

Summary Handout

“Fruitful in the Land of My Affliction”

Lesson
12
Summary

Genesis 40; Joseph interprets the dreams of Pharaoh’s chief butler and chief baker—The butler fails to tell Pharaoh of Joseph.

Genesis 41; Pharaoh dreams of the kine and the ears—Joseph interprets the dreams as seven years of plenty and seven of famine—He proposes a grain storage program—Pharaoh makes him ruler of all Egypt—Joseph marries Asenath—He gathers grain at the sand upon the seashore—Asenath bears Ephraim and Manasseh—Joseph sells grain to Egyptians and others during the famine.

Genesis 42; Jacob sends his sons to buy grain in Egypt—They bow before Joseph—He accuses them roughly, imprisons Simeon, and sends them back for Benjamin.

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Genesis 44; Joseph arranges to stop the return of his brethren to Canaan—Judah offers himself in place of Benjamin for their father’s sake.

Genesis 45; Joseph makes himself known to his brethren—They rejoice together—Pharaoh invites Jacob and his family to dwell in Egypt and eat the fat of the land.

Supplemental Holy Land and Jewish insights:

Ancient Joseph Learned a Profound Lesson in Becoming a Slave: Once he changed his mind, he simply became the very best slave or servant he could be. He learned what the Lord would later teach to his disciples. “But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.” (*Matthew 23:11-12*) “He that is ordained of God and sent forth, the same is appointed to be the greatest, notwithstanding he is the least and the servant of all.” (*Doctrine & Covenants 50:26*)

Hiding His Identity: When his brothers sought “foreign aid” from the Egyptians, their own brother, Joseph, was the “servant” to save them. First, he did so without revealing his true identity. When he finally revealed himself it was in humble family circumstance and he apparently prophesied that in Latter-days another Joseph would save his family again. From the Book of Mormon we find a reiteration of that prophecy:

Joseph Prophecy: “. . . Joseph truly saw our day . . . out of the fruit of his loins the Lord God would raise up a righteous branch unto the house of Israel; not the Messiah, but a branch which was to be broken off . . . made manifest unto them in the latter days . . . bringing of them out of darkness unto light . . . he shall be esteemed highly . . . even to the bringing of them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with thy fathers . . . And his name shall be called after me; and it shall be after the name of his father. And he shall be like unto me . . . shall bring my people unto salvation . . . who shall do much good, both in word and in deed . . . with exceeding faith, to work mighty wonders, and do that thing which is great in the sight of God, unto the bringing to pass much restoration unto the house of Israel, and unto the seed of thy brethren.” (*Excerpts from 2 Nephi 3*)

Fulfillment: Latter-day Saints feel this prophecy has been fulfilled in the nineteenth century through the mission of Joseph Smith Jr. Part of the testimony of Joseph Smith included the heavenly visitor who laid his hands on him and his companion, Oliver Cowdery. “. . . While we were thus employed, praying and calling upon the Lord, a messenger from heaven descended in a cloud of light, and having laid his hands upon us, he ordained us, saying: Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah, I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; and this shall never be taken again from the earth until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.” (*Joseph Smith History 1:68-69*)

Overcoming Pride: Ancient Joseph overcame his “pride” and served his brothers forgivingly (at first without identifying himself). He thereby established a pattern for a latter-day Joseph, who for the time being is keeping his identity from Judah and should release all forms of pride as he serves his family forgivingly.

Serving: The concept of being a servant is also paramount in Judaism: “Being the Chosen People means receiving God's love and protection, but it also means accepting responsibilities. The prophet Isaiah says that Israel, God's servant, has been chosen for the task of spreading salvation. Israel must convince the other nations of the world that there is only one God, and must spread the true religion, and through it, happiness.” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

First Temple Site in Ephraim's Hand: Another pattern that is interesting is that the first Israelite temple in the land of Israel was in the hands of the tribe of Ephraim. “Situated in the mountains of central Erez (land of) Israel, Shiloh was in the territory of the tribe of Ephraim and housed the "temporary sanctuary" or Tabernacle containing the Ark of the Law.” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

Latest Temple Sites in Ephraim's Hands: The latest temples outside the land of Israel are now in the hands of Ephraim, the Latter-day Saints. The destiny is that Joseph and Judah will eventually come together to build the temple in Jerusalem.

Daniel Rona, born in Israel and living in Jerusalem has authored Old & New Testament, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Supplement Study Materials to be used in conjunction with the weekly LDS Gospel Doctrine Lesson study. NOTE: Three versions of the supplemental study materials are available *FREE* at www.HolyLandsRevealed.com. (Just click “LDS SUPPLEMENTS”)

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