

Remnant Life Church

December 17, 2017

**Genesis:**

**Forerunners of the Christ Child**

Genesis 37:1-11

- We are just a little over a week away from Christmas day
  - I have been encouraging you to not lose the reason we celebrate in the hysteria of shopping, decorating, baking, and the Christmas movies and TV shows that play every year
  - NONE of these things is bad
  - As long as they stay in their proper place in the order of importance
- We have been going through the first book of the Bible, Genesis
  - Not verse by verse but looking at particular people and situations
  - We have talked about the beginnings that are present in Genesis
  - Joseph's dreams
  - Lot – Abraham's nephew
  - The "Boring Begats"
  - This morning I want to talk about forerunners
- Forerunner (foreshadow; type; like)
  - Webster defines a forerunner as *one who precedes and indicates the approach of another*
  - Not only does a forerunner go before but he indicates or demonstrates something of what or who is to come
  - The Old Testament, and in particular Genesis, present several of those who, by their lives, foretold of the one to come who would save the world from its sins

Consider the men we find in just the first 2 books of the Bible alone who foreshadowed the coming Christ:

1. Adam – the first Adam was created in the image of God; this is why Jesus came as a man
2. Abraham – demonstrated a deep and abiding faith and trust in God; the same that Jesus would proclaim men would need
3. Moses – would lead the nation of Israel out of the bondage of slavery; Jesus would provide a way for all people to be freed from the bondage of sin
4. Joshua – a great military man of might; Jesus leads a battle against satan and evil

Consider the one however who, perhaps more than anyone else, demonstrated the true nature and character of Jesus - Joseph

**READ** – Gen. 39:1-6a

- Genesis is broken down into 2 main sections
  - Chapters 1 – 11 – The Primeval History (Creation – Noah - Babel)
  - Chapter 12 – 50 – The Patriarchal History
  - Joseph chapters 37 (38 – Judah and Tamar) 38-50

- There are 21 distinct similarities of the lives of Jesus and Joseph that point the reader of Genesis directly to the Christ
  - Consider just a few of these this morning as we, too, anticipate the day of our Saviors birth.
1. Both were hated by and plotted against by their brothers
    - a. Joseph's earthly brothers despised him because of their father's favoritism toward him – [Gen. 37:4,5,8,20](#)
    - b. Jesus was hated by His Jewish brothers who did not want things to change from the way they had them set – [John 1:11; 7:5; 11:53; 15:25](#)
  2. Both were severely tempted
    - a. Joseph by Potiphar's wife – [Gen. 39:7](#)
    - b. Jesus by satan in the wilderness – [Matt. 4:1](#)
  3. Both were taken to Egypt
    - a. Joseph when he was sold by the Midianites to Potiphar – [Gen. 37:26](#)
    - b. Jesus when he was a baby to escape the plot of Herod to have Him killed – [Matt. 2:13-15](#)
  4. Both were sold for the price of a slave
    - a. Joseph by his brothers to the Midianite traders for 20 pcs of silver (OT price) – [Gen. 37:28](#)
    - b. Jesus by Judas Iscariot to the chief priests for 30 pcs of silver (NT price) – [Matt. 26:15](#)
  5. They were both falsely accused
    - a. Joseph by Potiphar's wife – [Gen. 39:16-18](#)
    - b. Jesus by the priests and false witnesses – [Matt. 26:59-60](#)
  6. They both remained silent and offered no defense
    - a. Joseph against his master's wife – [Gen. 39:20](#)
    - b. Jesus before the priests and officials – [Isa. 53:7](#)
  7. They were both about 30 years old when they began their ministry
    - a. Joseph was 30 when Pharaoh put him in place to rule Egypt – [Gen.41:46](#)
    - b. Jesus was 30 when He began preaching – [Luke 3:23](#)
  8. They both encountered 2 prisoners – in both cases one would be saved the other would be lost
    - a. Joseph with the baker and the cup bearer in prison – [Gen. 40:2-3](#)
    - b. Jesus with the 2 prisoners on the cross – [Luke 23:32](#)
  9. They both lost to their brothers for a while
    - a. Joseph spent 13 years in either prison or as a slave – [Gen. 42:7-8](#)
    - b. Jesus was crucified and laid in the grave for 3 days – [Rom. 10:1-3; 11:7-8](#)
  10. Both forgave and restored their repentant brothers
    - a. Joseph's brothers came to him and, after a time, he forgave and put them in positions of responsibility – [Gen. 45:1-15](#)
    - b. Jesus' death offered forgiveness for our sins and one day we will be restored into full fellowship with the Father in heaven – [Zech. 12:10-12](#)
- Each of those men of Genesis, and many more, lived their lives as a foreshadowing of the One who was to come

- I think you know what I am going to ask next
  - Do you live your life as an example of Jesus Christ to others?
- In **Genesis 14** we read in just 3 verses about an encounter Abraham had with a man by the name of Melchizedek
- He is called a “type of Christ”
  - Another way of saying a foreshadower or forerunner
  - He was a king and a high priest
  - Foreshadowing the even greater position of Jesus
    - King over all creation
    - The permanent High Priest forever (**Heb. 7**)
- Would people say of you that you are a type of Jesus?
- In other words, do people see Jesus in you?
  - What is your temperament with people?
    - Frustration with the people this time of year
  - What do you say?
  - How do you say it?
  - What do you NOT say and do?
    - Grumbling and complaining?
- There is only one way this happens
  - Not through our determination, will, or efforts
  - But through surrendering our will to God and asking Him to be seen in everything we say and do
- Let this not only be a season of rejoicing at the coming of the King
- But let it be for you a way of living that will not only be seen one time of year but every day for the rest of your life
- One last similarity: Joseph and Jesus were honored by all nations of the earth
  - Joseph when all nations came and bowed down to him to receive his favor during the great famine – **Gen. 41:57**
  - Jesus before all nations
    - **Phil. 2:9-11** - *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
- I want for each of us, by virtue of His grace and the lives we live everyday as foreshadowers of Jesus Christ, to stand one day before our Father God and hear Him say, “Enter in my good and faithful servant.”
- Everything I say or do – let Jesus be seen in me!