

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

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Lessons: *Genesis 37*

The beautiful story of Joseph is filled with meaning. Think now of the meaning of more good things to come in your life.

The name “Joseph” was chosen because of the hope of more to come. When he was born his mother Rachel said, “The Lord shall add to me another son,” and that is why she named him Joseph (Genesis 30:24). The name is taken from the word that means “add” or “adding” something more (Arcana Coelestia 3969).

That nice idea of adding is in the Lord's saying to us, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you (Matthew 6:33)

The story of Joseph's life has a looking to the future. His two dreams of the sheaves and of the stars were about good things that would happen to him at a future time.

At any time in our life we can be thankful for what the Lord has already given us, and we can also have a good feeling that there are yet many things to come. Once a disciple of the Lord was thrilled at what he had heard and seen, and the Lord said, “You will see greater things than these” (John 1:50).

Think of Joseph when he was seventeen years old. He had the love of his parents, and he had the treasured gift of a coat of many colors. In addition to that, he was given dreams—dreams that held a promise of things yet to come.

In his life he was to become a “gatherer” or one who adds more. It is said that everything he did succeeded. Where he worked, things got better. This was true when he worked for a man named Potiphar, and it was true when he was made ruler of Egypt. Years of plenty came, and he kept gathering up the food, adding and adding to the supply of food, so that Egypt would be ready for a time of famine.

A child is content to be a child. There are things that the child is not yet ready for. Does a child have a husband or wife? Of course not, but a child can have the thought of the future, like a dream when marriage will come, and the Lord will add something to life that was not there before. The Lord's promise of conjugal love should be something happy in our minds even when we are

young. He says that He will add this to your life, if not in this life, surely in the life to come.

Every child should know that one day he or she is destined to become an angel. An angel is so much wiser, and has so much more love than people on earth do. The promise of becoming an angel, then, is a promise of much more to be given by the Lord. Once, when newcomers to the other world learned of angelic love, they wondered if they could ever have it, but they were comforted and told that “every good increases immeasurable in the other life...and finally becomes angelic.” (Heaven and Hell 406)

When you think of Joseph and his dreams, think of a promise. The promise of more to come is a promise that should give us a very good feeling inside. It should make us want to try all the harder to do what is right and to resist what is wrong. for if a person, by fighting against evil, has obtained in the world anything spiritual “although it be a very little, he is saved; and his uses afterwards grow like the grain of mustard seed into a tree” (Divine Love XVIII).