

Joseph Ministers to the End

Gn 50¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, ¹⁷ 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." ' Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. ²¹ Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. ²² So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. ²³ Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees. ²⁴ And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." ²⁵ Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." ²⁶ So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

► We come to the close of Genesis, which is also the close of the account of Joseph, whose story runs for the final _____ chapters and is the _____ of the book.

Of all the Christ-types God raised up, Joseph is by far the most vivid, detailed, and complete picture of _____.

- As Jesus was miraculously _____ to Mary who could not conceive because she was a virgin, so Joseph was miraculously _____ to Rachel who could not conceive because she was barren.

- As Jesus was promised exaltation as Lord of all in the _____ (Ps 2; Isa 9.6-7), so Joseph was promised exaltation as lord in the _____. God gave him (Gn 37).

- As Jesus was envied, hated, and betrayed by his brethren into the hands of Gentiles who afflicted and killed him, so Joseph was envied, hated, and _____ by his brothers into the hands of Gentiles who afflicted him.

- As Jesus _____ himself to his Father and was heard, delivered from death, and exalted over all, so Joseph _____ himself to God and was heard, delivered, and exalted over all Egypt.

- As Jesus offers the _____ of life, and people of all nations come to him, so Joseph offered the _____ of life from the famine, and people from all the nations around came to him.

- As Jesus saw Gentiles _____ to him in repentance and faith much more readily than his fellow Israelites, so Joseph saw Egyptians _____ to him in repentance and faith toward God much more readily than his brothers.

- As Jesus devoted much time and effort to bring his fellow Israelites to faith and repentance, so Joseph devoted much time and effort to bring his _____ to faith and repentance.

► When Joseph saw the first sign of faith and repentance, he revealed his true identity to his brothers, and what resulted was an exact _____ of vs 15-21.

Gn 45³ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph" ... But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. ⁴ And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. ⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. ¹⁰ You shall dwell in the land of Goshen ... ¹¹ There I will provide for you"'"

- Now _____ years have gone by now, their father Jacob is dead, and their _____ revive. The brothers feel like Joseph's faith toward God and forgiveness toward them are too _____ to be true. There must be another explanation. But there isn't. Joseph repeats what he said before, comforting and assuring them on the basis of God's great love and determination to _____ the unworthy and helpless; and God's sovereign power to make it happen.

Cf., Acts 2²² "Men of Israel, ... Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs ... ²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ whom God raised up ... ³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said ..., "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every

one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”

• Joseph’s love and forgiveness toward his brothers come because he understands the _____ of God; moreover, he believes, embraces, and _____ it out.

• Joseph, who has ministered so much, finishes the way he began: He ministers to the _____.

► The second way Joseph ministers to the end comes when Joseph is _____. He calls his brethren and _____ them of God’s promise to bring them out of Egypt (24), thus impressing upon them the importance of keeping this promise before them, because he knows times of _____ are ahead.

Gn 15 ¹³ Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. ¹⁴ And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions” ... ¹⁷ And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch [i.e., the “pillar of cloud ... and ... fire” (Ex 13.21)] that passed between those [sacrificial animal] pieces. ¹⁸ On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates”

• This is not only a promise of the land of Canaan; it is also a promise of _____ and the _____.

Hb 9 ¹⁵ [Christ] is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death ... ¹⁶ For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. ¹⁷ ... [I]t has no power at all while the testator lives.

Rom 4 ¹³ [T]he promise that [Abraham] would be the heir of the world [Gr., *kosmos*] was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Ps 2 ⁷ “You are My Son, today I have begotten You. ⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.”

Mat 28 ¹⁹ “[M]ake disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you”

► The third way Joseph ministers to the end is by exacting an oath from his brethren to carry his bones out of Egypt and bury him in Canaan with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (25). Having Joseph’s body in a _____ over the years to come will be a practical reminder that Joseph lived and _____ trusting God’s promises, and so should they.

► Application: We return to the thing Joseph’s brothers found too good to be true, until Joseph proved it all over again:

His ready _____ toward them.

Jesus commands us to be like Joseph.

Mat 6 ⁹ “In this manner therefore pray: ‘Our Father who art in heaven ... ¹² Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.’ ... ¹⁴ For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Jesus is not talking about forgiving others as a means of _____ our own forgiveness. He is talking about being _____ the Father into whose family we have been adopted thru Christ.

Mat 5 ⁴⁸ “[Y]ou shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

The head of this family is one who has gone to great lengths to _____, even though he himself has never needed forgiveness. Thus while this is the family of those who have been forgiven (for all the children, save one, have been forgiven much), it is also the family of those who _____. For being forgiven does not make us _____ God; _____ does. When we don’t forgive others, we are saying we do not want to be _____ God, which is another way of saying we do not want to be part of his _____. Regarding this standard of God-likeness, we all fall short, just as we do with all God’s standards. Which is why he tells us:

1Jn 1 ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We must constantly come back to the _____ Joseph taught his brothers: God’s love and sovereignty. There is no way to be like Joseph unless we remember that “all things work together for good to those who love God,” for he has “predestined [us] to be conformed to the image of His Son” (Rm 8.28-29). This results in _____ that unbelievers cannot deny and that Satan cannot undo.

Jn 13 ³⁴ “[A]s I have loved you, ... you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples”