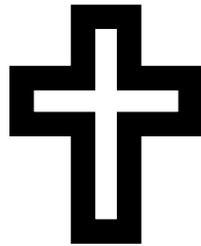


**Twelve Lessons**

*on*

***Dispensational Truth II***

*Compiled and Written  
by  
Andy Simpson, Th.D.*



**Macedonia Baptist College  
9722 Hwy 601  
Midland, NC 28107  
(704) 784-4200**

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**CONTENTS**

1. JOSEPH: THE THREEFOLD MINISTRY OF CHRIST .....3

2. THE NATION OF ISRAEL .....5

3. THE TABERNACLE: PICTURE OF THE MESSIAH .....7

4. THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL .....10

5. THE ECCLESIASTICAL DISPENSATION .....12

6. THE ECCLESIASTICAL DISPENSATION (PART 2) .....14

7. THE ECCLESIASTICAL DISPENSATION (PART 3) .....16

8. THE RETURN OF CHRIST .....19

9. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST .....22

10. THE TRIBULATION PERIOD .....25

11. THE ANTICHRIST AND THE FALSE PROPHET .....28

12. THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST .....31

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

During many years of study and preparation of educational material, we at Macedonia Baptist College have developed the philosophy that one should glean from every source and experience available. The following lessons have been gleaned from many sources, many sermons, and many life experiences. We continually encourage the students of Macedonia Baptist College to purchase a variety of resource material on each subject they wish to study. This allows the student to be exposed to the varying opinions of each author.

## **JOSEPH: THE THREEFOLD MINISTRY OF CHRIST – LESSON 1**

**Introduction:** The theme of the entire Bible consists of the ministries of Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King. There is no greater example of Christ in the scriptures than Joseph. The study of the different offices of Christ is important because they reveal doctrine associated with different dispensations, and give a complete understanding of God's purpose in salvation. We will look at these offices and doctrines as revealed through the typology of Joseph's life.

### **Lesson Goals:**

1. Parallel the life of Joseph with the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Show how the history of Joseph's life portrays all three of the ministries of Christ.

### **Definitions of Important Terms/Phrases:**

1. Manasseh – “forgetting”
2. Ephraim – “fruitful”

## **I. THE REJECTION OF CHRIST AS PROPHET**

### **A. Joseph's Relationship with His Father** – Gen. 37:1-11

1. Precious Relationship
  - a. Joseph was Jacob's Favorite – Gen. 37:3 – *“Israel loved Joseph more than all his children...”*  
There was a special bond of love between Joseph and his father.
  - b. Jesus is loved by the Father – John 17:24 – *“for thou lovedst me before the foundations of the world.”*  
John 3:35 – *“For the Father loveth the son...”* Jesus is the favorite of the Father.
2. Preserved Relationship
  - a. When Joseph told the dream, Joseph's *“brethren envied him”*, but Jacob *“observed the saying.”* The word observed is shamar (shaw-mar) and is a primitive root which means “to hedge about (as with thorns), to guard, to protect, attend to, etc.”
  - b. In the same manner God has preserved his word concerning Christ's future exaltation. Matt. 24:35 – *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”*

### **B. Joseph's Revelation of His Future** – Gen. 37:5-10

1. The Prophecy of Joseph – Stated by Joseph himself.
  - a. His First Dream – Revealed his rule of Israel. vs. 7 – *“your sheaves stood round about”*
  - b. His Second Dream – Revealed his rule over Egypt. vs. 8 – *“the sun, moon, and stars”*
2. The Preeminence of Christ – Stated by Christ himself.
  - a. Matt. 26:64 – *“the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power”* – His rule of Israel.
  - b. Matt. 25:31 – *“the throne of his glory: and before him... all nations”* – His rule over Gentiles.

### **C. Joseph's Rejection by His Family** – Gen. 37:12-36

1. The Commission of The Father – vs. 13 – Israel sent Joseph to look after the well being of his brethren and in the same manner Christ was commissioned by the Father for Israel. Matt. 15:24 – *“I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”*
2. The Conspiracy of His Brethren – vs. 18
  - a. His Brethren were Shepherds – This is symbolic of religious leadership. It was the religious leaders of Israel that sought for three years to destroy Christ. Matt. 27:1 – *“...all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.”*
  - b. His Brethren Sold Him – vs. 20-28
    - 1) They were unable to kill him themselves. They were divided over the fact that he was their brother. In this same manner the chief priests and elders were unable to condemn him as a Hebrew, so they changed the criminal charges from religious to political.
    - 2) They sold him to the Gentiles. Joseph's brothers turned him over to Gentiles to carry out their wicked plot. Christ was sold for thirty pieces of silver and delivered into the hands of the Romans. The Jews turned Christ over to the Gentiles.
3. The Condemnation of The Gentiles
  - a. Potiphar's Wife – The False Accuser – Gen. 39:1-20 – When Joseph was turned over to the Gentiles the next great event in his life was the false accusation of Potiphar's wife. This corresponds with the trying of Christ by the Gentile court where he was falsely accused. Just a Note for Study – Potiphar's wife is also typical of the Great Whore.

- b. The Silent Servant – There is no attempt of Joseph to defend himself against the charges recorded in the Scripture. Isa. 53:7 -- “...as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.” Christ was silent in his defense.
- c. The Condemned Servant – Joseph, falsely accused, was sentenced to prison. This is a type of the death and burial of Christ. Phil. 2:7-8 – “...took upon him the form of a servant... and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
- d. The Companions in Prison – Joseph was imprisoned with two men, the butler and the baker. As a result of Joseph’s interpretation of their dreams we learn that one died and the other was released from prison. In the same manner Christ was crucified between two thieves. One accepted him and gained eternal life, the other rejected him and received eternal damnation.
- e. Although a prisoner, Joseph won the respect of many. Gen 39:21 – “favor in the sight of the keeper.” Christ experienced the same esteem. Mark 15:14 – Pilate could find no fault with him. Mark 15:39 – The centurion recognized Christ as the son of God.

## **II. THE REDEMPTION OF CHRIST AS PRIEST**

### **A. The Exalted Position** – Gen. 41:41 – “I have set thee over all the land of Egypt”

- 1. Joseph Changed His Dwelling – Joseph was brought out of the prison by the power of the king and set upon a throne. Acts 2:32,33 – “This Jesus hath God raised up... being by the right hand of God exalted.”
- 2. Joseph Changed His Raiment – This changing of raiment is typical of Christ changing his ministry from Prophet to Priest. Revelation 3:21 reveals to us the exalted position of Christ. He is “set down with my Father in his throne.” Hebrews 8:1 speaks of Christ and his exalted position as High Priest. “We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;”

### **B. The Exalted Purpose**

- 1. He Chooses a Bride – vs. 45 – This is typical of Christ’s purpose in the Church. She was a Gentile bride who was married to Joseph while his brothers were alienated. Here we see the great purpose of Christ as our high priest. Acts 15:14 – “...God at the first did visit the Gentiles to take out of them a people for his name.” Eph. 5:25-27 – “... Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the word, that he might present it to himself, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”
- 2. His Bride Has Children – She had two children.
  - a. Firstborn – Manasseh means “forgetting” – This is the first blessing of the union of Christ with his bride. Our sins have been forgiven and forgotten.
  - b. Second – Ephraim means “fruitful” – This is the second blessing mentioned. Christ through the church brings light and life into the world. These two sons reveal the purpose of Christ’s union to the church.

## **III. THE REVELATION OF CHRIST AS KING** – Gen 41:54-45:28

### **A. The Famine Begins** – 41:54-57

- 1. The famine did not begin until Joseph’s bride had her two sons. They were born in the time of plenty when Joseph was gathering corn. This is a perfect example of the rapture of the church. After the birth of Ephraim, the time of plenty ended.
- 2. There were two periods of time under the rule of Joseph.
  - a. Seven Years of Plenty – Typical of the church age. There is plenty of bread today.
  - b. Seven Years of Famine – Typical of the Tribulation. Bread will be scarce.
- 3. He Dispersed the Bread to the Gentiles – Gen. 41:56 – “Joseph opened all the storehouses” There was only one way to get bread – vs. 55 – “Go unto Joseph” – There was no corn in all of Egypt except for that which Joseph gave.

### **B. The Family Returns** – 42:1-45:28

- 1. The Famine, which represents the tribulation period, caused the brethren of Joseph to seek bread in Egypt. Eventually they Joseph revealed himself as their brother and they bowed in reverence to him. This illustrates the revelation of Christ to Israel after the tribulation. They will bow upon their knees and submit to his Kingship.
- 2. Both Jew and Gentile will submit to his authority as he sits upon the throne. There are many parallels which may be compared between Joseph’s life and the ministry of Christ. I pray the points mentioned in the lesson will provoke the student to study this subject in grater detail.