

***Manasseh and Ephraim***

**030701-5**

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

I trust today is a new day! A day of victory in Christ Jesus! A day that you can just turn to Him with all your heart and let Him know that You love Him!

We want you to know the Lord Jesus. If you don't have this personal relationship, please do send for the literature that is available: the book my husband wrote, *Your Quest for God*. If you are a Christian, we want to build you up in the Lord Jesus to know how the Word of God can be alive to you every day: *Food for Faith*. If you are out there to share Christ with others, we have these little tracts called *Hope for the Hopeless*, which you can begin to share and point others to Christ as He does that work through you.

I want us to think today about when the army was coming to the Red Sea. There were these evil people coming from Pharaoh and they were going to catch up and wish they hadn't let the children of Israel go. They came relentlessly. You might know that story. Everything was against this little group, the children of Israel. Not a little group, but a big group, but little in the sight of all on planet earth. As they came, it seemed so hopeless, but God intervened and caused that the waters

came and drowned the enemy. (**Exodus 14**).

There are some of us that have trouble burying the past. In **Genesis 41:45-52**, Joseph had been extremely badly treated by his own family. They had tried to kill him actually. They had sold him as a slave. God had allowed him to go through many difficult situations. Yet, at the end of His life, Joseph was able to say, “The Lord did this, because this was the means of having me in a country where there would be food, when the rest of the world was dying from famine and I was here for a purpose.” (**45:5-8**).

Joseph had two children and his first child was called *Manasseh*. Now that is one of the names we know from one of the tribes. That word is very interesting. It means *forgetting*. He was forgetting all the toils and all about his father’s house. Some of us find it’s very hard to forget the past. We find we are constantly giving testimony of what we went through and what my sister did and something happened, and we are always holding on to it. We are not willing to say, “I forgive you.” Joseph said that to his brothers who had really done him great harm not only in what they had physically tried to do to him, but also how they had deceived Joseph’s father to think that he was dead. However, we are to forget the painful experiences. We are to say, “Lord, yes!” to forgetting, including forgetting all the yesterday; all the toil. That’s what *Manasseh* means.

Then we read in **chapter 49:22**, Joseph had a second son whose name was *Ephraim*, (again one of tribes), which means *fruitful*. **Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well (spring or fountain), whose branches run over the wall.** So don't you imagine, even in that desert region, there was water to support this protection even in the wall from all the sandstorms. And here is something most fruitful. We, too, must be fruitful in affliction, as was Joseph who suffered fifteen years. Perhaps you are in a place of great affliction. Perhaps things are terrible in your situation. I want you, right now, to bring your accusations to the Cross. I want you ask for His cleansing and fresh infilling. Do you know when you speak against another believer, somebody who is indwelt with the Holy Spirit, that you sin and you do great harm not only in division, but this is very painful to the Lord? Perhaps at this moment, you have to bring your accusations of all the things that have happened and why you are in that position. The Lord has forgiven you; He is willing to forgive you. That is what the whole miracle of what he did on the Cross was about. He wants you to get those things settled and rebound. It tells us in **Proverbs** seven times a day. In other words, make it right. Ask for the fresh infilling of the Spirit. You will find that as for the person you have been accusing, you will love them. You will find you're praying for them and you will see, "There was I, apart from the grace of God."

May it be for you that even as Stephen of old, when he went to a

martyr's grave – he was being stoned to death in the early part of the **Book of Acts**. He was accused wrongly, but it is said of him that he died with his face shining. For you and me, if we were to die right now, would we die with our face shining? Stephen was able to say, “The Lord forgive them.” Would you ask God to deal with this matter in your life — forgetting and seeing the fruit. All that can happen in and through you now as you're handing this over to Christ. It is terribly important, because it's all about what Christ wants to do through you in that very difficult situation where you have been placed. What a glorious Lord we have! He makes no mistake. He's got something wonderfully planned for you if you'll get this issue settled with Him now.

*In Jesus' Name. Amen.*