

## HEBREWS CHAPTER 11 – THE HEROES OF FAITH

### JOSEPH Hebrews 11:22

***“By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.”***

In Hebrews 11: 20-22 we are given, portraits of three men who exercised faith in God in their dying hour. In each case, faith has been operative throughout their lives, but the particular emphasis that is made in Hebrews eleven is that the faith of Isaac, Jacob and Joseph reached beyond time and saw eternity.

As we look at the life of this great man, Joseph, we will see how the principle of faith was consistent and persisted all through his long life of adversity, temptations, sorrow, disappointments, success and prosperity. To have faith at all is great indeed, but the greatest need today for every one of us is for a faith that is consistent through good and bad times.

Joseph’s life story is recorded in Genesis chapters 37-50. In order to get an overview of his life we will divide it up beginning in Genesis 37 as follows:

#### **I. JOSEPH IN HIS PARENT’S HOUSE. GEN. 37**

- A. His Father’s favor. 37:3-4
- B. His brother’s hatred. 37:2 & 4
- C. His prophetic dreams. 37:5-11
  - (1) Dream #1 vs. 5-8
  - (2) Dream #2 vs. 9-11
- D. His assignment by his father. 37:12-17
- E. His betrayal by his brothers. 37:18-28
- F. His brother’s sinister plot. 37:29-36

#### **II. JOSEPH IN POTIPHAR’S HOUSE. GEN. 39**

- A. Enslavement – 39:1-6a
- B. Entrapment – 39:6b-18
- C. Imprisonment – 39:19-20
- D. Employment – 39:21-23

#### **III. JOSEPH IN THE PRISON HOUSE. GEN. 40**

- A. The Butler & Baker Jailed. 40:1-4
- B. The Butler & Baker’s Dream. 40:5-11
- C. The Butler & Baker’s dream interpreted. 40:12-19
- D. The Butler released. 40:20-21 & 23
- E. The Baker hanged. 40:22

#### **IV. JOSEPH IN PHARAOH’S HOUSE. GEN. 41 - 50**

- A. Pharaoh dreams. 41:1-8
- B. The Butler remembers. 41:9-13
- C. Joseph interprets & advises. 41:14-37

- (1) The interpretation. 41:14-32
- (2) The advice. 41:33-36
- D. Joseph promoted. 41:37-45
- E. Joseph governs. 41:46-57
  - (1) Gathers the food. 41:46-49
  - (2) Gains his family. 41:50-52
  - (3) Guides in famine. 41:53-57
- F. Joseph meets his brothers. Chapt. 42-45
- G. Joseph welcomes his father. Chapt. 46 & 47
- H. Joseph's last days. 50:15-26
  - (1) His brother's lingering fear. 50:15-18
  - (2) Joseph loving comfort. 50:19, 21
  - (3) Joseph's positive outlook. 50:20
- I. Joseph's faith. 50:22-25
- J. Joseph's death. 50:26

### SUMMATION

Joseph's life was a long life in which the principle of faith was consistently followed. What can we say about a consistent and persistent faith from the life of Joseph?

- (1) A consistent faith is not shaken by adversity.** Joseph was hated by his brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused & jailed but his faith never wavered.
- (2) A consistent faith is not spoiled by position or prosperity.** Adversity then prosperity but neither fazed Joseph's faith.
- (3) A consistent faith does not give in to subtle temptations.** (Gen. 39:7-12)
- (4) A consistent faith is not defeated by false accusations.** (Gen. 39:7-12)
- (5) A consistent faith is not dependent upon humans keeping their word.** (The Butler)
- (6) A consistent faith looks beyond time to eternity.** (Heb. 11:22) Above 6 thoughts adapted from Francis Dixon.

### CONCLUSION

#### Psalm 105:17-22

*"He sent a man before them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. They hurt his feet with fetters, he was laid in irons until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him. The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free, he made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his possessions, to bind his princes at his pleasure, and teach his elders wisdom."*

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LET US REMEMBER .....

**"WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD"**

Hebrews 11:6