

in the belly of the earth for three days.

When Joseph first appears to the brothers, he appears to 10 of them because Benjamin was at home with his father (Genesis 42:3). When Jesus first appeared to the apostles, He appeared to 10 of them because Judas was dead and Thomas was not there (John 20:19-29).

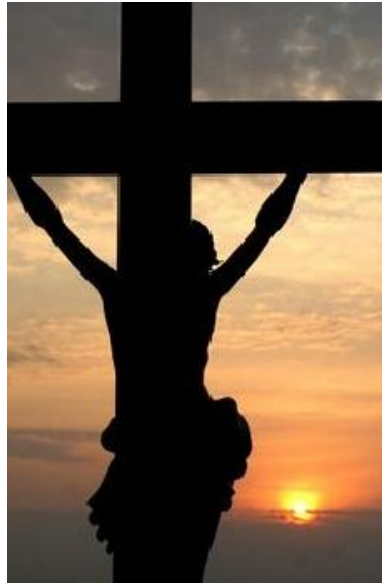
On the second appearance, Joseph appears to all 11 brothers (Genesis 43). On Jesus' second appearance, He appeared to 11 disciples (John 20:26).

Perhaps there are more parallels, but you get the picture. It is as if the very story of Joseph prepares the way for the story of Jesus.

What an amazing demonstration of continuity and unity in the entire word of God.

Why would God use this kind of parallelism? Because those who already knew the story of Joseph could not help but make the connections as they heard the story of Jesus. As the negative issues of Jesus' trial and crucifixion are told, they can't help but know victory is coming. Finally, we can't help but remember what Joseph said to his brothers toward the end of their lives. "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive" (Genesis 50:20). That is exactly God's plan for Jesus. He meant it all for good that many should be kept alive. The question is, will you believe and

submit to the story of Jesus? ~



We meet on James M Harvell Rd next to the public library in Navarre. Call for directions and more information (850) 939-8109

Navarre church of Christ
8490 James M Harvell Rd
Navarre, FL 32566

Place Stamp Here

Assembly Schedule
Sunday

Bible Class for all ages ___ 9:00 AM
Morning Worship Service ___ 10:00 AM
Evening Worship Service ___ 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class for all ages ___ 7:00 PM

VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

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For a free Bible correspondence course by mail, call us.

NAVARRE MESSENGER

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“Just Folks”

Since I first learned to read, one of my favorite verses of Scripture has been Luke 2:52: “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”

For all of the power and glory that was and is His in the Spirit, in the flesh Jesus was like other men. (We do not say that Jesus was exactly like other men, nor that He was merely human, for Scripture clearly teaches that though fully human, Christ was also fully divine, and in that respect like no other man who ever lived — see John 1:14; Colossians 1:19 and 2:9.) In the flesh, Jesus developed as young men do. He got tired. He became hungry and thirsty. He endured physical labor. He liked to talk with the older men in the synagogue. He enjoyed the company of friends. He attended weddings and funerals. He was kind to children. He loved His mother. He took boat rides.

Though He was to be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6), Jesus put on no airs. He did not expect people to come before Him bowing and scraping. He wore no ring for people to kiss when they entered His presence. All kinds of

people felt welcome to approach Him — tax collectors like Zacchaeus, sinners like the woman at Simon the Pharisee's house, foreigners like the Roman centurion, outsiders like the Syrochoe-

nician woman, social outcasts like the woman at Jacob's well, noblemen like Jairus, rulers like Nicodemus, blind beggars like Bartimaeus, and little children like those of whom He said, “Of such



“Saying Grace” by Norman Rockwell, The Saturday Evening Post Cover - November 24, 1951

is the kingdom of heaven." Jesus could have demanded honor, as He who wears the name at which every knee should bow. But rather than having others kneel before Him, He knelt before His own apostles and washed their filthy feet.

And when Jesus chose those apostles, what manner of men did He select? Did he go to where the Sanhedrin met, the leading men among the Jews, and choose from among those in the highest seats? Did he visit the palace of the Herods, and make His selection from those who dined at the banquet table? Did he go to the house of the governor, Pontius Pilate, and appoint Caesar's finest? No, He did not.

Instead, Jesus called Andrew the fisherman, and his brother Simon

Peter. He called James and John, two young men who fished with their father. He called Philip, whose best friend Nathanael was a man without guile. He called Matthew Levi, the tax collector. He called Thomas, who didn't believe anything until he saw it. Jesus called James the son of Alphaeus, a fellow so unremarkable that all we know of him is that he was younger than the other James. Jesus called Simon, who had belonged to an obscure religious sect called the Cananeans. He called Judas Thaddaeus, notable mostly for not being the other Judas, whom Jesus also chose, knowing that he was a liar and a thief and a betrayer. Just folks, like you might know from the office or meet at the barber-shop.

"For you see your calling, brethren,

that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are" (1 Corinthians 1:26-28).

Look around you. The disciples of Jesus are just plain folks. Not smarter than others. Not richer. Not more powerful. Not better looking. And you could be one of them, if you will only believe and obey (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). ~

by Michael D. Rankins, "The Lord's Day," April 13, 2008

A Diary

January - A busy time for me. Most of the family decided to read me through this year. They kept me busy for the first two or three weeks. They have forgotten me now.

February - Clean up time. I was dusted yesterday and put in my place. My owner did use me for a minute last week. He had been in some kind of religious argument and was looking up some references.

March - I had a busy day the first of the month. My owner was appointed leader of something or other and had to use me. I got to go to church for the first time this year - - Easter Sunday.

April - Grandpa visited us. He kept me on his lap for an hour

reading 1 Corinthians 13. He seems to think more of me than he did.

May - I have a few stains on my pages. I had some early spring flowers pressed in me.

June - I look like a scrapbook. They have stuffed me full of clippings from the newspaper. One of the girls got married.

July - They put me in a suitcase today. I guess we are off for a vacation. I wish I could stay at home, as I will have to stay in this thing for a month.

August - I am still in the suitcase.

September - I am back home again and in my old place. I have a lot of company. Two "People" magazines and four "CD Games" are on top of me. My! I wish I was

used as much as they are.

October - They used me a little today. One of them is very sick. Right now I am all shined up and in the center of the table. I think the preacher is coming.

November - I am back in my old place. I was looked through for some old papers today. One of the children picked me up and said, "Is this a scrapbook?"

December - They are getting ready for Christmas so I will be covered under wrapping paper and packages now. ~ author unknown



The Unity of the Bible: Joseph & Jesus



Joseph Sold Into Slavery

by Jeff Smelser

One of the amazing things about the Old and New Covenants is the great amount of continuity. Not only are there prophecies in the Old Testament pointing to Jesus and the establishment of His church fulfilled in the New, we even see the very stories themselves fulfilling each other. Consider the story of Joseph and how Jesus' story parallels.

There is a loose parallel regarding their births. Joseph was born to a barren mother whose past made it seem she simply couldn't

have children. Jesus was born to a virgin who clearly shouldn't be having children.

Who was responsible for selling Joseph? His brother, Judah (Genesis 37:26). Who was responsible for selling Jesus? His disciple, Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). The names are not merely similar. They are simply different forms of the same name. Just as Simon and Simeon were forms of the same name.

Joseph was sold for 20 shekels of silver (Genesis 37:28). Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver

(Matthew 26:15). No doubt, the amounts were not exact. However, one can hardly miss the similarity.

Joseph was framed and punished for crimes he didn't commit (Genesis 39). Jesus was framed and punished for crimes he did not commit (Luke 23:41).

I can't help but notice the use of three days when Joseph interpreted the dreams of the cup-bearer and the baker (Genesis 40:12, 18). We see the issue of three days happening again and again, culminating in Jesus being