

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

PREDESTINATION

RLJ-1212

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PART 5: FITTING INTO GOD'S PLAN

LOOKING BACK

As a Christian, when I look at my life and view all the events I have been through, it is easy to recognize a pattern of a master plan for my life and that God intervened time and time again to get me where He wanted me.

Looking back 4,000 years, it is also easy to see the pattern and the plan that God had for the family of Terah. This family was the embryo that one day would develop into the nation of Israel.

God brought Abraham and his wife out from Chaldea, placed them in Canaan's land and gave them a son, Isaac, who would be the next link in the bloodline. God then brought a wife to Isaac from the Terah family and gave them a son, Jacob. God made sure that Jacob had a wife from the Terah family and allowed Jacob to have 12 sons, each of whom would become the patriarch for the future twelve tribes of Israel.

The embryo was ready to be transplanted to the womb that would nourish and grow it to become a nation. Jacob and his family were moved to Egypt which has been prepared when God brought in the Hyksos to rule and push the native people of Egypt into the southern part and out of the way.

JOSEPH, GOD'S MAN IN EGYPT

Joseph was just like you and I in that he had knowledge of the past but did not know the future. He had to live his life in faith and ask God for guidance every day.

I am sure that it must have been in Joseph's heart to travel back to the land of Canaan and tell his father that he was alive but there was no time as he prepared for the famine during the next seven years. **Genesis 41:45-49**

God blessed Joseph with two sons which gave him much comfort in his grief for his father. **verses 50-53**

The famine which came was not an accident but was created by God for the purpose of forcing Jacob and his sons out of Canaan. **verses 54-57; 42:1-3; Isaiah 45:5-7**

TESTING HIS BROTHERS

Jacob didn't dare to send Benjamin to Egypt for the fear that he would lose the remaining child of Rachael. **Genesis 42:4**



The ten brothers could not just be brought down to Egypt before God had done a spiritual work in their lives and have them repent of hurting their brother and selling him as a slave. God used Joseph to conduct this test.

❖ Test Number One: **Genesis 42:5-17**

During this very stressful time the ten brothers talked among themselves and confessed that the cruel act of selling Joseph 20 years earlier had come back to haunt them. They didn't know that Joseph was the governor and that he could hear every word they spoke. **verses 18-23**

It must have been hard for Joseph to deal harshly with his brothers, and his reaction shows that he had forgiven them with no bitterness in his heart, but he was determined to root out all the evil that had destroyed their family. **verses 24-25**

❖ Test Number two: **Genesis 42:26-35**

Would his brothers be honest and return the money to the government of Egypt? Had they learned about integrity?

Jacob became very distressed and was still paying for the sins of his youth. Even though he was forgiven, there were still consequences. **verse 36**

First Joseph had been lost, then Simeon, so Benjamin was certainly not going down to Egypt. **verse 38**

GOD INCREASES THE PRESSURE

When God works out His plan, no man can stop it and there will be no reprieve. Once He starts the process, He will not let up. **Genesis 43:1-2**

Judah told his father that there is no chance of buying food unless Benjamin came with them to Egypt. **verses 3-5**

Jacob slipped back into his habit of lying and blamed Judah for not lying to the governor of Egypt. **verse 6**

Judah defended himself and told his father that he had spoken the truth. **verse 7**

Judah was willing to be forever cursed if Benjamin did not come back. He had changed and was willing to give of himself. He wasn't thinking about what he could get but what he could give. **verses 8-10**

Jacob faced a dilemma: he had ten sons left along with their families who faced starvation but he didn't want to risk losing Benjamin. He knew that he had to release Benjamin to get food or slowly die. The grief he caused others came back to him. **verses 11-15**

BACK IN EGYPT

The testing was not over as the ten brothers realized they had to confess that the money used to purchase food had ended up in their sacks. **verses 16-22**

The steward told them not to worry and prepared them to have dinner with the governor as Simeon was brought out of prison. The ten brothers were totally in the dark and didn't know that the governor was Joseph. They must have been very nervous as they could not understand why the governor, second in command of all Egypt, would take them into his own house and also mystified as to how he knew so much about them. **verses 23-29**

Again we can see that Joseph was a loving and kind person; he wanted to make sure that when the reunion took place, all conspiracy and lying would be gone. **verses 30-34**

THE FINAL TESTING

Joseph set up a severe final test because he wanted to know for sure that his brothers had repented and changed. **Genesis 44:1-12**

When the silver cup was found in Benjamin's sack, the ten brothers broke down in grief and sorrow. They were free to go, but as one man they turned back to the governor's house. **verse 13**

Judah did not have any answers or excuses for the governor but was willing to sign away his life as a slave as long as Benjamin could go back to Jacob. It must have been heartbreaking to hear the plea of Judah. **verses 14-34**

THE TESTING IS OVER

Joseph was satisfied that there had been a change and revealed himself to his brothers. The twelve brothers were united for the first time in 22 years and the love was free to flow between them. The dysfunctional family had been destroyed. **Genesis 45:1-4**

PREDESTINATION EXPLAINED TO HIS BROTHERS

Joseph had received a full revelation from God that all his suffering had taken place to prepare a place in Egypt for his family. Joseph was content and accepted it; he held no grudges and did not get angry with God because he realized, he was part of God's plan for his family and for the future generations to be born. **verses 5-8**

A FRESH REVELATION FROM GOD

Jacob was obedient and left the land of Canaan where he was born and worshiped the Lord when he came to Beersheba. God spoke to him in a vision and assured him that he was in the will of God and that this move to Egypt was of God and that there was nothing to fear. **Genesis 46:1-6**

What a reunion it must have been when Jacob and Joseph met each other again twenty two years later. **verses 28-30**

God placed them in Goshen, the most fertile land in Egypt. **Genesis 47:1-6**

God used the Hyksos Pharaoh to bless his people, and in return God used Jacob as a priest of God to bless this man. **verses 7-10**

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS SEGMENT?

1. We must always live in forgiveness and never let bitterness take root in us! **Hebrews 12:14-15**
2. Keep praising God in all circumstances. Recognize that God is in control and knows where you are. He knows if you have strayed from His will. Stop, take a deep breath and proclaim, *“God loves me, He cares for me and He is going to see me through my trials and temptations.”* **Romans 8:26-31**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?