

# Joseph: a Young Man Worth Knowing

Exodus 1:8

## Introduction:

- A. What a pity that anyone would not know Joseph!
  - 1. Yet, millions of young people leave home having never heard of Joseph.
  - 2. Anyone should be made a better person by knowing Joseph.
- B. The life of Joseph can be divided into two headings:

## Discussion:

### I. Joseph, the Victim.

- A. Of his father's partiality (Gen. 37:3-4)
  - 1. Partiality breeds resentment and strife.
  - 2. Partiality came "home to roost" for Jacob (37:33-36)
  - 3. Partiality disrupts families and churches (cf. Jas. 2:3-17)
- B. Of his brothers' hatred and envy (Gen. 37:4, 5, 11)
  - 1. Because of his dreams (Gen. 37:5-10).
  - 2. Hatred festered until brothers did irrational things (Gen. 37:18-36)
  - 3. Envy can generate every evil work (Jas. 3:17)
- C. Of a vicious lie.
  - 1. Potiphar's wife's advances and lie (Gen. 39:7-19)
  - 2. Joseph imprisoned because of this lie (Gen. 39:20)
  - 3. Lying hurts people and destroys souls (cf. Rev. 21:8)

### II. Joseph, the Victor.

- A. Through Providence
  - 1. God overruled all the evil done to Joseph for his good.
  - 2. God used Joseph to save the Messianic nation (Gen. 45:5-8; 50:20).
- B. Through Perseverance
  - 1. Joseph was faithful until death (cf. Gen. 50:24)
  - 2. Joseph persevered through slavery, imprisonment, and the governorship.
  - 3. Joseph did not blame God for man's mistakes.
- C. Through Purity
  - 1. Joseph's heart had to be pure to exit Potiphar's house pure.
  - 2. Joseph's reason for purity should be that of every young person - God (Gen. 39:9)

## Conclusion:

- A. Joseph, the victim, could have easily been destroyed by bitterness, resentment and discouragement.
- B. Joseph, the victor, overcame because he understood:
  - 1. The workings of God's providence.
  - 2. The seriousness of God's displeasure.