



VOLUME XXXIX NUMBER VIII
Sonship Gift VI: Redeemed B

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1

Scripture: Genesis 6:1-7

In Genesis 6:1-7 God finds Himself utterly amazed at the wickedness and lawlessness that man has created on the earth. That great wickedness was to the extent that even the thoughts of men's hearts were only evil continually. The Bible tells us here that the Lord was sorry that He made man on the earth and He was grieved in His heart. In verse 7 it says, "*I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.*" Sin has a dramatic impact with amazing devastation and destruction as the result. We see that in Genesis chapter 6. The whole of creation was in deep trouble because of the sin that man had yielded to. If we stopped the story here, there would be no hope. But because of His great love, God refused to leave man in the condition of depravity and ruin to the point of utter loss. Redemption began in God's heart!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

Scripture: Genesis 6:8-9

In Genesis 6:8-9 we are told, "*But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.*" Because Noah walked with God, redemption found him. Noah escaped the terrible destruction that man had brought on the earth. Thus we begin to see a pattern. This pattern is one where righteousness and walking with God saved man from the penalty and destruction that came upon mankind due to sin. If God can find a man who will walk with Him, then God Himself enters into covenant with that man to save, to deliver and to set free. Noah was such a man and as a result through God's grace and love, man was preserved from utter judgment and total destruction. This saving grace came because one man was willing to walk in righteousness, wisdom and purity before God. Surely God will find many more righteous ones in the last days!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Scripture: Genesis 6:8-18

As sin developed in the earth, the earth was filled with violence. Corruption deepened until all flesh was impacted. God said to Noah, 'I'm judging all flesh and will destroy it because mankind has filled the earth with violence.' Genesis 6:17 says, "*And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die.*" Thank God that verse 18 follows this pronouncement. "*But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.*" This saving verse was God's answer to the corruption. God looked for a man or a woman that He Himself could covenant with. Because God found a righteous vessel, He could strike a covenant with that vessel, judge the earth and destroy the violence and corruption that was in it. This should help us understand that God still operates this way. That through covenant, He calls us to strike the enemy who is filling the earth with violence for that is the only way the earth can be saved. It is God's heart for man to finish his prophetic purpose by populating God's Family and then comes a new heavens and earth in which righteousness dwells!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

Scripture: Revelation 19:11-16

In Revelation 19:15-16 we are told, "*Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*" Jesus in the last days will use His authority judicially through the church. Witnesses will arise who can stop the corruption long enough to gain a harvest. How long will it take to mature those witnesses? We see that part of God's redemption in the last days is buying time through the judgment of the ungodly in order to gain more souls. Walking with the Lord in the last days is guaranteed to be an exciting season for all who turn to Him. How do we grow the church to this level of maturity? What if escaping in the rapture is not an option?

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

Scripture: Revelation 11:6

In Revelation 11:6 we are told concerning God's end time witnesses, "*These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.*" Here again we see that the church as God's agents of redemption will be walking in covenantal justice bringing judgment on the wicked in order to save pockets of people in different nations who have an open heart. Redemption is an ongoing process throughout Scripture that continues through the end of the age. Many people are entering the valley of decision!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

Scripture: Romans 8:22-26

This passage says, "*For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only they, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*" Redemption is an ongoing process in the earth all the way up to the Second Coming of the Lord. It will take praying in the Spirit because we don't know all the different manifestations of redemption that God wants to execute through the end of the age. Only God knows the number and the magnitude of people who look impossible today but once they see the Hand of God they will rethink their position and turn. Extending Christ's redemption may be a major challenge for some believers who can't quite imagine those hard cases that are going to turn when they see the judgment of God in the last days. We already know that the prophesied judgments will bring fear on the whole earth. In the end-times, people will hide in the rocks and caves from God. Someone has to be there to offer them salvation and increasing it looks like we are headed into those times. Are we ready to be amazed at the redemption of God in the last days? I trust we can begin to understand the magnitude of how far God is willing to go to bring in the harvest the Blood of Christ was shed for. 2 Corinthians says, "*Through the terror of the Lord we persuade men.*" God knows the magnitude of judicial pressure necessary to turn a city, like San Francisco if He chooses to save rather than destroy it. One righteous man saved Lot's family from dying in Sodom. How many righteous live in San Francisco? Surely we will see a harvest but only God knows if it comes through judgment.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

Scripture: Genesis 7:11-16

In Genesis 7:11-16 we are told that Noah and his family went into the ark along with two of every living animal and then God closed them in. The Lord Himself shut Noah and his family and cargo in the ark. Then the deluge of rain began to pour and the waters prevailed on the earth for 150 days. Every creature on the earth died except those who were in the ark. God executed universal judgment and started fresh with one righteous man, Noah! One righteous man

praying in faith can save a city, or bring destruction on it to save the surrounding cities! Righteous people walking with God can demonstrate the fullness of Christ in the last days.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

Scripture: Genesis 8:20-22

These verses say, *"Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, 'I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.'"* Noah started life anew with a covenant from God. God swept the earth clean through a covenantal washing! One man's obedience preserved a culture!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

Scripture: Genesis 9:1-17

God blessed Noah and his family and instructed them to be fruitful and multiply. God said in verse 6, *"Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it."* Verses 9-17 state, *"And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.'* And God said: *'This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.'*" And God said to Noah, *"This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."* And here we are today, still able to view that covenant 'rainbow' knowing that God, not man, still rules and orders the weather and knowing full well that the Blood of Christ extends the power of redemption throughout the earth. Due to God's redemption, Noah and his family walked mankind into a new beginning that still stands today because of the flawless, matchless Blood of our Redeemer.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3

In Genesis 12:1-3 we read of the covenant that God extended to Abraham, *"Now the Lord had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'*" The Abrahamic Covenant began the development of the nation of Israel. And this was because God wanted a Family. God wanted sons and daughters who would walk with Him. He determined that His tabernacle would be among men. The plan of salvation through our Perfect Redeemer began to develop and unfold through Abraham.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

Scripture: Genesis 12:10-17

God had His covenant Family upon which He was going to build a nation and what happened to that Family? They made mistakes! Abraham made a mistake. He was supposed to stay in the land God showed him, but because there was a famine, he felt compelled to go to Egypt. As soon as he got to Egypt there was trouble. The Pharaoh of Egypt noticed Abram's wife. Instead of walking in faith, Abraham was in fear because of his wife Sarah's great beauty. Abraham told

Pharaoh that she was his sister. As a result Sarah ended up in Pharaoh's haram. What did God do about this? Did God honor covenant? God set a redemption plan in motion for Sarah. Through no fault of her own but through her husband's fear and unbelief, Sarah found herself in jeopardy. How often do people today find themselves in jeopardy through no fault of their own? Only God can redeem us. Sarah's story is the reaching out of the Almighty with a Hand of Redemption to us. He sees hearts and motivations and knows our weaknesses and problems right from the beginning. And yet because He is God, He has the power to redeem our imperfections, declare us righteous in the process and to redeem our failures. When are we going to accept the forgiveness of God and the redemption that He offers? It is the enemy who tries to assign fault. The Blood of Christ forgives us from flaws and makes us blameless before the King. If we choose to keep ruminating on and rehearsing our guilt and shortcomings it is akin to not valuing His Blood. Perhaps it is not accepting the wonder-working power that Blood truly has. When we exempt ourselves as not worthy, we are in effect saying **our sin is greater than Christ's Blood!** Only the enemy's lies say we are beyond redemption and he is tricking us into a state of pride! Why do we accept that? Sarah had to trust God, and God used a plague to bring her out! God has always been up to the task of delivering and redeeming. He was for Sarah and will be for us as well. Our God is Sovereign over all and He has the power to redeem. He has the power to buy us out from under our own failures. Isn't it time we accepted Him for Who He is and embraced His Blood-bought redemption?

MONDAY, AUGUST 12

Scripture: Genesis 13:3-11

In Genesis 13:3-11 we find that, in disobedience, Abraham brought his nephew Lot with him as he left home and culture. We remember that God had spoken to Abraham to set out on a journey of new beginnings. He was told to leave his country, culture and kindred. Abraham returned to the place where he had built an altar when his journey first began and tried to correct his disobedience. He separated from Lot by letting Lot choose his path and going the opposite direction. Lot chose the green and beautiful land which also included Sodom. It was a choice like choosing life or death. He chose what pleased the flesh and looked appealing, a path that seemed pleasant for both family and livestock. It looked like the promise of prosperity, but it was a choice of the flesh. The poison 'well' of Sodom was in the middle of it. Was God big enough to save Lot and His family? Of course. Abraham took the other part and God sustained him by faith. Lot ended up in the midst of an ever-increasing poisonous well called 'Sodom.' Have we got people in 'Sodom' today? Yes, some of us have family members in 'Sodom.' Is God big enough to redeem people out of Sodom? Yes, He still is and does! We do not want to be condemning Pharisees. Will we be His agents in ministering redemption?

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

Scripture: Genesis 13:14-18

What did God do once Abraham got back into obedience? God reminded him of His covenant. "*For all the land you see before you I give to you and your descendants forever!*" What is our part when we find ourselves at various crossroads in our own life? The truth is that it is simple obedience! Seeing ourselves as sons and daughters and building our lives around that Bible fact is a result of intimate connection with our Father that results in a hearing ear and an obedient heart. When Abraham complied in obedience, then immediately God's covenant with him was reaffirmed and He was back in action. That is the blessing of obedience!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

Scripture: Genesis 14:1-16

What happened in Genesis 14? We look again at Lot as he lived in a beautiful but morally toxic geographic area. Lot suddenly found himself and all his family taken captive. Disobedience opened the door to destruction and that is as true today as it was then. All those who choose disobedience open the door to destruction. But God is a Redeemer and He redeems people who fall into failure! Over and over again the Bible teaches that even if we make harmful choices, the God of our Family is big enough to intervene and save us. If we find ourselves there, let's remember that there is a repentance pathway that will help us do an about-face and return to the right path. When Lot and those of his city were taken captive and dragged away by a foreign army, Abraham armed everyone in his camp. Because he was responsible for bringing Lot along, God sent him on the journey of redemption. Abraham fought for Lot and his family and he retrieved

every person and all belongings of all the captives. Abraham redeemed Lot from the trouble he initiated by his own harmful choices. That is the God we serve! If we have family or friends stuck in the midst of their own harmful choices, God is in the business of redeeming! Whatever calamity or devastation it takes to bring loved ones to the place they will yield to God, rest assured God is well able to do it. God redeemed us and we have to be the arm of redemption to others – even people in places where we would never choose to go ourselves. We are God's agents of redemption and we must shoulder it just as Abraham did. We have to extend the faith to bring them out and bring God's saving grace and redemption into their lives. It is our assignment to be His ambassadors of redemption. Will we be prayer champions who are willing to come alongside and fight for our friends? God Himself has said, "*Is there anything too hard for Me?*" Will we be the ones to stand in the gap? Let's be the hands and heart of God in behalf of redemption!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

Scripture: Genesis 14:17-21

As Abraham completed his rescue mission and released the captives, he was offered rewards by those he freed but he would not accept. Abraham said, 'I won't have another saying, "I made Abraham rich.'" He returned the rewards, only keeping what portion belonged to those who fought alongside him. Abraham returned what he had won in war as a statement to the power and abundance of his God to supply. What a description of the Redeemer! And what a demonstration of the faith of Abraham! No wonder he is called the father of all them that believes. Abraham went to war in behalf of others. He won back their lives including all their possessions and refused to keep any of it. Abraham rested fully assured that God was his Source. He was convinced that God was his provision. Oh, that we could learn the simple and profound truths of the Bible and act on them each day! We have family members that are caught in captivity, and our responsibility is to pray redemption upon them! Standing in the gap as an intercessor is very Christ-like! If we still wrestle with the truth of our redemption and self-worth it is time to arm ourselves personally with more of the Word and contend for what is already ours. We like Job should clearly say, "*I know that my Redeemer lives.*"

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

Scripture: Genesis 18:18--33

Lot did not look beyond the circumstances of his environment and the harm that could come to his family by staying in Sodom. Staying there was another mistake. What did Abraham do? He interceded and stood in the gap for his nephew. We have another example in Scripture of Abraham praying the judgment of God. "*Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*" In his intercession Abraham said, "*Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*" Abraham was reminding God that His Judge and Redeemer was a Father who judged righteously. Abraham, through faith and intercession, sought God for the salvation of his family and saved them from destruction. If we have family caught in homosexuality we can pray, 'Lord, it's not right. You cannot destroy San Francisco as long as we have family there. Even though they are caught in that lifestyle, bring them out, deliver them and set them free. You cannot destroy it as long as we have family there.' This is a worthy prayer for cities in our nation that are aimed toward depravity and have a remnant to set free. This should be our prayer over God's remnant and over every 'pre-Christian' we hold in our heart. For Abraham's family, the angel of the Lord went in and lifted Lot and his family, brought them out, set them down outside and directed them to safety. Abraham prayed and God redeemed Lot and his family from the destruction of the lifestyle of the place they chose to live. What a Redeemer we serve! We have an assignment in the last days. Let's do it! Let's prepare to initiate and fully complete that assignment!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

Scripture: Genesis 22:1-3

In Genesis 22:1-3, God spoke to Abraham and tested him. He said, "*Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.*" This

was a test God was performing concerning Abraham because he asked God, “*How shall I know that I will inherit it?*” Abraham asked God for a Blood Covenant guarantee that he would have a son. He and the Father entered into covenant. After Isaac was born and a few years had passed, God wanted to see if Abraham was willing to live up to his part of the covenant. God tested Abraham and fortunately for all of us, Abraham passed the test and a great blessing came as a result.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Scripture: Genesis 22:4-5

In verses 4-5 we are told, “*Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, ‘Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.’*” What a statement of faith that was. Is it any wonder Abraham became the father of all them that believe! He declared by faith that he and Isaac would return from the sacrifice. What must Isaac have been thinking since he was carrying the wood upon which he was about to be sacrificed? Is this a future picture of Christ walking in obedience trusting his Father? Who has the greater agony, the father who knows what is coming or the son who may suspect but chooses to obey? This was truly a family nightmare but because of obedience, one that blessed all mankind!

MONDAY, AUGUST 19

Scripture: Genesis 22:7-9

Verses 7-9 says, “*But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, ‘My father!’ And he said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ Then he said, ‘Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?’ And Abraham said, ‘My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.’ So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.*” Abraham demonstrated he was willing to go all the way, believing that God would resurrect his son. What an amazing event in the progression of Blood Covenant as we see Abraham fully satisfy God’s desire to know that he would obey, in covenant. Abraham did not withhold his only son and his obedience brought God’s fullness. If we walk in covenant and submit to God like Abraham did, He will not withhold from us in our hour of need!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

Scripture: Genesis 22:10-12, 2 Kings 19:15

In verses 10-12 we are told, “*And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ So he said, ‘Here I am.’ And He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.’*” What a statement! God is amazing in how far He will go to prove Blood Covenant. What is the issue in the proving of Blood Covenant? It is to satisfy, for all time, that His Son would come in covenant to redeem us. This is the type-and-shadow picture that is being laid out – Blood Covenant ultimately brought us Christ, the Perfect Redeemer to redeem all of mankind. What a picture of redemption that Abraham walked out, in faith, knowing full well what had to happen. Who can we extend Christ’s redemption to? Redemption is more than forgiving sin. It is often extending God’s Hand to neutralize a determined enemy for the sake of redeeming God’s chosen! Hezekiah’s prayer over Sennacherib’s army redeemed Judah! God was willing to kill 185,000 to redeem the covenant-chosen! How many will God kill for you and I? Hezekiah was willing to ask – are we?

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

Scripture: Genesis 22:13-18, Exodus 6:6b

In Genesis 22:13-18, we see the full measure of the Abrahamic covenant that was birthed as a result of Abraham’s obedience. Abraham called the name of the place, Jehovah Jireh, The-Lord-Will-Provide. Verses 15-18 state, “*Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: ‘By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall*

possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” The standard had now been set forever. Because Abraham did not withhold his only son, God would send His Son as the Ultimate Redeemer for us. There is nothing that we can be captured by that God is not willing to redeem us from because of the obedience of Abraham. He answered that call in Blood Covenant. Jesus became our Covenant Redeemer because of what He suffered in our behalf. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son! Exodus 6:6b declares how God redeemed Israel from Egypt, “*...and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and great judgments.*”

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

Scripture: John 3:16-20

John 3:16-20 describes the love of God that brought Jesus as our Redeemer. Notice how verse 20 says, “*For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*” If we are willing to bring our darkest deeds to Christ, then He promises to be our Redeemer. He will break the hold of whatever they are and destroy them. He will redeem us from them and bring us into the freedom of the resurrection. What an amazing process that we watch play out in Scripture. God's covenant is incredible indeed!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

Scripture: Genesis 37:3-10

Over and over again, the book of Genesis gives us story after story of redemption. The Bible is the story of a Redeemer, Jesus Christ. All throughout Scripture, we find God's people need redemption. There is nobody that does not need redemption. And we see God move heaven and earth to give us the very redemption that we need. In Genesis 37:3-10, we find someone who is called to be a redeemer like Moses and Jesus. Verse 3 says, “*Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors.*” Then Joseph began to dream dreams of exaltation. Because Joseph was the favorite son, his brothers hated him. When he started dreaming of exaltation they hated him even more. In verse 8 it says, “*And his brothers said to him, ‘Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?’ So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, ‘Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.’ So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, ‘What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?’*” What is this about? It is about character development so that we qualify to be a redeemer with the right attitude. Somebody had to save God's Family in the midst of a worldwide famine. God chose Joseph. So how much tribulation did Joseph have to endure to become qualified to handle that assignment? That is a major question that you and I have to wrestle with. The degree to which we are called to be redeemers to our generation will determine the amount of adversity we encounter. This preparational call shapes our lives just as it shaped Joseph's and Christ's. But how many are willing to pay that price and walk it out? I can't find where God asked Joseph if he was willing. Christ learned obedience through what He suffered – and we have to do the same! We should not be surprised or dismayed if our path follows His pattern. Such seasons have a redemptive purpose!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Scripture: Genesis 37:23-24

Genesis 37:23-24 states, “*So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him. Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.*” Suddenly the favorite son with all of his dreams found himself rejected and cast out. The coat that made him stand apart from his brothers was stripped from him and he was thrown into a pit into captivity, where he would die if not rescued. His favor and status radically changed. Suddenly Joseph was introduced to the cross that transforms man from being self-focused to being God-focused. God chooses a customized path for every one of us to attain transformation-some longer than others. May we all find the grace of God to walk the path!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

Scripture: Genesis 37:25-28

Genesis 37:25-28 says, “*And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt. So Judah said to his brothers, ‘What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh.’ And his brothers listened. Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.*” Joseph had to be contemplating whether he would die in the pit. He was then suddenly saved from death only to be sold into slavery. Can you believe how God treats His friends? Joseph had a high call and that call was to be a redeemer. Who trains redeemers by selling them into slavery? Only God engineers circumstances that are so devastating that it develops in us a heart for redemption. God did in Joseph and He will do the same in us. That is the power of the Cross when it is applied to a life. We get delivered from being self-focused and receive a heart for people who have had to experience circumstances as difficult as the ones we have faced. We do not hear the Cross peached that much today and we consequently have a church that does not recognize Jesus at work in their own lives.

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

Scripture: Genesis 39:1-6

In Genesis 39:1-6 it says, “*Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had in the house and in the field. Thus he left all that he had in Joseph’s hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.*” Because of God's anointing, Joseph found great favor with Potiphar, a government official. Potiphar began to prosper and as a result, Joseph was promoted. So we suddenly see a degree of mercy in the midst of all the agony of rejection and betrayal Joseph had suffered. God showed favor to Joseph in Potiphar's house.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

Scripture: Genesis 39:9-12

There was no one greater in Potiphar's house than Joseph, and his master kept back nothing from Joseph. But Potiphar's wife started to pursue Joseph, who steadfastly spurned her overtures. Eventually his master's wife caught him off guard and she clung to him by his garment. When he fled, she retained the garment in her hand. Even in the midst of captivity Joseph obeyed God. He walked in the integrity of his God but those choices had consequences. Walking in obedience and integrity often brings worldly results that are difficult to bear. Most people believe God blesses integrity. But when we are redeemers, those blessing aren't always visible in the natural. Believers are not guaranteed a smooth path just because we believe in Christ and live according to Kingdom principles. Depending on God's call on someone's life, they may have to walk through incredible preparational seasons that are full of adversity.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

Scripture: Genesis 39:19-20

When Potiphar came home, his wife lied about Joseph and accused him of trying to rape her. Potiphar was angry and put Joseph into prison, the section where the king's prisoners were confined. Is this the kind of blessing we should expect from God when we are called to be a redeemer? Joseph was betrayed, sold into slavery and was betrayed again just for walking in integrity. When we are called to be redeemers, we carry a call that demands a preparational path which will mold us into Christlikeness. God is molding within us a heart for people who have had great injustice done to them.

When we have walked it, we know the pain of it and know the agony of betrayal. So when it is in our power to speak redemption into someone's life we will be prepared to do it. God's School of the Spirit is not easy, but it is worth the price.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

Scripture: Genesis 39:21-23

In verses 21-23 it says, "*But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.*" We find another layer of God's blessing in the midst of additional crushing circumstances. Joseph continued to suffer injustices, but God showed up and helped him get promoted, even while in prison. It takes incredible fortitude to walk through God's School of Obedience and to endure the things that happen when we are there. We need to remember that the Heart of Christ was being formed in Joseph and we can watch the process develop that ultimately fashions him into a redeemer. It is one thing to simply be redeemed. But it is another to have God sculpt us to be an agent of redemption. He wants to use us to redeem others and we have to walk through the growth process it takes to get there! Submitting to the growth process is an important step. Becoming God's ambassador is next because Christ in us, the hope of glory, has to have an expression of redemption to others. It was God's plan all along!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

Scripture: Genesis 40:11-23

Joseph encountered two of Pharaoh's servants in prison. The first was his chief butler, who had a dream and told Joseph the dream. Joseph interpreted the dream to mean the butler would be restored to his post. When it occurred, in verse 14-15, Joseph said, "*But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house. For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon.*" The second servant was Pharaoh's chief baker who also had a dream. The baker expected a good word like the butler received. If Joseph had given the baker a good word not a God-word, it would have doubled his chances of favor for release, but Joseph had to speak what he heard and trust God for the results. We need more prophets like Joseph. Joseph interpreted the dream to mean the baker would be killed and his house made a dunghill. And it came to pass in three days. In spite of the butler's promise, he forgot Joseph. We see Joseph suffer injustice after injustice. Would Joseph be released from his imprisonment? How do we survive in our own extended preparational season like Joseph did? We surrender to God as both Joseph and Job did in the midst of their great adversity. Job 19:25 records Job's ultimate declaration of surrender. It says, "*I know that my redeemer lives and He shall stand at last on the earth.*" Can we commit ourselves to the Redeemer? Commitment to personal growth is needed!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

Scripture: Genesis 41:1-15

In Genesis 41:1-12, we read that the butler forgot Joseph for two full years. Eventually Pharaoh had a disturbing dream. He was determined to find someone to interpret the dream. It was then that the butler remembered Joseph. The chief butler spoke to Pharaoh, "*I remember my faults this day. When Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, both me and the chief baker, we each had a dream in one night, he and I. Each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his own dream. Now there was a young Hebrew man with us there, a servant of the captain of the guard. And we told him, and he interpreted our dreams for us; to each man he interpreted according to his own dream. And it came to pass, just as he interpreted for us, so it happened. He restored me to my office, and he hanged him.*" Pharaoh sent for Joseph and asked him to interpret his dream. We see the door of redemption opened, because a redeemer was formed in the pit of adversity. The heart of a redeemer was divinely fashioned and it was time for his fortunes to turn and for him to bring redemption to others. Are we still waiting for our fortunes to turn? Rest assured, to the degree each of us has been called to be a redeemer, they will turn! Just as Joseph's turned, ours will turn so we can each enter our ministry of redemption. It is much easier to be redeemed than it is to be a redeemer. But in the last days, God will use surrendered redeemers and He is forming us in the dungeons and in the

trenches. He is forming us into that which cannot be broken until it is time for us to enter into the fullness of God's call. Then and only then will the season change. Let's pray, 'God, change the season! Bring forth redeemers throughout the land. Bring us forth out of the dungeons and out of the pits. Bring us out of the bondage to sickness and disease. Lord, it is time for Your agents of redemption to be fully released from shame, guilt, and the inability to grasp our full worth. It is time for God's agents to get released from all that is holding us back in our circumstances as well as in our negative self-perception. Lord, set us free and anoint us to redeem, in Jesus' name!'

Psalm 107:2

"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, Whom He has
Redeemed from the hand of the enemy."

Relying on Christ's Blood
Plus Family connection,
May God's Own redeemed ones
Declare their redemption!

By J Houghton

ITINERARY

9/10-9/11

Midland, TX

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7 PM Friday, 9:30 AM Saturday

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