

Joseph as an Antitype of Christ

Joseph was the older son of Rachel, the woman whom Jacob loved; the one he chose to be his wife. He promised her father to work for her seven years. He said to Laban, I'll work for you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel; so he worked seven years for Rachel, and they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her (Gen.29:18,20). But when the seven years had been completed, Laban gave him Leah, the older sister. So Jacob had to work seven more years for Rachel. From these two wives and their two maids came Jacob's twelve sons. Joseph and Benjamin were the only sons of Rachel.

The life of Joseph is a type of Christ in many aspects: he was the **beloved** of his father (Gen. 37:3). YAHSHUA was the beloved of His Father; "This is My Son, **My beloved One**; listen to Him, were the words the disciples heard at the mountain of transfiguration (Luke 9:35)!

Joseph was **hated, envied by his brothers** (Gen.37: 8-11). The hate of the Jewish nation toward YAHSHUA was evident in the way that they treated Him. Prompted by **envy** they delivered Him to be crucified (Mark 15:10); YAHSHUA said, If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; they will do all this to you [inflict all this suffering on you] because of My name; but [this is so] that the word written in their Law might be fulfilled, They **hated Me** without a cause (Psalm 35:19); Those who **hate me** without cause are more than the hairs of my hair (Psalm 69:4a).

Joseph was **sent** to his brother, and they **conspired** against him; his father said to him, "Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are doing and bring word back to me." When they saw him in the distance, they plotted to kill him (Gen. 37:12-18). In the parable of the vineyard, found in Luke 20: 9-14, which is Jerusalem, YAHSHUA referred to the conspiracy of His brothers -Jewish people against Him. The servants of this parable are the prophets, the tenants the Jewish people, the Son is YAHSHUA Himself. "When at the right time to receive his part of the fruit of the vineyard, the owner sent a servant, whom they beat and sent him back empty-handed; he sent another servant who received the same treatment and went back empty-handed. The owner then said, "What shall I do? **I will send my beloved son** they will respect him". **But when the tenants saw him**, they argued among themselves, saying, "This is the heir; **let us kill him**, so that the inheritance may be ours. So they drove him out of the vineyard and killed him". This was fulfilled in YAHSHUA after they conspired against Him and had He crucified by the Gentiles outside Jerusalem. Before His death, He wept over Jerusalem with warning and grief. As He approached, He saw the city, and He wept over it; for Jerusalem had not recognized known and understood the time of her visitation, that is, when YAHWEH was visiting her. YAHSHUA warned Jerusalem saying, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who continue to kill the prophets and to stone those who are sent to you! How often I have desired and yearned to gather your children together as a hen [gathers] her young under her wings, but you would not" (Luke 13:34; 19:41-44)!

After his brothers conspired to kill Joseph, they **stripped** him off his robe, the robe of many colors; they took him and threw him into the pit. Meanwhile, his brothers **sat down to eat a meal** (Gen. 37:18-25).

In His trial YAHSHUA was **stripped** off His clothes; and when they had crucified Him, they divided and distributed His garments by casting lots; then **they sat down** there and kept **watch over Him** (Matt. 27: 28, 29, 35-36).

Joseph's brothers sold him to the Ishmaelites for a price of **twenty pieces of silver**, who took Joseph to Egypt (Gen. 37: 25, 36); (the Ishmaelites came from Isaac's older half-brother, Ismael, whose mother was from Egypt).

YAHSHUA'S brothers sold Him for a price of **thirty pieces of silver**. That was the price of His betrayal by one of His own disciples (Matt. 26:15).

Joseph was **taken to Egypt** and was sold again to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and the captain of the guard (37: 25, 36).

When YAHSHUA was a young child His family was divinely instructed to **flee to Egypt** because Herod intended to search for Him in order to destroy Him (Matt. 2: 14-15).

At **thirty years of age** Joseph entered the service of Pharaoh's king of Egypt. YAHSHUA was about **thirty years of age** when He began His ministry (Luke 3:23).

Joseph, after many years of suffering and humiliation, **was elevated to the highest position of leadership in Egypt; Pharaoh said, "You will be over my house, and all my people will obey your commands; only with regard to the throne will I be greater than you. See I am placing you over all the land of Egypt; He moved his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, clothed him with fine linen garments, and placed a gold chain around his neck; he had Joseph ride in his second chariot, and [officials] cried before him, Bow the knee! And he set him over all the land of Egypt** (Gen. 41:40-43).

YAHSHUA, after He had appeared in human form, He abased and humbled Himself and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross! Therefore **YAHWEH has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, that in the name of YAHSHUA every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess and acknowledge that YAHSHUA MESSIAH is LORD, to the glory of YAHWEH the Father** (Phil. 2: 8-11).

Joseph's brothers did not recognize him when they had come to Egypt to get food, although Joseph did and when he saw Benjamin- his younger brother with them, he said to his steward, "Take the men to my house; slaughter an animal and prepare it, for they will eat with me at noon". Joseph's steward brought the men into Joseph's house, gave them water to wash their

feet and got and got feed for their donkeys. When Joseph came home, they brought him the gift and bowed down the ground before him (Gen. 43: 16-24).

When YAHSHUA came, **His people did not recognize Him**; He came for those who were His, but they received Him not and did not welcome Him (John 1:11). He was rejected even by those of His household. His half-brothers said to Him, Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples may also see the works that You do. For no one does anything in secret when he wishes to be conspicuous and secure publicity. If You do these things, show Yourself openly and make yourself known to the world! (John 7: 3-5).

When Joseph could no longer hide who he was, **he made himself known to his brothers with a loud cry**. He said to his brothers, I am Joseph! Is my father still living? But his brothers were too terrified to answer him; then Joseph said to his brothers, Please, come near me, and they came near. "I am Joseph, your brother", he said, "The one you sold into Egypt; don't be worried or angry with yourselves for selling me here, because YAHWEH sent me ahead of you to preserve life, for the famine has been in the land these two years, and there will be five more years without plowing or harvesting; YAHWEH sent me ahead of you to establish you as a remnant within the land and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. Therefore it was not you who sent me here, but YAHWEH. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household, and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Joseph kissed each of his brothers as he wept, and afterward his brothers talked with him (Gen. 45:1-15).

When YAHSHUA pours out a spirit of grace and supplication on the house of David and the residents of Jerusalem, **they will look at Him Whom they pierced**, and will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child and weep bitterly for Him as one weeps for a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning of Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo; on that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the residents of Jerusalem, to wash away sin and impurity (Zech. 12:10-11; 13:1).

Joseph, after **taken for dead by his father, was found alive** and well as ruler over the land of Egypt! His father when hearing the news was stunned and did not believe them; but after hearing and seeing the evidences he said, "Enough! My son Joseph is still alive; I will go to see him before I die" (Gen. 47:25-28).

After YAHSHUA'S **death many took Him to remain dead**. But He appeared to many, and was believed to be alive. On that day when it was evening, YAHSHUA came and stood among them and said, Peace be to you! However Thomas did not believe them and said, "Unless I see in His hands the marks made by the nail prints, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe. Eight days later YAHSHUA appeared to them again and He said to **Thomas, Reach out your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand and place [it] in My side. Do not be faithless and incredulous, but believe! Thomas answered Him, My Lord and My YAHWEH** (John 20)!

When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, **he forgave** the evil they committed against him. After the death of their father he assured of his forgiveness to them. They said, "If Joseph is holding a grudge against us, he will certainly repay us for all the wrong we caused him"; they sent this message to Joseph, "Before he died your father gave a command: Say to Joseph: please forgive your brothers' transgression and their sin – the wrong they caused you. Therefore, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father. Joseph wept when their message came to him. Then his brothers also came to him, bowed down before him, and said, "We are your slaves!" But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You planned evil against me: God planned it for good to bring about the present result – the survival of many people. Therefore, don't be afraid, I will take care of you and your little ones". **And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them** (Gen. 50:15-21)

At YAHSHUA'S death on the cross, He released **forgiveness** to all who had taken part on His death. He prayed, Father, forgive them for they now not what they do (Luke 23:34). He showed Himself to the disciples three times, fellowshiped with them and opened their eyes and minds to understand the Scriptures (Luke 24:39-45). On His third appearance to the disciples, He prepared breakfast for them and ate with them. He re-instated Peter to his position of an apostle and to his responsibilities (John 21). Before He left them, as He was blessing them He parted from them and was taken to heaven (Luke 24:50-51).

Joseph foreshadowed YAHSHUA through circumstances and behavior. He left behind a good legacy of faithfulness, obedience, and zeal for his God. Not once did he compromise his faith. He also took a **gentile wife**, representing **YAHSHUA'S future Gentile bride**. All that happened to Joseph's life was directed by YAHWEH to give the world the picture of His Son's life and obedience which would lead Him to the cross to save the world. As Joseph saved his brothers from the famine on its second year, so YAHSHUA will come and physically save His people (the Jewish remnant) in the second half of the tribulation, which will come upon the earth, as it was prophesized in YAHWEH'S Word. The seven years of famine is a picture of the future tribulation. YAHSHUA said, "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly; for it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth (Luke 21:34-35).