

Scripture: God's Law (Deut. 5) – Genesis 41:37-57 Series Joseph #8
Singing: 261:1-3 – 326:2, 4 – 356:1-3 – 403:1, 3 – 329:1-4

Intro: Scripture is the *His-story of God's redeeming work*

A. In the fallen world of Adam and Eve reigned *total darkness*: Eph. 2:12

B. Yet that darkest period of the world, witnessed the dawn of Gospel: Gen. 3:15

1. God's story of redemption in the Person of Christ

2. God's story of redemption in the personal salvation of sinners

GOD'S VICTORIOUS GRACE IN JOSEPH (2)

I. Tested when Joseph is freed from prison

II. Witnessed in Joseph's amazing confession

I. God's grace tested when Joseph is freed from prison

A. Ch. 41 tells about Joseph's sudden uplift from prison to palace: *how will he cope as he faces the flood waters of Egyptian culture and religion?* (46-49)

II. God's victorious grace witnessed in Joseph's amazing confession

A. As Joseph becomes father, God's victorious grace is witnessed: vs. 50-52

1. Naming his child(ren) was a confession of his faith in God

a. the Hebrew names defined his (their) identity

b. the choice of the names defined his reflection and confession

2. Examine: *what choices do you make to express your faith in God?*

a. compare Ps. 101; Daniel 1:8; Job 31:1; Heb. 11:23-26

B. Joseph's confession of faith in naming his first born: vs. 51

1. Meaning of Hebrew Name *Manasseh*

a. not: *I have forgotten my heritage*

b. But: *I am not defined by my suffering I endured*

2. Joseph's confession is for us a testimony to the grace of our healing God

a. what no man can do, God is able to do: Ps. 147:3; Ps 89:19

b. There is High Priest in heaven who had a journey worse than Joseph

● He is touched with all the feelings of our infirmities

● He is merciful and gracious Helper Healer in time of need

C. Joseph's deepening confession in naming his 2nd son: vs. 52

1. Meaning of Ephraim:

a. Egypt (with all the honor) remained *the land of my affliction*

b. God did not only 'made me forget' but 'God made me grow richer'

2. Question: *do we have our 'Ephraim' confessions?*

a. if we do, let the sinner and saint know: Ge. 45:5-8

b. what are the blessings or riches that grow from our trials?

Reflection: The curious ability of the sea-oysters!

GEMS TO PONDER ABOUT THE BLESSINGS OF TRIALS

As gems are polished with frictions, so are saints sanctified by trials.

Afflictions helps to read God's Word better and deeper.

Afflictions ripen the saint's graces.

We often learn more under the rod that strikes
than under the hand that soothes.

Sanctified afflictions are spiritual promotions.