

Joseph as a 'Type' of Christ

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Joseph and his younger brother, Benjamin, are 'types' of the Lord Jesus. The name Joseph was prophetic and means "adding" because his mother Rachel said at his birth, "*The Lord shall add to me another son*" (Gen.30:24). Joseph's name was therefore a **prophecy** of Benjamin's birth and both of these sons of Rachel are 'types' that foreshadow future events.

Typology is not just fanciful thinking but has New Testament authority. God has woven into the history of Israel events that are prophetic for future generations of the nation and for the Church. The journey of Israel from Egypt to Canaan beginning with the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, the Passover lamb, baptism by the Spirit (the cloud) and by water (through the Red Sea), the manna from heaven and the living water from the smitten rock are all types which have New Testament authority (1Cor.10:1-6). Isaac and Ishmail are an allegory of earthly Jerusalem and the heavenly Jerusalem (Gal.4:22-31) and the entire construction and service of the Tabernacle given to Moses on Mount Sinai is a picture of our approach to God in spiritual worship as taught in the Epistle to the Hebrews.

Typical teaching must never be the sole authority for any teaching for it is only to illustrate what is elsewhere clearly taught; it never contradicts the plain teaching of Scripture. Since Joseph's name was in itself a prophecy we might well expect that his whole life is also prophetic. The course of his life was Divinely ordered to reflect future events for the children of Israel.

Let us trace the lives of Joseph and Benjamin and see how their lives were prophetic of Christ and the nation of Israel.

1) Rachel died when Benjamin was born but before she died she named Benjamin, Benoni, which means, "*Son of my sorrow*", however Jacob named him, "*Son of my right hand*". Benjamin was born near **Bethlehem** where the Lord was born and the Lord came as the "*man of sorrows*" but is now exalted to the "*right hand*" of God. David prophesied:

"The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool... The Lord at thy right hand shall strike

through kings in the day of his wrath. He shall judge among the heathen" (Ps.110:1-6).

The Lord Jesus quoted Psalm 110 and identified Himself as the One at the right hand of God when He questioned the Pharisees in Matt.22:41-46 and Peter also quoted Psalm 110 affirming that

*"This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being **by the right hand** of God exalted..."* (Acts 2:32-33).

2) Joseph was loved of his father (Gen.37:3): Jesus was loved of His Father:

"The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand" (John 3:35).

"For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth" (John 5:20).

3) Joseph dreamed that he would rule over Israel (Gen.37:5-11) and that the tribes would one day bow down to him. He dreamed that he was gathering sheaves in the field and his brother's sheaves bowed down to his sheaf. The Lord Jesus will one day sit on the throne of David and reign over Israel for the angel Gabriel told Mary,

*"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him **the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end"*** (Luke 1:32-33).

4) Joseph was hated by his brethren (Gen.37:4). Jesus was hated:

*"now have they both seen and **hated both me and my Father**. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, **They hated me without a cause"*** (John 15:24-25).

5) Joseph's brethren were evil (Gen.37:2): The Jews were evil:

*"The world cannot hate you; **but me it hateth**, because I testify of it, that **the works thereof are evil"*** (John 7:7).

6) Joseph was sent by his father from Hebron ("*fellowship*") to his brethren in Shechem ("*place of burdens*") by his father (Gen.37:13):

(Shechem means "the neck" (where burdens were carried) between two mountains; Ebal and Gerizim. This was where Israel read the law after they entered Canaan. When Jesus came to His brethren they were burdened down with legalism and the Law). Jesus said:

*"**I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I***

leave the world, and go to the Father” (John 16:28).

“He came unto his own (land), and his own (people) received him not” (John 1:11).

7) When Joseph came to Shechem his brethren had moved from there to Dothan which means “two wells”. When Jesus came to His people He found they had forsaken the Lord who was the “*fountain of living waters*” and “*hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water*” (Jer.2:13). They were feeding at two wells. They were either Pharisees or Sadducees. They were either legalistic and following the traditions of men or liberal and refusing to believe in a supernatural God.

8) Joseph was sold for 20 pieces of silver and Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver.

9) Joseph was stripped of his coat of many colours (Gen.37:23) and Jesus was given a purple robe, “*a gorgeous robe*” (Luke 23:13), and then stripped of it (Matt.31-35) before He was crucified.



10) Joseph was delivered to the Gentiles; to Potiphar “*the captain of the guard*” (Gen.37:36). According to the Hebrew Lexicon of Gesenius the literal translation is “*captain of the executioners*”. Pharaoh’s body guard were also the executioners. The word translated “*guard*” is literally “*slaughterers*”.

The Lord Jesus was delivered by Pilate into the hands of the soldiers who were the executioners, to be crucified.

11) Joseph was faithful in Potiphar’s house and was innocent of a false charge made by Potiphar’s wife. He told the chief Butler: “*I have done nothing that they should put me in prison*”(Gen.40:15).

When Jesus stood before Pilate, Pilate said, “*I find in him no fault at all*” (John18:38). “*Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth*” (Heb.2:21-22).

12) Joseph was brought up from the dungeon and exalted to the prime ministers place “*over all the land of Egypt*” (Gen.41:41). When Joseph rode in the the chariot “*they cried before him, Bow the knee*”



(Gen.41:43). Pharaoh gave Joseph another name: Zaph-nath-paaneah which Gesenius says means, "Saviour of the Age".

The Lord Jesus descended into Paradise where the souls of all the saved were **captives** awaiting release when Christ rose from the dead. When Christ rose from Paradise He "*led captivity captive*" before He ascended on high (Eph.4:8-10). Christ has been brought up from the grave and now sits at the right hand of God, a Prince and a Saviour. He is the "Saviour of the Age."

"Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins" (Acts 5:31).

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9-11).

13) Joseph foretold there would be **7 years of dearth** and told Pharaoh how to prepare for it (Gen.41:25-36).

Jesus foretold that there would be 7 years of Great Tribulation and how to prepare for it (Matt.24 and 25). The Olivet Discourse is a detailed prophecy of the global dearth that will come in the last days. The first half is called the "*beginning of sorrows (travail)*" and the second half is called "*great tribulation*". Isaiah wrote, "*As soon as Zion travailed she brought forth her children*" (Isa.66:8). The dearth in

all the world will bring Israel to repentance and the new birth under the New Covenant.

14) Joseph also revealed that there would be 7 years of plenty **before** the dearth began. During that time Joseph took a **Gentile bride** named Asenath, and had two sons, Manasseh (forgetting); because God had enabled him to forget "*all my father's house*", and Ephraim (fruitful); because God had "*caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction*" (Gen.41:51-52).

When the 7th and final harvest was reaped into the storehouse the dearth would begin. In Revelation chapters 2 and 3 the prophetic history of the **Church Age is given in seven stages** beginning with the letter to the Church at Ephesus and concluding with the letter to the church at Laodicea. During these 7 stages of Christendom countless martyrs have laid down their lives and millions have been ushered into the Kingdom: a great harvest has been reaped in. These are represented by the seven years of plenty.

The Church Age is the time of Christ's rejection by His people Israel but a time when Christ is fruitful in the world gathering in a great harvest of souls to form His Church.

Jesus foretold that the Church would be established and there would be an outpouring of His Spirit on the day of Pentecost. He told the disciples to wait at Jerusalem for the "*promise of the Father*" after which they were to preach the Gospel **in all the world**. On that day the disciples preached in **Gentile languages** signifying that the Church would be drawn largely from all nations. Only when the "*fulness of the Gentiles*" has come in will the Church be raptured and then "*all Israel shall be saved*" (Rom.11:25-26).

During the years of plenty Joseph took a **Gentile bride** named Asenath which means "devoted to Isis". The god Isis was the "Queen of the throne" whose father was Potiphera meaning, "devoted to the Sun".

During this Church Age Jesus is taking a Gentile bride who is devoted to the Son and will sit with Him on His Father's throne (Rev.3:21).

15) Israel in this Church Age is prefigured by Joseph's brethren during the 7 years of plenty. The Lord is fruitful among the Gentiles and He has temporarily "forgotten" His people Israel who have been spiritually blinded to whom Jesus is (Acts 28:25-28). Joseph's

brethren thought they had disposed of him and they lost all contact. They did not know Joseph had been exalted to the throne of Egypt and Jews all through the last 2,000 years have no concept of the high position the Lord Jesus occupies on the throne of heaven.

In this Age of grace the Jews do not know who Jesus Christ is nor are they aware that He is calling out of the Gentiles a people for His name (Acts 15:14) after which He will build again the tabernacle of David which has fallen down. This Church Age is the time of a great **harvest** of souls, a Gentile Bride.

16) During the 7 years of dearth the children of Israel were distressed in their land and came to Joseph in Egypt after the first year not knowing him. At this stage they did not recognize Joseph. Benjamin was not with them and when Joseph asked after Benjamin they told him, *“the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan”* (Gen42:32). We read:

“And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him” (Gen.42:8).

The children of Israel went to Joseph in Egypt twice; the first time **without** Benjamin and the second time **with** Benjamin and thus it will be in the Tribulation: Israel will turn to God without Christ before they turn to God with Christ.

When the Tribulation **begins** there will be 144,000 Jews that will be saved globally (the firstfruits) and these will be **persecuted by their own nation** at first. The ungodly Jews will build their Temple and have a covenant with Antichrist immediately after the Rapture and during this period they will have no sympathy for the 144,000 believers. Jesus said:

*“They will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against **them and the Gentiles**... And ye shall be **hated of all men** for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved...verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, **till the Son of man be come**”* (Matt.10:17-22).

Soon after the Rapture Israel will be distressed by an invasion by the *“king of the south”* (Egypt) (Dan.11:40-43). At that time they will have a covenant with Antichrist and they will spoil the Egyptians (Isa.19). However they will be distressed a second time when Russia will lead the Islamic armies from Iran, Turkey, Libya, and Sudan into the land (Ezek.38/39; Joel 2 and Dan.11:44).

17) During the **second visit** to Joseph, Benjamin, who is a type of Christ,

(*the son of my right hand, or son of my sorrow*) **was with them** and they were reconciled to Joseph. The dearth was becoming more intense and Judah insisted on taking Benjamin. Joseph would never be reconciled to his brethren unless Benjamin was with them and Israel will never be reconciled to God unless Christ is with them. The Tribulation will become intense in the land of Israel in the first half of the Tribulation when Russia leads an Islamic invasion (Iran, Turkey, Libya, Sudan) as described in Ezekiel 38/39, Joel 2 and Dan.11:44. That is when the nation will be saved in one day (Ezek.39:22-29):

“So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward” (Ezek.39:22).

Israel will never be right with God without Jesus Christ. The fact that Israel worships Jehovah God is of no consequence for there is only one way to God and that is through Jesus Christ.

18) When Joseph saw his brothers bowing before him *“he remembered the dreams that he dreamed of them”* (Gen.42:9). Fifteen years before he had seen their sheafs bowing down before his sheaf (Gen.37:7) and now they were bowing to him. God had been faithful and kept His Word: It took 15 long years but at last it came to pass. God will never forsake Israel and all the prophecies will be fulfilled.

Only when Israel identifies with the “son of my sorrows” and “the son of my right hand”, will Israel be reconciled to Joseph in the Tribulation.

19) At the first visit Joseph took Simeon hostage until they came with Benjamin. When Benjamin came Simeon was released and they were entertained in Joseph’s home before being sent away with supplies.

Simeon’s name means “heard”. He was so named by Leah when she



said

“Because the LORD hath heard I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon” (Gen.29:33).

Israel will be hated in the Tribulation and will cry out to the Lord and the Lord will hear and deliver them just as Simeon was released when Israel came with Benjamin to Joseph (Joel 2:15-19).

20) When Israel turns to the Lord there will be great sorrow. As they were returning home Joseph had them pursued. He had put his silver cup in Benjamin’s sack and after opening Benjamin’s sack and disclosing the cup he ordered them back to Egypt. They were greatly troubled and Judah fell before Joseph and pled for their lives. **Only when they were broken and humbled before him did Joseph reveal himself to them and they all wept.** Joseph said:

“I am Joseph your brother whom ye sold into Egypt...God did send me before you to preserve life” (Gen.45:4-5).

Zechariah states that the entire nation will be broken before the Lord when they realize who Jesus Christ is:

*“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and **they shall mourn** for him, as one **mourneth for his only son**, and shall be **in bitterness** for him, as one that is **in bitterness** for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a **great mourning in Jerusalem**, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. And **the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart; All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart” (Zech.12:10-14).***

Just as there was much weeping when Joseph revealed himself to his brethren so there will be great weeping when Israel is reconciled to Christ. Godly sorrow works repentance as Paul stated:

“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death” (2Cor.7:10).

21) When the sons of Jacob returned home they said,

*“**Joseph is yet alive**, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt” (Gen.45:26).*

The resurrection of Christ was the message of the Apostles to Israel on the day of Pentecost. Peter declared:

*“This Jesus **hath God raised up**, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being **by the right hand of God exalted**, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear”* (Acts 2:32-33).

After the nation of Israel is converted and restored to the Lord they will proclaim **a risen and reigning Saviour** to the world in the millennial Kingdom.

*“All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the LORD’s: and **he is the governor among the nations**”* (Ps.22:27-28).
“...for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Isa.2:3).

22) During the remainder of the dearth Joseph’s brethren were given a safe place of refuge in the land of Goshen. Once Israel turns to the Lord God fights for Israel (Zech.12:6-8; 14:3) and we read

*“And the woman (Israel) fled into the wilderness, where she hath **a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days**”* (Rev.12:6, 14).

Israel was fed in Goshen and she will have a special place of refuge in the Tribulation where God will feed Israel for the 2nd half of the Tribulation.

When will Israel be Saved?

The typology suggests that it is in the 2nd year of the Tribulation for it was after 2 years that Joseph’s brethren were reconciled to him. Joseph said:

*“Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. **For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest**”* (Gen.45:5-6).

It is not wise to determine any doctrine from a type. Types are to illustrate what is elsewhere clearly taught however, the chronology of the seven-year Tribulation shows that the conversion of the nation of Israel on one day could occur about **two years** after the Rapture for the following reasons:

i) Israel turns to the Lord when Russia and her Islamic allies invade the land in the **first half** of the Tribulation (Ezek.39:22-29; Joel 2:18-20).

ii) Israel is already a saved nation at the **mid-point** of the Tribulation for they then *“keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ”*(Rev.12:17).

iii) Israel is protected by God in the second half of the Tribulation and this would not be the case if they were not already saved (Rev.12:6,14).

iv) Events that must occur before Israel is saved would comfortably be completed within a two year period.

a) First, the Antichrist must make a seven-year treaty with Israel.

b) Then the Temple must be rebuilt at Jerusalem and the land divided (Dan.11:39) (say 10 months).

c) Egypt (the king of the south), perhaps at the head of other Arab nations must invade Israel and be repulsed. Antichrist then occupies other countries in the Middle East (Dan.11:40-43; Isa.19). (say 4 months)

d) Then Russia and the Islamists invade (Dan.11:44) and are destroyed by God (Ezek.38:18-23). It takes 7 months to bury the dead after Israel turns to the Lord and before Antichrist moves into the Temple (Dan.11:45). (say 8 months to mobilize and invade)

e) When Antichrist moves into the Temple at the mid-point of the seven years the sacrifices are conducted by **godly Jews** and the two witnesses at Jerusalem are slain at that time (Rev.11:1-14).

The conversion of Israel is therefore in the realm of possibility at **about 2 years** into the great Tribulation.

Joel's prophecy chapter 2 records the **first half** of the Tribulation and chapter 3 records the **second half** of the Tribulation. In chapter 2 verse 20 the *“northern army”* is destroyed and the Spirit of God is poured out on Israel. The land of Magog (Russia) is burned (Ezek.39:6).

Since the conversion of Israel must occur on ONE DAY, (Ezek.39:22; Zech.3:9; Isa.66:8) the blowing of trumpets and the call to repentance which precedes the Day of Atonement on the 10th day of the 7th month suggests that Israel will turn to Christ **on a day of Atonement**, in the second year of the 7-year Tribulation.

We emphasize that we cannot be dogmatic on this point since we have arrived at our conclusion only by deduction. Nevertheless, the

feasts of Jehovah **are prophetic** for Israel. The Passover was prophetic of Christ "*our passover*" (1Cor.5:7) who died as the passover lambs were being slain and rose from the dead as "*the firstfruits of them that slept*" (1Cor.15:20) on the day of the Feast of Firstfruits.

The Church was formed on the day of the Feast of Pentecost so why wouldn't the great Day of Atonement be prophetic of the very day of Israel's conversion and pardon? After all, Joel indicates that Israel's conversion will be preceded by the blowing of trumpets (Joel 2:15) and the Day of Atonement is preceded by the Feast of Trumpets and the ten days of Awe when the nation considers her sinfulness.

Conclusion

Thus the life of Joseph gives us a complete picture of Christ's first Advent when He was rejected by His people the children of Israel, how He died and rose, ascending to the throne of heaven.

In this Church age Christ is winning a Gentile bride for Himself while Israel has been put aside and temporarily blinded.

Once the Church age is complete the Great Tribulation will begin and the children of Israel will be reconciled to Christ about the 2nd year of the seven year Tribulation. During the remainder of the Tribulation Israel will have special provisions and protection from the judgments of the Tribulation and from their enemies.

Amen