

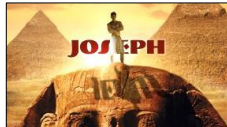
Wedding Harvest

Lord of the Feast in the Famine

August 23, 2026



Let's learn to better serve our Lord of the Harvest by inviting starving guests to His wedding feast!



Simple question: **What was Jesus' grandpa's name?** On Joseph's side. Wouldn't it be *horrific* if you got to the Pearly Gates and *that* was the one question to get into heaven by showing you actually knew Him?! That's not gonna happen. But just to be safe, it was Jacob. Which means, **OT Jacob brought forth Joseph, who brought forth salvation (yeshua) to the world.**

And, 2,000 years later, Jesus' grandpa, **NT Jacob, brought forth Joseph, who was told to name the One he brought forth: Salvation (Yeshua/Jesus).** (Mt 1:21) And, in a striking parallel to Jesus, Old Testament Joseph was sent by his father to the sons of Israel, who rejected him, abused him, betrayed him, and tried to cover their sin with goat's blood to offer to their father. He's sold for silver, stripped of glory, and made a servant, where he's mistreated, tempted, falsely accused, and sentenced to suffer for sins he didn't commit. He even finds himself between two criminals, one he saves, and one he can't. And though imprisoned underground, he's raised up by god (with a little g), restored, and exalted to offer salvation and life to a starving world. He's master of the feast! **Blessed to be a blessing, by joining the Lord in serving and feeding a starving, hostile world.** And as one of the first perks:

Pharaoh gave Joseph ... Asenath daughter of Potiphara, **[a pagan] priest** of On, to be his wife. **[An unclean bride, just like Jesus]** – Genesis 41:45 NIV

[But, be that as it may] As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you. – Isaiah 62:5 NIV

[Now] Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh ... and traveled throughout Egypt. – Genesis 41:46 NIV

Teaching and proclaiming the coming calamity – as warned by his one true God – as well as the good news of God's gracious, 7-year provision that will save them all. **Imagine the seven years of suspense!** In the end, will Joseph's God actually be proven to be the one true God above all?

Now Jesus Himself was about thirty years old when He began His ministry **[of spiritually feeding a lost and starving hostile world].** – Luke 3:23 NIV

[And] Jesus went through all the towns and villages teaching ... [and] preaching the Good News of the kingdom and ... When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were ... like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, **[So listen up if that's you]** "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." – Matthew 9:35-37 NIV



[And] Then Jesus declared, “I am the Bread of Life.” – John 6:35 NIV

Are you? If so, what kind of bread? Stale? Crusty? Fresh? Soft? Warm? Restaurant? But if Jesus is the Bread, what’s His food?



“My food,” [My satisfaction; what I hunger for] Jesus said, “is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work. [And that is?] ... Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.” – John 4:34-35 NIV

[Cuz] The field is the world, and ... the harvest is the end of the age – Matthew 13:38-39 NIV

And, **harvesters don’t phone it in, they answer the call and enter in!** Joseph prepared a feast unparalleled in human history. Remember the heart-shaped, 570-square-mile oasis, connected to the Nile by the 10-mile x 16’ deep Canal of Joseph? That undertaking is often compared to the Great Pyramids. And Pharaoh Senusret II moved his tomb into his oasis. Good timing. Because:



The seven years of abundance ... came to an end – Genesis 41:53 NIV

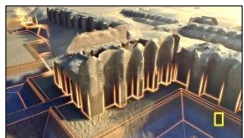
And so did Senusret II! And his son, the aptly named Senusret III (we’ll call him little Sen) ascended to Egypt’s Middle-Kingdom throne, just as ...



[The] famine began, just as Joseph had said ... [It actually happened! The joy! The relief! The I-told-you-sos] [And] Joseph opened the storehouses ... [Because, “Thanks to Joseph’s One True God we have enough food to feed the world!”] And all the countries [even their enemies] came ... because the famine was severe in all the world. – Genesis 41:54-57 NIV



So, they not only had to dispense it, they had to defend it. Which would require massive military grain forts! Ever watch Drain the Oceans? They use underwater scans to recreate shipwrecks and ancient ruins minus the water. Imagine my surprise during (S1E7) Egypt’s Lost Wonders, when they say: “Draining the waters behind the Aswan Dam reveals ... one of the largest state building projects after the pyramids, a series of **15 massive forts**. ... Their exact purpose, a mystery ... [built on] the edge of the known world ... A fort inscription reveals ... [they were] created to satisfy ... Senusret III. ... [But why] so many ... on such a massive scale? **Could they have been built to protect something even more valuable than pharaoh’s power?** ... [The] perimeter wall [of the largest fort] is almost a mile in circuit. The 36-foot-high walls dominate the [Nile] riverfront. ... [And within] **enormous [underground] silos for storing precious grain**. ... Way more food than is necessary ... with 10,000 soldiers, scribes, and officials ... an organizational feat on a scale that’s similar to the building of the great pyramids.”



And when the people cried out to Pharaoh for food, he told them, “Go to Joseph, and do whatever he tells you.” – Genesis 41:55 NLT



That’s the gospel (good news) of the Middle Kingdom. But where have we heard that? Oh, at the wedding feast, when the wine ran out, and they had a miniature crisis of their own. And:

[Jesus'] mother sent them to Jesus and said ... "Do whatever He tells you." Nearby stood six stone water jars ... used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from 20 to 30 gallons. [Go big or go home!] Jesus said ... "Fill the jars with [150 gallons of] water" ... "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." ... and [he] tasted the [religious cleansing] water that had been turned into [756 bottles of perfectly aged and refined] wine. ... [So] he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Every [bridegroom] brings out the choice wine first ... but you have saved the best till now." [Why? Cuz it's the end of religious cleansing; which is why] This, [was] the first of His miraculous signs [cuz every bridegroom brings out the choice wine first] ... [and] He thus revealed His glory – John 2:5-11 NIV

To give us the light ... of the glory of God in the face of Christ. – 2 Corinthians 4:6 NIV

His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light. – Matthew 17:2 ESV



For the sun ... is like a bridegroom coming forth – Psalm 19:4-5 NIV

"And the glory which You gave Me I have given them ... that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know" – John 17:22-23 NKJ

For we are members of His body ... and "the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery ... concerning Christ and the church. – Ephesians 5:30-32 NKJ

[For] Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom – Matthew 13:43 NIV

"[Which] is like a king who held a wedding feast for his son." – Matthew 22:2 NAS

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! – John 1:29 ESV

And a Voice from heaven said, "This is My Son" – Matthew 3:17 NIV

Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb. – Revelation 19:9 NAS



[For] [The Lord] will make for all peoples ... a feast of well-aged wine ... aged wine well refined. And ... He will swallow up death forever ... "Behold, this is our God ... [so] let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation." – Isaiah 25:6-9 ESV



Ministers get to share the perspective of the groom, as his long-awaited bride steps onto that pure-white path that leads to him. And **in that magic moment, she's so astonishing and captivating**, that grooms often tear up. **Jesus says that's how He always sees you.** Know what ruins a good wedding? Marriage! Weddings give us a glimpse of what we can be at our best. But marriage is all about growing up, showing up, and rolling up our sleeves and getting to work on getting there. But **Jesus uses that magic moment to describe the relational reality of His eternity.** So don't miss its significance!



Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. [Because] (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) ... Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb! – Revelation 19:7-9 NIV

For all of you ... have clothed yourselves with Christ. – Galatians 3:26-27 NIV

[And by the way] [Pharaoh] dressed [Joseph] in robes of fine linen – Genesis 41:42 NIV



The same way Joseph's One True God dresses you! You know that *white runner* the bride walks on? Well, if you watched *Our Place* at His Place during COVID, you saw the *attic* I've packed with keepsakes like *King Tut's tomb*. And tucked away – I don't think Shar knows this – I kept the *runner* she walked on at our wedding. That's us. And it's reminded me of that moment again and again. I kept it thinking how, when we're really old, like when we've been married f-i-f-t-y years, we could renew our vows, and Shar could walk on the very same runner. But now that it's only seven years away, I think about how much planning and preparation it'd take, and how exhausting it was the first time. And how maybe we'll just roll it out at home and have a hot night! Cuz that's what you get with a Christ-centered marriage, kids! **If you put in the work, it improves with age.** Like a well refined ... wine. Full circle! **Turning water into wine prefigured the cross.**

[Because] He took the cup ... [saying, "Drink] this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out ... for the forgiveness of sins. – Matthew 26:27-28 NIV

[And] One of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. – John 19:34 NKJ

His last sign, this side of the tomb, was the water and blood (represented by wine) pouring out of His side, from His heart, for our cleansing. **And all you gotta do is admit your need, go to Him, and do whatever He tells you.** I bought a 1923 Buick and drove it my senior year. It was my Archie phase. Then pops restored it, put His Place on it, and took it in parades. After our wedding, Shar and I drove away in it. I thought it was so old. 60 years! But I brought my Camaro to the Car-B-Q last Saturday and realized it's 59 years old! And it was almost new when I bought it! But it's only improved with age. Cuz that's what you get with a Christ-centered Camaro! Point is, **clock's tickin'. The need is great. And the harvest is here!** So don't fall prey to the Peter Pan syndrome: **refusing to grow up** and take responsibility. They're called the lost boys. And don't be deceived by its opposite: **seeing success as an excuse to take life easy**, and just run out the clock. **Don't mistake your harvest years for leisure years!** And don't miss your moment. **You've been blessed to invest yourself!** So don't sell yourself short.

He [very slyly, cleverly] told them, "The harvest is plentiful ... [so] Ask the Lord of the harvest ... to send out workers into His harvest field. [Did you ask Him? Well then] Go! [Because] I [the Lord of the harvest, in answer to your prayers] am sending you out like lambs among wolves. – Luke 10:1-3 NIV

Like what among who? You heard. **It's a preemptive strike against excuses.** Being a lamb among wolves doesn't disqualify us from inviting our field to join the wedding party. In fact, **it empowers us by forcing us to know and trust our Savior as Shepherd.** Know what does disqualify us? Pride. Fear. Laziness. Selfishness. Excuse making. The usual suspects of **self-deception designed to distract and defraud us of our moment.** So, whatever fills your day, roll up your sleeves and don't phone it in. Cuz the Lord of the harvest just called.