

Old Testament12
Fruitful in the Land of My Affliction
(Genesis 37-50)
By Lenet Hadley Read

(This material continues to show parallels between Joseph of Egypt and Jesus Christ, **but in particular of His work in the Last Days; even His Second Coming**. Thus it also shows how Joseph Smith was like Joseph of Egypt, and **our latter-day work like his**).

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. While visiting Egypt, I learned that even today the Biblical Joseph is greatly honored by many there. Vast granary storage bins still exist. And one very wise man in Egyptian History, whose greatness was second only to Pharaoh, is acknowledged by Egyptians for initiating this storage of grain and saving the people from famine. *(You may also go online for information on “ancient storage bins in Egypt”).*

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. **After Joseph/Jesus came from the Spirit Prison, he was exalted, presiding beside the greatest ruler.**
2. Gen. 41:56. After a period of great spiritual abundance [the time of earliest Christianity], the *great famine [of apostasy] came*.
3. Gen. 41:56. **But Joseph/Jesus had foreseen this famine, had laid up food and eventually opened the storehouses “... Joseph [Jesus through Joseph Smith] opened all the storehouses...” [through the restoration of the gospel.]**
4. 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**.
5. Gen. 42:15. “Hereby ye shall be proved.” Joseph/Jesus felt the need to prove his brethren. **One way He “proves” Latter-day Saints is by asking us to bring in others of the House of Israel.**
6. Gen. 42:25. “And Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man’s money.” One of the beautiful truths concerning the Savior is that He offers the bread of life, which He bestows without price.
7. Gen. 45:1, 4-5, 7. Joseph/Jesus forgives his brethren. Certainly the real Joseph of Egypt must have been a remarkable man who could forgive his brothers who had treated him with such cruelty. **But his life of virtue also bore witness of Jesus the Christ who knew even greater cruelty at the hands of His brothers.**

Through Joseph of Egypt we see witnesses of how the Savior has blessed the House of Israel, in spite of being betrayed and even crucified by His own people. Yet He is willing to forgive all. And at that future time when He manifests His true identity to all His own people, [His Second Coming appearance, particularly to the Jews], He will indeed say, “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).

III. Joseph's story also bore witness of Joseph Smith and the Latter-day work he initiated under the guidance of Jesus the Christ.

A. While, the life of Joseph of Egypt pointed to Christ, the life of Joseph Smith and his latter-day work followed the pattern set by Joseph of Egypt and Christ. 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.

	Jesus the Christ	
Joseph of Egypt		Joseph Smith and latter-day work

B. Then consider the following scripture.

Many of these scriptures had a reference to Jesus, but they also had a reference to Joseph Smith. Think of how these things taught of Joseph Smith.

1. *JST Gen 50:26*; 2 Nephi 3:6: A descendant would be "a choice seer."
2. *JST Gen. 50:27-28*; *2 Nephi 3:7*: 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. *JST Gen 50:29*; 2 Ne 3:9. He would be a great prophet and deliverer of his people.

4. *JST Gen 50:30-31*; 2 Ne 3:11-12. He would bring forth new scripture (like the Book of Mormon) which would support the old scripture (Bible).

5. 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. Supporting ideas and quotations by General Authorities

From the writings of the apostles we see that 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.

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)

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)

IV. 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.

V. Scripture Support of the overall theme

Jesus taught that like Himself [and thus Joseph], it is through the trials of the righteous that they become much more fruitful. “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)

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!