

GO TO JOSEPH!

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.*

We are the Josephs of the Lord Jesus Christ in the world today! Few righteous people have been so abused and mistreated as Joseph. Consider it through the lens of two of Joseph's garments: the blood-stained coat of many colors, and the garment that Potiphar's wife showed to her husband. The first was to lie about his death and the second to lie about his sexual conduct. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19). Because Joseph had the favor of God and would deliver Egypt and the world from starvation, the Devil declared war on him. Let us learn from humble Joseph. He never carried a grudge or sought revenge throughout these terrible ordeals. Joseph points to us who are custodians and guardians of the knowledge of the salvation of God through Jesus Christ. Let us pray for the patience and forgiveness that characterized Joseph. One of these days, Pharaoh himself will command Egypt to "Go to Joseph!"

As of writing this message, I am in Giza, Egypt, in a hotel with a stunning view of Khufu's Great pyramid of Giza along with the two smaller ones. Scholars over the years have even suggested that Joseph may have built Pharaoh Khufu's (2589–2566 BC) pyramid. I turned again to the pages of the Bible and the story of Joseph. The more I prayed and thought about the history of Egypt, its pyramids and mummies, I understood the following through the Spirit of the Lord: the ancient history of Egypt is basically one of morbid fascinations with a cult of the dead. As I see tourist busses bringing in tourists from the entire world, I ask why the world is fascinated with a necropolis – an elaborate and sophisticated burial chamber. Now, here is the key difference: while the Egyptians were concerned with the ritual of the underworld and death, Joseph was concerned with the resurrection of the dead along with his fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The bones of the Egyptian Pharaohs would never resurrect, but the bones of righteous Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would.

Gen 50:24 *And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.*

Gen 50:25 *And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.*

“And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?” (Luke 24:5). Joseph saved the Egyptians from death – his God is the God of life and resurrection. Pharaoh had no idea what the dreams meant and certainly no idea how to avoid the mass starvation that was about to hit his kingdom and the entire world, except Joseph.

John 6:68 *Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.*

Act 11:13 *And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter;*

Act 11:14 *Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.*

Remember how God blessed Joseph despite the many hardships he faced! “And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand” (Gen 39:2,3). Let us remember that all these blessings came upon Joseph because he feared God and was faithful to the teachings his father Jacob, passed down to him from Abraham. Allow me to emphasize this truth: do not pursue after material wealth and prosperity through worldly means. Ask the Lord to grant you uncompromising love towards the Lord Jesus Christ and his truth. See how acutely aware Joseph was of the source of his blessings? “There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (Gen 39:9). Joseph was not with Jacob who feared God. His brothers sold him into slavery far away into Egypt. There was nothing stopping him from compromising the holiness standards he was brought up to respect. Yet he was adamant and willing to lose all because God had given it to him in the first place. Years later, God would make Pharaoh dream again and give the interpretation to Joseph alone.

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When the world suffers in their sin and rebelliousness, they will cry to God, and God will say, “Go to Joseph!”. We are his Josephs. “And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt” (Gen 41:45). Zaphnathpaaneah means the revealer of hidden secrets. We are the ones today to reveal the hidden mysteries of the salvation in Jesus’ name to the world. “Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and

from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col 1:26,27). What is this mystery? That God is one – there is no divisions or a so-called Trinity in him (Deut 6:4; Mark 12:28-2). Furthermore, this one God was manifested in the flesh to save us from sin and death through his own death, burial and resurrection (John 1:1, 14; Luke 24:46,47). God the Father is now dwelling in his fullness in a body and his name is Jesus (John 14:9, 10; Col 2:9; I Tim 3:16). We must be baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins, the circumcising of the adamic body of death (Acts 2:38; Rom 6:6) and put on the heavenly body of Christ (Gal 3:27; Phil 3:21). This is the corn in Egypt and the whole world must come to receive of this corn at the hands of Egypt. “And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die” (Gen 42:2).

Let us tell the world there is corn in Egypt; they don’t have to perish. We are Joseph, we are their family, although they don’t know us yet. It was Joseph who revealed himself to his family, and not the other way round. The world cannot know we are their brothers and sisters in Christ until we reveal this truth to them through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. “And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt” (Gen 45:4). Joseph did not leave them in the beginning because he wanted to see all his family in Egypt, including Benjamin and his father, Jacob. “And he asked them of their welfare, and said, Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive?” (Gen 43:27). There are many more family members the world is trying to hide from us. We must inquire and ask to see them in Jesus name. “Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved” (Acts 11:14). When the famine bites very hard, the Egyptians and the world will say, “... Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die” (Gen 42:2). Let us prepare by opening up the storehouses of corn (salvation) that they may buy the truth and sell it not (Prov 23:23).

Gen 41:49 *And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.*

Gen 41:57 *And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.*