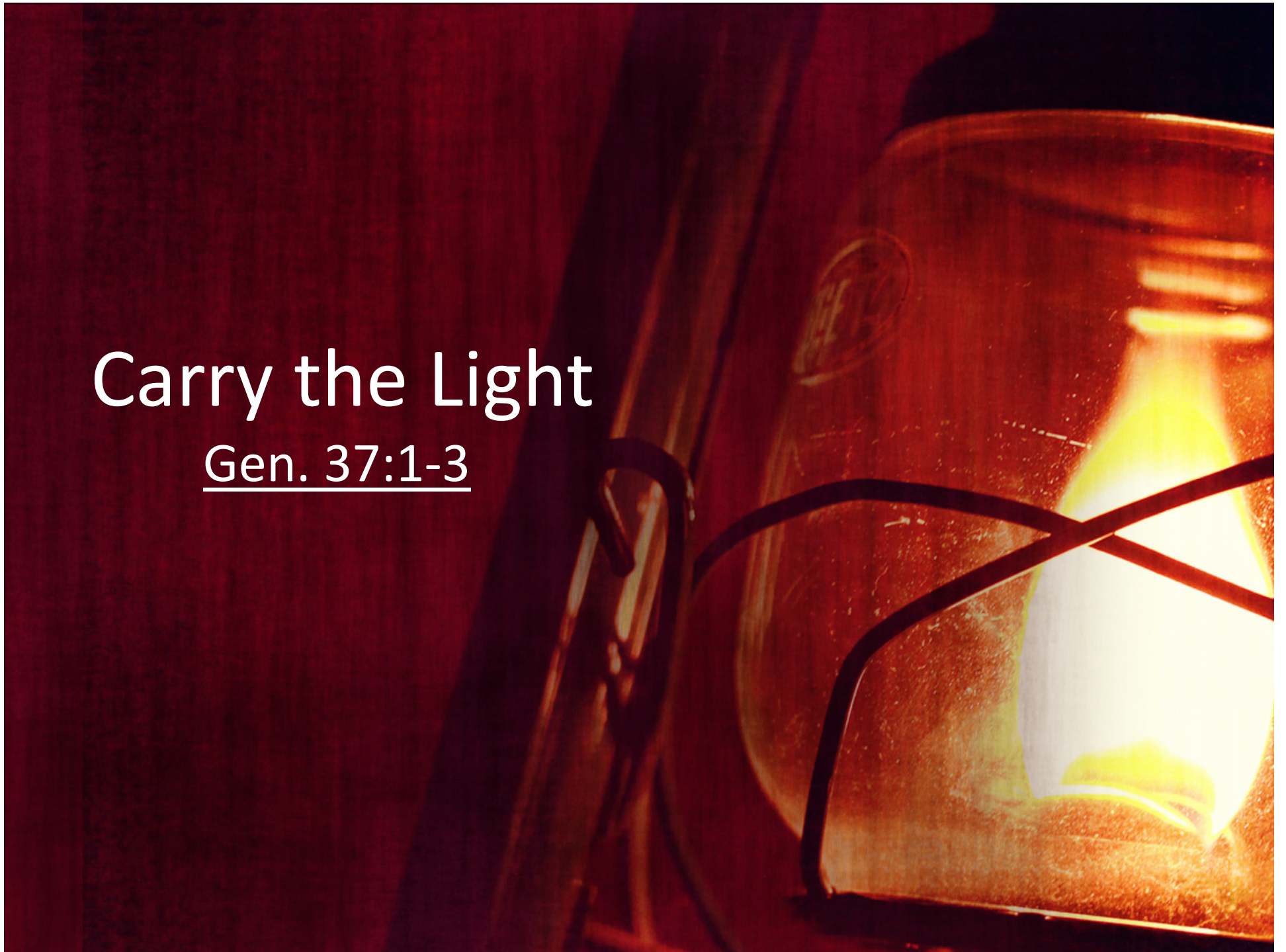


Carry the Light

Gen. 37:1-3



Gen. 37:1 And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

2 These *are* the generations of Jacob. **Joseph, being seventeen years old**, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad *was* with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he *was* the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of *many* colours.



Our new theme for 2017 is “Carry the Light.”

On January first, we looked the...

THE INTRINSIC POWER and THE ILLUMINATING PURPOSE
of light in regard to the woman taken in adultery in Jn. 8.

A couple of weeks ago we began looking at Joseph,
and how he “*carried the light*” into Egypt.

Carrying the Light from the Pit to the Palace

I. THE INDIVIDUAL PLAN FORETOLD

- The Inclusive Picture
- The Individual Purpose
- The Inspirational Performance



When we are introduced to the life of Joseph he is seventeen years old. How did his seventeen years prepare him for his future?

II. THE INDIVIDUAL PREPARATION FOR FAITHFULNESS

A. The Dedication of Parents

Gen. 33:2 And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and **Rachel and Joseph** hindermost. ...

7 And Leah also with her children came near, and bowed themselves: and **after came Joseph near and Rachel**, and they bowed themselves.



Gen. 37:3 Now **Israel loved Joseph** more than all his children, because he *was* the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of *many* colours.

- Jacob was 91 years old when Joseph was born.
- Joseph's mother, Rachel, was the love of Jacob's life, and so was Joseph special to Jacob. (See Gen. 29:18, 30)
- The text does not say that Jacob did not love his other children; it said he loved Joseph more.



Gen. 37:4 And when his brethren saw that **their father loved him more** than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

- Joseph, through no fault of his own, was hated by his brothers.
- In spite of the sibling rivalry, Jacob and Rachel did an excellent job in rearing their children.

Prov. 22:6 **Train up a child in the way he should go:** and when he is old, he will not depart from it.



B. The Deception of Perception

Gen 37:18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

19 And they said one to another, **Behold, this dreamer cometh.**

20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, *his coat of many colours that was on him;*



24 And they took him, and **cast him into a pit**: and the pit *was empty, there was* no water in it.

27 Come, and **let us sell him to the Ishmeelites**, and let not our hand be upon him; for he *is* our brother *and* our flesh. And his brethren were content.

28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and **sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites** for twenty *pieces* of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.



- Joseph's brothers, blinded by jealousy, did not perceive what God was doing before their eyes regarding Joseph.
- They focused their attention on misperceived assumptions. To them, Joseph was simply a "dreamer."
- The siblings deceived themselves.

Gal. 6:3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, **he deceiveth himself**. ...

7 **Be not deceived**; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

- Trials of our faith are the challenging parts of our spiritual development.



Prov. 22:6 **Train up a child in the way he should go:**

and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

- At seventeen, Joseph had to “grow up” fast.

1 Cor. 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but **when I became a man, I put away childish things.**

Eph. 4:14 That we *henceforth* **be no more children**, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they **lie in wait** to deceive;



Original Word: μεθοδεία

Transliteration: methodeia

Definition: (a way of search after something, an inquiry; a method), scheming, craftiness, deceit, wiles.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3180.htm>

Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Wiles = a trick, artifice, or stratagem meant to fool, trap, or entice; device. <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/wiles?s=t>



- Some who “carry the light” are not necessarily from God.

2 Cor. 11:12 But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, **they may be found even as we.**

13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for **Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.**

15 Therefore **it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness;** whose end shall be according to their works.



Original Word: μετασχηματίζω

Transliteration: metaschématizó

Definition: I change the outward appearance (the dress, the form of presentment) of something, transfigure, transform; I adapt.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3345.htm>

Gen. 50:20 But as for you, **ye thought evil** against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

- The motivation of Joseph's siblings was wrong. They hurt their brother.
- Would our adversary use us to be a stumbling block to another?



Rom. 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that **no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his* brother's way.**

- Is it possible to be a stumbling block without our intention to do so?

1 Cor. 8:9 But take heed **lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.**

- Regardless of the motivation against us, God can turn the results into “good.”



Rom. 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good to them that love God**, to them **who are the called according to *his* purpose**.

- Those who love God, and are called “**according to *his* purpose**” the good will occur.
- We deceive ourselves when we fail to realize that the love we profess for God pales in comparison of our love that we have for ourselves.

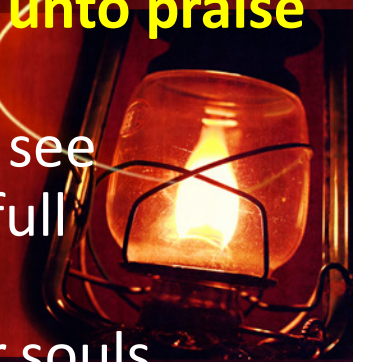
C. The Development of Priorities

1 Pet. 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That **the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:**

8 Whom having not seen, **ye love**; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9 Receiving **the end of your faith**, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.



Job 23:10 But he knoweth the way that I take: **when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.**

1 Thess. 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; **not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.**

Prov. 17:3 The fining pot *is* **for silver**, and the furnace **for gold**: but **the LORD trieth the hearts.**





Conclusion

1 Cor. 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation **gold, silver**, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;



13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because **it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.**

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall **receive a reward.**

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.