

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 19: JOSEPH & MOSES take Gentile Brides

Aim: Joseph and Moses both took Gentile wives whilst separated from their brethren, the children of Israel. Likewise, Christ will take a Gentile wife whilst in the heavens and separated from His brothers, the nation of Israel.

Key Scriptures: Genesis 41:44-45, 50-54. Exodus 2:14-22; 18:1-5.

In our last two lessons we have seen Moses portrayed as the Deliverer of Israel from bondage in Egypt, and also as the Prophet given the Words of God to speak to God's people Israel. We know that **Types are Prophecy**, because they state that which will come to pass in God's perfect timing. We will return to Moses again today, and also to Joseph, both of whom we know are Types of Jesus Christ. We will look at the wives they took and the significance of the timing for those marriages. To begin, let's review some previous foundational principles we established.

In '**Lesson 9: ISAAC – Search for a Bride**', we saw how Abraham's oldest servant was sent to find a wife for Isaac from his father's family in Mesopotamia. As we studied through Genesis 24, Rebekah was revealed to be that bride as she willingly chose to leave her family and follow the servant to become Isaac's wife.

Q: Do you remember who the 'oldest servant' was a type of?

A:

Q: In the antitype, where is the Servant currently looking for a Bride for Jesus the Son of God?

A:

If we cast our mind back even further to **‘Lesson 2: ADAM, a Type of Him Who Was to Come’** we’ll remember that just as a wife for Adam was taken from his body, so a wife for Jesus Christ will be taken from His Body, which is the Church (Eph.ch.5 & Col.ch.1).

In today’s lesson we are going to build upon a different set of Old Testament types that reveal details about the future Bride of Christ. Through the examples of Joseph and Moses, we shall see that in the Holy Spirit’s search for the Bride from within the Family of God, those who become Christ’s wife will be Christians who were once Gentiles. This is a foundational principle that we should be familiar with from our previous in-depth study of the

Book of Ruth.

Q: Who remembers which country Ruth came from?

A:

Q: Who were they descended from?

A:

Q: Who did Ruth find favor with in Bethlehem, such that he was willing to redeem her lost inheritance and take her as his wife?

A:

Q: Who is he a type of?

A:

Ruth, a Moabitess, worked in Boaz’s field following her journey to Bethlehem with Naomi. He was a relative of Ruth’s dead husband Mahlon and therefore he was in a position to redeem the inheritance that was lost when her husband died. This she asked of him on his threshing floor. Then, following a conversation with a closer relative at the city gates, Boaz redeemed the inheritance and Ruth became his wife. Ruth is a Type of the faithful Gentile believer who will become the Wife of Jesus Christ.

From these Old Testament types, we have established 3 important facts about the future Wife of Jesus Christ:

- She will come from Christ's Body, His Church, in the same way as **the Woman** was taken from the body of Adam (*Lesson 2*).
- She will be from the family of God, faithful Christians, in the same way as **Rebekah** was a part of Abraham's family and was willing to follow the leading of the Oldest Servant, the Type of the Holy Spirit (*Lesson 9*).
- She will predominantly be made up of former Gentiles, just as **Ruth** was originally a Gentile before becoming a member of the family.

We completed 5 lessons on Joseph as a Type of Christ, and 2 lessons on Moses as a Type of Christ. One of the main parallels between the two is their choice of a bride, *and the picture it presents of the timing of future events*. So, let's look at Scriptures that deal with their wives, beginning with Joseph:

Joseph & Asenath

Genesis 41:44 Pharaoh also said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."

*45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name **Zaphnath-Paaneah**. And he gave him as a wife Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On. So Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.*

Pharaoh gave Joseph an Egyptian name, 'Zaphnath-Paaneah,' meaning 'the man to whom secrets are revealed'. It may also mean 'the preserver, or savior of life'.

Q: Do you remember the secret that God had revealed to Joseph that would lead to lives being saved?

A:

As a result of Joseph's great wisdom, Pharaoh not only exalted him to second in all the land of Egypt under himself, but he also gave Joseph a wife of high standing. She was 'the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On'. The word

that has been translated as ‘priest’ can also mean ‘prince’ or ‘chief’. Clearly **Asenath** came from an important family. Together they would have 2 sons:

***Genesis 41:50** And to Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him.*

*51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn **Manasseh**: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house."*

*52 And the name of the second he called **Ephraim**: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."*

53 Then the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Egypt ended,

54 and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said.

Q: What was the timing for Joseph taking Asenath as his wife and the birth of the 2 sons?

A:

Once the 7 years of famine began, Joseph’s brothers went down to Egypt in search of food. The 7 years of famine are a Type of a future event.

Q: What is that event?

A:

Joseph’s brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain twice before they recognized it was Joseph who they were buying from and bowing down to. They did not realize that Joseph, the brother they rejected, had been their ‘savior and the preserver of their lives’ during the famine until that point. We know from our study of Joseph as a Type of Christ that Christ was also hated and rejected by His brethren, the nation of Israel. After His crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus left for ‘a far country’ - the heavens.

Following his rejection by his brothers and during the time of plenty, Joseph had taken a Gentile bride, **Asenath**. Likewise, during the time between His rejection and the Tribulation, Jesus Christ will take a Bride.

Q: By way of review what period of time is encompassed in the type of 7 years of plenty?

A:

Christ's Bride, like the Types of Asenath and Ruth, will be primarily Christians from Gentile nations.

Moses & Zipporah

The same picture, with the same timing, can be seen in the life of Moses and the wife that he took. Moses was brought up in Pharaoh's palace by Pharaoh's daughter. (Not the same Pharaoh as in Joseph's time.) One day when Moses visited his brethren the Jews, he saw an Egyptian treating one cruelly and so Moses rose up and killed the Egyptian. The second day Moses visited his brethren again, and he saw two of them fighting with each other and he tried to intervene. Then one of them said:

***Exodus 2:14** ... "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!"*

15 When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water, and they filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

17 Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

*18 When they came to **Reuel** their father, [Jethro] he said, "How is it that you have come so soon today?"*

19 And they said, "An Egyptian [Joseph] delivered us from the hand of the shepherds, and he also drew enough water for us and watered the flock."

20 So he said to his daughters, "And where is he? Why is it that you have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread."

*21 Then Moses was content to live with the man, and he gave **Zipporah** his daughter to Moses.*

*22 And she bore him a son, and he called his name **Gershom**; for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land."*

Q: Do you know which other patriarchs' future wives were found by a well? What do you think might be the significance of this?

A:

Midianites were somewhat related to the children of Israel in that they are descended from Midian, one of the sons Abraham had with his 2nd wife Keturah. And while Midianites are descended from Abraham, they are not in the lineage of Isaac and Jacob, and therefore they are not considered Jewish, but rather Gentiles. Like Joseph, Moses married **a Gentile** when he married Zipporah.

One day while Moses was looking after his father-in-law's sheep in the desert, he turned aside to see a burning bush. God spoke to Moses from the midst of the burning bush and told him he must return to Egypt to deliver his brethren from the cruel bondage that they were in under a new Pharaoh. In **Lesson 17** we learned that Moses was a Type of Christ in that one day Christ will return from His far country, the heavens, and deliver the nation of Israel from the cruel bondage of the Antichrist.

When Jesus Christ returns to deliver the enslaved Jews and deal with the Antichrist and the nations under him in the anti-type of Moses, He will

already have taken a wife in the heavens. Those faithful Christians who have made themselves ready through righteous acts and become a part of Christ's wife, will be predominantly **Gentile-born** individuals. We can know this because Ruth, Asenath and Zipporah were Gentiles married to men who in some facet were types of Jesus Christ.

Zipporah did not accompany Moses when he returned to Egypt, but was reunited with him after Israel's deliverance.

*Exodus 18: 2 Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took **Zipporah**, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back,*

*3 with her two sons, of whom the name of one was **Gershom** (for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land")*

*4 and the name of the other was **Eliezer** (for he said, "The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh");*

5 and Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness, where he was encamped at the mountain of God.

Q: Did you notice anything in the naming of Moses' 2 sons and also Joseph's 2 sons back in Genesis 41:51 & 52 on page 4?

A:

Task: Go back and underline the meaning of the names of the sons of Joseph and of Moses.

When Moses left Midian to return to Egypt, it was a picture of Jesus Christ's 2nd Coming when He will leave the heavens to return to the earth, having already taken a wife (*See Rev.19:7-9*). **Zipporah and the children** only went part of the way with Moses before she was sent back to wait in her father's

house. They were not with Moses when he delivered the Jews from Pharaoh and their bondage in Egypt. Then afterwards, once the children of Israel were in the wilderness camped at Mt. Sinai, Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought Zipporah and the boys to be reunited with Moses.

Likewise, when Joseph made himself known to his brothers at their second meeting, he was married to **Asenath**, but she and her sons were not with him.

As a result of the types of Asenath, Zipporah, and Ruth, we now know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Christians will have already been removed from the earth to the heavens **before** the 7 years of the Tribulation begins on the earth. You might recall that Ruth was not with Boaz when he redeemed the inheritance for her.

Q: How else from foundation can we know that Christ's Bride will have been removed from the earth **before** the time of Jacob's trouble begins on the earth?

A:

In Conclusion

In today's lesson and in the accounts of Joseph and Moses and their wives, we have discovered that Jesus Christ will take a Gentile bride whilst He is away from His brethren, the nation of Israel, in the heavens. Currently, a search is being made by the Holy Spirit for faithful Christians who will make up that Bride. (*see lesson # 9 'search for a Bride for Isaac*).

Before Jesus returns to the earth to deliver His Brethren Israel, the Bride will be revealed at Christ's Judgment Seat (JSOC). It is only after the Church has been resurrected or raptured to the JSOC, and faithful Christians identified who will make up Christ's Bride, that He can possibly return to the earth. His Bride will remain behind in the heavens with the Father.

As a result of the types of Asenath, Zipporah, and Ruth, we now know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Christians will have already been removed from the earth to the heavens **before** the 7 years of the Tribulation begins on

the earth. You might recall that Ruth was not with Boaz when he redeemed the inheritance for her.

At Christ's 2nd Coming, the nation of Israel who previously rejected Him will repent of killing Him, and receive Him and accept Him as their King.

- Just as - the second time Joseph's brothers came to buy grain from him, they recognized that he was the brother they had thrown into the pit and sold into a far country. But he had then become their savior, just as Christ will be recognized as Israel's Savior.
- Just as - Moses was accepted by his brethren the Israelites the second time, and delivered Israel from bondage in Egypt. In the same way, Christ will rescue the nation of Israel from all the places in the world where they will have been scattered, and He will take them back to the land of their inheritance.

Ezekiel 36:24 "For I will take you [Israel] from among the [Gentile] nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land...

28 "Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

Final Activity:

As we finish, on the next page is a timeline detailing the events we have studied in today's lesson. Read and follow the 6 'steps' as shown in the text boxes which lead to the 7th Day. Then find Scriptures that confirm those '6 steps'. Be ready to share them with the group.



