

THE SECRET OF THE REIGNING LIFE OF JOSEPH

Message Five

**Joseph's Life—A Revelation of the Rulership
of the Spirit**

Scripture Reading: Gen. 41:42; Acts 5:32; S. S. 1:10; 4:9; 2 Cor. 10:6; Phil. 2:12; Prov. 21:1;
Gen. 45:13; 42:15, 19-25, 27-28, 36-37; 45:5-9; 50:15-21; Rom. 8:28

I. The record of Joseph's life is a revelation of the rulership of the Spirit:

- A. The rulership of the Spirit (a life of reigning in life and being under the restriction and limitation of the divine life in the reality of God's kingdom) is higher than any other aspect of the Spirit—cf. 2 Cor. 3:17-18; 2 Tim. 4:22.
- B. A gold chain, which signifies the Spirit given for obedience, was put around Joseph's neck—Gen. 41:42; Acts 5:32:
 - 1. Our will, signified by our neck, must be conquered, subdued, and chained by the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. After our stiff neck has been softened and subdued, others will see on our neck the beauty of the Holy Spirit for obedience expressed in our submission—S. S. 1:10; 4:9; 2 Cor. 10:6; Phil. 2:12.
- C. Joseph was not out of control when he saw the fulfillment of his dreams; rather, he was calm, and his excitement was under control because he was a person with the rulership of the Spirit—cf. Prov. 21:1.
- D. When Joseph saw his brothers bowing down to him, he was not hasty to reveal his glory to them; it was not until his brothers' third trip that he revealed himself and his glory to them—Gen. 45:13.
- E. He dealt with his brothers soberly, wisely and with discernment, disciplining them according to their need in order to perfect them and build them up that they might be a collective people living together as God's testimony on earth—42:9:
 - 1. Joseph put all his brothers into prison for three days; he did this for the purpose of causing them to realize their guilt in hating him and in selling him—v. 21.
 - 2. Joseph was also wise in his discipline of Simeon—vv. 19-24.
 - 3. Joseph further displayed his wisdom in testing his brothers with respect to Benjamin; by singling out Benjamin, Joseph helped his brothers to think about Joseph himself—vv. 15, 20, 36-37.
- F. Joseph loved his brothers in a secret way by restoring their money and by affording them sufficient provision for their journey; Joseph had no thought of revenge and only considered what would be good for his undisciplined brothers—v. 25:
 - 1. Joseph's brothers did not understand his wise dealing with them, and they were frightened by his secret love—vv. 27-28.
 - 2. Joseph was a very sober person; he did not need any more discipline, but his brothers did; thus, Joseph acted not for himself but for his brothers.
 - 3. Joseph was a self-denying person; although he had been enthroned to be the ruler of the earth, he did nothing for himself or for his own enjoyment.

II. Joseph fully understood that it was the sovereign God, not his brothers, who had brought him to Egypt—45:5-9; 50:15-21:

- A. Joseph was able to comfort his brothers because he realized that God had sent him to Egypt—vv. 20-21.
- B. Joseph's life is an illustration of how "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose"—Rom. 8:28.

- 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 under the rulership of the Spirit—5:17.**