

Lesson 32

8. MOISES AND THE LAW

8.1. Israel's slavery in Egypt

- We saw in the last lesson how Jacob, after wrestling with God, was renamed Israel and that he would then be returning to the land of Canaan. Then the following events took place:
 - ⇒ **Genesis 33:1~11;** Jacob (*Israel*) meets Esau, and both reconcile.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 33:18~20;** Jacob arrives at Shechem in Canaan and sets up an altar to God.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 34:1~7;** Jacob and his family began to have problems with the inhabitants of the region, who tried to make agreements so that the families would mix.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 34:25~31;** Jacob's sons don't accept the agreements and kill the men of the city.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 35:1~3;** Jacob moves to Bethel and erects an altar there.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 35:16~19;** Birth of Benjamin and death of Rachel.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 35:23~26;** Jacob's twelve sons.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 35:27~29;** Jacob meets his father Isaac and Isaac dies at the age of 180.
- After Jacob came his twelve sons. When his sons inherited the promise, it was a total decline in their relationship with God; their faith in God diminished greatly. If we look at the following chapters, right up to the end of the book of Genesis, we don't find any mention of an altar being raised to worship God or to sacrifice for sins, or even of God's promises. All we see is rebellion, envy and violent acts committed. The only exception was Joseph.
- Joseph is a type, a figure of Jesus Christ.
 - Joseph was loved by his father but hated by his brothers and was sold. Jesus was loved by his Father, hated by his brothers (the Jews) and was sold.
 - Joseph, though hated by his brothers, welcomes them in a time of famine in that land. Jesus Christ welcomes and saves any Israelite who comes to him and recognizes him as the Messiah.
 - While Joseph was in Egypt, he married a Gentile woman. Jesus will marry the church before setting up his kingdom for Israel.

So, we see several aspects of Joseph's life that were already prophecies, in figures, of Jesus. Joseph was a type of Jesus Christ and was the only exception to all the alienation of the sons of Jacob from their relationship with God.

- ⇒ **Genesis 37: 1~36;** Joseph is sold by his brothers.
 - **V.3:** Israel loved Joseph more than the other sons.
 - **V.4~5;** the brothers hated Joseph.
 - **V.6~8;** Joseph's dream that he would reign over his brothers; God always warns us before future events.
 - **V.26~28;** the brothers sell Joseph, who goes to Egypt.
 - **V 36;** in Egypt Joseph is sold to Potiphar, Pharaoh's official.

- Even in the midst of all this, God would ensure that the 'royal' descendants would be preserved. Satan wanted to contaminate the whole race from the beginning, because he knew that God was preparing a people, a nation, for the coming of ' *the one who shall bruise the serpent's head* ', prophesied from the beginning.
- Satan didn't know from which son the descendants would continue; he didn't know that it would be from Judah. He tried to obstruct God's plan, but God, in His sovereignty, would see to it that His plan went ahead, and the chosen descendants was preserved.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 38:1~30;** Judah and Tamar; the descendants in Perez (or Pharez), with the hand of God.
 - ⇒ **Matthew 1: 2~3;** Judah and Pharez in Jesus' genealogy.

Joseph in Egypt

- Joseph is placed as a steward in Potiphar's house.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 39; 1~23**
 - **V.1~5;** Joseph is placed as a steward. God is with Joseph, and the blessing reaches Potiphar's entire house and field.
 - **V.6~15;** Potiphar's wife tries to seduce Joseph, who remains faithful to God. Here we see Satan trying to disrupt God's plans.
 - **V.16~20;** Joseph is imprisoned by Potiphar.
 - **V.21~23;** God was with Joseph, even in prison. If we are faithful to God, doors will open, whatever the circumstances. God makes us fall into the grace of our enemies.
- Joseph, in prison, interprets two dreams and becomes known. When Pharaoh has a dream, Joseph is called upon to interpret it and falls in Pharaoh's grace, who makes him governor of Egypt, in position only below Pharaoh himself.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 41:1~7;** Pharaoh's dream.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 41:8;** Egypt's soothsayers don't interpret the dream.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 41:14~16;** Pharaoh calls Joseph to interpret the dream. Joseph replies: '*It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.*'
 - ⇒ **Genesis 41:25~36;** Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream and instructs him what to do about the famine that would come upon the land.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 41:37~44;** Joseph is appointed governor of Egypt.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 41:46~49;** Joseph gathers all the food for the years to come. Joseph was 30 years old when he presented himself to Pharaoh. Jesus began his ministry at the age of 30 (⇒ **Luke 3:23**), another figure of Jesus.
- Abraham's faith was dwindling. With the exception of Joseph, all the other children of Israel were rebellious to the covenants; they didn't have a relationship with God. However, God had a vocation for this nation, for this people, who until now had only been a family.

- What happened? With famine ravaging the earth, Joseph's brothers went to Egypt. Joseph welcomed his brothers, made himself known to them, told Pharaoh about his family and brought them to Egypt. Counting Joseph, there were 75 people: Jacob, his twelve sons, their wives and children.
- Joseph brings this family into Egypt, takes them in, gives them a great piece of land to raise cattle, and there, inside Egypt, God will make this family into a people, the people of Israel.
- The death of Jacob and Joseph.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 49:1~33;** Jacob prophesies about each son, the twelve tribes of Israel are formed, and he dies.
 - **V.8~10;** the blessing of the descendants is upon Judah; '*The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.*' Here he speaks of the coming of Jesus, who will rule over the throne of Israel.
 - **V.28;** '*All these are the twelve tribes of Israel...*'; the nation is formed.
 - **V.33;** Jacob dies and is gathered to his people.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 50:22~26;** Joseph's death. In **V.24**, we see Joseph's faith in God's promise of the people in the future coming out of Egypt and returning to live in the land of Canaan, the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- How does this family become people? In a supernatural way. Within another country, another people began to form! This other people was clearly separate from the people of Egypt, without any mixture with that race, isn't that strange? God does everything completely supernatural for us to believe. It's the same thing that happens to us today. In the midst of a contaminated world (*Egypt*), God forms a people (*the Church*) clearly separated, to the glory of His name, Hallelujah!
 - ⇒ **Exodus 1:1~14;** the people who entered Egypt, their growth and how they were enslaved.
 - **V.1~5;** the family that entered Egypt.
 - **V.6~8;** the whole generation passed, they all died. Many years passed, about 400 years, and a new king arose in Egypt, who didn't know Joseph.
 - **V.9;** look at the size of the people, more numerous and stronger than the Egyptians. It's clear that there was no mixing of peoples, Israel was a separate people from the Egyptians, it's supernatural.
 - **V.12;** the more the people of Israel were afflicted, the more they grew and spread.
 - **V.13~14;** then the people were harshly enslaved by the Egyptians.
 - We said at the beginning of the course that all periods end with a judgment, with God's interference; this was God's interference to discipline His children. Even though they supernaturally formed a more numerous, clear and distinct people, in the midst of another people, because of their indiscipline towards God, discipline came, they became slaves; slavery was discipline.

- Discipline is a very clear lesson for us. Chosen people? Yes. A people formed by God. Yes. People with whom God has all the covenants and fulfills them. Yes. But disobedience, rebellion, does not exempt God's people from discipline. God cannot bless an undisciplined people. It's like a real natural father, when his children make mistakes, the father doesn't reward them. God is a perfect Father; he disciplines his children. God's grace does not exempt us from his discipline.

⇒ **Hebrews 12:5~9;** 'For whom the Lord loves He chastens '.

⇒ **Job 5:17~27;** 'Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects '

- To discipline is to teach, not to reject. They even became slaves, but God would not reject the people of Israel. All God's discipline has only one aim, to bring them back to Him; this is the aim of God's disciplines. This family, for all they had done, for their departure from God's ways, had to be disciplined and at the same time they were being transformed into a people.