

Introduction

Joseph's former government of Egypt speaks to you of Jesus' future government of the earth:

{ The people of Egypt were brought to total and willing submission to Joseph through the seven years of great trouble.

{ The people of earth will be brought to total and willing submission to Jesus through the seven years of the Great Tribulation.

Describing life on earth after the seven year Great Tribulation, the prophet Micah said,

Micah 4:1 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days *That* the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And peoples shall flow to it.

Micah 4:2 Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

All people from all the nations of the earth, Jews and Gentiles alike, will be brought into total and willing submission to the Lord, Jesus Christ, Who will have returned to earth to establish His Kingdom.

This Kingdom is sometimes referred to as the *Millennium*, from the Greek word for "one thousand." Jesus Christ will return to earth, literally and bodily, at the end of the seven year Great Tribulation. By virtue of His presence on earth a Kingdom will be established over which He will reign. This Kingdom on earth will continue for one thousand years, after which there will be the creation of a new heaven and a new earth and eternity will begin.

The return of Jesus Christ to earth is declared in Revelation Nineteen. In chapters six through eighteen of the Revelation, you have a compelling description of the seven year Great Tribulation. At the end of the seven years you read,

Revelation 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

Revelation 19:12 His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

Revelation 19:13 He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

Revelation 19:14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

Revelation 19:15 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.

Revelation 19:16 And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

After Jesus returns, Revelation Twenty speaks of the one thousand year reign of Jesus on the earth, mentioning the period "one thousand years" no less than *six times* in the first seven verses.

After the one thousand years, Revelation Twenty-one declares,

Revelation 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.

Looking to our text in Genesis Forty seven we see two things:

#1 Joseph's Former Government Of Egypt
Gives You A Picture Of Jesus' Future
Government Of Earth

#2 Joseph's Former Government Of Egypt
Gives You Principles To Follow As You Await
Jesus' Future Government Of Earth

#1 Joseph's Former Government Of Egypt Gives You
A Picture Of Jesus' Future Government Of Earth

Seven years of famine threatened to destroy all life in Egypt. In verse nineteen the people cried out, "Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land?" Joseph intervened to save their lives and the land before it was too late.

Concerning the seven year Great Tribulation Jesus said,

Matthew 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Matthew 24:22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Matthew 24:27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

In His return to earth, Jesus will intervene to save lives and land before it becomes too late.

In Genesis 47:13-19, we will compare the former conditions in Egypt with the future conditions on earth. Then, in verses 20-27, we will compare Joseph's reign over Egypt with the reign of Jesus over the millennial earth.

The seven years of famine in Egypt affected money, livestock, land, and labor.

{ Let's look at money first:

Genesis 47:13 Now *there was* no bread in all the land; for the famine *was* very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine.

Genesis 47:14 And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, for the grain which they bought; and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.

Bread became so scarce and so precious that all of their money was spent on its acquisition. During the future Great Tribulation bread will become precious and scarce, and great sums of money will be spent on its acquisition:

Revelation 6:6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

A denarius is what a working man would receive for an entire day's work. A quart of wheat is what he would eat in one meal. If he used his denarius to buy barley, a cheaper grain, he would have enough from an entire day's wages to buy three meals for himself. To put it in ordinary language, the situation in the Great Tribulation will be such that a person will have to spend all of their wages for food; but even then, if they have a family, their wages will be insufficient. The Great Tribulation will be a time of unprecedented war, famine, and pestilence on a global scale.

In Joseph's Egypt, money eventually failed altogether:

Genesis 47:15 So when the money failed in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us bread, for why should we die in your presence? For the money has failed."

Just so, in the future Great Tribulation the world's commerce will be destroyed. You read of a great metropolis, Babylon, which will be the commercial center of the world. God will judge and destroy her:

Revelation 18:2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!

Revelation 18:9 "The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning,

Revelation 18:10 "standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'

Revelation 18:11 "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore:

Revelation 18:12 "merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble;

Revelation 18:13 "and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.

Revelation 18:14 "The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.

Revelation 18:15 "The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

Revelation 18:16 "and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls!

Revelation 18:17 'For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance

Revelation 18:18 "and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What *is* like this great city?'

Revelation 18:19 "They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.'

Revelation 18:20 "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and *you* holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"

{ The seven years of famine in Egypt affected the livestock:

Genesis 47:16 Then Joseph said, "Give your livestock, and I will give you *bread* for your livestock, if the money is gone."

Genesis 47:17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread *in exchange* for the horses, the flocks, the cattle of the herds, and for the donkeys. Thus he fed them with bread *in exchange* for all their livestock that year.

With no money to buy food, there was no money to buy seed. With no seed there was no pasture for the animals. The livestock was perishing.

In the future Great Tribulation, conditions will be such that much of the world's animal life perishes. For example, here is what you are told concerning the animals that inhabit salt and fresh water:

Revelation 8:8 Then the second angel sounded: And *something* like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.

Revelation 8:9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died...

Later you read,

Revelation 16:3 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead *man*; and every living creature in the sea died.

Revelation 16:4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

Conditions on the earth and in the heavens above will similarly affect all living creatures on earth.

{ The seven years of famine in Egypt affected the land:

Genesis 47:18 When that year had ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is gone; my lord also has our herds of livestock. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands.

Genesis 47:19 "Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants of Pharaoh; give *us* seed, that we may live and not die, that the land may not be desolate."

The land of Egypt was made desolate by the conditions of the seven year famine.

Just so, the land of earth will be made desolate by conditions in the Great Tribulation:

Revelation 8:7 The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

{ The seven years of famine in Egypt affected the labor:

Genesis 47:18 When that year had ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is gone; my lord also has our herds of livestock. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands.

Genesis 47:19 "Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants of Pharaoh; give *us* seed, that we may live and not die, that the land may not be desolate."

The people of Egypt were forced to sell themselves.

In the seven year Great Tribulation the men and women of earth will be forced to sell themselves. We read earlier about Babylon, the great commercial center of the Tribulation earth. Among the goods that were listed were the "bodies and souls of men" (Revelation 18:13).

, Joseph intervened to save the land and the lives:

Genesis 47:20 Then Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every man of the Egyptians sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. So the land became Pharaoh's.

Jesus will intervene to save land and lives at His Second Coming, as we saw in Matthew Twenty-four. The conditions of Joseph's former kingdom speak of the wonderful conditions of Jesus' future Kingdom!

Genesis 47:21 And as for the people, he moved them into the cities, from *one* end of the borders of Egypt to the *other* end.

Joseph positioned all the people in cities surrounding his capitol in Egypt. When Jesus Christ returns, He will position all the people of the world in their respective nations surrounding His capitol, Jerusalem:

Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass *that* everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Psalms 86:9 All nations whom You have made Shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And shall glorify Your name.

This speaks to you of the absolute, sovereign government of Jesus during the Millennial Kingdom. He will rule, and there will be perfect justice to every individual.

{ There were priests in Joseph's Egypt:

Genesis 47:22 Only the land of the priests he did not buy; for the priests had rations *allotted to them* by Pharaoh, and they ate their rations which Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their lands.

Jesus will restore the priests of Israel when He returns:

Isaiah 66:20 "Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the LORD out of all nations, on horses and in chariots and in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem," says the LORD, "as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.

Isaiah 66:21 "And I will also take some of them for priests *and* Levites," says the LORD.

This speaks to you of the worship of the Millennial Kingdom. It will be a time of great spiritual revival:

Isaiah 11:9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

{ Joseph restored commerce and agriculture in Egypt:

Genesis 47:23 Then Joseph said to the people, "Indeed I have bought you and your land this day for Pharaoh. Look, *here is* seed for you, and you shall sow the land."

Jesus will restore commerce and agriculture after the Great Tribulation:

Isaiah 62:8 The LORD has sworn by His right hand And by the arm of His strength: "Surely I will no longer give your grain *As* food for your enemies; And the sons of the foreigner shall not drink your new wine, For which you have labored.

Isaiah 62:9 But those who have gathered it shall eat it, And praise the LORD; Those who have brought it together shall drink it in My holy courts."

Amos 9:13 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow *with it*."

Jesus will institute a perfect economic system, in which the needs of men are abundantly provided for by their labor, and there shall be no want or need.

{ Joseph made the Egyptians willing servants:

Genesis 47:24 "And it shall come to pass in the harvest that you shall give one-fifth to Pharaoh. Four-fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and for your food, for those of your households and as food for your little ones."

Genesis 47:25 So they said, "You have saved our lives; let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants."

Genesis 47:26 And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt to this day, *that* Pharaoh should have one-fifth, except for the land of the priests only, *which* did not become Pharaoh's.

In the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus, Gentile nations will be the willing servants of the Jews:

Isaiah 14:1 For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will still choose Israel, and settle them in their own land. The strangers will be joined with them, and they will cling to the house of Jacob.

Isaiah 14:2 Then people will take them and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them for servants and maids in the land of the LORD; they will take them captive whose captives they were, and rule over their oppressors.

{ The nation of Israel enjoyed special position and prosperity under Joseph's rule of Egypt:

Genesis 47:27 So Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly.

So, too, will the nation of Israel enjoy special position and prosperity under Jesus Christ's Millennial rule:

Zephaniah 3:20 "At that time I will bring you back, Even at the time I gather you; For I will give you fame and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I return your captives before your eyes," Says the LORD.

As a matter of biblical fact, the Millennial Kingdom is the fulfillment of all the unconditional covenants God has made with Israel. All Israel will be saved, and all of the saved of all other nations who survive the Great Tribulation will enter the Kingdom.

#2 Joseph's Former Government Of Egypt Gives You Principles To Follow As You Await Jesus' Future Government Of Earth

We are *not* in the Millennial Kingdom now, nor will the Church establish it prior to the return of Jesus to earth. Nevertheless, you can glean certain principles from our text and apply kingdom living here and now!

The text spoke of money, livestock, land, and labor. In Joseph's Egypt, they all belonged to the King for his glory. In Jesus' Millennial Kingdom they will as well. We might as well dedicate these to Jesus now, and invest in the future Kingdom!

{ Your money...

Your money is yours to do with as you will. Want to invest it wisely? The Apostle Paul says that your financial giving to the work of God is an investment that will benefit you eternally:

Philippians 4:15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

Philippians 4:16 For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities.

Philippians 4:17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

According to Paul, you have an account in heaven. Your giving to God's work is an investment that pays dividends in eternity!

{ Your livestock...

While some of you do own livestock, most of you do not. Let's expand the concept to include all of us. The reference to livestock in Genesis Forty-seven speaks of the employment of those who owned livestock; they were herdsmen by trade. Your "livestock," then, is whatever your *livelihood* is - whatever your occupation or trade or job is. Dedicate your livelihood to serving the Lord. Put Him first at work.

{ Your land...

This would encompass all of your possessions. Put them at the Lord's disposal.

{ Your labor...

Joseph brought all of the people into Pharaoh's service. They had their own land and livestock, but they served Pharaoh as his subjects. They gave their "bodies" to him, according to Genesis 47:18. You should likewise be serving the Lord with *your* bodies! Romans 12:1 says,

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

All of these things - money, livestock, land, and labor - were exchanged for bread and seed. You, too, can exchange them for bread and seed - for *spiritual* bread and *spiritual* seed - as you prefer the furthering of the Gospel to any earthly priority.

Conclusion

A time of unprecedented Great Tribulation is coming soon. It will last for seven years, with the last three and one half years being especially devastating. It will end with the return of Jesus Christ to earth and it will be followed by His Millennial Kingdom on the earth. The Millennial Kingdom will be followed by a glorious eternity.

Prior to the Great Tribulation there will be a falling away and a catching away.

^ The falling away is a great apostasy, a falling away from the faith, in the Last Days:

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...

% The catching away is the Rapture of the Church. Jesus promised the Church,

Revelation 3:10 "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."

Paul promised the Church,

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...

How will God keep us from the Great Tribulation - described as "the hour of trial" and the "wrath" of God? Jesus will catch us away to heaven!

1 Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Live as if you were in the Kingdom now... Look for the coming of Jesus Christ to catch you away!