And the thing seemed good in the sight of the king and the officers, to appoint Joseph to be second to the king over the whole land of Egypt, and the king spoke to Joseph, saying,...

Let us interrupt the narrative there for a moment just to remark that this is quite a different—and yet not contradictory story to the brief statements we have in Genesis. We have now seen that the Pharaoh did not actually appoint Joseph immediately to his high position. First, he had Joseph “vetted,” as the word is used in Washington, D. C. these days. And this idea that Joseph could learn 70 languages in one night might seem to have appeared out of the realm of fantasy-land in years gone by; but not so today, with our understanding of the things that are possible when higher dimensions are taken into account. It is not that fantastic at all.

Since Joseph is a type of the overcomers, and the age of Tabernacles is when the overcomers will rule, we could say that the angel downloading all the languages of the world into Joseph overnight was a foreshadowing of the age of Tabernacles.

I have mentioned it in previous messages—in the *From Inner Space to Outer Space* series—that I believe that in Tabernacles, the overcomers’ intimate communion with the Father will be such that whatever knowledge is required by them at any given moment, that all they need to do is form the thought in their mind: “Father, what is the answer?” or “Father, I am now going into Iran and I don’t know Parsi, the language of Iran.” And instantaneously, all the information, the whole language, how to read it, write it and speak it, will be there in your mind. That is what is coming in the age of Tabernacles.

We saw Hollywood prophesying (as usual), but specifically about what I just described. It was in the first Matrix movie when Trinity (nice name, huh?) is on top of the skyscraper and she is getting ready to commandeer the helicopter of the bad guys, and Neo, played by Keanu Reeves, asks her: “Do you know how to fly that thing?” And as she is dialing her cell phone back to headquarters, she says “Not yet.” And then we watch as the whole program for flying a helicopter is downloaded into her brain in about ten seconds, and so she leaps aboard and she flies it like an ace pilot. Instantaneous knowledge and skill in the age of Tabernacles! Back to the narrative in the book of Jasher now:

20 Now thou didst give me counsel to appoint a wise man over the land of Egypt, in order with his wisdom to save the land from the famine; now therefore, since God has made all this known to thee, and all the words which thou hast spoken, there is not throughout the land a discreet and wise man like unto thee. 21 And thy name no more shall be called Joseph, but Zaphnath Paaneah shall be thy name; thou shalt be second to me, and according to thy word shall be all the affairs of my government, and at thy word shall my people go out

and come in. 22 Also from under thy hand shall my servants and officers receive their salary which is given to them monthly, and to thee shall all the people of the land bow down; only in my throne will I be greater than thou. 23 And the king took off his ring from his hand and put it upon the hand of Joseph, and the king dressed Joseph in a princely garment, and he put a golden crown upon his head, and he put a golden chain upon his neck. 24 And the king commanded his servants, and they made him ride in the second chariot belonging to the king, that went opposite to the king’s chariot, and he caused him to ride upon a great and strong horse from the king’s horses, and to be conducted through the streets of the land of Egypt. 25 And the king commanded that all those that played upon timbrels, harps and other musical instruments should go forth with Joseph; one thousand timbrels, one thousand mecholoth, and one thousand nebalim went after him. 26 And five thousand men, with drawn swords glittering in their hands, and they went marching and playing before Joseph, and twenty thousand of the great men of the king girt with girdles of skin covered with gold, marched at the right hand of Joseph, and twenty thousand at his left, and all the women and damsels went upon the roofs or stood in the streets playing and rejoicing at Joseph, and gazed at the appearance of Joseph and at his beauty.

27 And the king’s people went before him and behind him, perfuming the road with frankincense and with cassia, and with all sorts of fine perfume, and scattered myrrh and aloes along the road, and twenty men proclaimed these words before him throughout in a loud voice: 28 Do you see this man whom the king has chosen to be his second? all the affairs of government shall be regulated by him, and he that transgresses his orders, or that does not bow down before him to the ground, shall die, for he rebels against the king and his second. 29 And when the heralds had ceased proclaiming, all the people of Egypt bowed down to the ground before Joseph and said, May the king live, also may his second live; and all the inhabitants of Egypt bowed down along the road, and when the heralds approached them, they bowed down, and they rejoiced with all sorts of timbrels, mechol and nebal before Joseph. 30 And Joseph upon his horse lifted up his eyes to heaven, and called out and said, He raiseth the poor man from the dust, He lifteth up the needy from the dunghill. O Lord of Hosts, happy is the man who trusteth in thee.

Hmmm...where have we heard that before? Yes, it was in the title of last month’s FMS, being derived from 1 Samuel 1:8, in the very book of the Bible which references the book of Jasher as a source and authority. Continuing in Jasher now...

31 And Joseph passed throughout the land of Egypt with Pharaoh’s servants and officers, and they showed him the whole land of Egypt and all the king’s treasures.

Alright, we will stop the narrative from the book

of Jasher right there and go back to Genesis.

Genesis 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.

So Joseph went throughout all the land of Egypt ...which is what we just read in the last quoted verse of Jasher. Joseph was 17 when he was sold into slavery by his brothers. He is now 30 years old when he ascends to his ministry over Egypt. Prior to age 30, he had been hidden from the world, as it were. Joseph being a type of Christ, we see the similarities. Jesus was hidden from the world also until age 30 when He was baptized by John and then began His public ministry. The question of how long Joseph was in prison has been speculated upon by the various Bible scholars, and I mentioned it previously, but again Jasher has done the math for us. Let's go back now to that statement where Joseph told Pharaoh that his first-born son that had been born two years back was going to die as his new son was being born. What was happening at that time two years prior? According to Jasher, it was at that very time that Joseph gave the interpretation of the butler's and the baker's dreams. It says:

Jasher 46:15 In those days the queen was about to be delivered, and upon that day she bare a son unto the king of Egypt, and they proclaimed that the king had gotten his first born son and all the people of Egypt together with the officers and servants of Pharaoh rejoiced greatly. 16 And upon the third day of his birth Pharaoh made a feast for his officers and servants, for the hosts of the land of Zoar and of the land of Egypt. 17 And all the people of Egypt and the servants of Pharaoh came to eat and drink with the king at the feast of his son, and to rejoice at the king's rejoicing.

It was at that time the baker and the butler were brought up out of the dungeon, but in verse 20 of Jasher 46, it tells us that...

20 And Joseph remained after this in the prison house two years, until he had completed twelve years.

Thus it appears that Joseph was in Potiphar's house less than a year when he was cast into prison... twelve years in prison. A long time of confinement for anyone, but Joseph learned the lessons and, at the exact moment, *God plucked him from obscurity* and gave him the keys to the kingdom of the then-known world!...providing the type of and for the overcomers.

(To be continued)

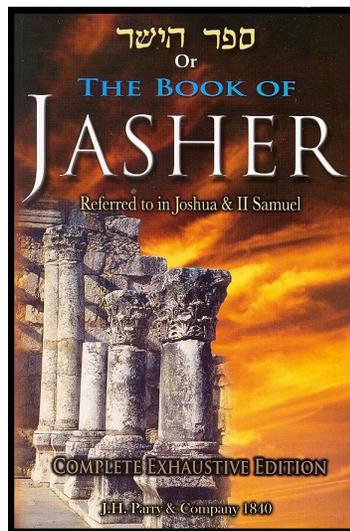
The Book of Jasher

"One of the most thrilling books I have ever read—and re-read!" -JWB

Beautiful, full-color cover. 1840 edition
254 pgs.

SKM # B-127

\$13 + \$4 shipping.



Feed My Sheep is a part of the teaching ministry of Dr. James W. Bruggeman and it is sent out freely. However, we reserve the right to discontinue sending it at any time to any one. The donations and tithes of those who are blest, taught and fed by this publication make it possible for us to continue in ministry. Gifts can be sent to PO Box 5695, Asheville, NC 28813. Thank you.