

Theme: EXALTATION OF JOSEPH

Memory Verse: *John 6:33* “For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.”

Texts: Genesis 41:39-45; Psalm 75:6; Proverbs 18:16

The promotion and exaltation of Joseph was unprecedented in history. Though the pronouncement came through Pharaoh, the act of exaltation was from God (Psalm 75:6, 7). It was divine. Joseph became the executive governor of Egypt while Pharaoh resolved to accept the ceremonial status. It was exhilarating to hear Pharaoh say to Joseph: “Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.... And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph’s hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land.

Joseph’s exaltation is unique in various ways. Firstly, it was the fulfilment of Joseph’s childhood dream (Genesis 37:5-9; 42:6-13). If you, as a believer, can defy all odds and remain tenaciously with God, all your dreams as promised by God shall come to pass. Secondly, it was the present reward for the wise use of God’s gift. “A man’s gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men” (Proverbs 18:16). The gift of God is neither to be hidden nor to be misused. When used under the control of the Holy Spirit, it brings divine dividend. Thirdly, Pharaoh did not only, by himself, robe Joseph, he also decorated him with the royal apparel (Genesis 41:42). This is a transfer of authority and honour. God promised in His word that He would bless the believer with the heritage of the heathen.

A true child of God does not need worldly craftiness or calculative and fraudulent manoeuvrings to reach the top or to attain honour and prominence in the world. God still exalts His children today. He exalted Daniel (Daniel 2:48), the three Hebrew children (Daniel 1:20; 3:28-30), Joshua (Joshua 4:4) and our Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:9, 10). Fourthly, Joseph’s exaltation was a confirmation of the infallibility of the word of God. His humble endurance of all his tribulations and trials made it easy for God to exalt him (Proverbs 15: 33; 22:4). Fifthly, Joseph’s exaltation points to his righteous life as exemplified in Proverbs 3:32 “For the froward is abomination to the Lord: but his secret is with the righteous.” But for Joseph’s righteous credentials, he could not have known the secret of Pharaoh’s dream. Finally, his exaltation was comprehensively full. He was given position, honour, chariots, authority and even a wife! God does not give partial blessing. Believers should always fulfil the conditions for total emancipation from unfulfilled lives.

| | DAILY BIBLE READING | |
|-----------|----------------------------|------------------|
| | MORNING | EVENING |
| SUNDAY | 1 Corinthians 14 | 1 Corinthians 15 |
| MONDAY | 1 Corinthians 16 | 2 Corinthians 1 |
| TUESDAY | 2 Corinthians 2 | 2 Corinthians 3 |
| WEDNESDAY | 2 Corinthians 4 | 2 Corinthians 5 |
| THURSDAY | 2 Corinthians 6 | 2 Corinthians 7 |
| FRIDAY | 2 Corinthians 8 | 2 Corinthians 9 |
| SATURDAY | 2 Corinthians 10 | 2 Corinthians 11 |