

JOSEPH: TRIUMPH VIA TRIAL

July 15, 2018

Genesis 37:1-27

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Romans 8:28, 29

Joseph is a wonderful picture of a deliverance provided by one who was humiliated and rejected; of deliverance for the very ones who despised and betrayed him. Therein the pattern of Christ's life and salvation is embodied.

In many details of his life, Joseph is a picture of Christ. He was:

Greatly loved by his father
Rejected by his brothers
Betrayed by those closest to him
Betrayed unto those who would destroy him
Upright in his behavior
Unjustly imprisoned
Given special knowledge by God
A revealer of divine truth to ungodly men
Exalted to rule over Gentiles
Married to a Gentile bride
Exalted to be first in rank among those who rejected him
A savior of Jew and Gentile alike

Many lessons can be learned from Joseph.

1. There is a pattern to be recognized and avoided in sibling relations (37:8-28).
2. The greatest temptations could not erode his reverence toward God or toward those whom God had placed over him (39:6-13).
3. Joseph was faithful in every responsibility that was placed upon him (39:2-6; 22-23).
4. Throughout his trials Joseph never exhibited bitterness toward those who rejected, despised and betrayed him, but was gracious toward them (45:1-5).
5. Amid his afflictions, he never became embittered toward God, he never blamed God nor forsook what he knew to be the will of God (45:5-8).
6. He waited upon the Lord to resolve his circumstances and vindicate his cause. In persevering, his entire life was a service to God.

