

LEWES FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Lord's Day Morning

Date 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Hymns Psalm 211, 214 t 416. Read: Genesis 37:1-2 Text Genesis 37:2

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph Loved By His Father

The words before us in **verse 3** have sparked much debate concerning the favouritism of Jacob towards Joseph over his other eleven sons.

Jacob himself had grown up in home where his father Isaac had shown favouritism between him and his brother Esau, as recorded in Genesis 25. Jacob is accused of following the same pattern, shown to him.

There is no doubt that there many valuable lessons are to be learned and applied regarding parents and children, and to love each one equally.

And in taking the words as they stand from an earthly point of view that **Israel loved Joseph more than all his children**, we may come to such a conclusion of favouritism, and wrong doing.

However, upon examination, you will find that the Holy Spirit who is the Author of scripture has not spoken against Jacob on this matter. Or chastised him for doing so.

So we must be careful, we can take application but not make accusation.

The reason being we are to come to this verse and scene with our spiritual sight to look for Christ.

And as we do, we will discover that the Author of scripture desires us to look upon Jacob's love for Joseph, a father's love for a son, and see our Heavenly Father's love for His Son Jesus Christ.

Because **verse 3** God did not use the name **Jacob**, rather he uses his new name **Israel** meaning **a prince with God**. God is not dealing with this passage from the Human or fleshly point of

view by the name **Jacob** which means **twister, supplanter, deceiver**, rather **Israel prince and power with God**.

Therefore, we are to view this verse and these words, not in a divisive manner or home dividing, but with the highest view of Christ at the centre, one who is our greater and heavenly Joseph, one whom the Father loves.

But also there is a double picture, for believers to see themselves in Joseph having been loved, clothed and blessed by the father.

### **I FIRST, THE SUPREMACY OF THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR HIS SON JOSEPH**

**Verse 3** *Israel loved Joseph more than all his children.*

Often this verse is taken to mean that Israel in loving Jacob, ignored or did not show any love towards his other sons. That is not the case at all.

The Holy Spirit is focusing all attention and love of Israel upon Joseph.

His love for Joseph is a supreme love, a high and special love.

**But above all God is showing through Israel's love for his son Joseph that God the father supremely loves God the Son.**

It is the love that God has toward His own Son from all eternity. Christ prayed over such truth in **John 17:24** “...*for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*”

God's love rests supremely upon Jesus Christ. **John 3:35** “*The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.*” Christ Himself prayed in **John 17:23** “*thou hast loved me.*”

Therefore, see the love of God the father from all eternity has supremely settled upon the person of His dear Son.

It is only when we understand or acknowledge that the Father's supreme love rests upon Christ, can we then say God's love toward sinners is through the love of Christ.

In speaking about Christ the servant of God, notice, **Isaiah 42:1** *Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him.*"

Christ is the Father's elect Son, and therefore, sinners who He elects unto Salvation are elected in Christ, as taught by **Ephesians 1:4** *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*"

Believer all we have received and all we ever will receive from God as sinners saved by grace flows from God's love in Christ. **Ephesians 5:25** *christ... loved the church, and gave Himself for it;*

In a real, true, and natural sense Israel loved Joseph before Joseph loved Israel his father. in the spiritual sense, **1 John 4:19** *We love him, because he first loved us.* He laid His love and affection upon me, before I ever did on him, in fact if it was not for His love me, I would never have loved Him.

Our Father loves us with an everlasting love. A love that is eternal, infinite and unchanging. A perfect love. An electing love, A love that does not depend upon me, but secure yeah supreme in God.

Rest assured believer, God's love for you in Christ will never change. **John 13:1** *having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end.*" The word translated, *end*," in the Greek, frequently signifies to **perfection**—He loved them to perfection, to the day He returns for them.

Israel's love for his son Joseph was a supreme love, a high, elevated love, and all the love, care, provision, and protection that Joseph's brethren will receive will be supplied by Joseph.

## **II SECOND, THE SIGN OF THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR HIS SON JOSEPH**

The end of **verse 3** “**and he made him a coat of many colours.**” The sign of Israel's love for His Joseph was **a coat of many colours.**”

The **Coat** was **sign of right, honour, inheritance, power and authority.** This action by Jacob signified that Joseph would receive all the privileges of the firstborn. It was not simply giving him a nice coat to wear.

Remember, Ruben was the first born but through sin and rebellion against his father, he forfeited, lost the blessings. He lost everything due to sin.

Now Joseph while the 11<sup>th</sup> child of Jacob yet he was the first born of Rachel, whom Israel loved.

Yet Joseph has the sign of blessing upon him.

The words **a coat of many colours**, are a translation of two Hebrew words **kethoneth passim.**

In fact the word **many** is in italics meaning it was not in the original Hebrew, but because the word **colours** is plural then it was put in by the translators to give the flows, **a coat of colours or a coat of many colours.**

But the two Hebrews meaning **coat of colours**, are **Kethoneth** means **coat, tunic or robe**; though Robe is favoured. Whereas, **passim** means **ankles or wrists**. In putting the two words together, they refer to a long-sleeved coat, tunic, or robe reaching to the ankles.

Furthermore, it is clear this coat was full of colours, we are not told which colours, or how many. But this was a beautiful robe. It stood out, it was sign to all who looked upon in and the one who wore it.

Joseph the chosen leader, given an honoured position, means that Israel would deal with his sons through Joseph. He later sent Joseph to search for his sons.

The coat or robe was a sign that Joseph would be the primary heir of the family.

This Coat elevated Joseph to a position that was different because of his glorious dress. The robe was an outward sign of an honoured position.

By giving this coat to Joseph, Israel plainly indicated that Joseph was to have the privileged position of preeminence over his brothers in the family's administration, his work.

He is the one chosen by God to save the nation. We discover all the God does through Joseph was on behalf of his brethren to save, preserve the nation, and bless them.

Therefore, believer lift your eyes unto a greater than Joseph, the Lord Jesus, the Elect One. The chosen of the Father.

To Him alone be all glory honour and praise. He has all authority given unto Him to save. He is the only one qualified to be the Saviour of sinners. He is beloved Son, He is the darling of the Father's bosom. He is the all together lovely.

He came as the administrator of the covenant of grace, there was no other good enough or chosen by God to be the only Mediator between Him and man.

Only the value, virtue and victory, of Christ life and the shedding of His blood could pay the ransom price to save unlovable sinners.

But also believer, there is the sign of the Fathers to you. Just as Joseph was given a robe of many colours, the Bible tell us that

believers have been given a robe of righteousness by the Father, it is the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

**What does it mean to be clothed in the righteousness of Christ, where can I get one, buy one, how much does it cost.**

**Well the answer is clear, one has been provided for you, the price has already been paid. The position granted by covenantal love.**

In other words, God took all the rewards that Christ earned, in obeying the law of God by His perfect life and His substitutional death, and then accredited them or gave them over to sinners He saved as their reward as if they obeyed the law of God.

That is amazing, all that Christ performed in obedience unto death, I am treated and viewed by God as having performed them.

Paul said in **2 Corinthians 5:21** ***“For He (God) hath made Him, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”***

In other words, **God took all that we deserved and imputed it to Christ, and God took all that Christ deserved and he imputed it to us.**

**Isaiah 61:10** ***“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.***

**All who have been clothed in the garments of Salvation, dressed in the beauties of Christ, the robe of righteousness are heirs with God and joint heirs with Christ.**

**We have all the rights, position, power, honour and title deeds, blessing, riches, and privileges as the children of God, promised enjoyment of all that God has given to Christ.**

Since we are accepted in Christ, one with Him we share with Him, then all that God has given Christ as a reward for His perfect obedience, He also gives His people who can never be separated from Him.

In Christ alone, believers stand forever forgiven, faultless, and clothed. When God views Christ he views His people, and when He views His people He views Christ.

Believer rejoice you have been robed in a garment of perfect righteousness that money cannot buy.

You wear a robe of righteousness that cost God His only begotten Son.

You wear a coat of righteousness of infinite value, paid for with the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. You are dressed for the wedding day, when the bridegroom will come for His bride and we shall feast with Him.

Sinner you are invited to the heavenly wedding, but first you need Christ as your garment, covering, perfect righteousness to have acceptance with God, anything less, another coat or dress, is unacceptable to God and you will perish.

### **III THIRD, THE STATEMENT OF THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR HIS SON JOSEPH**

***“Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because He was the son of his old age....”***

It is certainly true that Jacob was an old man when Joseph was born. It is also stated that Joseph was not Jacob's last or youngest son, that was Benjamin.

So if we go on age, who should receive the coat then it should be Benjamin and not Joseph, as Jacob was much older when Benjamin was born than he was when Joseph was born.

However, it is best to look at these words applied to Joseph, **the son of his old age....**” as some do, to be a Hebrew phrase meaning **a wise son, or the son of wisdom.**

**The idea is to be wise, prudent, prosperous, and successful.**

Compared to the other sons, Joseph was wise, his behaviour was prudent, His walk and ways pleased his Jacob but ultimately God. We will see through the book Joseph was he prosperous and successful son, who did all things well and pleased his father on earth but above all His Saviour in Heaven.

Solomon words could apply to Joseph, **Prov 9:10** “**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom**” **Prov 8:13** “**The fear of the Lord is to hate evil**”

The wisdom of Joseph points to Christ who is called in **1 Cor 1:24** “**...the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Verse 30** **“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom...”** Christ is the source of all true knowledge and saving wisdom. He is the Truth, the Enlightener, Provider, Revealer of all that was needed to bring us out of sin’s darkness.

Christ alone is able to meet the sinners need, as He is the need of the sinner. God said about His Son, the Suffering Servant, in **Isaiah 52:13- 53**, but **Isa 52:13** “**Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.**” These words were a prophecy of the sinless life and substitutional sufferings of Christ, written 650 before then actual day of the cross.

The word **prudently** is also translated in the Bible margin as **prosperous**. The idea is of success, a wise walk, behaviour.

This same word is used of David in **1 Samuel 18** translated **wisely**. David is living his life before Saul and the army of Israel.



**V5, 9, 14, 15, but notice verse 30 *David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul.***

Jesus Christ the Servant of God would deal prudently, He would **behave Himself in all His ways, in that He** lived that perfect life as He walked upon this earth. He went about doing good, He did all things well.

but also, His work on the cross, when mocked and tempted to come down from cross, He stayed because He came to provide and purchase a full redemption. God said in **Matthew 3:17 & 17:5** *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

Joseph was loved by His Father and so are you.

Seek believer, to please your heavenly Father, as Christ said in **John 8:29** *“I do always those things that please Him,* also **John 14:31** *“that the world may know that I love the Father,”.*

Believer, by looking to Christ as our wisdom, walk in Him, follow His steps, He alone gives success, and favour in every area of our lives, to exalt His name in all our ways.

We are blessed we are loved by the Father.