"Another King Arose Who Did Not Know Joseph"
Acts 7:9-18

Introduction:
A. What a pity!
   1. The king who knew him benefited greatly.
   2. The king who did not know him acted unwisely.
B. What a pity that many of our children do not know Joseph! (cf, Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11)
   1. Eleventh son of Jacob.
   2. First son of Rachel.
C. What a difference knowing various stages in Joseph's life can make:
   1. Joseph - the Victim
   2. Joseph - the Visionary
   3. Joseph - the Victor

Discussion:
I. Joseph Was Victimized by Others.
   A. Victim of his father's misguided love - partiality. (Gen. 37:3,4)
      1. Can harm children in name of love.
      2. Christians warned against partiality. (1 Tim. 5:21; Jas 2:1-13)
   B. Victim of his brothers' hatred and envy. (Gen. 37:5)
      1. Hatred without a real cause.
         a. Because of Joseph's bad report - likely a true report, knowing Joseph's character. (v.2; cf. Prov. 9:8)
         b. Because of Jacob's partiality. (v.4)
         c. Because of Joseph's dreams. (v.5,8)
      2. Hatred that ran full course.
         a. Started with a hateful heart - envy.
         b. Progressed to hateful words.
         c. Ended with hateful acts - violence.
      3. Hatred and envy at root so many problems.
         a. Crucified Jesus. (Mk. 15:10).
         b. Divided Corinthians Church. (1 Cor. 3:1-4; 12:12-31).
   C. Victim of an evil woman. (Gen. 39:1-21).
      1. God influenced Joseph more than the woman. (v. 9).
      2. Woman could entice Joseph to sin even privately. (v.11-13).
      3. Woman lied about Joseph, but God and Joseph knew better. (cf. v. 21).

II. Joseph Received Visions from God.
   A. Joseph's dreams were revelations from God. (cf. Heb. 2:1-2; Mt. 1:20; 2:12,13,19; 27:19; Acts 2:17)
   B. Joseph believed and faithfully reported God's revelation.
      1. We need men, like Joseph, who will faithfully preach God's revelation. (2 Tim. 4:2ff)
      2. We need men, like Joseph, who have complete faith in God's revelation. (cf. Heb. 11:22).

III. Joseph Was Victorious In Life. (Acts 7:9,10)
   A. Victorious over adversity.
      1. Rose above any possible resentment toward brothers. (45:5)
      2. Rose above being mistreated in Egypt.
   B. Victorious over prosperity.
      1. Prosperity often more dangerous than adversity. (cf. Prov. 30:8,9)
      2. Need to learn to be full as well as in need. (Phil. 4:10ff)
   C. Victorious over death.
      1. Remembered by Israel and carried into the promised land. (cf. Gen. 50:26; Ex. 13:19).
      2. Among those to ultimately be made perfect with us. (Heb. 11:39,40; cf. v. 22).

Conclusion:
A. How well do you know Joseph?
B. How about demonstrating the kind of faith Joseph had? Obey today.