

20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning Week 16 (April 14-20, 2013)

God has placed Joseph into a position to rescue the Jews from the coming famine. How I wish today's Jewish brothers would acknowledge Jesus as their permanent Rescuer before the Tribulation begins!

Sunday -- April 14 (Genesis 41:41-57)

Pharaoh places his own signet ring on Joseph's finger and declares him to be second in command in Egypt (v. 41-44). God's representative is given a new name and a wife (45-46). Like Jesus (see Luke 3:23), Joseph begins his ministry at age 30 (v. 46). He performs his job faithfully during the seven years of prosperity and two sons are born to him during this time (v. 47-52). Prosperity, nevertheless, does not endure forever. I'm afraid that America is about to discover the same truth. Famine hits the entire world, but the Egyptians are prepared because of Joseph's God-given wisdom (v. 53-54). The Lord also has a plan to save **our** world from **Spiritual** famine! Just as the people come to Joseph for physical food (v. 55-57), are you ready to come to Jesus for spiritual food?

Monday -- April 15 (Genesis 42:1-38)

I want you to read this entire passage today as all ten of Joseph's half-brothers arrive in Egypt (v. 3-4). They fulfill the first dream God gave to Joseph (37:5-8) as they bow down before the brother whom they do not recognize (v. 5-9). Joseph tests them to see if they are more honest than they were when he lived in his father's home. He demands that they bring Benjamin, his full brother, to Egypt (10-20). The brothers do not know Joseph can understand them as they argue in Hebrew concerning the reason for their dilemma (v. 21-23). Their conversation moves Joseph to tears (v. 24). He keeps Simeon in prison in Egypt and sends the other brothers back to Canaan. Unknown to them, Joseph has ordered that the silver be placed back in their sacks (v. 25). Their report brings more pain to Jacob (Israel) (v. 29-36). Reuben's offer is rejected as Israel protects the remnant of his family (v. 37-38).

Tuesday -- April 16 (Genesis 43:1-34)

You have a lot to read again today as you look at the brothers' return to Egypt. I want to emphasize the emergence of **Judah** as the spokesman (v. 3-10). Jesus came from the tribe of Judah when He took on a human body (see Hebrews 7:14). If you look closely with Spiritual eyes, you can see God's perfect plan emerging! The sight of his younger brother, Benjamin, moves Joseph to tears of joy, so he leaves the room to weep privately (v. 29-30). Can you imagine the joy that awaits us when we enter into Heaven? We will see our Lord as well as our family and friends who have trusted in Jesus and received Him as Savior and Lord. "What a Day that will be!" Don't miss that Day for the world!

Wednesday -- April 17 (Genesis 44:1-34)

Joseph sets another trap to test the honesty of his brothers (v. 1-13). They are horrified as the cup is found in Benjamin's sack (v. 12). They know that he is now their father's favorite son since Jacob is unaware that Joseph is alive and well. I want you to take special notice of the rest of the chapter. Judah (picturing Jesus) offers to take full responsibility for the sins of his brother (v. 33-34). He states that he had personally guaranteed the safe return of Benjamin to his father (v. 32). By insisting on taking Benjamin's punishment upon himself, Judah pictures Jesus' substitution for us on the cross. Our Lord died willingly on Calvary to take away the sins of all who believe. He has personally guaranteed the Father that He will lose none of those entrusted to Him (see John 17:12). Can you think of any reason to reject His wonderful offer of salvation and security?

Thursday -- April 18 (Genesis 45:45:1-28)

This is a beautiful text as Joseph reveals his identity to his guilty brothers (v. 1-4). It pictures the time when Jesus identifies Himself to us. Just like Joseph's brothers, we are guilty of selling Jesus to the slavery of Calvary's cross (v. 4); however, just as Joseph had to go ahead of his brothers into Egypt, our Lord had to go ahead of us into Heaven to prepare a place for us (see John 14:1-3). The Old Testament really comes alive when you can see the hidden pictures of Christ on every page. Everything that Joseph experiences is God's wonderful plan for him (v. 7-8). Obviously, the same is true with the life and ministry of Jesus. Nothing takes God by surprise. Enjoy the rest of the chapter, especially v. 25-28 when the father receives his "dead" son back into the fold!

Friday -- April 19 (Genesis 47:13-31)

If you have time, read chapter 46 as well as the first 12 verses of chapter 47 which tell about the relocation of Israel's family from Canaan to Egypt. I enjoy joking with my Democrat friends by telling them that Joseph was the first Democrat in office. He takes all their money (v. 14) and all their livestock (v. 16) in exchange for food. Then he buys up all their land (v. 20) and reduces the people to servitude (v. 21). What is their response to this massive government takeover? They say, "You have saved our lives" (v. 25). Joseph makes a permanent rule by declaring a flat 20% tax on everything produced in the land. Could this be a solution to America's monetary problems today? The answers to all life's challenges are recorded in God's Word!

Saturday -- April 20 (Genesis 50:15-20)

Before we leave Joseph, I want to point out two of the most beautiful verses in the Old Testament (v. 19-20). They are the equivalent of Romans 8:28 in the New Testament. Joseph's brothers think he will get revenge on them following the death of their father, Israel (v. 15-18). Joseph reminds them that his comfort was sacrificed temporarily to save his family's lives forever (v. 19-20). Do you want to find perfect rest in the Lord? Accept the fact that God has allowed each event in your life to prepare you for this very moment! Nothing will ever enter your life without His permission, and everything that does enter will ultimately be for **your benefit** and **His glory** (Romans 8:28). Praise His Holy Name!