

READING: Genesis 41

SINGING: 246:1-3 - 289:1-5 – 327:1-4 – 249:1-6

**THE VICTORY OF GOD'S GRACE IN JOSEPH**

I. Joseph's fiercest fire    II. Joseph clear confession

**I. JOSEPH'S FIERCEST FIRE**

- A. The common misunderstanding of Ch 41: *The story of his **deliverance!***
- B. Joseph's elevation from 'prison to palace' presents greater temptations
1. Consider the main details of his story
    - a. first he is forgotten but finally remembered
    - b. what most impressed the court was not the explanation (33-36)
    - c. through it all, Joseph wasn't shy to confess God (16, 32)
  2. Yet his elevation brings a hotter fire he has ever experienced
    - a. he is promoted to serve and daily deal with pagans (37-40)
    - b. he is receiving massive doses of recognition and honor (43-44)
    - c. his name is changed to mask his real identity (45)
    - d. he is united to an utterly pagan wife (45)
  3. Add up all these details and you must not think 'deliverance' but 'trial'
    - a. be alerted: *prosperity kills more than adversity*

**II. JOSEPH'S CLEAR CONFESSION IS GOD'S VICTORY OF GRACE**

- A. Scripture is the 'history of redemption' (see Ps. 105:1-2; 107:8)
- B. What were Joseph's inner thoughts throughout events of ch. 41?
1. The Bible doesn't reveal anything about it until vs. 50-52
  2. Naming his children was a *personal confession of faith*
    - a. at this point he lived longer in Egypt than he outside it
    - b. yet he purposely chose *Hebrew* names for his children
  3. Is this grace of God visible in the confession of your/my life?

- C. Joseph confessed his faith in name Manasseh (lit. *forgetting*)
1. what does he confess in this name?
    - a. not that he 'forsook his father's house and faith'
    - b. but that *God helped him* to move on from the past suffering
  2. This is an example of God's healing and victorious grace!
  3. Giving his son this curious Hebrew name was an opportunity for him to confess the story of God's grace
  4. Do you have a Manasseh in your life?
- D. Joseph goes farther in naming second son Ephraim (lit. *fruitful*)
1. His confession is that *God* made him fruitful
  2. But also that *Egypt* is (still) the land of *my affliction*
    - a. picture him surrounded with of all the world's goods available
    - b. yet despite all that *still the land of my affliction*
  3. Do you see your 'world – your situation' like that?
    - a. Is your life a 'pilgrimage through the wilderness?'
    - b. Are we like Joseph in our attachment of our surroundings?

### TRUTHS ON TRIALS

I HAVE LEARNED MORE FROM LIFE'S TRIALS THAN FROM ITS TRIUMPHS.

TRIALS ARE MEANT TO MAKE US BETTER RATHER THAN BITTER.

THE GEM CANNOT BE POLISHED WITHOUT FRICTION, NOR MAN PERFECTED WITHOUT THE TRIALS.

THE BROOK WILL LOSE ITS 'SONG' IF YOU REMOVED THE ROCKS.