

Message Twelve

Jacob (3)–being Matured and the Reigning Aspect of the Matured Israel (Joseph)

Scripture reading: Gen. 37-50

I. Genesis 37-45 is a record of the process of Jacob's maturity:

- A. In Genesis 27 we see a supplanter; in chapter 37, a transformed man; and at the end of chapter 45, a mature person.
- B. To be transformed is to be metabolically changed in our natural life, whereas to be matured is to be filled with the divine life that changes us–Heb. 6:1.
 1. The last stage of transformation is maturity, the fullness of life–Col. 1:28-29; cf. John 10:10.
 2. Maturity is a matter of the enlargement of capacity–cf. Psa. 4:1 (Darby).
- C. The life of Jacob reveals that everything that happens to us is under God's sovereignty for our transformation and maturity; nothing is accidental.
 1. In order to become mature, Jacob first had to suffer the loss of Joseph, the treasure of his heart–Gen. 37:31-35; cf. Heb. 12:7.
 - a. Jacob used to make gains from everyone. Even at the time of Racheal's death, this suffer of loss produced a gain, Benjamin–35:16-20.
 - b. When Jacob underwent another loss of Joseph, he didn't gain anything; from this point onward, Jacob lost one thing after another.
 2. A mature believer has learned that God is merciful and all-sufficient to meet his needs in every kind of situation–43:11, 13-14; cf. 17:1; Phil. 4:11-12.
 3. His trust and rest are altogether in the mercy of his all-sufficient God, no longer in himself or in his ability–Rom. 9:16; cf. Gen. 48:3-4.
 4. Eventually in chapter 47, he gained the fullness of life; the fullness of life is blessing, which is the overflow of life–v. 7, 10; 48:8-21; Heb. 7:7; 11:21.
 5. The period of maturity was the brightest period of Jacob's life–Gen. 45:26-28; 46:1-3; Prov. 4:18.

II. According to spiritual experience, Jacob and Joseph are one person; Joseph represents the reigning aspect of the mature Israel, the constitution of Christ

in Jacob's mature nature; as a mature saint constituted of Christ, the perfect One, Jacob reigned through Joseph—Gen. 41:39-44; 39:2-5, 21-23.

- A. Joseph was a “master of dreams” and his dreams controlled his life and directed his behavior—Gen. 37:5-11, 19; cf. Acts. 26:19.
- B. Joseph was hated, persecuted, and betrayed (sold) by his brothers to Egypt—Gen. 37:23-24, 28, 36.
- C. In the presence of the Lord, Joseph was prospered by Him; while Joseph was undergoing ill-treatment, he enjoyed the Lord's prosperity that came to him under the Lord's sovereignty—39:2-3, 23.
- D. In the presence of the Lord, Joseph was favored with the Lord's blessing wherever he was; when Joseph enjoyed prosperity, he and those who were involved with him were blessed—vv.4-5, 22-23.
- E. As Joseph sought the Lord, God put him into a “dungeon”; without the dungeon we cannot ascend to the throne; we must not be a dungeon dropout; we must stay in the dungeon until we graduate and receive the crown—39:20; 40:15; 41:14; James 1:12; cf. Phil. 3:8.
- F. Joseph was released from prison indirectly through his speaking by faith in interpreting the cupbearer's dream, and he was ushered to the throne directly through his speaking boldly in interpreting Pharaoh's dreams—41:9-13; 14-46.
- G. In his receiving glory and gifts in his enthronement, Joseph typifies Christ, who received glory and gifts in His ascension—Gen. 41:42; Heb. 2:9; Psa. 68:18; Acts. 2:33.
- H. After being ushered into the position of ascension, Joseph married Asenath, who portrays the church taken out of Gentile world—Gen. 41:45.
- I. The record of Joseph's life is a revelation of the rulership of the Spirit, for the rulership of the Spirit is the reigning aspect of a mature saint; the rulership of the Spirit (a life of reigning in life, being under the restriction and limitation of the divine life in the reality of God's kingdom) is higher than any other aspect of the Spirit—Gen. 42:9, 24; 43:30-31; 45:1-2, 24; Rom. 5:17, 21; 14:17-18.
- J. Because Joseph suffered and denied himself, he gained the riches of the life supply; in order to receive food from him, the people had to pay four kinds of prices: their money, their livestock, their land, and themselves—47:14-23; cf. Rev. 3:18.

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Reference Scripture Verses:

Gen. 35:16-20. 16 And they journeyed from Bethel. And while there was still some distance to come to Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth; and she had hard labor. 17 And while she was in hardest labor, the midwife said to her, Do not be afraid, for now you have another son. 18 And as her soul was departing (for she died), she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin. 19 So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). 20 And Jacob set up a pillar on her grave; that is the pillar of Rachel's grave, which is there to this day.

Gen. 37:5-11. 5 Then Joseph had a dream; and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. 6 And he said to them, Listen to this dream which I have had: 7 There we were, binding sheaves in the field, when suddenly my sheaf rose up and remained standing; and then your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf. 8 And his brothers said to him, Will you indeed reign over us and actually be a ruler among us? So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. 9 And he had still another dream and told it to his brothers and said, Now I have had another dream: There were the sun and the moon and eleven stars, bowing down to me. 10 And he told it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the ground to you? 11 And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in his heart.

Gen. 37:19 And they said one to another, Here comes this master of dreams.

Gen. 37:23-24. 23 And when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped Joseph of his coat, the coat of many colors that was on him; 24 And they took him and threw him into the pit. Now the pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Gen. 37:28 So when some Midianite traders passed by, they pulled Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and they sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And these brought Joseph into Egypt.

Gen. 37:31-36. 31 Then they took Joseph's coat and slaughtered a male goat and dipped the coat in the blood. 32 And they sent the coat of many colors and had it brought to their father and said, We found this; please examine it, and see if it is your son's coat or not. 33 And he recognized it and said, It is my son's coat. A wild beast has devoured him; Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces. 34 And Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth upon his loins and mourned for his son many days. 35 And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted and said, Surely I will go down to Sheol to my son, mourning. Thus his father wept for him. 36 Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an official of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.

Gen. 39:2-5. 2 And Jehovah was with Joseph, and he became a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 And his master saw that Jehovah was with him and that Jehovah caused all that he did to prosper in his hand. 4 And Joseph found favor in his sight, and he ministered to him; and he made him overseer of his house and put all that he had in his charge. 5 And from the time he made him overseer in his house and put him over all that he had, Jehovah blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; and the blessing of Jehovah was upon all that he had, in the house and in the field.

Gen. 39:20 And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while he was there in the prison,

Gen. 39:21-23. 21 Jehovah was with Joseph; and He extended kindness to him and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. 22 And the chief jailer put in Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the prison; and whatever was done there, he was the one to do it. 23 The chief jailer did not supervise anything that was in his charge, because Jehovah was with him; and whatever he did, Jehovah caused it to prosper.

Gen. 40:15 For I was actually kidnapped out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have not done anything that they should put me into the dungeon.

Gen. 41:9-16. 9 Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my sins today. 10 Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and he put me in custody at the house of the captain of the guard, both me and the chief baker. 11 And we both had a dream in one night, I and he; each of us had a dream with its own interpretation. 12 And a young Hebrew man was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. And we told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us; to each one he interpreted according to his dream. 13 And as he interpreted to us, so it happened; Pharaoh restored me to my office, and he hanged the baker. 14 Then Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon; and he had shaved himself and changed his garments, and he came to Pharaoh. 15 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, I have had a dream, but there is no one who can interpret it; and I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it. 16 And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not of me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.

Gen. 41:25-38. 25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, Pharaoh's dream is one dream; what God is about to do He has told Pharaoh. 26 The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dream is one. 27 And the seven thin and ugly looking cows that came up after them are seven years, and so are the seven empty ears scorched by the east wind; they will be seven years of famine. 28 This matter is just as I have spoken to Pharaoh; what God is about to do He has shown to Pharaoh. 29 Seven years of great abundance are now about to come throughout all the land of Egypt. 30 Then seven years of famine will arise after them, and all the abundance in the land of Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will consume the land. 31 And the abundance will be unknown in the land because of that famine which follows, for it will be very severe. 32 And as for the repeating of the dream to Pharaoh twice, it means that the matter is determined by God, and God will quickly bring it about. 33 Now therefore let Pharaoh look out for a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. 34 Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers over the land and take a fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance. 35 And let them gather all the food of these coming good years and lay up grain under Pharaoh's authority for food in the cities, and let them keep it. 36 And let the food become a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that will be in the land of Egypt, so that the land does not perish in the famine. 37 And the word seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his servants. 38 And Pharaoh said to his servants, Can we find such a man like this, in whom the Spirit of God is?

Gen. 41:39-52. 39 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, Since God let you know all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. 40 You shall be over my household, and according to your word all my people shall be ruled; only in the throne will I be greater than you. 41 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt. 42 And Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it upon Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck. 43 And he made him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command, and they cried out before him, Bow the knee! And he set him over all the land of Egypt.

44 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, I am Pharaoh, yet without your consent no man will lift up his hand or his foot in all the land of Egypt. **45** And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah, and he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, as his wife. And Joseph went out over the land of Egypt. **46** Now Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and passed through all the land of Egypt. **47** And in the seven years of abundance the earth produced copiously. **48** And he gathered up all the food of the seven years which came upon the land of Egypt and put the food in the cities; he placed the food from the surrounding fields within each city. **49** And Joseph stored grain in great abundance like the sand of the sea until he stopped measuring it; for it was beyond measure. **50** And before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore to him. **51** And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh, for, he said, God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's house. **52** And he called the name of the second Ephraim, for, he said, God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.

Gen. 42:9 And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed about them, and he said to them, You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land.

Gen. 42:24 And he turned away from them and wept. Then he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from among them and bound him before their eyes.

Gen. 43:11-14. 11 And their father Israel said to them, If it must be so, then do this: Take some of the choice fruits of the land in your bags, and carry a present down to the man - a little balm and a little honey, aromatic gum and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds. **12** And take double the silver in your hand, and carry back in your hand the silver that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was a mistake. **13** Take your brother also, and rise up. Return to the man, **14** And may the All-sufficient God grant you mercy before the man, that he may release to you your other brother and Benjamin. And as for me, if I am to be bereaved of my children, I shall be bereaved.

Gen. 43:30-31. 30 And Joseph hurried - for his inward parts burned for his brother - and sought a place to weep. So he entered into his chamber and wept there. **31** Then he washed his face and came out, and he controlled himself and said, Serve the meal.

Gen. 45:1-2. 1 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who attended him; and he cried out, Have everyone go out from me. So there was no one standing with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. **2** And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

Gen. 45:5-8. 5 And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. **6** For the famine has been in the midst of the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. **7** And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. **8** So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Gen. 45:24 So he sent his brothers away; and as they departed, he said to them, Do not quarrel on the way.

Gen. 45:26-28. 26 And they told him, saying, Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt. And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them. **27** And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them; and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived.

28 And Israel said, It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.

Gen. 46:1-3. **1** So Israel set out with all that he had and came to Beer-sheba and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. **2** And God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here I am. **3** And He said, I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.

Gen. 47:7-10. **7** And Joseph brought in Jacob his father and set him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. **8** And Pharaoh said to Jacob, How many are the years of your life? **9** And Jacob said to Pharaoh, The years of my sojourning are one hundred thirty years; few and evil have been the years of my life, and they have not attained to the years of the lives of my fathers during the days of their sojourning. **10** And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went forth from Pharaoh's presence.

Gen. 47:14-23. **14** And Joseph collected all the money that was to be found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan for the grain which they bought, and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. **15** And when the money from the land of Egypt and from the land of Canaan had been spent, all the Egyptians came to Joseph saying, Give us food, for why should we die in your presence? For our money is gone. **16** And Joseph said, Bring your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for your livestock, if your money is gone. **17** And they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses and for the flocks of sheep and for the herds of cattle and for the donkeys; and he fed them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year. **18** And when that year had ended, they came to him the second year and said to him, We cannot hide from my lord that our money has been spent, and the herds of cattle are my lord's. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord except our bodies and our lands. **19** Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land in exchange for food, and we and our land will become servants to Pharaoh. And give us seed that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate. **20** So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every Egyptian sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them; and the land became Pharaoh's. **21** And as for the people, he removed them to the cities from one end of the border of Egypt even to the other end. **22** Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had an assigned portion from Pharaoh, and they lived off their portion which Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their land. **23** Then Joseph said to the people, Now that I have this day bought you and your land for Pharaoh, here is seed for you that you may sow the land.

Gen. 47:28-31. **28** And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. Thus the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were one hundred forty-seven years. **29** And the time for Israel to die drew near. And he called his son Joseph and said to him, If now I have found favor in your sight, please put your hand under my thigh and deal with me in kindness and truth; please do not bury me in Egypt. **30** But when I lie down with my fathers, you shall carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their burial place. And he said, I will do as you have said. **31** And he said, Swear to me; and he swore to him. Then Israel bowed himself at the head of his bed.

Gen. 48:3-4. **3** And Jacob said to Joseph, The All-sufficient God appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me. **4** And He said to me, Behold, I am going to make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your seed after you for an everlasting possession.

Gen. 48:8-21. **8** And when Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, Who are these? **9** And Joseph said to his father, They are my sons, whom God has given to me here. And he said, Bring them to me, that I may bless them. **10** Now the

eyes of Israel were dim with age, and he could not see. So Joseph brought them near to him, and he kissed them and embraced them. **11** And Israel said to Joseph, I never expected to see your face, and now God has let me see your seed also. **12** And Joseph brought them out from between his knees and bowed himself with his face to the ground. **13** And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near to him. **14** But Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it upon Ephraim's head - although he was the younger - and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands with insight, even though Manasseh was the firstborn. **15** And he blessed Joseph and said, The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has shepherded me all my life to this day, **16** The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; And may my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And may they be a teeming multitude in the midst of the earth. **17** And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; and he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head onto Manasseh's head. **18** And Joseph said to his father, Not so, my father, for this is the firstborn. Put your right hand upon his head. **19** But his father refused and said, I know, my son, I know. He also will become a people, and he also will be great. However, his younger brother will become greater than he, and his seed will become a multitude of nations. **20** And he blessed them that day, saying, By you Israel will bless, saying, God make you like Ephraim and like Manasseh. Thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh. **21** And Israel said to Joseph, Now I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your fathers.

I.

Heb. 6:1 Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God,

Col. 1:28-29. **28** Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ; **29** For which also I labor, struggling according to His operation which operates in me in power.

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have *it* abundantly.

Heb. 12:7 It is for discipline *that* you endure; God deals with you as with sons. For what son is there whom the father does not discipline?

Psa. 4:1 When I call out, answer me, O God of my righteousness; Make room for me when I am in straits; Be gracious to me and hear my prayer.

Psa. 4:1 (Darby) When I call, answer me, O God of my righteousness: in pressure thou hast enlarged me; be gracious unto me, and hear my prayer.

Gen. 17:1 And when Abram was ninety-nine years old, Jehovah appeared to Abram and said to him, I am the All-sufficient God; Walk before Me, and be perfect.

Phil. 4:11-12. **11** Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content. **12** I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.

Rom. 9:16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

Heb. 7:7 But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater.

Heb. 11:21 By faith Jacob, while he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph and worshipped *God, while leaning* on the top of his staff.

Prov. 4:18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, Which shines brighter and brighter until the full day.

II.

Acts. 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures trial, because when he has become approved by testing, he will receive the crown of life, which He promised to those who love Him.

Phil. 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count *them* as refuse that I may gain Christ

Heb. 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little inferior to the angels because of the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death on behalf of everything.

Psa. 68:18 You have ascended on high; You have led captive those taken captive; You have received gifts among men, Even the rebellious ones also, That Jehovah God may dwell among them.

Acts 2:33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, He has poured out this which you both see and hear.

Rom. 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom. 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom. 14:17-18. 17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For he who serves Christ in this is well pleasing to God and approved by men.

Rev. 3:18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire that you may be rich, and white garments that you may be clothed and *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be manifested, and eyesalve to anoint your eyes that you may see.