

The elevation of Joseph

Some brief points that I wanted to make: Seems like a lot, but I can go through it quickly.

I. The type of man that Joseph was:

1. A child of destiny (God had chosen him from the beginning for something great)
2. A child of dreams/prophecy - God revealed things to him that he didn't reveal to anyone else.
3. A child of honour/truth - He always did his father's will, didn't give into temptation and mess around with his brethren.
4. A child of heavy rejection and persecution ("A man's foes shall be they of his own household")
5. A man of faithfulness - Always faithful in the things committed to him (whether small or great).
6. A man of favor - Wherever he went, he always found favor with those in authority because of his integrity and humility ("...before honour is humility.")
7. A man of grace and forgiveness - He didn't hold onto grudges or the past which he would have had a "right" to do if anyone did. But he had love and grace for even those who had wronged him because he saw their hearts had changed.

II. The reality of our lives - If we are honest, probably none of us in the meeting are like Joseph naturally. (Maybe someone, but probably no one). Reasons why:

1. He never sought to fit in with crowd but always did his father's will.
2. He never ran off and messed around with his peers.
3. He FLED from temptation (never gave in to immorality).
4. He was LITERALLY hated by his brothers and thrown out of his home and country because of it.
5. He LITERALLY was falsely accused by a wicked person to the point of ending up in prison for years.
6. Then he eventually was raised up by God to be the 2nd in command to the greatest world power/empire of the day!
 - So if we are honest, in the natural realm, the elevation of Joseph has nothing to do with us...

III. The hope for us who have fallen short of the mark of Joseph - JESUS CHRIST! Joseph was merely a type of our Lord Jesus Christ who is FAR GREATER than Joseph!

1. He was just like Joseph in all the points at the top except to EXACT perfection! (Joseph did sin at some point... Christ NEVER sinned)
2. He descended even lower than Joseph (not just a pit, but the pit... not just a prison house, but the lower parts of the earth! - Ephesians 4:8-10)
3. However, he didn't just get exalted to the 2nd in command of a world empire that is NOTHING TODAY (Egypt is a 3rd rate power in the world... merely a shadow of what it once was). No, Jesus Christ is 2nd in command (at the Father's right hand) over ALL the kingdom of God! (Ephesians 1:18-23)
4. We can get in on the power and exaltation of Christ by humbling ourselves and drawing near to him... we get IN Christ! (Ephesians 2:1-7)

IV. Amazing Grace! Consider the 2 following passages:

1. Genesis 41:37-44. - Joseph DESERVED this royal treatment and honour (royal garments, ring on the hand, honor and merriment) (Just like our Lord Jesus Christ deserves his EXALTATION by the Father!)
2. Luke 15:11-24. - The story of "the prodigal son". This son DIDN'T deserve the royal treatment and honour and love of his father and YET he got the EXACT same treatment as Joseph (robe, ring, honor and merriment)! (Once we finally come to the end of ourselves in true repentance to our heavenly Father, we too will get the same honour as our Lord Jesus Christ even though we DON'T DESERVE IT! Hallelujah!)
3. Final Scripture: Revelation 3:14-22 - The Lukewarm good for nothing church of Laodicea is offered the same ELEVATION and THRONE of Jesus Christ if they just REPENT and open back up to HIM!