

The Dreams of Redemption

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The video version is available at: https://youtu.be/4lef_kGnPug

The scripture reading is Genesis 41:1-42:24

This Torah portion is called Miketz, which means "at the end." The story of the life of Joseph covers a great percentage of the Book of Genesis. First mentioned in chapter 35 as being one of the two sons born to Rachel, and continues through to the end of Genesis with his death in Egypt. Even though this portion is called at the end, it isn't the end of the account of Joseph, but this portion covers the end of his captivity in Pharaoh's prison and his rise to power as second in command of all Egypt.

In Genesis chapter 37, we read about Joseph's dream where he is given a vision of his ultimate rule over his brothers. When he told his brothers about the dream and its meaning, they plotted against him. This portion opens with another dream. This time it is a dream of Pharaoh which no one can interpret except Joseph. It is Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dream that leads to his rise to power and the ultimate fulfillment of the prophetic aspects of his own dream years earlier.

There are many amazing parallels and shadows relating to Messiah in this portion. We will only touch on a few in this teaching. But before we venture much further, a little background or context is necessary to put it in perspective.

In Genesis chapter 39, we read of Joseph being falsely accused of what amounted to a rape of Potiphar's wife. Joseph had been sold into slavery, taken to Egypt, and eventually ended up as the head servant or slave in Potiphar's household. One day, while alone with Potiphar's wife, she attempted to seduce Joseph. When Joseph refused her advances and fled, she made false accusations about Joseph to her husband. As a result, Joseph was taken to prison.

Genesis 39:19-20 NKJV 19 So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, "Your servant did to me after this manner," that his anger was aroused. 20 Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.

While in prison, The LORD was with Joseph and prospered him and provided for him. Joseph gained the favor of the Captain of the Guard and was put in charge of many of the other prisoners, not unlike his previous position as head servant of Potiphar's household.

Genesis 39:21-23 NKJV 21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. 23 The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.

While Joseph was in this position of authority in the prison, two of Pharaoh's servants were sent to the prison, Pharaoh's chief butler and baker. While confined in the prison both the butler and baker had dreams which Joseph correctly interpreted. The butler was ultimately restored to Pharaoh's household, while the baker was killed just as Joseph had interpreted the dreams.

We pick up our Torah portion some two years later when Pharaoh had a dream that no one could interpret.

Genesis 41:1-4 NKJV 1 Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream; and behold, he stood by the river. 2 Suddenly there came up out of the river seven cows, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow. 3 Then behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ugly and gaunt, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the river. 4 And the ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven fine looking and fat cows. So Pharaoh awoke.

Pharaoh's second dream was very similar but involved seven stalks of plump and good grain and seven stalks of withered and blighted grain. Taken in their entirety, the account of Pharaoh's two dreams the number seven appears seven times. When numbers appear in scripture in this manner, we need to pay attention.

Seven is the number of spiritual completion. The word "seven" comes from the Hebrew root word "shaba", #7651 in the Strong's Concordance, meaning to be full, or satisfied, to have enough of. The number seven appears a total of twenty-nine times in chapter 41. Each time is in relation to Pharaoh's dream. Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams and God's actions through the seven years of plenty and seven years of famine, reveal a picture of the redemption of God's people and how God provides for them in their time of need.

When no one could interpret Pharaoh's dreams, Pharaoh's butler remembered how Joseph had correctly interpreted his own dream while in prison and told Pharaoh about it. Pharaoh subsequently called for Joseph to interpret his dreams as well. Joseph, as he has consistently done throughout his life, gives glory to God ascribing all interpretations to God alone.

Genesis 41:15-16 NKJV 15 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that you can understand a dream, to interpret it." 16 So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."

Yeshua also consistently attributed all His words and actions to God.

John 5:30 NKJV 30 "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

Pharaoh recognized the wisdom in Joseph's interpretation and subsequently promotes him to not only handle the storing up of food during the years of plenty in preparation for the famine, but also promoted him to rule under him as second in command throughout the land of Egypt. Similar to the position the Captain of the Guard promoted him to while in the prison.

Genesis 41:40-43 NKJV 40 "You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you." 41 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." 42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. 43 And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, "Bow the knee!" So he set him over all the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh then gave Joseph a new name as a result of Joseph's ability to interpret dreams. This new name means "a revealer of secrets", or "the man to whom secrets are revealed."

After this, Joseph goes out over all the land of Egypt. He carries with him the full authority of Pharaoh himself signified by the signet ring which Pharaoh gave him. We can picture him visiting the fields and giving instructions for gathering the harvest over the next seven years in preparation for the famine.

God appointed Yeshua to be ruler over His entire house and will rule with perfect justice and righteousness.

John 3:35 NKJV 35 "The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.

The prophet Jeremiah spoke of one who will rise up to execute righteous judgment.

Jeremiah 33:15 NKJV 15 'In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

The signet ring that Pharaoh entrusted to Joseph is used as a seal to authenticate documents that a ruler sends out. An emissary, such as Joseph, sent with the ruler's signet ring is regarded as if the emissary was the ruler himself. We see with Joseph that every knee in Egypt bowed down in his presence as if he were Pharaoh because he had the same authority as Pharaoh. God gave Yeshua a kind of signet ring in the form of the Holy Spirit. Yeshua seals us with the Holy Spirit as proof that we belong to Him. The apostle Paul wrote in his epistle to the Ephesians about this.

Ephesians 4:30 NKJV 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

The Holy Spirit testifies that we are, in a way, are an authentic document of the King. But Yeshua has the actual signet ring. At Yeshua's baptism, the Holy Spirit came on Him in the form of a dove, and God's voice spoke that this was His beloved Son. At the transfiguration, God's voice authorized the authority of Yeshua.

Matthew 17:5 NKJV 5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

At times, Yeshua kept the signet ring or the source of His authority hidden. At one point, when the Pharisees questioned by whose authority Yeshua taught, it was not yet time to reveal His authority, so Yeshua answered them with His own question.

Matthew 21:25-26 NKJV 25 "The baptism of John--where was it from? From heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 26 "But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet."

The Pharisees would not commit to an answer of any kind. Instead, they reply that they did not know the source of John's authority and so Yeshua did not reveal to them that God was the source of His authority.

When Yeshua comes again in all the glory of His father, His authority will not be held in secret, but every eye will see His coming.

Matthew 24:26-27 NKJV 26 "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. 27 "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

When Joseph went throughout Egypt, he went with the full authority of Pharaoh himself and everyone saw him and bowed to him. When Yeshua comes, every knee will bow to Him.

Philippians 2:10-11 NKJV 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Remember the Egyptian name that Joseph bears means revealer of secrets. Yeshua will reveal the mystery of God spoken of by the apostle John in the Book of Revelation. John wrote that the mystery would be complete at the sounding of the seventh trumpet.

Revelation 10:7 NKJV 7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

When the trumpet sounds, the angels will proclaim the completion of the mystery of God. All the kingdoms of the earth belong to God and He will rule forever.

Revelation 11:15 NKJV 15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

There is a tradition in Judaism that the forty days leading up to Yom Kippur, from the first day of the month of Elul through the first ten days of Tishrei, that the king Messiah is in the field supervising the harvest of the righteous. Joseph went in the field throughout all the land of Egypt supervising the harvest in preparation for the coming years of famine.

Yeshua calls Himself the Lord of the harvest when He sends out the seventy disciples ahead of Him as he begins His final tour through Israel on His way up to Jerusalem and His crucifixion.

Luke 10:1-2 NKJV 1 After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. 2 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Joseph went out into the land of Egypt, into the fields and supervised the gathering of much grain during the seven years of plenty.

Genesis 41:49 NKJV 49 Joseph gathered very much grain, as the sand of the sea, until he stopped counting, for it was immeasurable.

The word translated grain is the Hebrew word bar, #1250 meaning grain of any kind. It is from the word barar, #1305 meaning to clarify, brighten, polished, purify, or purge.

Even now, as we get closer to the time of Yeshua's second coming, the laborers are in the field preparing for the harvest, that is in the field winning souls from all nations and peoples. Those souls are examined, selected, brightened, chosen to be cleansed, polished and purified by the Holy Spirit.

During these seven years of plenty, Joseph had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim in remembrance of his trials prior to becoming second in command of Egypt.

Genesis 41:51-52 NKJV 51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house." 52 And the name of the second he called Ephraim: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."

While in Egypt Joseph was elevated to his position of great power and authority. All the iniquity, mischief and pain caused by his brothers several years earlier would seem very far away. In a similar way it seems that for the last two thousand years, we Gentile believers, the Christian church have forgotten our brothers; the Jewish people, and the Torah. It is as if we have been separated from the rest of the family even though we have been fruitful while in this exile.

Paul tells us that Israel's rejection of Yeshua meant that salvation for the nations was secured and Israel's eventual belief and acceptance of Yeshua will ultimately mean the resurrection of the dead.

Romans 11:15 NKJV 15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

It was two years into the famine that Jacob sent his remaining sons, except Benjamin, to seek grain and provisions from the land of Egypt. Since Joseph oversaw the storehouses, they had to go to Joseph to purchase the grain. They did not know or recognize that it was Joseph to whom they were speaking. It had been more than twenty years since they had sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites. But Joseph recognized them and choose to conceal his identity from them. When they approached Joseph, they all bowed toward him. Their bowing would have reminded Joseph of his dream that they would one day serve him.

Genesis 42:6-7 NKJV 6 Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth. 7 Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he acted as a stranger to them and spoke roughly to them. Then he said to them, "Where do you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food."

Joseph questioned them and accused them of being spies and jailed them for three days. After the three days, Joseph sent them on their way with provisions, but left Simeon in prison until they returned with Benjamin.

Genesis 42:18-20 NKJV 18 Then Joseph said to them the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God: 19 "If you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined to your prison house; but you, go and carry grain for the famine of your houses. 20 "And bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so.

Years before, Joseph's brothers had cast him into a pit and later sold him into slavery telling their father Jacob that Joseph was dead. Now more than twenty years later, they are unknowingly reunited with their brother. Joseph could very well have just turned them away empty handed, but instead he brought to them salvation and provided for them. Just as with Joseph, Yeshua's brothers also cast Him aside. And just like Joseph, Yeshua now brings life to the people of all nations, Jew and Gentile alike, providing the bread of life and a fountain of living water.

It is written that one day all the Jewish people will accept their Jewish Messiah. How and when this final redemption and salvation of the Jewish people will be accomplished, we do not know. It will be in God's timing. But if we understand the patterns that are presented to us in the history and prophecy recorded in the scripture, as these future events unfold before us, we will understand and recognize them for what they are.

Study Questions:

1. There are several numbers, other than seven mentioned in this teachin, associated with the events in this Torah Portion. What are those numbers, what is their context, and how do they foreshadow Messiah Yeshua?

2. How does the seven years of plenty followed by the seven years of famine relate to the sevens mentioned in the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation? How about other sevens?
3. What are the other shadows of Messiah can you identify in this study as well as the entire Torah portion?
4. Is there a significance to Simeon being the brother left in prison in Egypt until the others return bringing Benjamin with them?
5. In what way does the Holy Spirit “authenticate and seal” the believers?
6. What new insight did you gain from this teaching? How do you respond to this new insight? How will you realign your life based on this new understanding?

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