

Joseph 03 - Shall You Reign Over Us? - Genesis 37:5-11 - 2017-05-07

Call to Worship: Isaiah 45:22-23a

Scripture Reading: John 7:37-52

Sermon: "Shall You Reign Over Us?" Genesis 37:5-11

Benediction: Philippians 2:9-11

INTRODUCTION

God Himself has the right to reign over all, and indeed does reign over all, nor could it be any other way. As Supreme Sovereign, He also has the right to exercise His reign by whomever he designates as His appointed servants. Those whom God designates, then, have the right to rule because God says, apart from any other qualifications they might or might not have.

Mankind, however, since the Garden of Eden, has repeatedly refused to recognize the sovereignty of God Himself and the reign of those of our fellow creatures whom God anoints to rule on His behalf. For this rebellion, we rebels deserve the death penalty, the pouring out of God's infinite wrath in the everlasting fire of hell.

But God is rich in mercy, and He loves even rebels against His reign. And it always has been His purpose to show Himself loving and merciful, while still showing Himself perfectly just and righteous, by maintaining His sovereignty over all, while also saving sinners from what we deserve for our rebellion.

God's way of saving sinners from His wrath, which we so richly deserve for our rebellion against His rule, passes right through that very rebellion. The bible records that in the time of Jacob or Israel and his twelve sons, God sent salvation for His people from temporal, worldly, physical trouble in such a way as to use His people's own rebellion against the savior He had sent, as the means by which that savior would do his saving work. But God upheld the reign of that one He had sent, so that through his suffering, and his subsequent exaltation, God accomplished His people's salvation while causing all glory to be to Himself through the one He appointed. Seeing that in the history of Joseph will help us see that in the gospel of Jesus Christ!

TEXT

Genesis 37:5-11

BODY

- I. When God Was Saving Israel Through Joseph, He Revealed Ahead of Time that Joseph Was Sent to Rule Over Them
 - A. Joseph
 1. The two dreams
 2. Why
 - a) to inform them, so they can know the things that will happen are of God
 - (1) It is not apparent to the world from natural observation that Joseph should rule over his whole household. But God reveals it ahead of time, so that it can be known by special revelation.
 - b) to strengthen and comfort Joseph
 - (1) he will have much to endure
 - (2) he will receive strength and comfort from what God has revealed
 - c) to strengthen and comfort Jacob
 - (1) it is grievous to see Jacob so distraught over Joseph's death
 - (2) If Jacob had believed this dream to be from God, could he have trusted instead of despairing?
 - (3) God had given Jacob dreams, also, both of which had the effect of strengthening and comforting Joseph in difficult times ahead
 - (a) Genesis 28:12-15 Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. (13) And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. (14) Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (15) Behold, **I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you** until I have done what I have spoken to you."
 - (b) Genesis 31:10-13 "And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped

upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted. (11) Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.' (12) And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. (13) **I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me.** Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.' "

3. Joseph would be savior and *ruler*; he would save them as *ruler*
- B. Our Lord Jesus Christ
1. God revealed in many ways that Jesus of Nazareth was the one whom He had sent to be both Savior and Sovereign,
 - a) by prophecy beforehand
 - b) by angels at His conception and His birth
 - c) by dreams shown to his earthly father, Joseph
 - d) by the visit of the Magi
 - e) by the prophecies when He was presented in the temple
 - f) most prominently by the miraculous signs that Jesus did, showing He was Master over nature, demons, other men, diseases, and anything else
 2. The Lord Jesus Himself taught

When God Was Saving Israel Through Joseph, He Revealed Ahead of Time that Joseph Was Sent to Rule Over Them

- II. When God was saving Israel through Joseph, the children of Israel would not have Joseph rule over them
- A. Joseph
1. They thought it strange that one would rule who was not the one they thought
 2. They did not take care to see if what was said was really from God.
 3. They did as so many others had done and would do
 - a) Adam and Eve would not have God rule over them.
 - b) The Israelites would not have Moses rule over them.
 - c) The Israelites would not have David rule over them.
 - d) Think how often we act like this.
 - (1) We don't mind certain people ruling over us.
 - (2) But ruling over us just because God said so?
 4. This fault even extended to the righteous patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

- a) Genesis 17:15-19 Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. (16) And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her." (17) Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" (18) And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!" (19) Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.
- b) Isaac
 - (1) Genesis 25:23 And the LORD said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."
 - (2) Genesis 25:28 And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.
- c) Jacob, as we read here in this account, reprimanded Joseph for his dream of the whole family bowing down before him

B. Our Lord Jesus Christ

When God Was Saving Israel Through Joseph, He Revealed Ahead of Time that Joseph Was Sent to Rule Over Them

When God was saving Israel through Joseph, the children of Israel would not have Joseph rule over them

III. When God was saving Israel through Joseph, the children of Israel hated Joseph because he said he was the one God had appointed to rule over them

A. Joseph

1. it was natural for the father to rule
2. it was natural for the oldest brother to rule
3. it was natural for a conqueror to rule
4. it was natural for the king in a dynasty to rule (as Pharaoh)
5. but it wasn't natural for one of the youngest sons to rule

B. Our Lord Jesus Christ

1. "I am"
2. "The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath"
3. Matthew 16:27-28 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his

works. (28) Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

4. He was the ONE. People hate that there is just one, don't they? They don't mind there being many rulers, many sons of God, many religious leaders, but they hate the idea of there being one and only one! And why is He the One? because God says!

When God Was Saving Israel Through Joseph, He Revealed Ahead of Time that Joseph Was Sent to Rule Over Them

When God was saving Israel through Joseph, the children of Israel would not have Joseph rule over them

When God was saving Israel through Joseph, the children of Israel hated Joseph because he said he was the one God had appointed to rule over them

- IV. When God was saving Israel through Joseph, the children of Israel envied Joseph because it was apparent he was the one God had appointed to rule over them [ESV, NIV were jealous of Joseph]
 - A. Jealousy and envy very closely related, somewhat synonymous
 - B. Joseph
 1. he doesn't deserve that!
 2. he will take some of what we deserve!
 - C. Our Lord Jesus Christ
 1. God made it very clear that Jesus was the one He had appointed to Israel's Messiah
 2. But the leaders of the Jews would not join Him; they wanted the rule for themselves, not for Him
 3. The Jews who handed Jesus over to Pontius Pilate did so out of envy
 - a) Mark 15:9-11 But Pilate answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" (10) For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy. (11) But the chief priests stirred up the crowd, so that he should rather release Barabbas to them.
 4. The Jews who resisted the preaching of Jesus by Paul did so out of envy
 - a) Acts 13:44-45 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. (45) But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.

CONCLUSION

When God Was Saving Israel Through Joseph, He Revealed Ahead of Time that Joseph Was Sent to Rule Over Them

When God was saving Israel through Joseph, the children of Israel would not have Joseph rule over them

When God was saving Israel through Joseph, the children of Israel hated Joseph because he said he was the one God had appointed to rule over them

When God was saving Israel through Joseph, the children of Israel envied Joseph because it was apparent he was the one God had appointed to rule over them [ESV, NIV were jealous of Joseph]

So, then, what is the temptation of your flesh?

-You hear what the scriptures say about Jesus Christ---that God is saving sinners through Jesus Christ, who suffered for sinners, but now has been raised to the right hand of God, where He rules as Lord over all.

-You would not have Him to rule over you.

-You hate Him because He is the One, the only one, through whom you may come to God.

-You envy Him, thinking that He should not have that place.

That is the way of the Israelites throughout their history. That history is written down to warn us, so that we do not do what they did!

Do not disbelieve that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, but believe!

Do not resist His rule, but willingly, gladly bow down to Him!

Do not hate Him because He is the One appointed, but love Him!

Do not envy Him, thinking that He does not deserve His high place, but acknowledge that He is the One King of King and Lord of Lords, seated at the right hand of God the Father, deserving of all glory and honor.

JRY:

It is not apparent to the world from natural observation that Jesus of Nazareth is Lord over all. But God reveals it ahead of time, so that it can be known by special revelation.

If Jacob had believed this dream to be from God, could he have trusted instead of despairing?

verse 5 Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers

verse 6 So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed"

Geneva:

God revealed to him by a dream what should come to pass.

Poole:

it is probable he did not understand

Gill:

not understanding it, or imagining there was any meaning in it

Barnes:

His frankness in reciting his dream to his brothers marks a spirit devoid of guile, and only dimly conscious of the import of his nightly visions.

The second dream is given to express the certainty of the event.

The former serves to interpret the latter. There the sheaves are connected with the brothers who bound them, and thereby indicate the parties.

verse 8 And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us?"

Calvin:

When the sons of Jacob heard that they were fighting in vain against God, their unjust hatred ought, by such means, to have been corrected. For it was as if God, setting himself in the midst, would repress their fury by these words, "Your impious conspiring will be fruitless; for although you boast, I have constituted as your chief, the man whose ruin your wicked envy hurries you to seek."

Trapp:

They rightly interpreted the dream, yet stubbornly resist the revealed will of God. This leaves sin without a cloak, {Joh_15:22} as it did in the Pharisees. They rightly interpreted that place in Micah, {Mat_2:1-10} and yet, when Christ, to whom all their own signs did so well agree, came amongst them, they would by no means receive him; nay, they sent a message after him, saying, "We will not have this man to reign over us."

verse 5b and they hated him even more

verse 8b So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words

JFB:

The meaning was easily discerned, and, from its being repeated under different emblems, the fulfilment was considered certain.