

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why did God speak to Jacob on the way to Egypt?
2. What prompted Pharaoh to favor Jacob and his family with the best land in Egypt?
3. The broken family was being healed after so many years. Does the healing of broken relationships always take much time?
4. In an age where families are de-emphasized, broken and discarded, what can we do to strengthen our families?
5. How should the church minister to those who are part of a broken family?

SUMMARY:

Elevation to a high position did not affect the love which Joseph had for his family or his determination to serve God. When the time came for him to be of assistance to his family, he openly brought them before Pharaoh and introduced them as his family. A man of lesser character might well have pushed them into the background or even have found excuses why they did not deserve—and should not get—his help. As a result of their relationship to Joseph and his willingness to acknowledge that relationship, chosen people of God were taken from a land of famine and placed with their flocks in a fertile valley in Egypt.

We can see from Joseph's attitude toward all that happened that he felt that he was a vessel in God's hand to be used as God saw fit. Therefore he did not harbor a grudge toward his brothers for what they had done. We could learn much from his example. Many of our unpleasant experiences could be changed to blessings.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #1

July 1, 2007

Third Quarter

JOSEPH PROVIDES FOR HIS FAMILY

LESSON TEXT: *Genesis 46:1-7; 47:1-12; 50:15-21*

LESSON SETTING: Before Jacob's Journey to Egypt.

TIME: Approximately 1706 to 1689 B.C.

- I. JACOB MOVES TO EGYPT.** Genesis 46:1-7
 - A. Led by God (vs. 4) Deuteronomy 8:2; Psalm 139:9-10
 - B. Promises from God (vs. 3-4) Psalm 34:19; 37:3; Isaiah 43:2
- II. JACOB MEETS PHARAOH.** Genesis 47:1-12
 - A. Favored by the King (vs. 5-7) Proverbs 19:12; Matthew 24:45
 - B. Man's Blessings Bestowed (vs. 7, 10) Genesis 27:27; Joshua 14:13; 1 Samuel 2:20
- III. JOSEPH RETURNS GOOD FOR EVIL.** Genesis 50:15-21
 - A. Guilty Fear (vs. 15) Genesis 3:8; Psalm 53:3; Isaiah 66:4; Hebrews 10:27
 - B. Joseph Forgives (vs. 17-19) Mark 11:25; Luke 17:4; Ephesians 4:32
 - C. Good for Evil (vs. 21) Proverbs 25:21; Matthew 5:44; Romans 12:20
 - D. The Lord's Doings (vs. 20) Genesis 24:50; Psalm 118:23; 126:3; Matthew 21:42

GOLDEN TEXT: *HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER; WHICH IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT WITH PROMISE.* Ephesians 6:2

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Deuteronomy 4:1-14; 2 Peter 1:15-21

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 4:1-15;
Psalm 19:1-14

QUARTERLY THEME: The Bible and the Christian Life

TOPIC: THE BIBLE - GOD'S WORD

INTRODUCTION:

The statement that the Bible is the Word of God has a stupendous depth to it, far beyond the human mind to grasp, and yet how often we say it so lightly!

Creation was formed by His spoken Word, He said the Word, and the work was accomplished. He made Israel His chosen people and gave them the law by His Word. They became a nation different from all other nations. They had His Word "*which came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*" (2 Peter 1:21)

Later His Word became flesh in Christ and as flesh Christ had to carry out God's plan for salvation. It is this plan which we must grasp in faith in order to have salvation. God has given us His plan by having it written for us in the form of the Bible, making it understandable to man by means of His Holy Spirit's interpretation. How precious and wonderfully He has cared for His earthly beings, far beyond our reasoning or worthiness.

CENTRAL TRUTH: The Bible does not merely contain the Word of God; it **is** the Word of God.

GOLDEN TEXT: *ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD, AND IT PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.*

2 Timothy 3:16

Perhaps all of us have glanced at a book review and felt that we either would, or would not like to read that book. Too often in this day both the books and the reviews are so worded to appeal to man's baser nature, to awaken impure thoughts, in the hope of encouraging a "best seller."

In our Golden Text, Paul in a few well-chosen words, encourages Timothy and also all of us to read and meditate upon God's Word, knowing that it will awaken a longing for purity and holiness. When this longing is awakened both by the Word and the Spirit which prompted its writing, then how clearly is spelled out all that one must know to come into fellowship with God through His Son. Here we find "doctrine," the basic fundamental which God expects of His children, "reproof," when through lack of watchfulness we fall short of God's will, "correction," to guide us back again, and the "instruction" which we all need in striving to attain the "hope of righteousness by faith." (Galatians 5:5)

May this "Book Review" by the Apostle Paul encourage us all to read "The Bible, God's Word."

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF July 2 - 8

M. *The Bible, God's Word. Deuteronomy 4:1-6; 2 Peter 1:15-21

T. Moses Writes of the Law. Deuteronomy 27:1-10

W. Joshua Writes of the Covenant. Joshua 24:19-28

T. David Writes of God. Psalm 19:1-14

F. Solomon Writes of Wisdom. Proverbs 9:1-18

S. Paul Writes of Inspiration. 2 Timothy 3:10-17

S. John Writes of Last Things. Revelation 21:1-7