

"Another King Arose Who Did Not Know Joseph"

Acts 7:9-18

Introduction:

- A. What a pity!
 - 1. The king who knew him benefited greatly.
 - 2. The king who did not know him acted unwisely.
- B. What a pity that many of our children do not know Joseph! (cf, Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11)
 - 1. Eleventh son of Jacob.
 - 2. First son of Rachel.
- C. What a difference knowing various stages in Joseph's life can make:
 - 1. Joseph - the Victim
 - 2. Joseph - the Visionary
 - 3. Joseph - the Victor

Discussion:

I. Joseph Was Victimized by Others.

- A. Victim of his *father's misguided love* - partiality. (Gen. 37:3,4)
 - 1. Can harm children in name of love.
 - 2. Christians warned against partiality. (1 Tim. 5:21; Jas 2:1-13)
- B. Victim of his *brothers' hatred and envy*. (Gen. 37:5)
 - 1. Hatred without a real cause.
 - a. Because of Joseph's bad report - likely a true report, knowing Joseph's character. (v.2; cf. Prov. 9:8)
 - b. Because of Jacob's partiality. (v.4)
 - c. Because of Joseph's dreams. (v.5,8)
 - 2. Hatred that ran full course.
 - a. Started with a *hateful heart* - envy.
 - b. Progressed to *hateful words*.
 - c. Ended with *hateful acts* - violence.
 - 3. Hatred and envy at root so many problems.
 - a. Crucified Jesus. (Mk. 15:10).
 - b. Divided Corinthians Church. (1 Cor. 3:1-4; 12:12-31).
- C. Victim of an evil woman. (Gen. 39:1-21).
 - 1. God influenced Joseph more than the woman. (v. 9).
 - 2. Woman could entice Joseph to sin even privately. (v.11-13).
 - 3. Woman lied about Joseph, but God and Joseph knew better. (cf. v. 21).

II. Joseph Received Visions from God.

- A. Joseph's dreams were revelations from God. (cf. Heb. 2:1-2; Mt. 1:20; 2:12,13,19; 27:19; Acts 2:17)
- B. Joseph believed and faithfully reported God's revelation.
 - 1. We need men, like Joseph, who will faithfully preach God's revelation. (2 Tim. 4:2ff)
 - 2. We need men, like Joseph, who have complete faith in God's revelation. (cf. Heb. 11:22).

III. Joseph Was Victorious In Life. (Acts 7:9,10)

- A. Victorious over adversity.
 - 1. Rose above any possible resentment toward brothers. (45:5)
 - 2. Rose above being mistreated in Egypt.
- B. Victorious over prosperity.
 - 1. Prosperity often more dangerous than adversity. (cf. Prov. 30:8,9)
 - 2. Need to learn to be full as well as in need. (Phil. 4:10ff)
- C. Victorious over death.
 - 1. Remembered by Israel and carried into the promised land. (cf. Gen. 50:26; Ex. 13:19).
 - 2. Among those to ultimately be made perfect with us. (Heb. 11:39,40; cf. v. 22).

Conclusion:

- A. How well do you know Joseph?
- B. How about demonstrating the kind of faith Joseph had? Obey today.