



## GOD'S PART in JOSEPH'S STORY:

### 1. DREAMS he didn't ask for

It's interesting that the story basically starts with Joseph being the "son of Jacob's old age" and loved by him. This did not go over well with the older brothers.

<sup>4</sup> But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him. (Gen. 37:4 ESV)

But this was by no fault of Joseph. Now God interjects into the scene to set his plan in motion. He gives Joseph dreams with divine origin and meanings. (READ Gen. 37:5-11)

<sup>5</sup> Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more.

<sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed:

<sup>7</sup> Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf."

<sup>8</sup> His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

<sup>9</sup> Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

<sup>10</sup> But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?"

<sup>11</sup> And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind. (ESV)

**So, the question:** Why would God give a 17-year-old boy dreams of his family bowing down to him KNOWING that they would be jealous and angry?

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## 2. Brothers in the “wrong” place at the “right” time

Have you ever noticed that the brothers were SUPPOSED to be tending the sheep in Shechem ... but, where were they? ... Dothan. Why?

SOVEREIGNTY: Were the pastures not good enough? Was there not enough water? Did they hear the girls were cuter in Dothan? We have NO IDEA. But we do know **looking back** ... God had plans for Joseph to be sold and taken to Egypt. In His sovereignty he directed the wills of the brothers to move locations ... so that later in verse (READ [Gen. 37:25-26](#))

<sup>25</sup> Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt.  
<sup>26</sup> Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?" (Gen. 37:25-26 ESV)

You DO realize from this passage that killing Joseph was still the plan until they JUST HAPPENED to be at Dothan, where a caravan JUST HAPPENED to pass (and in that day and age ... what are the chances of that timing?), while Reuben (the oldest and in charge) JUST HAPPENED to be gone, thus giving the one brother an “option” to suggest selling Joseph to the caravan... SOVEREIGNTY

Its probably safe to assume (humanly speaking) that if God had not moved the brothers to Dothan, there would have been no pit nearby and no caravan passing ... and Joseph would have been murdered. How do you think Joseph might have responded when he was wandering around looking for his brothers and came to find out they are about 15 miles away (a VERY long walk)?

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How do we tend to respond when what “should be” is NOT? Is this still a time to trust that God is in control and has a very distinct purpose? How do you do that?

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## 3. Great master, Horrible master’s wife

I’m not an expert on ancient Egyptian slave trading, but needless to say ... there were no doubt THOUSANDS of places where Joseph could have ended up. But ONLY one of those would have the exact ingredients we see. SOVEREIGNTY. To end up in the captain of the guards house with a wife that would want Joseph and lie about him, thus he ended up not just in any prison, but specifically the prison where the KING put his prisoners (which is an important piece of the puzzle soon). (READ [Gen. 39:1,20](#))

Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. (Gen. 39:1 ESV)

And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. (Gen. 39:20 ESV)

SO many questions come to mind in this situation. Why not just let him be bought, loved and THEN promoted? We don't know. But the reality is that God allowed Joseph to be a slave, and then a slave that is wrongly accused and put in prison. What would you be wondering about God and life at this point? (READ Gen. 39:2-6)

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<sup>2</sup> The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master.

<sup>3</sup> His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.

<sup>5</sup> From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field.

<sup>6</sup> So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate. (Gen. 39:2-6 ESV)

The other part of his being in Potiphar's house that is VERY interesting is the way in which God gave him such favor ... all the while knowing he would send Joseph to prison? What reason could God have had in that? Is it perhaps that he would not have ended up in the king's prison without that favor? We don't know. What is going through your mind as you see God bringing "good" and "evil" in to Joseph's life?

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#### 4. WRONGLY imprisoned, nearly forgotten

Just when you thought things were going from "not good" (sold into slavery) to "not too bad" (being trusted with the household of a powerful man), things just drop out all over again. Wrongly accused and thrown in prison (and not the stainless-steel toilet, bunk bed with mattress, TV, and rec time type of prison). (READ Gen. 39:17-20)

<sup>17</sup> *and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me.*

<sup>18</sup> *But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house."*

*19 As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled.*

*20 And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.  
(Gen. 39:17-20 ESV)*

Can you trust a God who would allow you to have favor in your boss's sight just to let the boss's wife wrongly accuse you to the point of prison? Where is God's sovereignty in the false accusations of others? When others falsely accuse you or get you into hot water ... How is God still in control? (READ [Gen. 39:20-23](#))

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*20 And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.*

*21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.*

*22 And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.*

*23 The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed. (Gen. 39:20-23 ESV)*

So, once again Joseph is given favor in the eyes of those over him by God. I find it odd that God sends Joseph to HORRIBLE places and then IN the horrible places ... blesses him ... only to send him to a more horrible place ... and then to bless him IN the horrible place.

We don't have reasons given to us, and it is not wise to speculate with scripture, but, why do you think God might "give favor" when we are in our worst circumstances sometimes?

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Secondly, why do you think God might take us from bad to worse, and from one difficulty to another, year after year, with seemingly NO resolution in sight?

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Then to top it all off, Joseph has a sure way out of prison, but the guy who vows to remember him TO Pharaoh, just flat out forgets all about him for 2 years. That may not

seem like such a long time as you read Bible stories, but when you are living in a horrible prison ... NOT FUN.

Where is God's sovereignty when others let you down?

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### 5. A LONG and HARD road ... with no end in sight

The reason this story seems to "shake us" so little is that we already know the end and we rarely visualize the length of the road of suffering God put him on. We read and its all "blah, blah, blah, everyone loves him, he keeps getting blessed, and finally he rules the world... suffer schmuffer." But this subconscious idea of the story is SO far from accurate. Lets just take a quick review:

- Hated and spoken harshly to by the very ones who should have "had his back" and loved him the most. Remember these were grown men, some of who were old enough to be his father no doubt.
- Grabbed, tossed in a well for holding so they could kill him BY HIS BROTHERS.
- Sold to a passing caravan to be taken away into slavery.
- Traveling as a slave in a caravan with NO rights or privileges possibly up to a year some estimate
- Sold into slavery. Thought Joseph prospered, it never states that he was treated well, not to mention his life was NOT his. No rights, no privileges, no freedom, never see family again, no marriage unless arranged by the master, etc.
- Total integrity and yet accused of horrific actions. Whether or not the master believed it ... he was going to suffer
- Potiphar's slave + prison comes to nearly 13 years ... THAT'S A LONG TIME

Why do you think God makes our roads of suffering so long at times?

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A common thread in suffering is that those who get hit hard ... get hit multiple times. Why do you think God would do that?

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Do you think you would respond better to suffering and LONG roads if God gave you the whole story and what he was doing in you and what he had planned at the end?

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How do you think Faith is strengthened in LONG roads that seem endless, and HARD roads that seem too much?

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## 5. POWER I didn't ask for

I think the story of Joseph has so little impact due to the fact he “gets it all” at the end. Do you agree?

I have heard more than one person agree that doing things God’s way would be worth it if they KNEW that it would go better for them.

I don't want to overdue the issue, but I find it so very remarkable that Joseph kept finding success and favor IN the hard places.

### **(Gen. 39:2-5 ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> *The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and **he was in the house of his Egyptian master.***

<sup>3</sup> *His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.*

<sup>4</sup> *So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.*

<sup>5</sup> *From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field.*

### **(Gen. 39:21-23 ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> *But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him **favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.***

<sup>22</sup> *And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.*

<sup>23</sup> *The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.*

### **(Gen. 41:37-41 ESV)**

<sup>39</sup> *Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are.*

<sup>40</sup> *You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you."*

<sup>41</sup> *And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."*

We are not told how long it took for God to bring him into positions of influence, nor how long he “enjoyed” any of that, but we do see ONE thing very clearly. It was the direct HAND of God in this. This gives us the very CLEAR assumption that Joseph was a

God fearing and God worshipping person. What does it look like to “fear” and “honor” God IN very hard times?

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## 6. A LIFE I would have never wanted with an ending I could have never imagined.

It is one thing to say that ... FROM my pain ... or IN my pain ... God did something super sweet. But we must be willing to see that God initiated and orchestrated and coordinated all our suffering for reasons we may NEVER know.

<sup>5</sup> *And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for **God sent me before you** to preserve life.*

<sup>6</sup> *For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.*

<sup>7</sup> *And **God sent me before you** to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.*

I think it is worth noting that he not only knew it was an act of God, but that he “in a sense” let his brothers off the hook for the crime. NOTE: He knew they had sinned and acknowledges that in verses 50:19-20; however this passage is one in which he is giving God full credit for the actions that were against him.

<sup>8</sup> *So **it was not you who sent me here, but God**. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.*

<sup>9</sup> *Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. (Gen. 45:5-9 ESV)*

<sup>19</sup> *But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?"*

<sup>20</sup> *As for you, **you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good**, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. (Gen. 50:19-20 ESV)*

How is it possible that Joseph would claim that GOD sent him to Egypt? What does that mean about sovereignty?

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## SUMMARY:

Gods is sovereign over?

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|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| ✓ Fathers      | ✓ Jail keepers | ✓ Suffering               |
| ✓ Brothers     | ✓ Forgetting   | ✓ Being wronged by others |
| ✓ Caravans     | ✓ Dreams       | ✓ <b>WHAT ELSE?</b>       |
| ✓ Masters      | ✓ Famines      | ✓                         |
| ✓ Seductresses | ✓ Promotions   |                           |
| ✓ Prisons      | ✓ Pain         |                           |

## What do we know about Joseph's view of God?

### 1. He always saw SIN as being directly against GOD

Joseph shows very early in the story that though he is only a teenager that he has a very HIGH view of God that truly impacts his thinking and choices. This is alluded to in the fact that God shows such favor on Joseph over and over. (GEN 39:3, 23)

<sup>3</sup> *His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.*

<sup>23</sup> *The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.*

But more significantly, as he faces a very hard situation we see that God is at the center of his thoughts in each one. First, we see his resisting temptation on the sole basis that it is SIN and WICKEDNESS against God. (GEN 39:8-9)

<sup>8</sup> *But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge.*

<sup>9</sup> *He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. **How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?**"*

<sup>17</sup> *And he put them all together in custody for three days.*

<sup>18</sup> *On the third day Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, **for I fear God:**" (Gen. 42:17-18 ESV)*

When you are tempted to sin. Tempted to be discouraged, discontent, angry, vengeful, etc., what is the main motivation for not sinning usually? To what extent does God come into the picture as you look at sin?

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## 2. He always pointed attention to God

Joseph finds himself gaining favor from the Lord, but beyond that he finds that he is able to do things such as interpret dreams. But he knows that is ONLY because God enables him to do this. Notice how quickly Joseph brings honor ONLY to God in his answers ... repeatedly

<sup>8</sup> They said to him, "We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them." And Joseph said to them, "**Do not interpretations belong to God?** Please tell them to me." (Gen. 40:8 ESV)

<sup>16</sup> Joseph answered Pharaoh, "**It is not in me; God will give** Pharaoh a favorable answer." (Gen. 41:16 ESV)

<sup>25</sup> Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one; **God has revealed to Pharaoh** what he is about to do. (Gen. 41:25 ESV)

<sup>28</sup> It is as I told Pharaoh; **God has shown to Pharaoh** what he is about to do. (Gen. 41:28 ESV)

<sup>32</sup> And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that **the thing is fixed by God**, and God will shortly bring it about. (Gen. 41:32 ESV)

I see two main things in this. 1) Joseph is always mindful of God in all things. 2) Joseph clearly knows that ANYTHING he is able to do is ONLY a gift from God.

In your daily pursuits ... are you constantly mindful of God and God's place in all of them? How could you be better at this?

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How can you work to give God more credit for what he does in and through you, without sounding stupid, fake and plastic about it?

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## 3. His life gave clear evidence of God

Like the point above, we see that Pharaoh notices two things ... 1) That God is IN Joseph and 2) That what Joseph does is because of God.

<sup>38</sup> And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, **in whom is the Spirit of God?**" (Gen. 41:38 ESV)

<sup>39</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "**Since God has shown you all this**, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. (Gen. 41:39 ESV)

When others look at our lives, ESPECIALLY in hard times (like Joseph), what will make it VERY clear to them that we have God ruling and owning us? Be specific

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#### 4. He saw Gods grace IN the difficulties

Joseph made his heart's affection for God clear when he named his sons. Both names were praises for "bringing such joy as to forget ALL the hardships" and that God "made me fruitful IN the land I am afflicted in." these are significant statements of worship and honor to God.

<sup>51</sup> Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house."

<sup>52</sup> The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction." (Gen. 41:51-52 ESV)

We don't see any of these implying that God has kept him from pain, but rather that God has brought him "greater joy" than his pain, and that God has brought "greatest good" FROM his pain. Look carefully and list some of the significant blessings that have come from your past and present pains.

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#### 5. REMINDER FROM FIRST SECTION: He knew with certainty that God is the one that has given him the life and the pain that he had.

<sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for **God sent me before you** to preserve life.

<sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

<sup>7</sup> And **God sent me before you** to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

He knew they had sinned and acknowledges that in verses 50:19-20; however this passage is one in which he is giving God full credit for the actions that were against him.

<sup>8</sup> So ***it was not you who sent me here, but God.*** He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

<sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. (Gen. 45:5-9 ESV)

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?"

<sup>20</sup> As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. (Gen. 50:19-20 ESV)

## EXTRAS (digging deeper)

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ALL THE KEY PASSAGES:

<sup>28</sup> Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt. (Gen. 37:28 ESV)

<sup>36</sup> Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard. (Gen. 37:36 ESV)

<sup>2</sup> The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master.

<sup>3</sup> His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.

<sup>5</sup> From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field.

<sup>6</sup> So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. (Gen. 39:2-6 ESV)

<sup>7</sup> And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me."

<sup>8</sup> But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge.  
<sup>9</sup> He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"  
<sup>10</sup> And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.  
<sup>11</sup> But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house,  
<sup>12</sup> she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.  
<sup>13</sup> And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house,  
<sup>14</sup> she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice.  
<sup>15</sup> And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house."  
<sup>16</sup> Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home,  
<sup>17</sup> and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me.  
<sup>18</sup> But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house."  
<sup>19</sup> As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled. (Gen. 39:7-19 ESV)

<sup>20</sup> And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. (Gen. 39:20 ESV)  
<sup>21</sup> But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.  
<sup>22</sup> And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.  
<sup>23</sup> The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed. (Gen. 39:21-23 ESV)

<sup>ESV</sup> **Genesis 40:1** Some time after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt.  
<sup>2</sup> And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker,  
<sup>3</sup> and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined.  
<sup>4</sup> The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them, and he attended them. They continued for some time in custody (Gen. 40:1-4 ESV)

<sup>23</sup> Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him. (Gen. 40:23 ESV)

<sup>5</sup> And one night they both dreamed-- the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison-- each his own dream, and each dream with its own interpretation.  
<sup>6</sup> When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled.  
<sup>7</sup> So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why are your faces downcast today?"  
<sup>8</sup> They said to him, "We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them." And Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me."

(Gen. 40:5-8 ESV)

<sup>15</sup> And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

<sup>16</sup> Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

(Gen. 41:15-16 ESV)

<sup>37</sup> This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.

<sup>38</sup> And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?"

<sup>39</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are.

<sup>40</sup> You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you."

<sup>41</sup> And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

<sup>42</sup> Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck.

<sup>43</sup> And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, "Bow the knee!" Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt.

<sup>44</sup> Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."

(Gen. 41:37-44 ESV)

What did God control

How long was the road?

Ultimate question: Did God really have to work out Joseph's life and circumstances EXACTLY like he did to accomplish what he wanted to accomplish?

- Did his brothers HAVE to hate him to get him to Egypt
- Did he have to be falsely accused and end up in prison
- Did he really have to be in prison so long?

THEY WHY

1. We don't know
2. God wanted it
3. It brought Glory to God somehow

<sup>16</sup> When he summoned a famine on the land and broke all supply of bread,

<sup>17</sup> he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

<sup>18</sup> His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron;

<sup>19</sup> until what he had said came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.

<sup>20</sup> The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free;

<sup>21</sup> he made him lord of his house and ruler of all his possessions,

<sup>22</sup> to bind his princes at his pleasure and to teach his elders wisdom. (Ps. 105:16-22 ESV)

6/2021