

The Story of Joseph

Going On Seventeen / In Their Prime

Part 56 – August 11, 2013

CORRECTION: I should *not* have included Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim in a list of twins last week. It doesn't say "Twins", it says "Two/twice/double" (Strong's H8147, *shēnayim*) sons were born just before the famine came" (41:50)



I have one theme: **Nothing can separate you from Christ's love!** Last week we talked about the dual nature of Jesus, the Son of God *and* Son of Man, as a 4th expression of the Trinity. It's in the types and shadows of Ezekiel's vision of the four angels with four faces next to the four intersecting wheels of God's throne. Or Solomon's Temple built in the 4th year of his reign; all fruit trees forbidden for three years, until the firstfruits are offered as a fourth-year sacrifice; and the three Jewish spring feasts followed by four in the fall.¹

The cross has four points. Not typical. They were made like a T, unless a sign was added, above the condemned, with a *fourth* nail. This is the story that every story in the Bible is revealing.

[Go to the first page] In the middle of the garden [was] the tree of life ... A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. – Genesis 2:9b-10 NIV

Then sin. Severed. Cut off from the Tree. Daniel sees the wrath of God in a river of fire pouring out from God's throne. (Dan 7:9-10)



[Go to the last page, the New Jerusalem] Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, [it's become One again] as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river [picture that, "on each side"] stood the tree of life [One Tree, two sides!] ... – Revelation 22:1-2a NIV

God glorified Jesus' human body, scars and all, as an eternal symbol of the Lamb who died, because of His great love for you.

Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 8:34b-39 NIV

Joseph was 'raised to life' at the right hand of Pharaoh, and is interceding, and providing for, his father's entire family.

¹ Ezekiel 10:9-15; 1 Kings 6:1; Leviticus 19:23-25; Spring: Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits; and in the Fall: Feast of Weeks, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles (see Leviticus 23)

Now the Israelites settled in Egypt in the region of Goshen. They acquired property there **[when everyone else was selling]** and were fruitful and increased greatly in number. Jacob lived in Egypt seventeen years ... – Genesis 47:27-28a NIV

Interesting number. It's indivisible. It's a prime. In fact, it's the 7th prime number (2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17). God rested on the 7th. Jacob rested on the 7th prime, the 17th. Remember how this story began? "*Joseph [was] a young man of seventeen.*" (Gen 37:2) His father took care of him for 17 years, and he got to take care of his father for 17 years. Joseph was 17 when cast out of the Promised Land into Egypt, and now Jacob is a '17-year-old' Egyptian when called out ... to rest.

... and the years of his life were a hundred and forty-seven. – Genesis 47:28b NIV

Interesting number. 147 is $7^2 \times 3$ or $7 \times 7 \times 3$.

When the time drew near for Israel to die, he called for his son Joseph and said to him, "If I have found favor in your eyes, *put your hand under my thigh* and promise that you will show me kindness and faithfulness. **[This is as serious as an oath could get between two men; it made it pert near impossible to forget the pledge]** Do not bury me in Egypt, but *when I rest with my fathers*, carry me out of Egypt and bury me where they are buried." **[So, Joseph put his hand under ... I sure don't remember seeing this on Mrs. Knudsen's flannelgraph!]** "I will do as you say," he said. "Swear to me," he said. Then Joseph swore to him, and Israel worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. – Genesis 47:29-31 NIV

Jacob can finally rest with his fathers, Abraham and Isaac. I have to show you this: Jacob is $147 = 7 \times 7 \times 3$; Isaac was $180 = 6 \times 6 \times 5$; and Abraham lived to be $175 = 5 \times 5 \times 7$. The squared number increases by one each time (from Abraham), and the odd number decreases by two. There's only room for one more at the top of this equation: Jesus is ageless, but His number appears to be $64 = 8 \times 8 \times 1$. Jesus is *four* to the *third power!* 4^3 . And, indulge me here, if you *add* instead of multiplying, Jesus adds up to 17, as does Jacob, and Isaac, and Abraham. The pattern won't work below Abraham. There's something up with the 17s.



[After Noah had secured his family inside the Ark] ... on the **seventeenth day** ... the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. **[And, after 40 days of rain, and 110 days of drifting (Gen 7:12; 7:24)]** ... on the **seventeenth day** of the **seventh month** the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. **[Elevation: 17,000 feet (16,854 to be precise)]** – Genesis 7:11; 8:4 NIV

Noah was 600 when the rain began, and salvation came.

Joseph was 37 when the famine began. But, he was cast down into Egypt at 17. So, having been sold for 20 shekels, he'd been in the land for 20 years when he began to minister salvation. Jesus was sold for 30 shekels of silver. And, from the time the ageless God cast Himself down, shackling Himself in skin, until He began to minister salvation, to the starving, was 30 years. Joseph's 20 x Jesus' 30 = Noah's 600. Did you know that God changed the calendar? When Israel (the nation) left Egypt, Noah's 17th of the 7th month, became the 17th of the first month, called 'Nisan'.

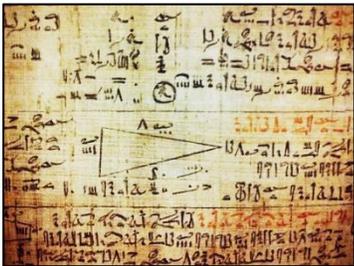
This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. – Exodus 12:2 NIV

It was later, on the 17th of Nisan, that the manna stopped, and the new grain came. (Josh 5:10-12) It was on the 17th of Nisan that Esther (the 17th book) self-sacrifice paid off, saving her people. (Est 3:12, 4:16, 5:1)



Jesus died on Nisan 14. The Passover/Sabbath was on the 15th. He rose on the 16th and appeared to His disciples that evening. And, on the 17th, he was being proclaimed along with the first of the firstfruit offerings being waved in the Temple! **The sheaf of wheat that arose to honor, in Joseph's dream, was really foreshadowing the ultimate grain offering.**

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. – 1 Corinthians 15:20 NIV



Nothing can separate you from His love! Do you know what the earliest mention of the number 17 is? It's in the British Museum, and it's called the Rhind Mathematical Papyrus. (papyrus 10057, and pBM 10058) It's from the time of little Sen's son, Amenemhat III. It starts with, "Accurate reckoning for inquiring into things, and the knowledge of all things, mysteries ... all secrets". And it shows, among other things, how to find the volume of both cylindrical and rectangular based ... granaries!

Joseph was in his 80s-90s; I think they knew they'd better write this down before he died. Remember how there was so much grain, he couldn't keep track? Here's an example of his math: "Given the diameter (d) and the height (h), the volume V is given by: $V = [(1 - 1/9)d]^2 h$ ". I like this one: "If a pyramid is 250 cubits high and the side of its base 360 cubits long, what is its seked?"

Some time later Joseph was told, "Your father is ill." So he took his two sons Manasseh ["causing to forget" (Strong's H4519) "God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household" (41:51)] and Ephraim ["doubly fruitful" (Strong's H669) "God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering" (41:52)] along with him. [They're about 20 years old²] When Jacob was told, "Your son Joseph has come to you," Israel rallied his strength and sat up on the bed. [As the Lord will do in the tomb because of His double authority] Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, [He renamed it Beth'el (House of God). That's where he dreamt of the Lord standing at the top of a great stairway to heaven (Gen 28:10-22) when he was fleeing to Uncle Laban's] and there he blessed me and said to me, 'I am going to make you fruitful [same word Joseph uses to explain Doubly-Fruitful's name] and will increase your numbers. I will make you a community of peoples, and I will give this land as an everlasting possession to your descendants after you.' Now then, your two sons born to you in Egypt before I came to you here will be reckoned as mine; [he's adopting them] Ephraim [Doubly-Fruitful-through-suffering] and Manasseh [I've-Forgotten-My-Father's-House] will be mine, just as Reuben [God-has-seen-my-misery (Gen 29:32)] and Simeon [God-has-heard-that-I-am-rejected (29:33)] are mine. [This is the double-portion that was promised and signified, by the robe of authority, or robe of double-portion, that Joseph received at the beginning of the story] Any children born to you after them will be yours; in the territory they inherit they will be reckoned under the names of their brothers. [As official tribes of Israel] As I was returning from [pah-DAWN] Paddan, [after fleeing Uncle Laban, reuniting with his twin, Esau, and returning to Luz/Beth'el] to my sorrow Rachel [Joseph's mom] died in the land of Canaan [giving birth to Benjamin] while we were still on the way, a little distance from Ephrath. So I buried her there beside the road to Ephrath" (that is, Bethlehem). When Israel saw the sons of Joseph, he asked, "Who are these?" "They are the sons God has given me here," Joseph said to his father. Then Israel said, "Bring them to me so I may bless them." Now Israel's eyes were failing because of old age, and he could hardly see. So Joseph brought his sons close to him, and his father kissed them and embraced them. Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your children too." Then Joseph removed them from Israel's knees [They were bowing, not sitting] and bowed down with his face to the ground. And Joseph took both of them, Ephraim [Doubly-Fruitful-through-suffering] on his right toward Israel's left hand and Manasseh [I've-Forgotten-My-Father's-House] on his left toward Israel's right hand, and brought them close to him. But Israel reached out his right hand and put it on Ephraim's [Doubly-Fruitful-through-suffering's] head, though he was the younger, and crossing his arms, [there's the hidden cross that foreshadows the One who will leave His Father's 'house', and empty Himself of

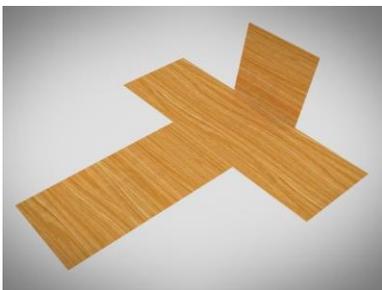
² They were born just before the famine. Jacob entered Egypt about three years into the famine. It's 17 years later.

glory, taking on a second, human, nature, in order to be doubly fruitful in the land of His suffering] he put his left hand on Manasseh's [I've-Forgotten-My-Father's-House's] head, even though Manasseh [I've-Forgotten-My-Father's-House] was the firstborn. Then he blessed Joseph and said, "May the God before whom my fathers Abraham [who was Abram (glorious-father) and became Father-of-a-multitude] and Isaac [Laughter] walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, the Angel who has delivered me from all harm — [pre-incarnate Christ (Gen 32:30)] may he bless these boys. [Whose names will both reside in the Ultimate Son; one name describing His time before the tomb, and the other, ever after] May they be called by my name [He struggled with (or perhaps, 'as') God and Man and is victorious] and the names of my fathers Abraham [Glorious-Father-of-a-multitude] and Isaac, [Laughter] and may they increase greatly upon the earth." When Joseph saw his father placing his right hand on Ephraim's [Doubly-Fruitful-through-suffering's] head he was displeased; so he took hold of his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's [Doubly-Fruitful-through-suffering's] head to Manasseh's [I've-Forgotten-My-Father's-House's] head. Joseph said to him, "No, my father, this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head." But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He too will become a people, and he too will become great. Nevertheless, his younger brother [Doubly-Fruitful-through-suffering] will be greater than he, [I've-Forgotten-My-Father's-House] and his descendants will become a group of nations." He blessed them that day and said, "In your name will Israel [He-who-struggles-with-God-and-man-and-is-victorious] pronounce this blessing: 'May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.'" So he put Ephraim [Doubly-Fruitful-through-suffering] ahead of Manasseh. [I've-Forgotten-My-Father's-House] - Genesis 48:1-20 NIV

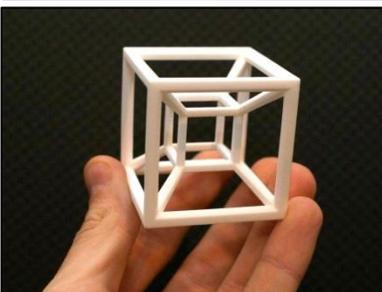


In Solomon's Temple, was the Holy of Holies. It contained the Word of God in the golden Ark of the Covenant, the Mercy Seat of the **One who's great love compelled Him to brave death, demons, persecution, and dimensions just for you.**

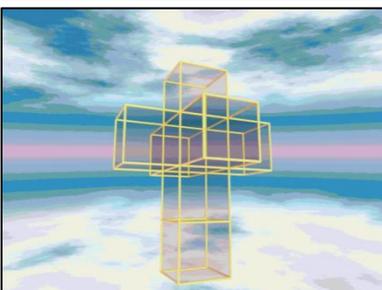
The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty wide and twenty high. [20 cubits is 30 feet; it's a perfect cube] – 1 Kings 6:20a NIV



A cube is one of five *platonic solids* that can be unfolded into its *geometric net*. Like taking a box apart. And the geometric net of a cube, is a cross! **The Holy of Holies was a folded cross!** He's the Word, in the Ark, cast down, in the flesh, as an anchor, in the storm, to cast His net, as a Fisher of Men! Four to the third power! 4^3 . And, the New Jerusalem, with the twin Trees of Life that are One, and the Lamb on the throne, beside itself, **eternally commemorating and celebrating His great inseparable love for you**, it's also a cube. (Rev 21:16)



If you add a fourth expression, a fourth dimension, to a cube, you get what's called a hypercube. It looks like a cube within a cube, but it isn't. We just can't comprehend extra dimensions. But, really smart people who know smart stuff figured out that when a hypercube is severed on 17 surfaces, it unfolds to this. The net of a hypercube is a 3-D cross with *four* arms. Just enough for the forearms of the dual nature of our heroic Savior! **We'll forever be folded into His arms, in His intimate presence.**



Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [Now, count with me] Shall [1] trouble or [2] hardship or [3] persecution or [4] famine or [5] nakedness or [6] danger or [7] sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither [8] death nor [9] life, neither [10] angels nor [11] demons, neither the [12] present nor the [13] future, nor [14] any powers, neither [15] height nor [16] depth, nor [17] anything else in all creation, [including space and time] will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. [Same thing happens in Hebrews 12:18-24] – Romans 8:34b-39 NIV