

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of June 12, 2022

THEME: "Road to Egypt"

FAVORITE SON

Sunday Read Genesis 37:3-4

"Now Jacob loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age, and he made him a coat of many colors." Although we can understand Jacob's delight in being the father of Joseph in his old age, it is never good for a parent to show favoritism for any one individual. That will always lead to a problem, and it surely did in Jacob's family. Unfortunately, the child to whom a parent shows favoritism becomes a victim caused by the jealousy of the siblings. Children should be able to expect to be treated the same as all their brothers and sisters. Our Father in heaven sets the example for impartiality as we read in Acts 10:34: *"Then Peter opened his mouth and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons."* When an individual accepts the Lord Jesus as personal Savior, that individual is a child in the family of God. That is clearly stated in John 1:12: *"But as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to be called the sons of God, even to them who believe on His name; which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."* Praise God for His eternal and impartial love for each and every one of His family of believers!

FAMILY DISCORD

Monday Read Genesis 37:7-8

"And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? Or shall indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words." Every time there is a group of people - a family, a team, a staff - there is a potential for discord. People have different personalities, perceptions, and opinions. Many times they are the same; and many times they are different, even quite the opposite. That is understandable and acceptable. As a matter of fact, it is a good thing because it gives a variety of thought and makes for interesting conversation. The only person who is always right is God Himself! The problem that arose in Jacob's family resulted from a couple of dreams that Joseph had that caused his brothers to assume that Joseph considered himself superior to them because it appeared that way in the dreams the Joseph shared with his family. The revelation of those dreams coupled with the father's love for Joseph created a real problem in the family. The fact that Jacob gave Joseph a special coat added to the discord.

THE PIT

Tuesday Read Genesis 37:23-24

"And they took him, and cast him into a pit, and the pit was empty, there was no water in it." Now Jacob did have a real concern for all of his children, and probably did not realize how much the older ones hated Joseph. As a matter of fact, Jacob asked Joseph to go check on his brothers to see how they were doing. Little did Jacob realize that he was placing his beloved son Joseph in deep trouble. When the brothers saw Joseph approaching them, one actually suggested that they kill Joseph and get him out of the way forever. The plan then was to tell their father that Joseph was attacked by a wild animal that killed him. They would then take the coat home to show the remains of their younger brother. Fortunately, and I would conclude by Divine intervention, one of them, Reuben, did not like that idea and came up with the suggestion to strip him of his coat and throw him into a pit. His thinking was that he would then come back and recover his younger brother from the pit and bring him home again. The brothers agreed that was a better idea and they did just that. So Joseph ended up in a pit, and his life was spared. That set the stage for God to move in wonderful ways in Jacob's family!

THE SALE

Wednesday Read Genesis 37:26-29

"Then there passed by Midianite merchantmen: and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver, and they brought Joseph to Egypt." Not only did Reuben's suggestion to throw Joseph into a pit save his life, it also set the stage for God to do great and mighty things for His chosen people into which He would send their Messiah! How interesting that, just at the right time, some slave traders were passing by, and the brothers saw a way to get rid of their brother. They readily agreed to a price, and Joseph was on his way to Egypt. They came up with a story to share with their father, who obviously grieved what he thought was the death of his favorite son. Little did he or the brothers realize that God was commencing a great work that would eventually lead to His people going to their Promised Land. Again we see that our God truly is the Ruler of Nations!

THE PRISON

Thursday Read Genesis 39:11-20

"And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound, and he was there in the prison." Joseph was fortunate enough to be sold to become a servant in the royal family of Egypt, and he found favor with the Pharaoh. Things were going very well until the wife of the Pharaoh became infatuated with Joseph and propositioned him. Joseph refused her advances, and the wife sought revenge by making false accusation about Joseph when the opposite was actually the truth. Naturally, the Pharaoh believed his wife and had Joseph thrown into prison. Again, we see Joseph rise above the circumstances and actually become an ambassador for God there in the Egyptian prison. So exemplary was Joseph's conduct that the chief warden gave him a position of responsibility. God then gave Joseph the ability to interpret dreams for which Joseph did for the baker and butler of the Pharaoh who also had been put into prison by the Pharaoh. The prison became Joseph's mission field, and another step in the plans God had for Joseph's life.

THE DREAMS

Friday Read Genesis 40:5-8

"And they dreamed a dream, both of them, each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which were bound in the prison." Having developed a relationship with the baker and butler and gained their respect, they both came to him with a dream that bothered them. It is worthy of note that before the writing of the Holy Scriptures, God spoke to people in other ways. That is the truth of Hebrews 1:1-2: *"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds."* Joseph explained to the butler that his dream revealed that he would be restored to his place in the palace in three days. He then told the baker that he would be assassinated in three days. Both those interpretations of the dreams came to pass just as Joseph had mentioned.

THE PALACE

Saturday Read Genesis 41:9-14

"Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon, and shaved himself, and changed his garments, and came in unto the Pharaoh." Those interpretations of the dreams of the butler and baker proved to be the key in Joseph's release from prison. The Pharaoh had a dream in which seven well nourished cows were eaten up by seven lean and ugly cows. When the butler heard of the Pharaoh's troubled spirit as a result of the dreams and the inability of the Egyptian magicians to interpret the dreams, he told the Pharaoh of Joseph. He testified that Joseph had properly interpreted the meaning of his

dreams as well as the baker's. Immediately the Pharaoh called for Joseph and Joseph, by God's grace, properly interpreted the meaning of the dreams. All that ended up with the Pharaoh assigning Joseph to come to the palace and be the actual ruler of Egypt. Joseph wisely stored food during the seven plentiful years to hold the nation over during the seven years of famine.