

Carry the Light

Gen. 48:1-5, Heb. 11:21-22



Gen. 48:1 And it came to pass after these things, that *one* told Joseph, Behold, thy father *is* sick: and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

2 And *one* told Jacob, and said, Behold, thy son Joseph cometh unto thee: and Israel strengthened himself, and sat upon the bed.

3 And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me,

4 And said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee *for* an everlasting possession.

5 And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, *are* mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.



Heb. 11:21 **By faith Jacob**, when he was a dying, **blessed both the sons of Joseph**; and worshipped, *leaning* upon the top of his staff.

22 **By faith Joseph**, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones

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.

Several weeks ago we began looking at Joseph, and how he “*carried the light*” into Egypt, as an individual letting his light shine.

Carrying the Light from the Pit to the Palace

I. THE INDIVIDUAL PLAN FORETOLD

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



II. THE INDIVIDUAL PREPARATION FOR FAITHFULNESS

- The Dedication of Parents
- The Deception of Perception
- The Development of Priorities

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

III. THE INDIVIDUAL PRESENCE OF FAILURE

- The Reality of Failure
- The Reaction to Failure
- The Remedy for Failure

Failure is a setback that is only a delay to accomplishing the objective.



IV. THE INDIVIDUAL PERCEPTION FOR THE FUTURE

- A Friend Promotes Personal Inspiration
- A Friend Protects Private Information
- A Friend Produces Powerful Illumination

Our hope for the future is encouraged by our Friendship with Christ.

V. THE INDIVIDUAL PROMOTION FOR FRUITFULNESS

- The Pleasure of Promotions
- The Purpose of Promotions

After salvation, we are to live our lives for His glory – 1 Cor. 10:31

Living for Christ is living with Christ, daily, for the purpose of fruitfulness.



VI. THE INDIVIDUAL PROVISION FOR FAMILY (heritage)

A. The History of Joseph's Family's Futility

- Joseph was reared in a dysfunctional family atmosphere.
- He had a father who had four wives – Rachel, Leah, Bilhah, and Zilpah.
- He had stepbrothers who hated him (Gen. 37:5, 8.)

B. The Heritage for Joseph's Family's Future



Gen. 48:15 And **he blessed Joseph**, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, **the God which fed me all my life long unto this day**, (Deut. 8:2)

16 The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, **bless the lads**; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

- Joseph consistently showed respect for his father.
- Joseph consistently showed respect for his father's relationship with God.
- Joseph consistently showed respect, himself, for God, even during the rough times.
- Joseph consistently showed respect before his sons, establishing a godly heritage.



Deut. 8:2 And **thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee** these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, *and* to prove thee, to know what *was* in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

C. The Hope for Joseph's Family's Faith

Gen. 48:20 And **he blessed them that day**, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

21 And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but **God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers.**

22 Moreover **I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren**, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.



- Why did Joseph's children get a portion above their brethren?

Deut. 21:17 But **he shall acknowledge the son of the hated for the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath**: for he *is* the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn *is* his.

- Satan used Laban to supplant Rachel, with Leah, prohibiting Joseph from being the firstborn to Jacob as he was Rachel's firstborn!

1 Chron.5:1 Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he *was* the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, **his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel**: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright.



Rev. 7:6 Of the tribe of Aser *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephtalim *were* sealed twelve thousand. **Of the tribe of Manasses *were* sealed twelve thousand. ...**

8 Of the tribe of Zabulon *were* sealed twelve thousand. **Of the tribe of Joseph *were* sealed twelve thousand.** Of the tribe of Benjamin *were* sealed twelve thousand.

- There were many injustices in the life of Joseph, but God rectified all of them.
- Joseph, from a worldly perspective, *deserved* all the wealth and honors of Egypt.
- The heritage that Joseph left his sons was not one of wealth, but one of faith!
- The incident of our text is included in the Hall of Fame of Faith in Heb. 11.



Heb. 11:21 **By faith Jacob**, when he was a dying, **blessed both the sons of Joseph**; and worshipped, *leaning* upon the top of his staff.
22 **By faith Joseph**, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.

- Joseph led his sons to their grandfather to receive the covenantal blessings.
- Manasseh and Ephraim were privileged to be present during both outstanding accounts of faith – Jacob and Joseph’s.
- Joseph died leaving the impression that what was important to him, for his heritage, was NOT to settle in Egypt, but live upon the promises of God!



Ex. 13:19 And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.


- What Egypt had to offer paled in comparison to God's promises!





Conclusion

Josh. 23:14 And, behold, this day I *am* going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that **not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.**



Josh. 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but **as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**