

THE SECRET OF THE REIGNING LIFE OF JOSEPH

Message Two

**Joseph Receiving the Vision and
Living according to the Vision He Saw
(2)**

Scripture Reading: Gen. 37:9-11; Rev. 12:1; Luke 1:78; Matt. 5:14-16; Eph. 5:8; Phil. 2:15-16;
Gen. 39:1-21; 2 Tim. 2:22; Rom. 5:17, 21; Matt. 5:31-32, 48

I. In his second dream in Genesis 37:9, Joseph saw the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars, signifying his father, his mother, and his eleven brothers:

- A. According to their fallen nature, God's people are evil and unclean, but in God's eternal view, His people are heavenly bodies full of light.
- B. Based on the principle of Joseph's dream, the sun, the moon and the twelve stars in Revelation 12 must signify the totality of God's people on earth, which is symbolized by a woman—vv. 1-3.
- C. All of God's people, in the three ages of the sun, the moon and the stars who together constitute the woman, are light bearers; hence, she is the universal bright woman shining throughout all of the generations—cf. Matt. 5:14; Eph. 5:8; Phil. 2:15.

II. While Joseph's brothers indulged their lust, in the midst of this darkness we see Joseph as a bright star shining in the heavens—Gen. 39:7-12:

- A. Genesis 38 records the second gross sin committed by Joseph's brothers, the indulgence in lust, which also afforded Joseph an opportunity:
 - 1. Judah committed adultery with his daughter-in-law, having no conscience and no eyesight; his eyes had been blackened and blinded, and blindness signifies darkness—38:15; cf. Eph. 2:1-3.
 - 2. Reuben also committed adultery with his father's concubine—Gen. 35:22:
 - a. Reuben, born of Leah, was the firstborn and should have inherited the birthright.
 - b. However, because of his defilement in his lust, he lost the birthright, and it was given to Joseph, Rachel's son—1 Chron. 5:1; Gen. 49:3-4; 48:22.
- B. Joseph gained the birthright because of his purity:
 - 1. When he was sold to Potiphar, an official of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, Jehovah was with Joseph, and Potiphar made Joseph an overseer of his house putting all that he had in Joseph's charge—39:1-4.
 - 2. Potiphar's wife cast her eyes on Joseph's handsome appearance and commanded him to lie with her day after day, but he refused—vv. 6-8.
 - 3. One such day when they were alone in her house, she grabbed him by his garment, but he left his garment in her hand and fled, causing her to lie about him so that he was imprisoned—vv. 13-20.
- C. Conducting himself as a bright star shining in the heavens in the midst of this darkness, Joseph seemed to be saying, "All you people are under darkness, but I am shining upon you....I cannot forget my dream. My dream controls me and directs me. As a heavenly star, I would never sell my position."
- D. Thus, Joseph was one who lived a life that corresponded to his vision; Joseph was not only a dreamer—he was also one who practiced, one who lived out, what he saw in his dream:
 - 1. Every human being has lust and the way to control our lust is to be subdued, controlled, and directed by a vision—Prov. 29:18; 2 Tim. 2:22.

2. The function of the vision is similar to that of brakes in a car—in times of danger we step on the brakes; the vision of the heavenly star is a powerful brake for our “spiritual car”.

III. We, the kingdom people in the kingdom life, are being trained to be kings, to be the Josephs—the reigning aspect of the mature life—Rom. 5:17:

- A. Joseph's life under the heavenly vision was the life of the kingdom of the heavens described in Matthew 5, 6, and 7:
 1. According to the constitution of the heavenly kingdom revealed in these chapters in Matthew, our anger must be subdued and our lust conquered—5:31-32.
 2. Instead of agreeing with our anger or cooperating with our lust, we reject our anger and condemn our lust because we are the reigning aspect of the mature life.
- B. We have the constitution of Christ within us, and we are being prepared to reign as kings:
 1. The kingdom of the heavens is the highest demand, and the divine life of the Father is the highest supply to meet that demand by which we can have the highest living—Matt. 5:48, footnote 1.
 2. The life that we have received does not merely save us from a few things; rather, it enthrones us as kings to reign over all things—Rom. 5:17.
 3. We have received righteousness objectively, but we still need to continually receive the abundance of grace so that we can reign in life subjectively.
 4. The power of this grace operates in us and makes us right with God, with others, and even with ourselves; it not only subdues the sin of anger and lust but also overcomes Satan and death in our being; thus, grace reigns through righteousness, resulting in eternal life—v. 21.