

Life of Joseph

Lessons in Humility, Leadership and Forgiveness

Promotion from God

- In this study we have seen Joseph receive favor from God and be promoted three times.
 - He was promoted by Potiphar [Gen 39:4-6].
 - He was promoted by the chief jailer [Gen 39:21-23].
 - He was promoted by Pharaoh [Gen 41:39-44].
- In each case, Joseph was promoted because he was humble before the Lord and did not seek to promote himself.
- The world teaches us to promote ourselves because no one else will, but a very important principle to learn is that if God does not promote you, you are not promoted.
- The term most often used for “promote” in the Bible is exalt.
- The most common Hebrew word for exalt is רָם (rūm) which means to “rise up or “be exalted” [1 Sam 2:7; 1 Kgs 14:7; Ps 37:34; 75:7; 89:13, 16-17, 19, 24, 42; 92:10; Pr 14:34; Lam 2:17; Dan 4:37].
- The second most common Hebrew word for exalt is נָסָא (nasa’) which means “lift up” or “exalt” [2 Sam 5:12; Ps 83:2; Pr 30:32].
- The most common Greek word for exalt is ὑψόω (hupsoō) which means “lift up” or “exalt” [Luke 1:52; 14:11; Acts 2:33; 5:31; Jas 4:10; 1 Pet 5:6].
- From this brief look at the biblical vocabulary we can already see some important truths.
 - God can bring low and God can exalt.
 - God is the Judge and will exalt us when we are humble before Him.
 - God will always exalt us at the proper time.
 - When we exalt ourselves, God will humble us.
- Joseph understood these principles and was willing to submit to the plan God had for his life [Heb 12:1-2].
- Likewise, Daniel was humble before the Lord and, when promoted by Nebuchadnezzar, made request for the promotion of Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah [Dan 2:47-49].
- God is well aware of our propensity to exalt ourselves and took measures to keep Paul from doing so [2 Cor 12:2-4, 7].
- In contrast, during the Tribulation Antichrist will follow the pattern of his father the devil and demonstrate one of the greatest acts of self promotion [Dan 11:36; 2 Thess 2:3-4].

- We should learn from these examples and recognize that self promotion is rebellion against God's plan and never results in a true promotion anyway.
- Whatever we think we have gained in our act of self promotion will bring us nothing but misery and will be void of any true fulfillment.
- When we submit to God, He will give us the perfect promotion at the perfect time and will be glorified in the process [2 Sam 22:47-51].
- When God promotes us it will be a source of joy in our lives and will result in gold, silver and precious stones to be revealed at the Bema Seat [1 Cor 3:11-15].
- Therefore, we ought to set aside our deluded notions of self promotion and humbly submit to God's plan for our lives.
- Then, if God decides to promote us it will be a source of blessing in our lives.
- Remember, if God does not promote you, you are not promoted.