

## Life-Study of Genesis Summaries – Messages 117-120

### MESSAGE 117 - The Reigning Aspect of the Matured Israel (5)

Joseph **tested** his brothers because he was trying to induce them to **recognize** him. When Joseph's brothers came back, Joseph did not say a word. Rather, he charged his steward to **invite** the brothers to his residence, the home of the ruler of the earth. They did not appreciate Joseph's invitation, but rather were **frightened** by it. With respect to our knowing the Lord it is exactly the same today. **The Lord showed Himself to us and we saw Him, yet we did not know Him.** He did many things for us with a good intention, but we were frightened by what He did. Everything He did was motivated by **love**, but we had **evil thoughts** regarding it all. The Lord may be directly in front of us and He may have done a great deal for us, but we cannot recognize Him or what He has done. In our knowing of the Lord, most of us are exactly like Joseph's brothers. **We do not consider Him.** The Lord does everything with a good intention, but we regard it as a curse. May we look away to Jesus and **set our eyes on Him.** If we do this, you will **see** Him, **recognize** Him, and **know** Him. (Life-Study of Genesis, 117).

### MESSAGE 118 - The Reigning Aspect of the Matured Israel (6)

The line of the type concerns Israel, but the line of life concerns you and me. Only a **matured** person has such **patience** and **wisdom** as Joseph. Because he was spiritually mature, he had great wisdom and patience. Thus, he was not governed by his **desire** or **emotion**, but directed by his wisdom and patience. **The more matured we are, the more wisdom and patience we have.** The strongest sign that we are matured is that we are able to control our emotion. When you are about to express your emotion, you should not do so according to your **feeling**. Rather, you must express your emotion according to **God's presence**. When we are under the control of life in patience and in wisdom, we shall be like Joseph. (Life-Study of Genesis, chapter 118).

### MESSAGE 119 - The Reigning Aspect of the Matured Israel (7)

**Joseph was able to comfort his brothers because he realized that God, not they, had sent him to Egypt.** His **dreams** were fulfilled through the ones who **hated** him. Joseph had a thorough realization of this and thus he could forgive his brothers for the way they mistreated him. It should be the same with us today in the church life. If we realize that we are here for **the Lord's purpose**, for the Lord's recovery, then we shall know that **whatever happens to us is for God's purpose**. Joseph's **self-denial**, his **restriction** under God's sovereign hand, was the **key** to the practice of the kingdom life. Through such a life God's purpose was fulfilled, and the kingdom was brought in, realized, and practiced. Through this fulfillment, the children of Israel shared in the enjoyment of the kingdom. **This life of self-denial, of bearing the cross, is the life that ushers in the kingdom.** (Life-Study of Genesis, chapter 119)

### MESSAGE 120 - The Reigning Aspect of the Matured Israel (8)

If we do not **suffer**, we have **nothing to give others**. Because the grapevine undergoes many sufferings, dealings, cuttings, and breakings, it produces rich wine to cheer man. In order to get the food and the seed, we need to **pay** the full price. Before handing over **ourselves**, we must hand over **everything** else. The situation during the millennium will be very different from today. After Joseph was enthroned and the people came to him for food, Egypt became a prefigure of the millennium with all the people on the same level. It must be this way among us in the church life today. Because Christ has claimed everything of us, we all are now on the same level **enjoying** the riches of Christ. (Life-Study of Genesis, chapter 120)