

JOSEPH

the prince

What would you do with ultimate power? **RULE** or **SERVE**?
What would ultimate power do to you?

POWER

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. ⁴⁰You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you." ⁴²Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. ⁴³He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and men shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt.

⁴⁴Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt." Genesis 41:39-40; 42-44

THE RULE OF JOSEPH

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. Genesis 50:16-17

Joseph was in the place of God

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?" Genesis 50:19

Joseph used His power to serve

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." Genesis 50:20

Joseph looked for repentance

His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. Genesis 50:18

Joseph chose forgiveness

"Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept... ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid." Genesis 50:17, 19a

Joseph provided salvation for his brothers

"So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. Genesis 50:21

Joseph loved his father

Joseph threw himself upon his father and wept over him and kissed him. Genesis 50:1

Joseph looked forward to a greater King and Kingdom. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." ²⁵And Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath and said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place." Genesis 50:24-25

By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones. Hebrews 11:22 (also verse 16)

THE RULE OF THE KING OF KINGS

Jesus is God

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" — which means, "God with us." Matthew 1:22-23

Jesus used His power to serve

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. John 13:3-5

Jesus calls for repentance

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." Matthew 4:17

Jesus provides forgiveness

When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:33-34

Jesus provides salvation for his brothers

... to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins... Luke 1:77

Jesus loves and honors His father

...said Jesus, "but I honor my Father..." John 8:49b

Jesus brings the Kingdom of God as the greater King

"I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." Matthew 26:29

next steps

What's your attitude concerning the power you wield?
Whom do you need to forgive? Are you willing to serve?
Has Jesus forgiven your sins? Is Jesus your King?

Joseph: A Man of Integrity and Forgiveness ~ Chuck Swindoll

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