

# **THE GOD THAT MOVES MOUNTAINS.**

**JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY AND FOREVER.**

**CONSIDER “THE LIFE AND FAITH OF JOSEPH”  
APRIL 16, 2023**

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# ANCHOR BIBLE REFERENCES

## ➤ Hebrews 13: 5-8

➤ <sup>5</sup> God has said,

“Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you.”

➤ <sup>6</sup> So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mortal man do to me?”

➤ <sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.  
**Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.**

➤ <sup>8</sup> **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

**Our Mandate Remains: “The House of Prayer for all Nations,  
Extending God’s Love to all the Nations.”**

**We are sowers (not eaters) but the sower reaps in multiple folds.**



# The Leaders, consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

## Luke 5:37-38

"No one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will spill, and the wineskins will be ruined."

"Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins."

**(This year, we must have a fresh vision of our Christian life. We must empty the old and fill with the new.)**

As we consider the life of the leaders and imitate their faith, let us apply the lessons and, thus, create new wineskins and expand our spiritual container to enable God to move the mountains He has planned to move for us from 2023.

# The Leader, JOSEPH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

- **Background:** The journey of Joseph as a leader began to sprout when he tendered the flocks with his brothers. – “Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives.” (Genesis 37)
- Joseph brought their father a bad report about them (acquainted with his brothers’ lewd and wicked courses, to the dishonour of God and of their family, Joseph reported the acts to his father).
- <sup>3</sup> Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him.
- <sup>4</sup> When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.
- **Obviously, Joseph, having the right combination of character, was noticed by God: a humble Shepherd, who feared God and could not stand evil committed by his brothers,**
- **God gave him a dream (Gen 37) – a revelation of what is to come.**

# The Leader, JOSEPH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

## Gen 37 (contd.)

<sup>5</sup> Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. <sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: <sup>7</sup> We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.”

<sup>8</sup> His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

➤ <sup>9</sup> **Then he had another dream**, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”

➤ <sup>10</sup> When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?” <sup>11</sup> His brothers were jealous of him, **but his father kept this in his mind (His Father knew God better)**

➤ **In both dreams, God did not reveal how and where these will take place.**

# The Leader, JOSEPH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

Innocence and clear-mindedness continued to shield Joseph:

**1. In innocence and clear-mindedness, Joseph obeyed his father, not minding his brothers' wickedness.:**

Gen 37: <sup>12</sup> Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, <sup>13</sup> and Israel said to Joseph, "Come, I am going to send you to them." **"Very well," he replied.**

**2. Due of his innocence and clear-mindedness, God sent him a helper**

➤ When Joseph arrived at Shechem, <sup>15</sup> a man (a helper positioned by God) found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?" <sup>16</sup> He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?"

<sup>17</sup> "They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"

**Question: How did this man' know who Joseph was looking for?..**

**..... That is God's intervention for you.**

# The Leader, JOSEPH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

3. Unknown to Joseph, God had built a hedge of protection around him because his heart is connected with God.

**Psalm 91** "1 He that dwells in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 And will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. 3 Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence."

Brethren, God already knew the harm Joseph's brothers planned for Joseph. However, unknown to the brothers, the harm was to lead to the fulfilment of Joseph's dream.

**In John 13:37, when Jesus' calling was to be fulfilled, Judas was positioned to bring harm on Jesus and thus lead to the fulfillment of Jesus' call. Jesus said to Judas, "what you want to do, do quickly."**

# The Leader, JOSEPH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

## 3. God was with Joseph - in the Pit, in Potiphar's house and in the Prison.

**Gen 37:** 17 So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. <sup>18</sup> But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

<sup>21</sup> When Reuben (one of them) heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. <sup>22</sup> "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

**In Psalm 23, David said:** **1**The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing; **4** Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

**Gen 37:** <sup>23</sup> So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing— <sup>24</sup> and they took him and threw him into the cistern (pit). The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.



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## 4. God positioned a way unto next level on Joseph's pathway.

**Gen 37: 25** As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

- **26** Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? **27** Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.
- **28** So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels<sup>[b]</sup> of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

**Brethren, unknown to everyone, Egypt was actually meant to be the place that the dreams were to be fulfilled.**

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## 5. God does not stop the phase (s) of pain or joy until His goal is fulfilled:

**Romans 8:28** says “All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”. God focuses on His call for us.

**Jeremiah 29:11** “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

**When the Lord is on this journey to taking us to where we are going, please wait for Him with prayers, humility and thanksgiving.**

**Philippians 4:6** “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**1 Peter 5: 7** Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. **8** Be sober-minded and alert. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** Resist him, standing firm in your faith and in the knowledge that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

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**Gen 37:**<sup>36</sup>The Midianites<sup>[c]</sup> sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

**Brethren**, Joseph now gets an opportunity to learn what life looks like in a palace. We are encouraged t **“Be sober-minded and alert. ... 9Resist the devil, standing firm in your faith” (1 Peter 5:7-8).**

**Joseph's faith was not shaken**

**Gen 38** <sup>2</sup>The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup> When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, <sup>4</sup> Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

<sup>5</sup> From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that

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he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. <sup>6</sup> So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Brethren, (I Peter 5:8), **“Be sober-minded and alert. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”**

Devil appears to Joseph in the form of Potiphar's wife and presents an evil idea.

**Gen 38: <sup>8</sup>But** Joseph refused. .... “How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?”

- Based on lies from his wife, <sup>20</sup> Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.
- For Joseph, this is an opportunity to learn what the palace prison looks like.

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**In the Prison:** But while Joseph was there in the prison, <sup>21</sup> the LORD was with him; He showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. <sup>22</sup> So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there.

## ► The first dream fulfilled:

**Gen 42:** <sup>3</sup> Then ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. <sup>4</sup> But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him. ... <sup>6</sup> **Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people.** So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground.

**Gen 45:** <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "**I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!**" <sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

## ► The second dream fulfilled:

► **Gen 46:** ... <sup>6</sup> So Jacob and all his offspring went to Egypt, taking with them their livestock and the possessions they had acquired in Canaan. <sup>7</sup> Jacob brought with him to Egypt his sons and grandson.

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## Conclusion

Joseph provides us with lessons of

1. Humility
2. Honesty
3. Righteousness
4. Confidence in the Lord
5. Patience with God
6. Seeing positives in every situation (insults from brothers, the pit, servant in palace, the prison, etc.)
7. Forgiveness of his brothers
8. Power of hearing from God
9. Etc.