

FEED MY SHEEP

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Joseph, the Beloved Warrior-King

The Story of Joseph, Part 56

For anyone new to FMS, we are in the middle of a lengthy study of the life of Joseph the Patriarch. We left off last time at the funeral of King Jacob-Israel, wherein Jacob's twin brother, Esau, and his family caused a great deal of trouble resulting in the death of Esau. The new reader will notice that I am quoting much from the book of Jasher.

I do not place it on a par with the Holy Bible, yet Jasher is referenced twice in the Bible as a source. From my website, you can download two issues of FMS (#23 & 24: October and November, 2000) wherein I deal specifically with the trustworthiness of the book of Jasher. The account in Jasher offers a much more detailed account of the life of Joseph and thus we find it quite worthwhile to enhance our understanding of this most powerful and dramatic story.

Jasher 58:4 Magron was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and forty years he reigned in Egypt, and all Egypt called his name Pharaoh after the name of his father, as it was their custom to do in Egypt to every king that reigned over them.

5 And it came to pass when Pharaoh reigned in his father's stead, he placed the laws of Egypt and all the affairs of government in the hand of Joseph, as his father had commanded him.

6 And Joseph became king [emphasis mine—JWB] over Egypt, for he superintended over all Egypt, and all Egypt was under his care and under his counsel, for all Egypt inclined to Joseph after the death of Pharaoh, and they loved him exceedingly to reign over them.

Why would the Egyptian people love for Joseph to reign over them? For many reasons, no doubt, but among them: because he was honest and just. He applied justice fairly to everyone. No corruption in his government. No bribes. No dishonest bureaucrats.

Without corruption, a government can afford to live on less; thus the taxes were not excessive. Taxes were such that the people actually did not mind paying them because they realized that they were getting a very wonderful government in return.

Crime would have been punished quickly and fairly. Joseph was a superlative administrator. It would have been an efficient government; again contributing to the ability of keeping taxes low. Imagine that! An efficient government. Most of us would not want an evil government to be efficient, would we?

If you had lived in Stalin's Russia or Mao's China or Hitler's Nazi Germany, would you have wanted the secret police to be extremely competent and effective or would you prefer in that case, that they be keystone cops, stumbling all over themselves? But in Joseph's Egypt, what a blessing to have a government like that! It is a type and shadow prophesying Christ and the Joseph Company ruling the world.

The Egyptians would have loved him because Joseph was wise—a wisdom which came from God. He was also undoubtedly a loving, kind, compassionate and generous man. Generous from his own pocket, but *not* generous with the people's money. He was a statesman in contrast to a politician. Politicians are always generous with other people's money, and usually stingy

tightwads with their own. How many of you are familiar with Congressman Davy Crockett's famous speech on the floor of Congress concerning using tax money for charity. I will post that to my website some time soon.

There is a difference between a politician and a statesman. A politician only looks forward as far as the next election whereas a statesman looks far into the future for the welfare of many succeeding generations. Joseph was a statesman. He was all that the people desire in a godly ruler. Oh, how Egypt loved Joseph!

Again we can see how marvelously Joseph is a type of Christ the king. Egypt is a type of the world. And oh, how the world will love Jesus when He and His overcomer sons and daughters rule the world. All the world will ultimately love them to reign over them...because it will be a perfect government.

And yet there will be some rebels, at least at the beginning of the kingdom of heaven on earth. ...Just as there were some rebels against Joseph's rule.

Jasher 58:7 But there were some people amongst them, who did not like him, saying, No stranger shall reign over us; still the whole government of Egypt devolved in those days upon Joseph, after the death of Pharaoh, he being the regulator, doing as he liked throughout the land without any one interfering.

8 And all Egypt was under the care of Joseph, and Joseph made war with all his surrounding enemies, and he subdued them; also all the land and all the Philistines, unto the borders of Canaan, did Joseph subdue, and they were all under his power and they gave a yearly tax unto Joseph.

9 And Pharaoh king of Egypt sat upon his throne in his father's stead, but he was under the control and counsel of Joseph, as he was at first under the control of his father.

10 Neither did he reign but in the land of Egypt only, under the counsel of Joseph, but Joseph reigned over the whole country at that time, from Egypt unto the great river Perath.

"The great river Perath..." That river came up in my lecture entitled *Joseph and the Tennessee Valley Authority*. Therein we saw that the river Perath was

one of the four locations where Joseph had hidden a huge sum of money.

Then we found that the river Perath was another name for the river Euphrates. This means that Egypt under Joseph ruled all the way to the river Euphrates, there being vassal or tribute nations in between. All of this ancient narrative about Joseph hiding money at the Euphrates is pregnant with significance for us today who await the fall of Mystery Babylon.

As Cyrus dried up the Euphrates to enter and conquer ancient Babylon, so also we look for the drying up of the "current-sea" (currency) of Mystery Babylon as she falls. Some readers will catch that and others will not; don't fret about it. Your salvation is not at stake. There is no space here to elaborate further.

11 And Joseph was successful in all his ways, and the Lord was with him, and the Lord gave Joseph additional wisdom, and honor, and glory, and love toward him in the hearts of the Egyptians and throughout the land, and Joseph reigned over the whole country forty years.

12 And all the countries of the Philistines and Canaan and Zidon, and on the other side of Jordan, brought presents unto Joseph all his days, and the whole country was in the hand of Joseph, and they brought unto him a yearly tribute as it was regulated, for Joseph had fought [*Like David, Joseph was a warrior king*] against all his surrounding enemies and subdued them, and the whole country was in the hand of Joseph, and Joseph sat securely upon his throne in Egypt.

13 And also all his brethren the sons of Jacob dwelt securely in the land, all the days of Joseph, and they were fruitful and multiplied exceedingly in the land, and they served the Lord all their days, as their father Jacob had commanded them.

14 And it came to pass at the end of many days and years, when the children of Esau were dwelling quietly in their land with Bela their king, that the children of Esau were fruitful and multiplied in the land, and they resolved to go and fight with the sons of Jacob and all Egypt, [Those Edomites just don't know when to quit, do they?] ...and to deliver their brother Zepho, the son of Eliphaz, and his men, for they were yet in those days slaves to Joseph.

15 And the children of Esau sent unto all the children of the east, and they made peace with them, and all the children of the east came unto them to go with the children of Esau to Egypt to battle.

16 And there came also unto them of the people of Angeas, king of Dinhabah, and they also sent unto the children of Ishmael and they also came unto them.

17 And all this people assembled and came unto Seir to assist the children of Esau in their battle, and this camp was very large and heavy with people, numerous as the sand of the sea, about eight hundred thousand men, infantry and cavalry, and all these troops went down to Egypt to fight with the sons of Jacob, and they encamped by Rameses.

18 And Joseph went forth with his brethren with the mighty men of Egypt, about six hundred men, and they fought with them in the land of Rameses; and the sons of Jacob at that time again fought with the children of Esau, in the fiftieth year of the sons of Jacob going down to Egypt, that is the thirtieth year of the reign of Bela over the children of Esau in Seir.

Okay, wait a minute. Let's get this straight. Joseph obviously had an intelligence and reconnaissance service which informed him on the size of the enemy armies. So they are reporting by cell phone back to Joseph now—as I will try to humorously and anachronistically dramatize:

“Yeah, chief, Alpha Team here—oops, we better go with the Hebrew alphabet here—“Yeah, chief, Aleph Team here. We're down here at Rameses and... what's that? ...

...Oh, yeah, yeah, we're fine....Yeah, she's fine, too. She was about six months along when I left home. And how's your wife, Asenath?... Good, good, and the boys, Eph and Manny? ...uh-huh,... yeah,... great! We'll look forward to tipping a couple Beershebas when we get back.

Meanwhile, listen, I couldn't get an exact count, but it looks to me like Esau's boys and their *compadres* here have ...about ...800,000 men...about half cavalry and half infantry...

...Yeah, I agree...it'll be a piece a cake! ... right....yeah....got it.... Okay, chief, I'll let you go, and listen, keep those Beershebas on ice, will you?...

Good, Aleph Team out.”

So Joseph put together an Egyptian-Israelite coalition of a mere 600 hundred men and went out to fight an army of 800 thousand men.

19 And the Lord gave all the mighty men of Esau and the children of the east into the hand of Joseph and his brethren, and the people of the children of Esau and the children of the east were smitten before Joseph.

20 And of the people of Esau and the children of the east that were slain, there fell before the sons of Jacob about two hundred thousand men, and their king Bela the son of Beor fell with them in the battle, and when the children of Esau saw that their king had fallen in battle and was dead, their hands became weak in the combat.

21 And Joseph and his brethren and all Egypt were still smiting the people of the house of Esau, and all Esau's people were afraid of the sons of Jacob and fled from before them.

22 And Joseph and his brethren and all Egypt pursued them a day's journey, and they slew yet from them about three hundred men, continuing to smite them in the road; and they afterward turned back from them.

23 And Joseph and all his brethren returned to Egypt, not one man was missing from them, but of the Egyptians there fell twelve men.

In the last issue, we saw the interesting parallel how 30 years previously when the Edomites had attacked after King Jacob's funeral, that Joseph and the boys had slain 600,000 of them, which is the number of Israelite men who will come out of Egypt through Rameses and Succoth about 200 years later.

Now here it is 30 years later, and Joseph takes a mere 600 men and conquers an army of 800,000, again let us note, at the city of Rameses. Which is a parallel to the exodus once again, because the wicked Pharaoh sent 600 of his (Nile) “delta” forces after the unarmed Israelites who were supposedly trapped with their backs against the Red Sea.

But whereas Joseph did not lose one Israelite among his 600 fighters against the Edomites, Pharaoh lost all his 600 delta forces in the overwhelming flood

of the returning waters of the Red Sea. Fascinating, is it not?

Jasher 58:24 And when Joseph returned to Egypt he ordered Zepho and his men to be additionally bound, and they bound them in irons and they increased their grief.

25 And all the people of the children of Esau, and the children of the east, returned in shame each unto his city, for all the mighty men that were with them had fallen in battle.

26 And when the children of Esau saw that their king had died in battle they hastened and took a man from the people of the children of the east; his name was Jobab the son of Zarach, from the land of Botzrah, and they caused him to reign over them instead of Bela their king.

27 And Jobab sat upon the throne of Bela as king in his stead, and Jobab reigned in Edom over all the children of Esau ten years, and the children of Esau went no more to fight with the sons of Jacob from that day forward, for the sons of Esau knew the valor of the sons of Jacob, and they were greatly afraid of them.

Now listen carefully...

28 But from that day forward the children of Esau hated the sons of Jacob, and the hatred and enmity were very strong between them all the days, unto this day.

29 And it came to pass after this, at the end of ten years, Jobab, the son of Zarach, from Botzrah, died, and the children of Esau took a man whose name was Chusham, from the land of Teman, and they made him king over them instead of Jobab, and Chusham reigned in Edom over all the children of Esau for twenty years.

30 And Joseph, king of Egypt, and his brethren, and all the children of Israel dwelt securely in Egypt in those days, together with all the children of Joseph and his brethren, having no hindrance or evil accident and the land of Egypt was at that time at rest from war in the days of Joseph and his brethren.

This makes a fitting point to pause in the story, but we will continue with the life of Joseph next month.

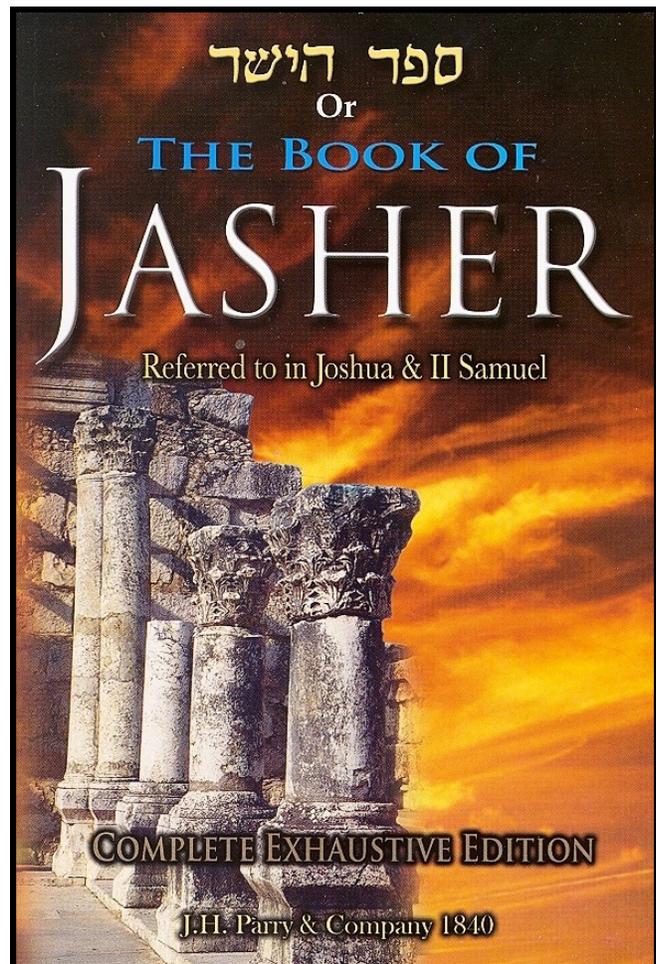
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