

# Cross and the Perfecting work of God

Part Two:  
Sojourning to Sonship

**In Part One we looked at  
sojourning**



# What is 'sojourning'?

1. It is the Bible word used to describe the journeys of the Patriarchs and subsequently the nation of Israel
2. It is a 'journey' away from what once was 'home'
3. It is a temporary 'settling' in a place that is not your home
4. It is a journey where the pilgrim is utterly cast upon God who leads



# “SOJOURN” simply defined

5. It is also used in the Bible to describe the life of a Christian

- *1Pet. 1.1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are sojourners of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,*
- *1Pet. 1.17 And if ye call on him as Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to each man's work, pass the time of your sojourning in fear:*
- *1Pet. 2.11 Beloved, I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims, to abstain from fleshly lust, which war against the soul;*

**We looked at the Patriarchs'  
to discover 7 vital principles  
in our sojourn unto perfection  
through the cross**

# Sojourn principle #1

We are called out of what we  
once thought was 'HOME' to  
a journey according to  
Purpose

## Sojourn principle #2

Whatever the circumstance  
that starts us on our sojourn,  
the LORD arranges to ‘meet’  
us in the way

# Sojourn principle #3

Faith is tested and  
proven on the sojourn



## Sojourn principle #4

The sojourn teaches us  
that the true nature of  
'Blessing' is spiritual

## Sojourn principle #5

The cross is continually  
at work in the sojourn  
decreasing us

## Sojourn principle #6

Through the sojourn one  
comes to really know the  
Lord of Mercies

## Sojourn principle # 7

A unique testimony is  
established as the  
treasure is revealed in  
the sojourner's life

# Sojourn unto Sonship



Joseph the Patriarch

# Joseph's sojourn is one of the favorite and most detailed stories in the Bible

1. It explains how this Euphrates tribe of Hebrews got into Egypt and the Exodus
2. It gives a detailed picture of a chosen, righteous man blessed and exalted
3. It reveals the overruling Providence of God in achieving his Purpose
4. It provides one of the most significant “types” of Christ in the Old Testament

# Joseph's sojourn was similar to the other patriarchs in several respects

1. His sojourn began when he went away from home
2. Joseph's faith was tested through his trials
3. The principles of the cross were working in his life to perfect the vessel
4. Joseph came to know the God of mercy through his sojourn to glory

# Joseph's sojourn was different from the other patriarchs

1. No specific encounters with God are mentioned in the sojourn
2. The work of the cross in respect to sin is not in view with Joseph
3. Here the cross' perfecting work in terms of character and purpose are working upon the 'man of God'
4. This is what makes Joseph a picture of the sojourn of our Lord Jesus



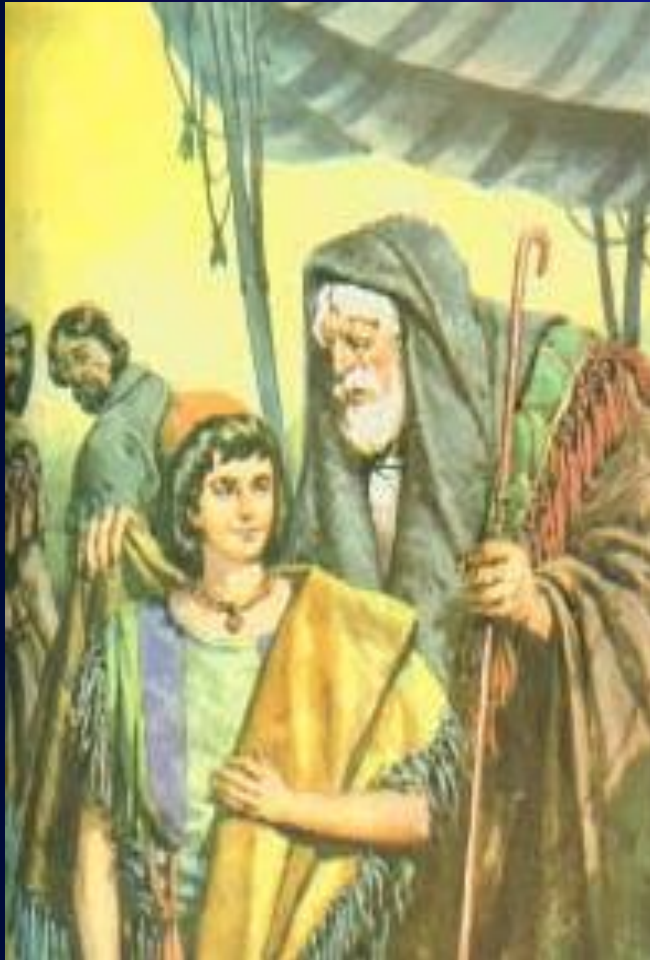
Though no encounters with  
God are mentioned, there are  
indications Joseph had a  
heart for spiritual things from  
his youth

# Joseph at 17 already manifest a heart for the Lord

- Joseph was brought up in Jacob's transformed years
- He remembered his family's sojourn to Bethel - "home"
- He shepherded faithfully as did his ancestors in the land of Canaan and reported his brothers' unrighteous dealings (37.2)
- He felt there was spiritual value in the dreams he had



# Gen. 37.3-4 Joseph was Beloved



- v.3 Jacob lit. “had grown to love Joseph more than...”
  - Not only bc/ he was the ‘son of his old age’ and son of Rachel
  - Jacob felt a kinship with his spiritual life
  - Some bible scholars believe the coat was a sign Joseph was the chosen birthright heir

# God began revealing secrets to his beloved in dreams



- God gives vision and promises to those with a heart for Him
  1. This comforts the believer during his test from 'cross to crown'
  2. The dreams had to be shared by faith in order to be of value later



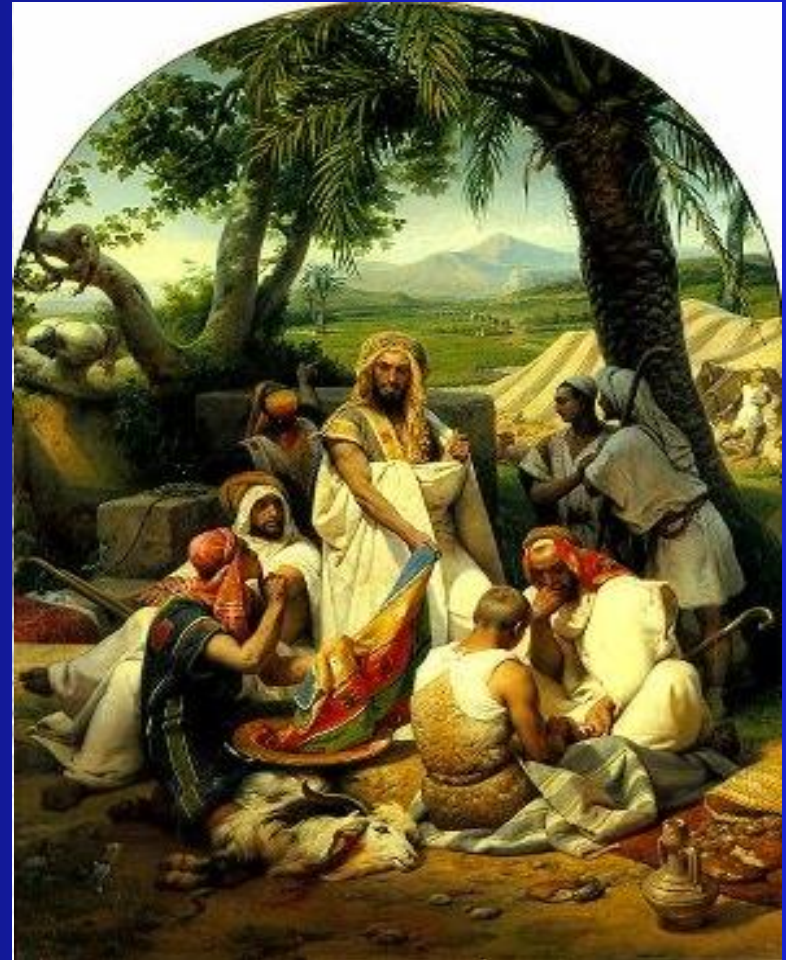
**But he was hated and  
envied by his brothers**



# Joseph's Sojourn

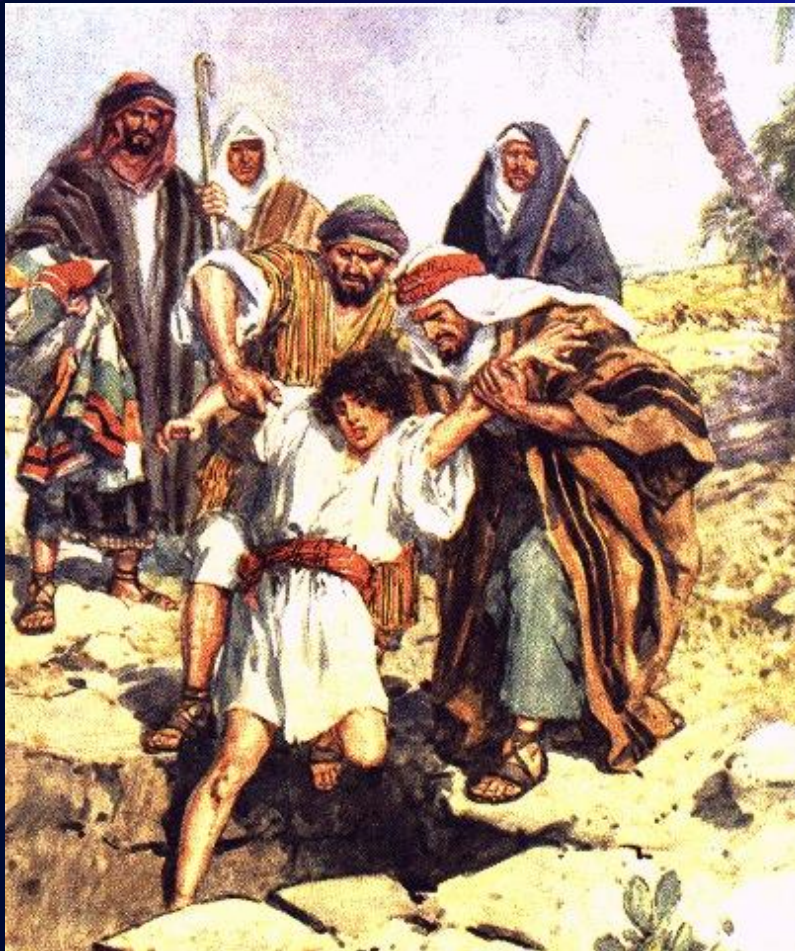
# His sojourn was caused by the sins of his own brethren

- They stripped him of his glorious robe
- They determined to leave him in a ditch to die
- Judah sold him to Midianite traders despite Joseph's cries of anguish
- They deceived their father re: Joseph's coat





# Joseph began his lonely sojourn



- The strife between Jacob's wives and children set the stage for Joseph's trials
- The prejudicial love of Jacob contributed to Joseph's trials
- The jealousy, hatred, envy, betrayal and revenge of his brethren fell upon Joseph



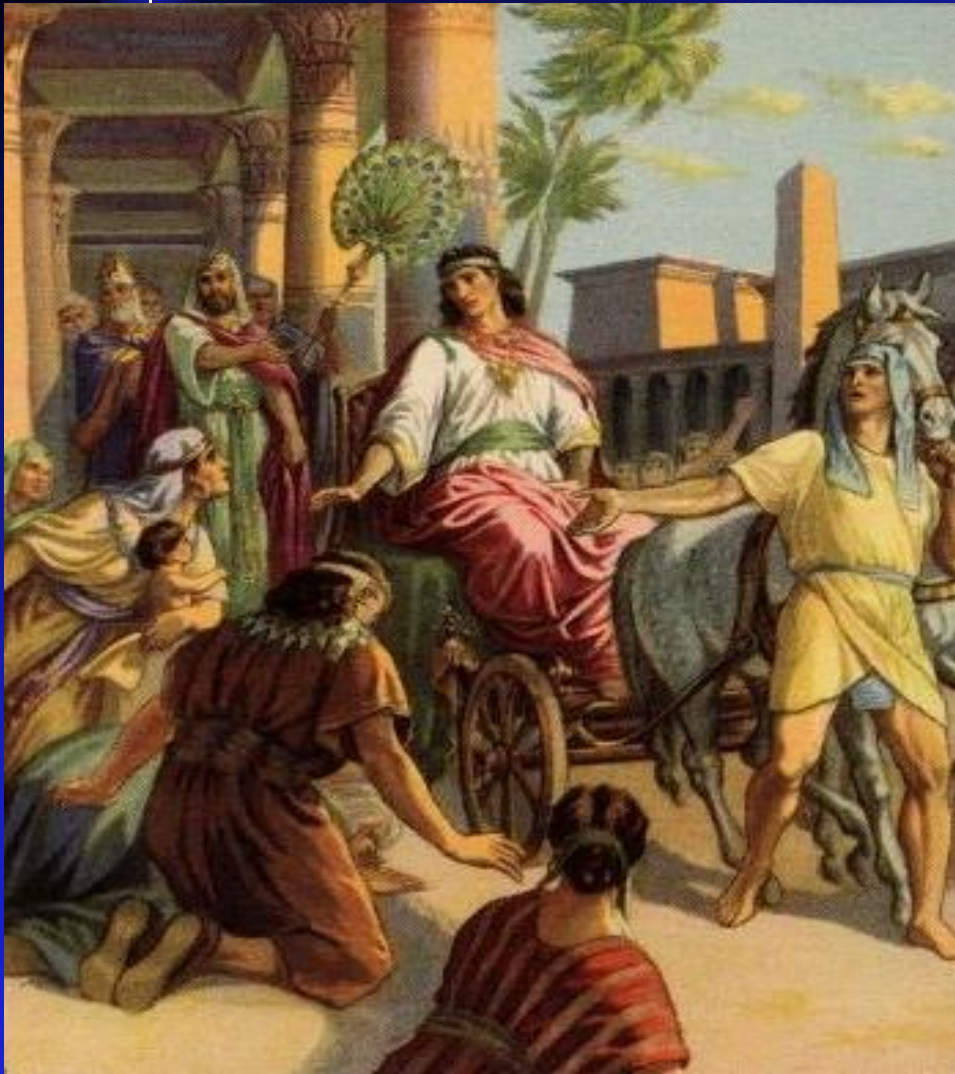
***Psa. 105.17-19 He sent a man before them,  
Joseph, who was sold as a slave. They afflicted  
his feet with fetters, He himself was laid in irons;  
Until the time that his word came to pass,  
The word of the LORD tested him.***



**What shall we call  
this sojourn?**



# Sojourn of the four garments?



The garment of glory  
bestowed upon the  
beloved son

The glorious garment  
stripped off and covered in  
blood

The servant's garment used  
to bear false witness  
against him

The linen garments of  
authority and power  
bestowed upon him by  
pharaoh



# Already in the story we can see Christ in Type

1. He was envied and rejected by his own
2. The prophetic dreams of his destiny were contested by those who tried to destroy him
3. He was betrayed and sold for silver
4. The one who was thought dead was alive
5. Forgiving love was the key to the victory
6. Those brethren who rejected him were disciplined in a sojourn of repentance
7. Men's evil plotting was overturned by God for the salvation of many

**What shall we call  
this sojourn?**

Sojourning unto Sonship

# Sojourning unto Sonship

- The cross must deal and perfect Joseph's character, ministry and faith through suffering
- The eventual destiny of power and authority can only be given to those who have learned to be a servant of others
- The gifts and attainments granted a Son are to be used for bringing 'many sons to glory'

# Sojourning unto Sonship

- We understand the cross' work on Jacob as he is delivered of his flesh and sins
- But do we understand that we may be taken through a sojourn of suffering and testing because of others?
- For the sake of others?

*Col. 1.24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:*

# Sojourning unto Sonship

- Only the perfect Son of God could suffer redemptively on behalf of sinners
- Still Sonship in Christ will involve suffering
  1. Because we are identified with Him as witnesses
  2. Because our life will be expended for others in loving service to the body of Christ
  3. Because our hearts will suffer intercessorily for the sake of all men
  4. Because co-working with Him according to purpose involves ever greater sacrifices of love and life



# Those destined for sonship must be perfected by way of the cross

- Rom. 8.17 *and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*
- 2Tim. 2.12 *If we endure, we will also **reign** with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;*

# Behind everything the Merciful hand of God is using a chain of providential events to raise his child into sonship

*Psa. 105.16-22 ¶ And He called for a famine upon the  
land; He broke the whole staff of bread.  
He sent a man before them, Joseph,  
who was sold as a slave. They afflicted his feet  
with fetters, He himself was laid in irons; Until  
the time that his word came to pass,  
The word of the LORD tested him.  
The king sent and released him, The ruler of  
peoples, and set him free.  
He made him lord of his house and ruler over all  
his possessions, to imprison his princes at  
will, that he might teach his elders wisdom.*

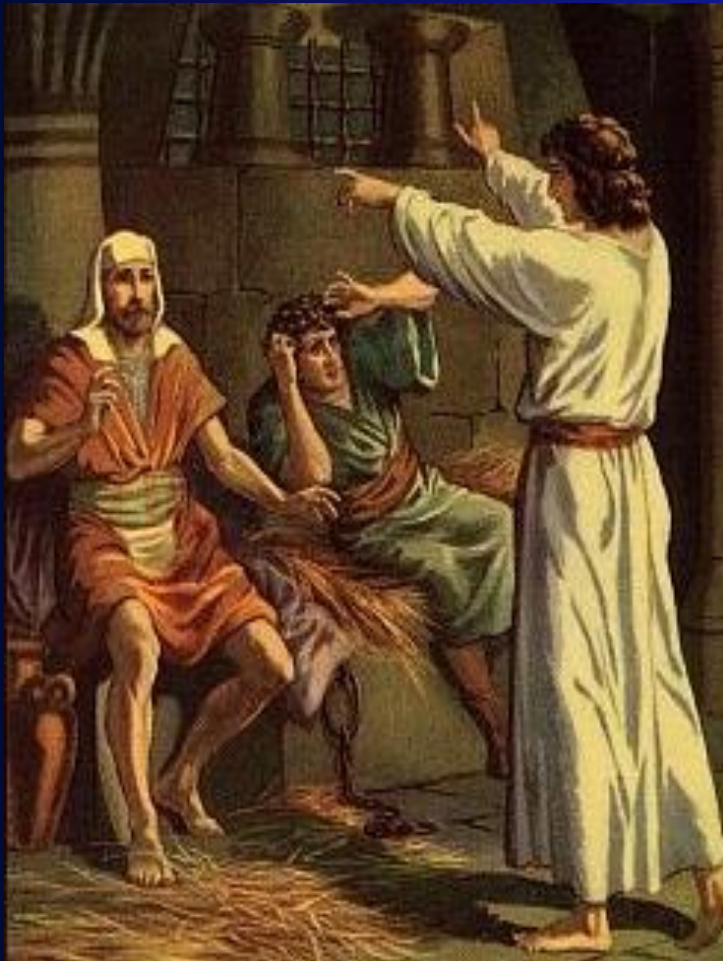
# 1. Joseph's faith is tested through the sojourn in Potiphar's house



He must face the temptations of Egypt as part of his preparations

1. “The Lord was with Joseph” as a faithful servant Gen. 39.2
2. Everything prospered as it was placed completely in Joseph’s hands
3. Potiphar’s wife tempted him to enjoy the pleasures of Egypt
4. Joseph said, “No!”

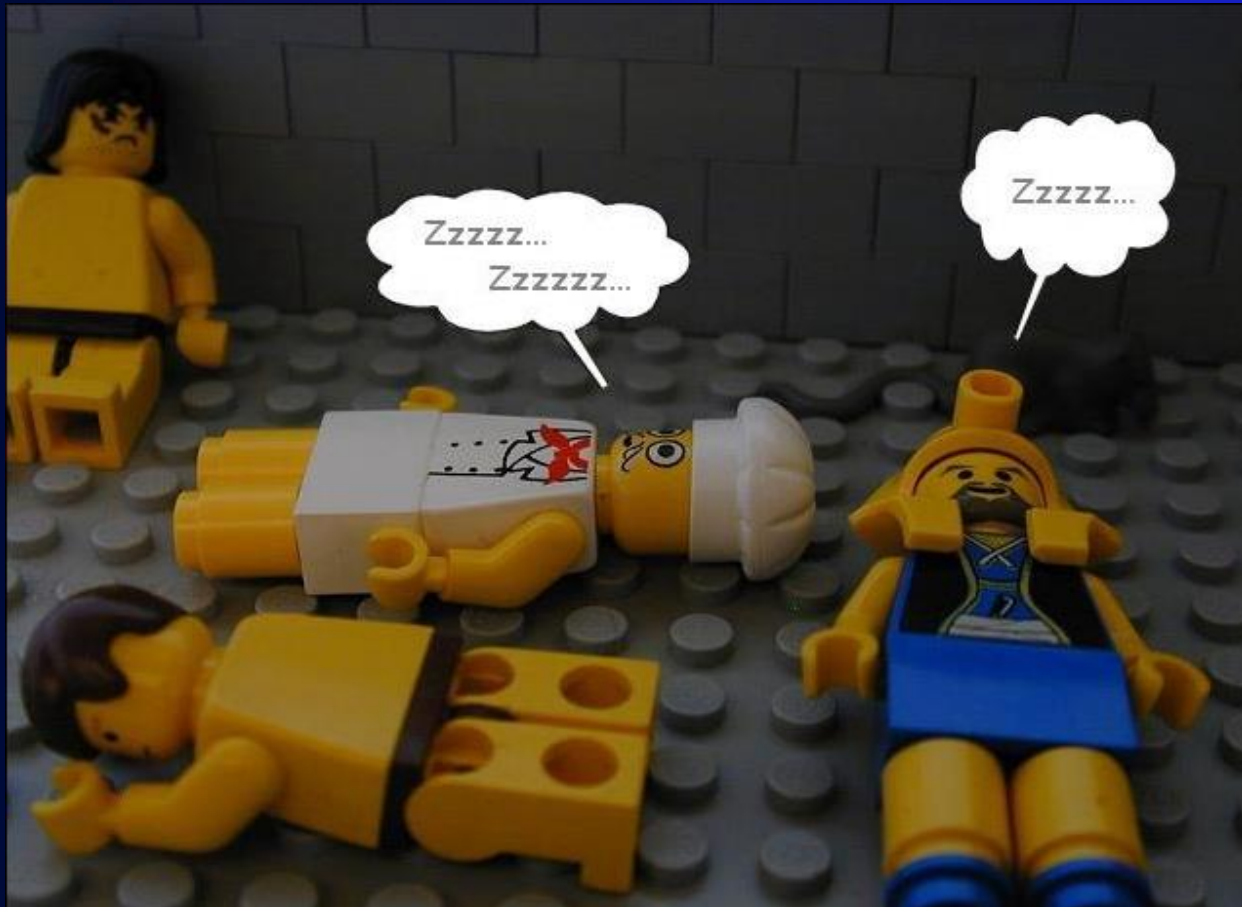
## 2. Joseph's faith is tested through the sojourn in prison



Were his dreams empty and would he ever be vindicated?

1. “The Lord was with Joseph” as a faithful servant Gen. 39.21
2. The jailer put everything completely in Joseph’s hands
3. Then an opportunity came when two men needed help with dreams

# 40.5 The baker and cup bearer both had a dream that night





# 40.6-8 The next day Joseph found them a little spooked and worried



# 40.9-11 The cup bearer's dream



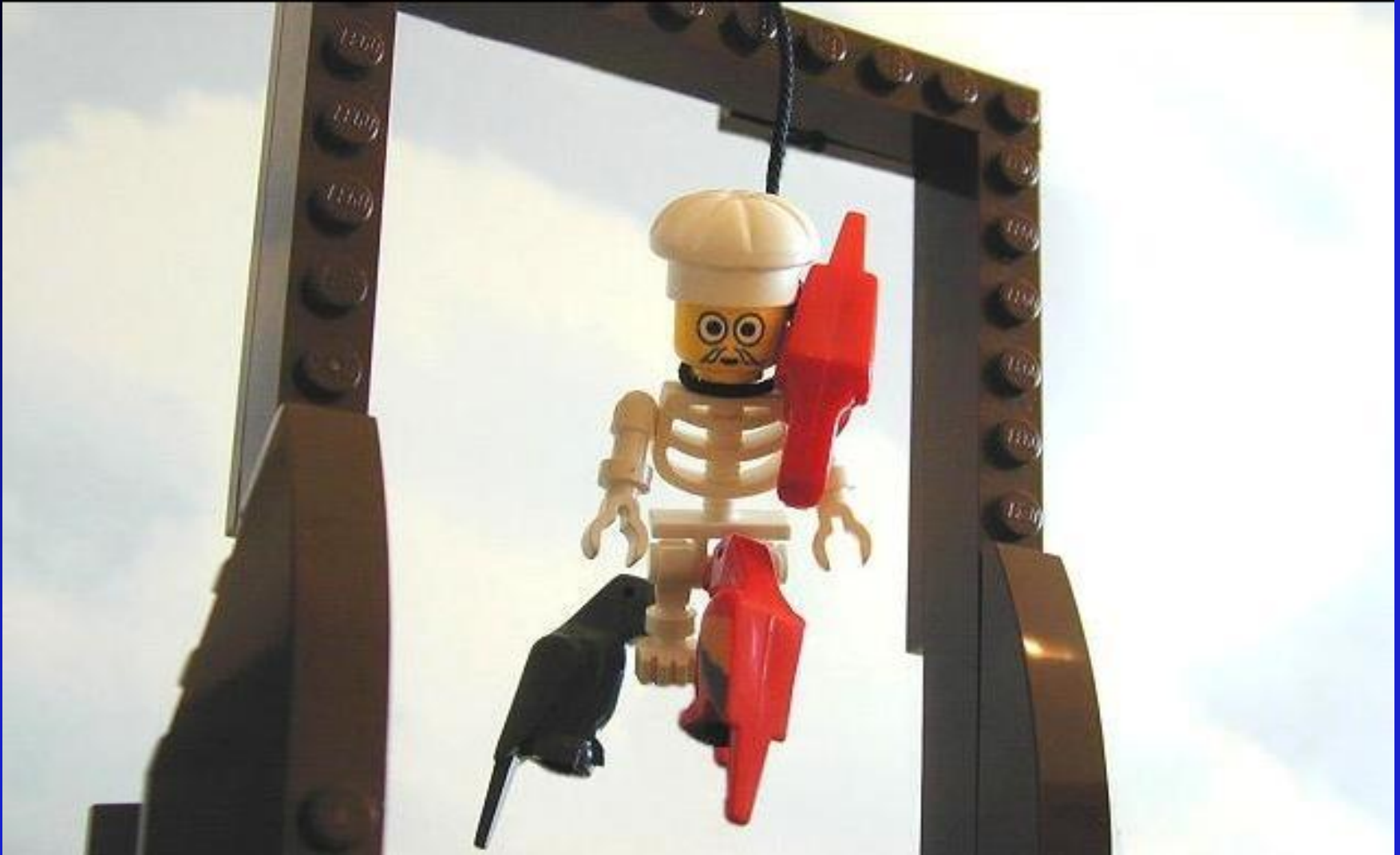
- His dream was about 3 vines and the cup of Pharaoh

# 40.14-15 Then Joseph makes a request of the cupbearer





# 40.16-19 The baker's dream was not so optimistic



# 40.23 But the cup bearer forgot about Joseph



- 41.1 Joseph waited in vain for two full years for his deliverance
- His exaltation would not come by the favor of man but the hand of God
- The time spent in the trials of Egypt were about 13 years 41.46

Why is it God's heirs have to go through so many 'wasted' years and trials among the unrighteous?

Psa. 34.19 **Many *are*** the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

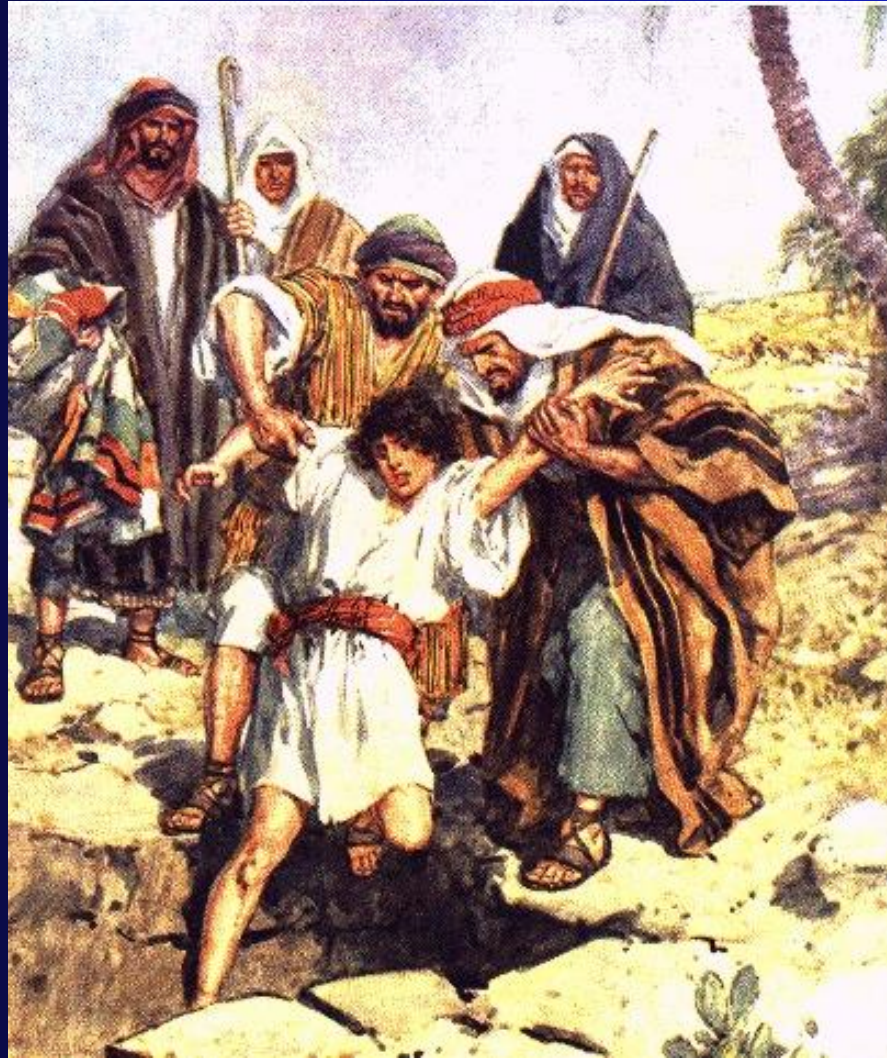
# God exalts Joseph into rulership

*1Pet. 5.10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

**Joseph has been through 3  
great tests or trials**



# 1. He was betrayed by his brothers and sold as a slave to Egypt





## 2. He was thrown into prison after being falsely accused by Potiphar's wife





### 3. Then he was forgotten in prison after interpreting the prisoners' dreams



# How does the tide of events in the life of Joseph change?

God does it sovereignly by giving  
Pharaoh a disturbing dream  
(when God moveth...) Dan. 4.35

Gen. 41.1-24

# Joseph Interprets the dreams

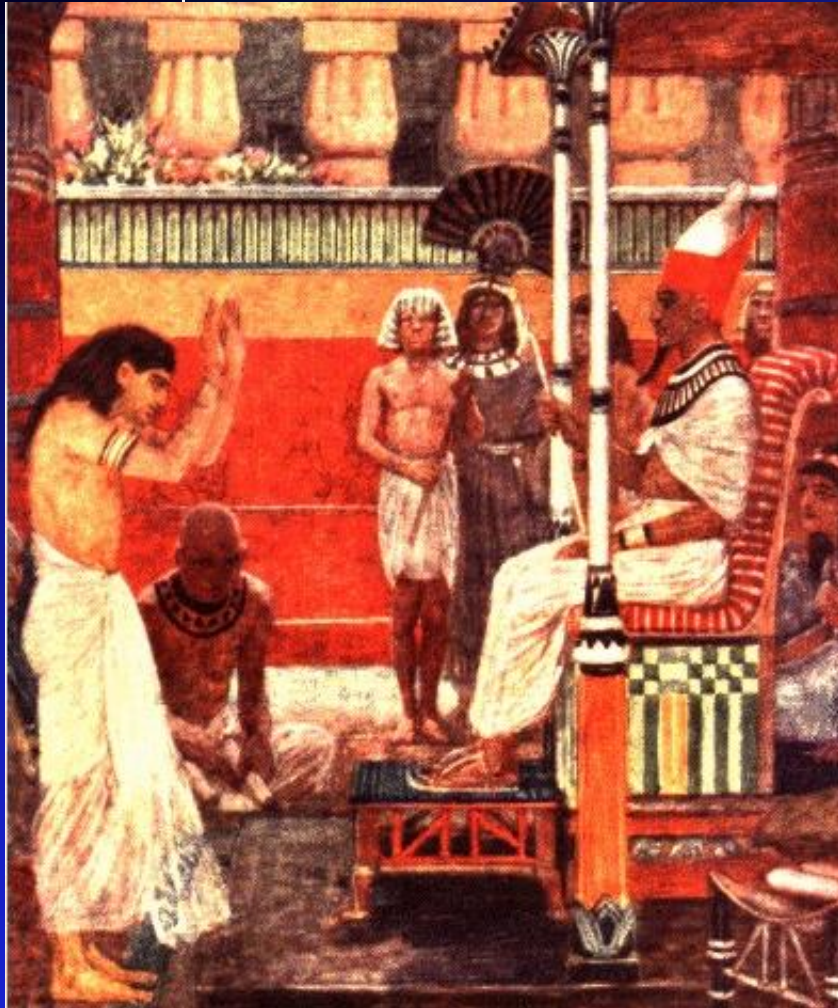


# Pharaoh had two dreams 41.1-7





# The wisemen were summoned to interpret the dreams v.8



- In both the Egyptian and Babylonian cultures such ‘magicians’ used astrology, charms and trances to interpret

The wisemen were useless in interpreting what is hidden by God





# The cup bearer suddenly remembers Joseph

When Pharaoh was angry with his servants, he put myself and the chief baker in custody. We had a dream on the same night. There was a young Hebrew with us. He interpreted them for us. It turned out exactly according to his interpretation: I was restored to my position, but the other man was hanged.





# Joseph interprets the two dreams and gives wisdom as well

Here we see  
Joseph's  
perfection as a  
servant of God

1. 41.16 “it is not in me; God will give pharaoh...”  
41.16
2. “God has shown to Pharaoh of his plans...” 41.28



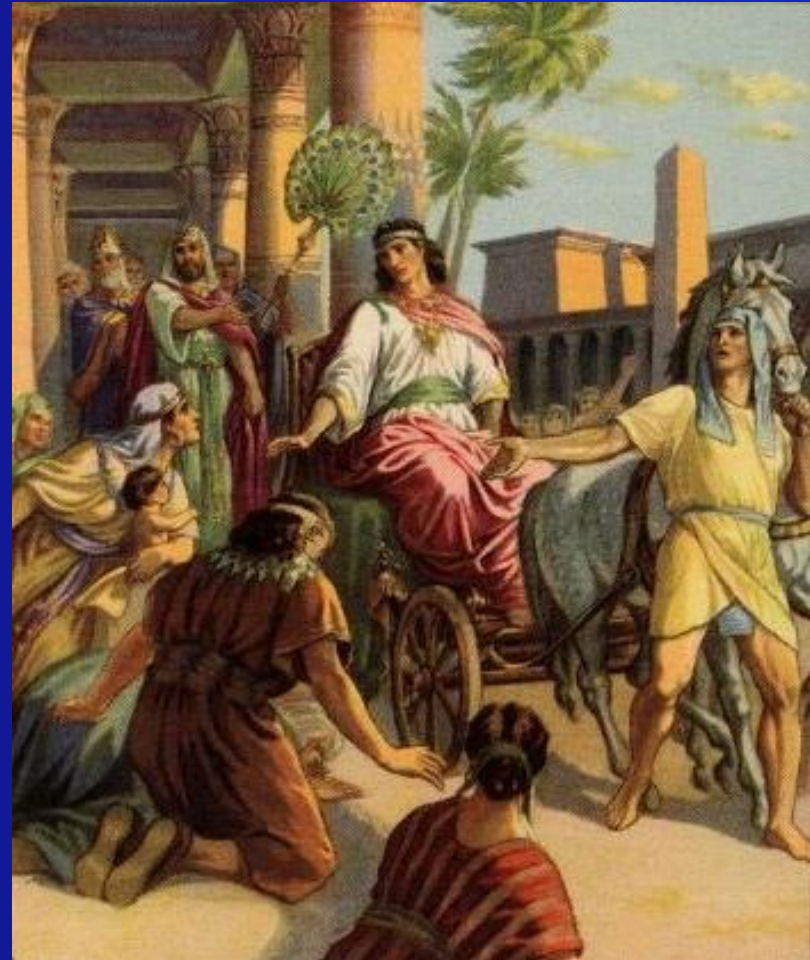
# Joseph was given the proper signs of office 41.42-45

- Signet ring
- Royal attire
- Gold necklace
- The 'second' chariot
- “Bow the knee” was commanded before him
- Egyptian name  
“Abundant life” given Joseph
- The priest's daughter Asenath given him as a bride



# Joseph was now exalted in all Egypt

- He used his power to serve and save Egypt from famine
- He lived in Egypt and raised Ephraim and Mannasseh
- But had his dreams become a reality?
- Had he served the purpose of God?





# Joseph's sojourn unto sonship must now continue unto God's Full Purpose

1. He himself first had to go through the sojourn of the cross in order to become a glorious son
2. Still his dreams had not come to pass
3. God has chosen Joseph to be a vessel in bringing his brethren and family into sonship
  - At this point he could be likened to Jesus when on the mount he had personally been approved and glorified by the Father
  - Now he must go to Jerusalem to bring 'many sons to glory'

# Bringing the family of God into sonship

- Jacob's family consisted of 13 siblings, independent, jealous, unsubmitive rebels
- Reuben lost his primacy through lust
- Simeon and Levi were untrustworthy because they were vengeful, reactionary, angry men
- Judah was in danger of assimilation into the Canaanites
- Jacob himself was half dead with grief and sorrow
- Jacob's sons had little spiritual maturity, were drifting apart and might not be able to stand the test of outward enemies after Jacob's death

# God uses famine to take Jacob's family on a sojourn unto sonship

1. God will make them one through experiences together of struggle, suffering and forgiveness
2. God brings the 'independent' ones into His house and 'breaks them' together in mercy
3. The result is an experience wherein every member experiences the ways of the cross and the mercies of God
4. The resulting testimony is that in all the struggles and failures "God meant it for good"

# God uses Joseph to recover Israel according to God's purpose

1. Only God can do God's work
2. Joseph is a clear type of Christ in dealing with His brethren
3. Israel's sojourn to Egypt will have four stages
4. Each stage will perfect the brothers by the work of the cross





# Sojourn one: awaking the conscience to sin

# Uh oh.



**W**hat is God up to?!!

# Joseph and his brothers sovereignly meet after more than 20 yrs.



1. Joseph recognizes his brothers and remembers his dream
2. Joseph cries with desire to embrace and reveal himself but the brothers are not ready
3. Joseph treated them harshly (42.7) as spies despite their pleas of innocence

# Gen. 42 Joseph and his brothers sovereignly meet after 20 yrs.



4. In a cell for three days (v.17) they began to search their hearts for reasons
5. Simeon's arrest stirs their consciences of their former sin (v.21-22)
6. Their discovery of the money in their sacks filled them with fear of God's judgment (v.28)

# Gen. 43 The deeper cost of the second sojourn to Egypt

- Famine and need forced the brethren to return to Egypt
  - Now the stakes were higher
    1. Their consciences caused fear
    2. The money found in the sacks caused more fear
    3. Benjamin could be lost as well as Simeon





# The 2nd sojourn the brothers were surprised by mercy



- A banquet was prepared for the brethren with all in attendance
- The men were surprised as each was seated in order of age and Benjamin was honored
- Joseph sat apart with moments of secret tears
- All the sacks filled with grain and the brothers left happily for home

# Gen. 44: the 3rd sojourn- devastating judgment

- When the cup was discovered (v.12) in Benjamin's sack
  - No recrimination was made of Benjamin
  - All the brothers tore their clothes and went back to Egypt v.13



Alexander Ivanov *Joseph's Brothers Find the Silver Goblet*



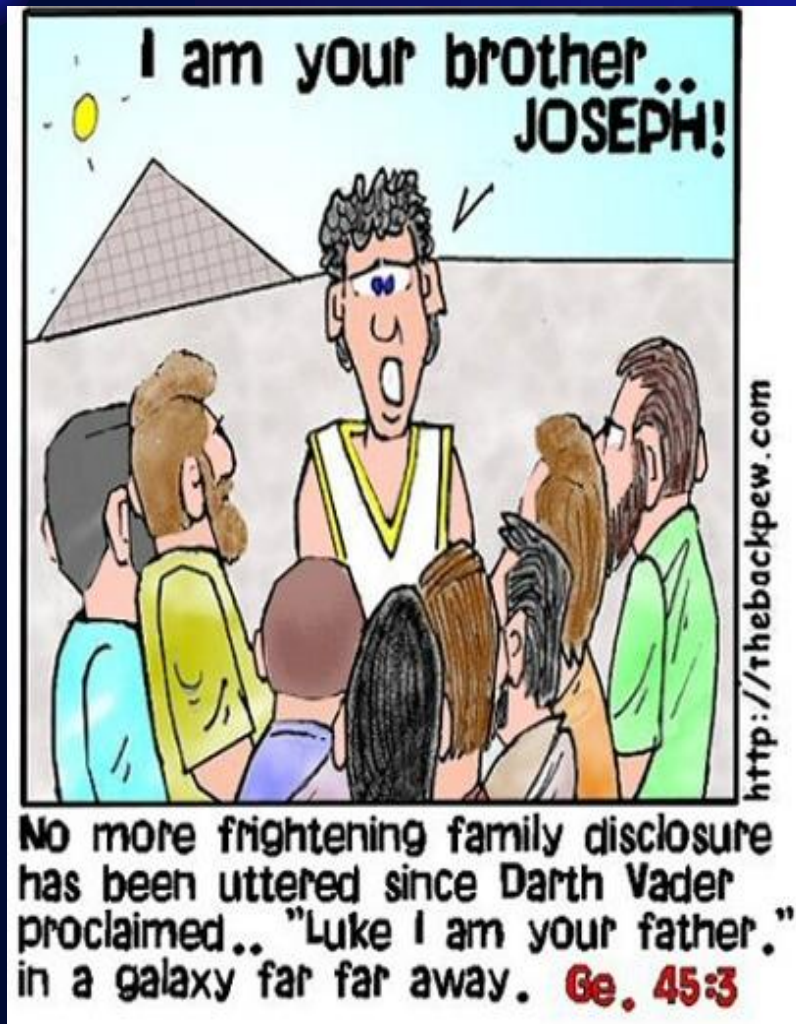
# The devastating consequences brought Judah to repentance

- 44.16 He makes no excuse for what happened but acknowledges his iniquity before God
- 44.18-34 Judah then wholeheartedly intercedes on behalf of his brother and father and offers himself in their stead for the sake of the family
- 44.27-31 Judah acknowledges Jacob's love for Rachel's sons without prejudice and his own worth only in preserving the rest
- He only pleads for mercy before Joseph for his brothers and offers himself as a slave instead

**How does the Lord 'capture'  
his children and lead them  
into glorious sonship?**

He reveals himself in  
Mercy

# 1. Gen. 45.1-4 The Revelation



- Wisdom's restraints are broken by a flood of tears from a longing heart
- "I am Joseph" (in Heb.) devastated their hearts
- "I am your brother whom you sold..." paralyzed their souls with remorse and fear

## 2. Gen. 45.5-8 The Reconciling with God's higher purpose

- Joseph revealed the Divine overruling: “You sold...God sent...” v. 5
- Joseph had long since seen God's higher purpose and so was able to forgive and reconcile
  - Preserving a remnant v. 7
  - No thought of his vindication and dreams detected
- God captures our hearts by:
  - 1) showing us His leading in the past and
  - 2) overruling our mistakes for good

# 3. Gen. 45.14-15

## The Restoring Kiss



- Joseph had been longing from the start to kiss innocent Benjamin
- Then he rushed immediately to Reuben, Judah and Levi- those most complicit in his betrayal
- How often we think the Lord is harsh in his ways because we have no idea the intensity of his love



# 4. Gen. 45.9-13 Called according to purpose

- “Hurry” - the only way to snap them out of paralysis and self-loathing
- “Testify” of Joseph’s life and glory
- “Gather the family” and bring them under my rulership
- He made them co-workers in God’s larger purpose for the family





# God longs to reveal Himself to His children

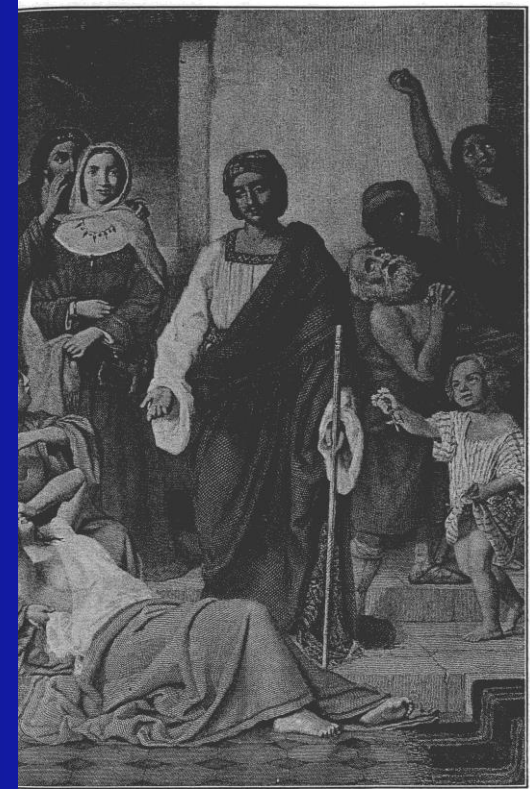
- Yet we are not ready until sin has been dealt with and the past brought to closure
- The life of God's family is full of strife and our sins have greatly affected the whole
- We feel innocent and falsely dealt with until our consciences are awakened to sin's ugliness and our being worth only judgment
- Repentance accepts full responsibility and leads to recovery and revelation

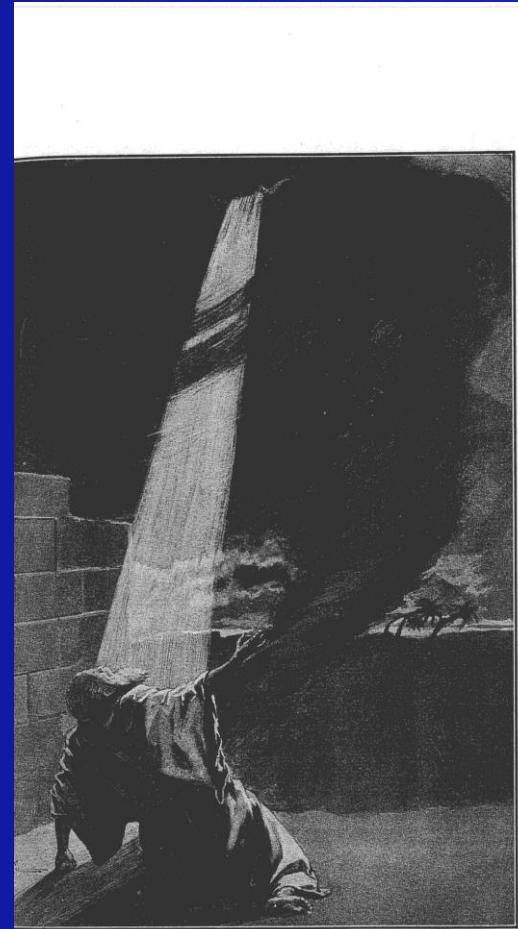
# The 4th sojourn: gathering together on resurrection ground (Goshen) Gen. 46.1-34



**Next time:**

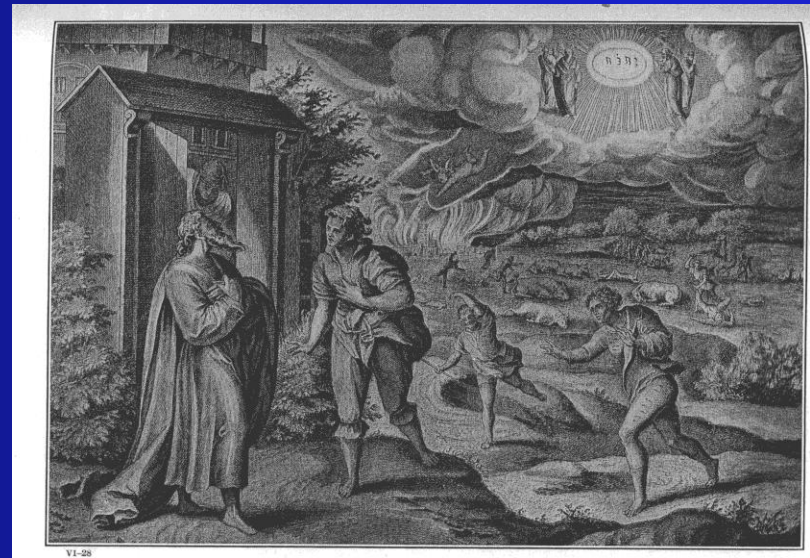
Sojourn into Darkness





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