

***“The Foundations of Our Faith Revealed, Theme by Theme in Genesis —
Divine Election Operates in the Sphere of Divine Judgment — Part 6”***

- ***Many, many blessings to all and today. We are so blessed!***

Review: God’s Selective Work Focuses on Isaac’s Son Jacob: The Lord Reigns Over Man!

- ***We saw that last time as we focused on Jacob. Again and again our theme was seen to be magnified in the Genesis account and the Principle of Division was clearly shown there in that foundational book, the book of beginnings.***

There we saw how —

- ***Isaac’s Sons are Born But the Younger Shall Serve the Elder — Chapter 25a***
- ***But Due to the Weaknesses of the Flesh, the Elder Barter His Inheritance — Chapter 25b***
- ***Even Esau’s Father’s Blessing Also Goes To Jacob By God’s Choice — Chapter 27***
- ***Jacob Seeks and Finds a Wife in Haran (and gets two!) — Chapter 28***
- ***Through Two Marriages, Many Sons, and Trials on every side, A Nation of Twelve Tribes Is Created — Chapters 29-37***
- ***Jacob Comes Face to Face with His Own Doubts and The Lord Blesses with a New Name, Israel***
- ***The Principle of Division is clearly seen here. God separates. Some may be blessed, but in the end when the time is “full” along with its sin and rebellion, only the chosen ones as we see here will be clearly blessed as God had intended. But until then the blessings will flow from the hand of God as appropriate. There is also a lesson here for our understanding and application to daily life. Do you grasp it?***

Throughout all of this we have seen the often invisible hand of Almighty God working always according to his perfect timing to bring to pass one step at a time what he has promised to Abraham, Isaac, and now Jacob.

- ***Our theme has here been revealed again, God’s Principle of Division was at work and any attempt to minimize that work failed as the Lord did his work to accomplish his plan however the enemy interfered. They were indeed “strangers and sojourners” on the “pilgrimage” of the Lord, what a special and indeed personal way to put it (using the words selected by the Lord***

God himself). Without seeing the calling and intention of the Lord in all of this, we miss much of the meaning of this essential first book of God's revelation to man, the Bible.

- **This theme is indelibly written on the generations following as Jacob, now named Israel, passed it down to the next generation through Joseph and he onwards down to Moses, to David, and others.**

Chapters 37-50 focus on Joseph and that is where we will focus today. There we will see how the Lord God delivered Israel and blessed them through him and how all those chapters show how Almighty God accomplished it all with those how were only sinners!

And, besides, sinners of the Gentiles since there is no "chosen people" yet as that is now in process of formation ... Isaac does not die until end of chapter 35. Jacob does not die until the end of Genesis, chapter 49. So the work of God is revealed in these families one step at a time... as satan in every way sought to destroy the work of the Lord. But God's elective hand was clearly seen and indelibly written here in this sacred history.

Our Outline for Today: God's Selective Work Focuses on Joseph: The Lord Reigns Over Israel, His Elect Nation!

The Account of Israel's Deliverance Through Joseph Continues. Joseph was born in chapter 30, and then in chapter 35 we read about how the full complement of twelve sons was accomplished and we will begin there —

- **God Blesses Jacob at Bethel where he is commanded to live by God; Benjamin is Born and Rachel Dies; Isaac dies and is buried by Jacob & Esau; the Twelve Tribes are formally constituted as a family and nation (Chapter 35)**
- **Joseph is loved above the rest and is sold as a slave in Egypt — the turning point (Chapter 37)**
- **Joseph is blessed initially in Egypt, But ... Potiphar's Wife ... (Chapter 38)**
- **Through Many Dreams and the Lord's Working Joseph Is Elevated to Pharaoh's Vice Regent! (Chapters 39-41)**
- **The Saga of Joseph and His Brothers (Chapters 42-48)**
- **"What hath God wrought" was the question I asked last time. The answer was found in the chapters we looked at but there is more for us to consider today as we finish up this great theme in Genesis: In All of God's Dealings with Mankind, His Work of Divine Election Operates in the Sphere of Divine Judgment. The Divine Principle of Division Proves the Doctrine of Election:**

Abraham was called out from his fatherland, Isaac was chosen (not Ishmael), Jacob was selected (not Esau), and several tribes were exalted above others.

The Account of Israel's Deliverance Through Joseph Continues —

I. Jacob is Blessed with Wives and Children, In Haran — (Chapter 30):

Gen. 30:22-24

22 And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.

23 And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach:

24 And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.

- ***So Joseph was born — and he was not just any son among eleven others, for he was the son of Rachel, whom Jacob loved more than any others. And he was her first born son. This was so very important to him.***
- ***The rest of Genesis focuses on Joseph or on the circumstances that let to his central and glorious position in these latter chapters.***

The Account of Israel's Deliverance Through Joseph Continues —

II. Jacob is Blessed as a Family in the Land of Promise (Chapter 31):

Summarizing Gen. 31:24-35, we see there twenty years of service, 7 for Leah, 7 for Rachel, and 6 for the livestock are detailed for us there in chapter 31 ... and then Jacob departs from Haran with all that the Lord had provided.

The Account of Israel's Deliverance Through Joseph Continues —

III. His Name is Changed to Israel Signifying "Prince" (Chapter 32):

- ***God had called Jacob apart from his works ... our theme ... not Esau but Jacob! Much to learn and it was! A prince with man and God.***

The Account of Israel's Deliverance Through Joseph Continues —

IV. The Incident with Esau and His Men (Chapter 33):

- ***The meeting with Esau is a wonderful example of how the Lord provided for Jacob in setting him apart from Esau — but Esau was***

also blessed in this case even though he was judged as rejected in birthright AND blessing ...

The Account of Israel's Deliverance Through Joseph Continues —

V. (Chapter 35): God Blesses Jacob at Bethel where he is commanded to live by God; Benjamin is Born and Rachel Dies; Isaac dies and is buried by Jacob & Esau; the Twelve Tribes are formally constituted as a family and nation

VI. (Chapter 37): Joseph is loved above the rest and is sold as a slave in Egypt — the turning point

[READ] Gen. 37:1-5

1 And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

2 These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, *being* seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of *many* colours.

4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told *it* his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

Gen. 37:11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

Gen. 37:19-25

19 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

21 And Reuben heard *it*, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.

22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, *but* cast him into this pit that *is* in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry *it* down to Egypt.

[READ] Gen. 37:31-36

31 And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;

32 And they sent the coat of *many* colours, and they brought *it* to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it *be* thy son's coat or no.

33 And he knew it, and said, *It is* my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.

34 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

35 And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

36 And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, *and* captain of the guard.

- *It is not our purpose today to dwell further on this portion of sacred history. But we must take note that this series of events sets the stage for one of the most blessed series of events in the Bible, the preservation and building of a nation, that very nation that the Lord God promised would come out of Jacob's loins, the nation named after him, Israel!*
- *Let's continue now with "the rest of the story"!*

***The Account of Israel's Deliverance Through Joseph Continues —
VII. (Chapter 38): Joseph is blessed initially in Egypt, But ... Potiphar's Wife ...***

Gen 39:1-6

1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all *that* he had he put into his hand.

5 And it came to pass from the time *that* he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

- *The rest of this episode of the continuing sacred history found here we know well and we should not dwell on it further today, but take note that through all the evils perpetuated here and afterwards, it is the Lord God working to accomplish his will, even to the extent of using satan and his minions as his tools in that endeavor.*

***The Account of Israel's Deliverance Through Joseph Continues —
VIII. Through Many Dreams and the Lord's Working Joseph Is Elevated to Pharaoh's Vice Regent! (Chapters 39-41):***

- *Let's skip ahead now to see how it all works out as Joseph is falsely charged, is imprisoned, rises to rule the prison and then through a series of dreams and interpretations catches even the eye of Pharaoh himself. He is catapulted to the position of vice-regent over the entire kingdom of Egypt in a short time. Most amazing — but true.*
- *The two dreams of Pharaoh in particular take the center stage, you will recall, the truly prophetic dreams regarding what will soon befall the nation of Egypt and the entire world, for famine is coming after years of abundance: What is recorded there in those chapters are Seven years of plenty, then Joseph's marriage with the gift of two sons, Manasseh (forgetting) and Ephraim (fruitful), and then the years of famine begin ..., just as Joseph had revealed to Pharaoh.*
- *This brings us to the saga of Joseph and his brothers. This is a very fast paced sequence of events that I will only summarize for you since the details of it are somewhat beside our point today, although the end result is most significant and proves again how God has singled out the family of Jacob's (now called Israel, whether the person himself or his family, the elect nation now being constituted there in Egypt:*

***The Account of Israel's Deliverance Through Joseph Continues –
IX. (Chapters 42-48?): The Saga of Joseph and His Brothers***

- ***Chapter 42 – Ten brothers come to buy grain during the famine but come without Benjamin; Simeon is kept for a pledge – Are they really spies, Joseph wonders out loud?***
- ***Chapter 43 – All 10 return including Benjamin and there is a glad reunion, but they still do not know Joseph***
- ***Chapter 44 - The trick was a subtle one indeed, but in all of this the Lord was over-ruling the flesh and its ways – or was it the flesh? We do not know for sure, do we?***
- ***Chapter 45 - Joseph reveals himself to his brethren with many tears shed on both sides, with their return then to get Jacob and the family. Joseph's testimony was that God did it all to preserve life, even the chosen family. Such a proof of our theme again is found here! For now, only one verse will be singled out for our remembrance and blessings:***

[READ] Gen. 45:1-3

1 Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.

2 And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard.

3 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I *am* Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence.

[READ] Gen. 45:4-8

4 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.

5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

6 For these two years *hath* the famine *been* in the land: and yet *there are* five years, in the which *there shall* neither *be* earing nor harvest.

7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 So now *it was* not you *that* sent me hither, but God: and he *hath* made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

- *Verses 4, 5 and 7 & 8 are so precious and should be to us as well! Amen and amen. God did send, God sent, not you, but God. Special words indeed, indelibly written here and preserved for our benefit today and forever!*

Conclusions / Application:

- *There are many applications of the scripture we have studied today to our current lives, even though we live in a very different dispensation indeed. But God has called out some in every generation and in every dispensation for his glory. We are most blessed to be included in that great train. Remember these words we have used as key verses in our study: “And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.” (Heb. 11:39-40)*
- *We will see next time as we finish this theme study how God worked with his chosen family in the Exodus account some truly astounding words! But they must wait until next time Lord willing.*
- *To close today, Paul writes this regarding Timothy as he gives his final exhortations there just before his martyrdom:*

[READ] 2 Tim. 1:8-12

8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Praise God for his abundant grace and truth.