

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, **he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.** ...

32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and **while he opened to us the scriptures?**

Luke 24:45 **Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,**

Gen. 41

Review

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

II. THE PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

B. The Pilgrim: Isaac, 25:19—27:46

C. The Propagator: Jacob, 28:1—36:43

D. The Provider: Joseph, 37:1—47:26

1. Joseph's Background, 30:24-25

2. Joseph's Boyhood, 37:1-11

3. Joseph's Betrayal, 37:12-36

4. Joseph's Brother, 38:1-30

5. Joseph's Bondage, 39:1—40:23

6. Joseph's Blessing, 41:1-44

7. Joseph's Bride, 41:45-52

a. Her Favored Place, 41:45-49

(1) Highly Exalted, 41:40, 45,

(2) Highly Extolled, 41:45-49

b. Her Forgotten Past, 41:45

c. Her Faithful Part, , 41:50-52

(1) Manasseh: "Forgetting" – 41:50-51

(2) Ephraim: "Fruitful" – 41:52

Tonight, we observe the end of the “seven years of plenteousness” and the beginning of “the seven years of dearth.” We begin with “*The Mystery Phase*” of Joseph dealing with his brethren who are not cognizant of all that is going on with them during the initial contact with Pharaoh’s right hand man. During this time, the brothers’ consciences are awakened to the wrongs they had done to Joseph 20 years ago.

Later, Gen. 45:1-24, “*The Majesty Phase*” will be a time that Joseph reveals to his family all the glory that is now his in Egypt. Then “*The Ministry Phase*” will be a time that Joseph brings his father and families to the best land in Egypt for shepherds. All these phases are symbolic teachings to the Lord’s future dealings with the nation of Israel, as well as practical lessons for us today.

8. Joseph's Brethren, 41:53—47:10

a. The Mystery Phase, 41:53—44:34

(1) How Joseph's Brethren were Burdened, 41:53—42:34

(a) A Predicted Famine, 41:53-57

i. Its Severity, 41:53-55

Gen. 41:53 And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended.

54 And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

55 And when all the land of Egypt was famished, **the people cried to Pharaoh for bread**: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, **Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.**

- ❖ The “seven years of plenteousness” was described as being “without number.”

Gen. 41:47 And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls.

48 And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which *was* round about every city, laid he up in the same.

49 And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, **until he left numbering; for *it was without number.***

- ❖ As predicted, the “seven years of plenteous” ended and the “seven years of dearth began to come” and “...the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.”

❖ The famine created the chaos that drove mankind to Joseph.

ii. Its Significance, 41:56-57

Gen. 41:56 And the famine was over all the face of the earth: And Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt.

57 And **all countries came into Egypt to Joseph** for to buy *corn*; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.

- ❖ God, in His omniscience, foreknew the world-wide ramifications of the “natural event” and in His providential care, had Joseph in “the right place at the right time” as Savior.
- ❖ In typology, Joseph, like Jesus, has control of the storehouses:

Mt. 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Mt. 13:52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe *which is* instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man *that is* an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure *things* new and old.

❖ Joseph, like Jesus, has bread when no one else has it:

Jn. 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life**: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. ...

48 **I am that bread of life.**

❖ Joseph, like Jesus, can open the storehouses and “windows” connected with it:

Gen. 41:56 “And the famine was over all the face of the earth: **And Joseph opened all the storehouses,** and sold unto the Egyptians...”

Mal. 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into **the storehouse,** that there may be meat in mine house, and **prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.***

❖ As Pharaoh commanded the people to go to Joseph for help, so is mankind commanded to go to Jesus for help:

Gen. 41:55 And when all the land of Egypt was famished, **the people cried to Pharaoh for bread**: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, **Go unto Joseph**; what he saith to you, do.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore **come boldly unto the throne of grace**, that we may **obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need**.

Mt. 11:28 **Come unto me**, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest**.

❖ Mary, at the wedding in Cana, gave similar advice that is good for all of mankind:

Jn. 2:5 His mother saith unto the servants,
Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

Gen. 41:55 And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; **what he saith to you, do.**

Summary

- ❖ World events are NOT without the handiwork of the Creator, including the famine in Egypt, and the future events leading to the Great Tribulation.
- ❖ Joseph's exaltation was also followed by a period of famine (Gen. 41:53-54); "the time of Gentiles" will come to an end and "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7) will begin (Dan. 12:7; Mark 13:19-20; it will a very grievous time as in Genesis 41:31. It will be a time when the whole earth, a picture of all of Egypt, will be tried. Rev. 3:10). See Amos 8:11-12 for the kind of famine coming (or may already be here) – a famine of the Word of God.

Jer. 30:7 Alas! for that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it: it *is* even **the time of Jacob's trouble**; but he shall be saved out of it.

Dan. 12:7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, which *was* upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that *it shall be* for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these *things* shall be finished.

Mark 13:19 For **in those days shall be affliction**, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

Rev. 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from **the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.**

Amos 8:11 **Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:**

12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, **they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.**

Conclusion

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, **we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

13 **Looking for that blessed hope,** and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and **purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**