

Ir-ot-12
Fruitful in the Land of My Affliction
(Genesis 37-50; 2 Nephi 3)
By Lenet Hadley Read

(Here is inspirational background: Material showing further parallels between Joseph of Egypt and Jesus Christ. **It also verifies Lehi's witness that Joseph of Egypt would be an ancestor and a pattern for Joseph Smith and his latter-day work (2 Nephi 3).**

I. While we have learned that Joseph of Egypt was a "type" of Jesus Christ, nevertheless, **Joseph truly existed and truly stored grain in Egypt.**

A. The Biblical Joseph is greatly honored by Egyptians. Vast granary storage bins still exist and Egyptians still honor one very wise man in their history, whose greatness was second only to Pharaoh. He initiated grain storage which saved the people from famine. *(For additional information go online to "ancient storage bins in Egypt").*

B. Furthermore, excavations in the area the Israelites were given show evidence of them, including the making of mud bricks, a Canaanite-style house, a special burial pyramid which once contained a statue whose details exemplify Joseph: i.e., authority and a multi colored coat, etc. *(For additional information check out DVD "Patterns of Evidence" which examines official archaeological excavations at Tanis, etc.)*

II. Joseph's life continued to bear witness of the work of the Savior **in the Last Days.**

A. Note the following parallels fit what happened after Christ's Resurrection.

1. Gen. 41: 40. **Both Joseph and Jesus came out of Prisons, and were exalted, presiding beside the greatest ruler.**

2. Gen. 41:56. After a period of great spiritual abundance [For Jesus, the time of earliest Christianity], the *great famine [of apostasy] came.*

III. The main work of Joseph of Egypt, **the opening of storehouses to feed in time of famine**, point directly to the work of the modern-day Joseph (2 Nephi 3).

1. Gen. 41:56. **Jesus had foreseen the future famine of apostasy, and had laid up food and eventually opened the storehouses.**

He used His latter-day prophet, Joseph Smith to open those storehouses, [through opening up the history of the Book of Mormon, and the restoration of the gospel.]

2. Gen. 42:3. This nourishment was offered to all nations, but **of those coming to partake were the literal brethren of Joseph/Jesus, those of the House of Israel.**

3. Gen. 42:15. Just as Joseph proved them ["Hereby ye shall be proved]," Jesus is still "proving" his brethren today. We are "proved" through our willingness **to bring to Christ others of the House of Israel.**

6. Gen. 42:25. Nevertheless, Joseph offered his blessings freely. "And Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money." One of the beautiful truths about our **Savior is that He offers the bread of life, which He bestows without price.**

IV. **The most powerful parallel is when Joseph forgave his brothers.**

1. Gen. 45:1, 4-5, 7. Joseph of Egypt forgave his brothers for their cruelty to him.

2. But his forgiveness also bore witness of Jesus the Christ who knew even greater cruelty at the hands of His brothers.

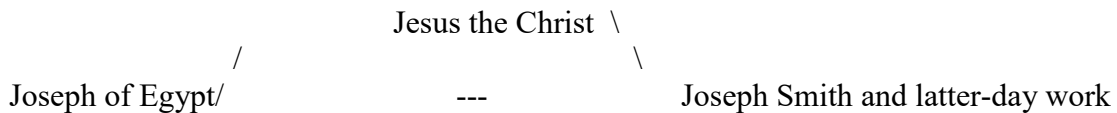
And at that future time when Christ manifests His true identity to all people, [His Second Coming appearance], He will indeed say to that people who slew Him, “Now therefor be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.... And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance” (v. 5, 7).

Through Christ’s death and resurrection, He has indeed saved all --- from death.

V. Joseph’s story taught of both Jesus and Joseph Smith and the Latter-day work.

A. For this reason, we see many parallels in all their lives.

Think of the following visual: an arrow pointing from Joseph of Egypt up to Jesus and then down from Jesus to Joseph Smith. But also an arrow from Joseph of Egypt pointing toward Joseph Smith.



B. Joseph Smith came to understand through the Golden Plates, and he showed through his Bible translation, that his roll would follow that of Joseph of Egypt.

1. 2 Nephi 3:6; JST Gen 50:26: A descendant of Joseph would be “a choice seer.”

2. 2 Nephi 3:7; JST Gen. 50:27-28; This seer would be greatly respected by other descendants of Joseph and he would do a great work for them, teaching them of covenants God had made with their ancestors. .

3. 2 Nephi 3: 15. He would bear Joseph’s name and also the name of his own father.

4. 2 Ne 3:9; JST Gen 50:29; He would be a great deliverer of God’s people.

5. 2 Ne 3:11-12; JST Gen 50:30-31; He would bring forth new scripture (the Book of Mormon) which would verify the earlier scripture (The Bible).

6. Gen. 45: 9, 11; JST Gen 48:9-11; **Through the restoration of these gospel truths in the Latter-days, Jacob’s children, Israel, would be saved from the famine of apostasy and from the bondage of sin and death.**

C. General Authorities verify these truths.

1. Various apostles show our work in the latter-days is like that of Joseph’s. **Through Joseph Smith, the storehouses have been opened --- feeding a hungry world with truth after centuries of spiritual drought. Those storehouses are providing Eternal Life for both the living and the dead.**

2. Brigham Young called the Americas the “Land of Joseph,” bequeathed to them by Jacob, (*Journal of Discourses*, p. 119-120), for it was earlier inherited by descendants of Manasseh and therefore of Joseph. Upon this land would begin the work of regathering and refeeding Israel after a time of great spiritual famine. This latter-day

work would be initiated by descendants of Ephraim, and later assisted by descendants of Manasseh, both of Joseph's lineages.

While standing in Salt Lake's desert, Brigham Young saw in vision the Salt Lake Temple and hundreds of temples on the face of the earth and he taught the Saints, calling them "sons of Jacob," **"We have a [great] work to do... We are called... to redeem the nations of the earth."** (*Ibid.* pp. 406-7)

3. Elder Bruce R. McConkie testified Ephraim would be gathered first, all other tribes receiving blessings through his hands. And then he said, **"It is Ephraim and Manasseh who shall administer salvation unto the whole House of Israel in the last days."** (*Millennial Messiah*, pp. 189-90)

VI. In addition to following the pattern of Joseph through our work, as shown above, Latter-day Saints follow the pattern of Joseph in other ways.

A. Gen. 48: 14-16: We can be the seed of Joseph by birth or adoption.

B. Gen. 49:22-26: The faithful will receive Joseph's blessings as prophesied.

a. Fruitfulness, v. 22

b. Being made strong by the Lord, v. 24

c. Other rich blessings such as protection, v. 25-6.

VII. The joint message from these servants teach that **greater fruitfulness comes through trials.**

A. Jesus taught: "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.... Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." (John 15:2, 8)

B. Our heritage and our responsibilities are indeed great. **They were prophesied through the life of Joseph of Egypt. He has set the pattern, and in overcoming our own trials and being faithful in our own responsibilities, we can also become fruitful and inherit the greatest of blessings promised to Joseph.**

Jesus the Christ, our Savior, has gone before us to make it so!