

Christ Joseph, A Picture of The Lord

Introduction

Of the many illustrious persons in the scriptures who are shadows of the Lord, Joseph is without doubt one of the brightest stars. It is often said that there was no recorded sin or failure in the life of Joseph, but it is a point I do not agree with. The reason being:

- a) Joseph had two family related dreams. In the first one his brethren bowed down to him and that was without doubt from God. The second dream of when his father and mother and brothers bowed down to him did not come to fruition. His father and brothers came down to Egypt but there is no mention of his mother ever coming down, simply because she died at the birth of Benjamin (Gen. 35:18). The question then is, “Was the second dream of Joseph from God or was it that Joseph was quite a proud young man who ultimately needed a lesson in humility?” It was the purpose of God to make him the man and office he obtained. It would not be by the flesh in him or his father’s veneration. It would be done in God’s way and time.
- b) Pharaoh gave Joseph the name “Zaphnath-paaneah” which means “treasury of the glorious rest”, (Gen. 41:45) and in the grace of God, he saw himself as the Preserver and Deliverer (Gen. 45:5).

In reading the life of Joseph, there are many similarities between Joseph and the Lord. The following is a table with some references for the similarities.

Joseph	Christ
He was a shepherd (Gen. 37:2)	Christ is the good, great, chief Shepherd (Jn. 10:11; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 5:4)
Beloved of the father (Gen. 37:3)	“This is My beloved Son” (Matt. 3:17)
His brothers were jealous of him (Gen. 37:11)	It was because of jealousy the religious leaders hated him (Mk. 15:10)
He was hated by His brethren (Gen. 37:4)	“They hated me without a cause” (Jn. 15:25)
He willingly did the will of the father (Gen. 37:13)	“Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work” (Jn. 4:34)
His brothers planned to put Him to death (Gen. 37:18)	“When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death” Religious leaders planned to put Him to death (Matt. 27:1)
He was stripped (Gen. 37:23)	The Lord was stripped and the a scarlet robe was put on Him (Matt. 27:28)
He was sold for twenty pieces of silver (Gen. 37:28)	Judas sold the Lord for thirty pieces of silver (Matt. 26:15; 27:3)
He was delivered to the Ishmaelites (Gentiles) (Gen. 37:25-28)	“ <i>Saying</i> , Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles” (Mk. 10:33)
He was tempted unsuccessfully (Gen. 39:11-12)	Christ was tempted unsuccessfully (Matt. 4:11)
Joseph exalted and all put under him (Gen. 39:4)	“And hath put all <i>things</i> under his feet, and gave him <i>to be</i> the head over all <i>things</i> to the church” (Eph. 1:22)

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He was falsely accused (Gen. 39:17-18)	“But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, <i>yet</i> found they none. At the last came two false witnesses” (Matt. 26:60)
He revealed Himself to his brothers (Gen. 45:1-4)	“They shall look on him whom they pierced” (Jn. 19:37)
He is exalted via humiliation (Gen. 39:1; 41:12, 14, 15, 34-44)	“But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 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, of <i>things</i> in heaven, and <i>things</i> in earth, and <i>things</i> under the earth; And <i>that</i> every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ <i>is</i> Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:7-11)

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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