

## *Lessons from the Life of Joseph Part 15*

**“22 Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: 23 The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: 24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:) 25 Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: 26 The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.” (Genesis 49:22-26 KJV)** This was the blessing of Jacob on Joseph in his last meeting with his children before his death when he blessed all his sons, saying the following about Joseph as we are going to explain:

**“22 Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall:” (Genesis 49:22 KJV)**

**“22 Joseph is a fruitful bough,”** reflects the fruitfulness of the two tribes that came from Joseph. In fact one of his sons, Ephraim, his name means fruitfulness, **“And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.” (Genesis 41:52 KJV)** Jacob here prophesied that his beloved Joseph will be fruitful like a tree laden with fruits. That became true as out of him came two tribes, Ephraim and Manasseh, and both his sons became numerous, and the heads of two tribes in Israel with various kinds of other temporal fruits and blessings. Joseph was so fruitful by the services that he offered while he was serving as shepherd for his father’s flocks, while he was in Potiphar’s house and while he was in the court of Pharaoh executing the plan to deal with the coming famine in which Joseph saved the lives of many people with the great deliverance of God.

**“even a fruitful bough by a well;” “And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” (Psalm 1:3 KJV)** For out of Joseph came two boughs or branches in the form of two fruitful and numerous tribes, and were spread and located on the both sides of river Jordan; that denotes they will be continually fruitful like a tree beside a well, that have a continuous supply of water which cause it to be with much fruits. The well that Joseph was connecting with and made him fruitful were God with His Word and His Holy Spirit.

**“whose branches run over the wall:”** The tree that its branches run over the wall means easily spread and extend to further places as the wall aid in the climbing of the branches of the tree. The Hebrew word for **‘branches’** is **‘Bath’**, which means daughters, which some refer to the daughters of Zelophehad, who received their inheritance on both sides of Jordan; and others interpret it of the cities of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. The wall that is beside a tree certain times is a hindrance for the tree to expand, but the tree would not give up and would continue to grow and spread its branches to climb the wall and reach to the top of it and spread to further places beyond. The wall beside a tree

could be the hindrances that had tried to hinder Joseph to be fruitful, spread and to flourish. These hindrances like his brothers, Potiphar’s wife and the prison that he was placed in, but finally he overcame. Joseph used the hindrances as a challenge for him to overcome by his perseverance, expressing faithfulness and the rest of the fruit of the Holy Spirit so he prevailed on the harsh and the cruel circumstances that he was placed in. So the following are the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph:

- **Be fruitful all the days of your life in giving various services to the people, and never loss time or opportunity without being fruitful.**
- **Keep your continuous connection with God, the well of living water, by reading meditating and obeying His Word and being lead and directed by the Holy Spirit.**
- **Use all the struggles and obstacles that are placed ahead of you to climb overcome and spread.**

**“23 The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him:” (Genesis 49:23 KJV)** Jacob speaks here about Joseph’s enemies, and what we know about them are his brethren who grieved Joseph with their ill treatment, shot out bitter words against him, and hated him for his dreams; and because his father loved him and for his colored coat they could not speak peaceably to him, so they mocked at him, conspired to kill him, stripped him of his clothes, cast him into a pit, and then sold him; in all which he was a type of Christ. As well as the mistress of Potiphar also, and Satan by her, grieved him with her temptations and enticements to sin, which were as fiery darts shot at him; but being resisted, her impure love was turned into hatred towards him, and she shot her lies, slanders, and reproaches, as so many darts at him and caused him to be put in prison for years and suffered him to be in dungeon as he declared, **“28 For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.” (Genesis 40:28 KJV)** and the ill treatment he got while he was in prison, **“18 Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron:” (Psalm 105:18 KJV)** The Targum of Jonathan, add the magicians of Egypt, who envied him for his superior knowledge, and perhaps many others in Pharaoh’s court, who were displeased at his preferments, might bring accusations to Pharaoh against him, out of hatred to him. Satan and his principalities and powers, whose temptations are compared to fiery darts, are not to be exempted, which they shoot at and grieve the people of God, who are hated by them. **Genesis 49:23** perhaps also refers to the wars of the posterity of Joseph under Joshua, who was of the tribe of Ephraim, with the Canaanites. So the following are the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph:

- **As you decide to walk with God and serve Him you will be attacked by various enemies those who are near; family members, siblings, friends and colleagues, as well as those who are far. So be willing to be persecuted because Satan would stir various people to fight against you to hinder you as you are decided to follow God and accept the scenario that He placed you in.**
- **Grieve is a common attack of the devil to discourage you by making you feel ill in order to daunt you to stop you from going on.**
- **The devil may place ahead of you various temptations so you need to be aware and careful so you will not fall down in any of them.**

- Continue to exercise the fruit of the Holy Spirit; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, faith, meekness, long-suffering, patience perseverance and self-control; the very fruit that express the character of Jesus in your life.

***“24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)” (Genesis 49:24 KJV)***

***“24 But his bow abode in strength,”*** Joseph as he was attacked by his enemies who shot him by their arrows, he also was ready by his bow and the strength that God gave him to fight back his enemies, but not by revenging and using injurious weapons, but using the wisdom of God to manage his life, using, hard work and perseverance, using faith and full trust on God, using forgiveness holiness and integrity, using to feed his enemies, using virtues and graces, using prudence and patience, faith, hope, and the like which are more powerful in withstanding all the grievous attacks of the enemy. Such approach that Joseph followed as God chose and ordained for him gave him strength and power and enabled him to withstand and persevere the pressure that he was put under; and so his descendents were unmoved and stood firm and undaunted, notwithstanding the powerful enemies they had to deal with, until they were wholly subdued. **The same for us today, putting the full armor of God so we can stand the attack of our enemy, “10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” (Ephesians 6:10-20 KJV)**

***“and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob;”*** as he followed the way that we described in the previous phrase, which are the ways of God, therefore God strengthened further his hands that he held his bow with, and drew it with great strength against his enemies, not to injure them as an archer being used to the bow and arrows, but to bless them with the various graces of God, with prayers, and with comforting words, and the more he did that the more he was strengthened and not wearied, and that how his posterity would be strengthened by doing diligently and applying these graces of God that Joseph practiced from forgiving his siblings, his hard work in Potiphar’s house and in prison, in his resistance to the temptations of devil and all the wiles enticement by that woman, to the use of God and the gifts of God in interpretation of dreams, and in his diligence to administer the house of Pharaoh and his honesty to perform the task and address the challenge that was set before him in securing

the country of Egypt and the countries around them during the long years of famine. That what Joseph did, had set a good example to his posterity to follow the same way that he lived. **Even we as saints, like Joseph, have our strength, and righteousness, from Christ; and when we do and practice those graces of God then we are not weak in ourselves, but we are strong in Him, to exercise grace and perform our duties well.**

***“(from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)”*** That was the way that God set Joseph as a shepherd to feed and care for Israel, his people, in Egypt during the time of famine, for he was sent into Egypt to be as a shepherd, to feed his father’s family. He was a stone to uphold and support the family of Israel. In such then Joseph was a type of Christ, the great and good Shepherd of the flock, and the stone that is laid in Zion, on which the whole spiritual Israel of God is built; the foundation stone on which they are laid, and are safe, and the corner stone on whom the gathering take over. ***“The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.” (Psalm 118:22 KJV)*** ***“4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.” (1 Peter 2:4, 6 KJV)*** So the following are the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph:

- Continue to fight the good fight by putting on the whole armor of God, not to by revenging and using injurious weapons, but use the wisdom of God to manage life, use hard work and perseverance, use faith and full trust on God, use forgiveness holiness and integrity, use to feed your enemies, use virtues and graces, use prudence and patience, love, faith, hope, and the like which are more powerful in withstanding all the grievous attacks of the enemy. Such approach shall give you strength and power and would enable you to withstand and persevere the pressure that the enemy may put you under;
- Continue to fight the good fight as we describe above so you will set a good example to your children, disciples and your descendents to be unmoved and stand firm and undaunted against the powerful enemies they had to deal with until they will wholly subdue them and overcome.
- Continue to trust God to strengthen you and aid you in your mission in this life to achieve His purpose in leading others and bringing them into His kingdom and to the style of life that God wants them to live.

***“25 Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb:” (Genesis 49:25 KJV)***

***“25 Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee;”*** these will come upon Joseph and his posterity from God; who help Jacob his father and now he will help him and his posterity; who will strengthen their hands, will protect them and defend them against their powerful enemies. **In the same way by whom, we and the rest of God’s people are helped against our spiritual enemies to withstand temptations, exercise every grace, and do the will and the works of God.**

**“and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above,”** that Joseph and his descendents will be blessed with spiritual blessings, with salvation, repentance, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and add to that, for us today the Holy Spirit baptism and the spiritual gifts.

**“blessings of the deep that lieth under,”** the blessing that lay down deep in earth, the metals that are part of the earth, as well as the deep waters, the rivers, the fountains and springs that rise out of the earth from below, which their waters make the surface of the earth fruitful with vineyards, gardens, meadows, forests, fishes, beasts, animals, cattle, fowls, and creeping things.

**“blessings of the breasts, and of the womb:”** An increase of children is the fruit of the womb, and the breasts to feed them, to be healthy, thriving, and prosperous, which are great temporal mercies. As well as the spiritual ones, the word and ordinances, and the breasts of consolation, comfort and mercy, which those who are born again partake of, and grow with. So the following are the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph:

- Trust God that He will help you and He will help your children, disciples and your descendents in the days to come, against all the spiritual enemies, to withstand temptations and trials and to be able to live by the grace of God and do His will and finish His works.
- Trust God that you and your disciples and descendents as you continue to be faithful to God He will bless you with salvation, repentance, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and with the Holy Spirit baptism and the spiritual gifts.
- Trust God that He will bless you with all the material blessings that comes out of the earth that you need in your life to maintain you and your service unto God.
- Trust God that He will bless you with good number of healthy children, disciples and descendents as you continue to serve God and be faithful to Him.

**“26 The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.” (Genesis 49:26 KJV)**

**“26 The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills:”** The blessings that God gave to Jacob, that he had and bestowed upon his children and descendents were greater and more numerous than those that Abraham and Isaac had. For he had more children than they; each of them had but two, and one of those two were excluded from the blessing. The blessings of God that he bestowed on him starting from his progenitors who bestowed on him and now increasingly God will make his blessings overflowing and will increase to extend over greater areas up to the farthest hill, and not only to cover the geographic distance but the generations to come, to continue on him as long as the everlasting hills continue, particularly those of a spiritual kind, for they endure forever.

**“they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.”** On the head of Joseph, defined as the one who was hated,

shunned company and conversation with, and at length sold into Egypt, where he was separated and parted from them, and remained separate for many years. On the head of Joseph all these blessings bestowed, and was crowned with honor. So when they came to dwell in the land of Egypt, to live in Goshen, they met Joseph whom they hated, at the court of Pharaoh, distinguished with peculiar honors and crowned as governor over Egypt, and advanced above them. So the following are the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph:

- As you obey God fully then the blessings shall come and multiply on your head as you continue to live a righteous life, and serve God doing His great commission as He promised us, **“18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:18-20 KJV)** not only His blessings will continue but He Himself will stay with us and we are with Him.
- As you persevere in your walk with Christ and willing to be persecuted for His sake then God shall crown you with the crown of righteousness, as Paul declared, that God shall give to all who love His appearing, **“6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:6-8 KJV)**

**My dear and beloved:** As you persevere on the style of life and remained in the Scenario that God gave you, then God shall be with you, His Word will teach you and the Holy Spirit shall guide you what you need to do and God Himself shall be with you and His blessing shall not depart from you. Let us pray ...

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for all the various blessings the Spiritual and the material ones that continually with me and above all your continuous presence in my life. Lord thank you that you promised all these blessings shall continue in the life of my children, disciples and descendents as they continue to do your works and live in your will. Lord thank you for all the lessons, the corrections, the admonishments, and the rebukes we received in this message.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan, neither the will nor the plan of God. Repent of your lack of the fruit of the Holy Spirit that manifest Christ in your life. Repent and renounce all the works of the flesh, your anger, your bad reactions against those who oppose you and persecute you. Repent of revenge and retaliation. Repent of your lack of the good works that God had prepared for you to do. Repent of your lack of prayer and reading the Word of God. Repent of your non willingness to get persecuted and suffer for Christ. Repent of your yoke with non

*believers and wasting your time on the Media, News and games. Lord forgive me, I repent and renounce the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord I commit myself to follow the principles and the lessons we learned in this message. Lord I humble myself into your hand and I am willing to go along the plan and the scenario that you have for me. Lord I commit myself to follow you willing to suffer for your cause and got persecuted. Lord I commit myself to manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit in my life; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, faith, meekness, long-suffering, self-control, patience, and perseverance to manifest Christ in my life. Lord I commit myself into prayer and fasting and to read your Word and to persevere to the end in doing the following \_\_\_\_\_, the things that you want me to do for you until I finish it. Lord give me good health, and strength, and provide my needs to go on and serve you until the end, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*

*Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to live a righteous life, obeying you, living your will and doing your works, persevering in persecution and willing to suffer for your cause and purpose to accomplish your will and finish your works. Lord uphold them with your grace, answer their prayers, provide their needs, give them strength and good health to go on and serve you. Lord sustain them until they finish the tasks that you entrusted to them. Lord reward them for their hard works and labor, bless their families and children, and make their lives good testimonies to others to follow you.*

*Lord bless us as your church and give us perseverance to the end until we accomplish our assignments in a perfect way. Lord bless our children, disciples and descendants as you promised as we persevere to obey you until the end. Lord we commit ourselves to accomplish the great commission of Jesus to go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever you had commanded us. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to make new disciples, to train new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord take the message and spread it to reach the rest of the church congregations and people who need to hear your Word. Lord prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord I pray for more people to be water baptized, and receives the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

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