

The Life of Joseph Part II
Promises, Purposes and Visions Fulfilled
Genesis 41 – 50
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Intro: The newest traffic offense on the books is “distracted driving.” It has come to be because of all of the electronic devices on use today. Cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, PDA’s and others are responsible for thousands of accidents and even deaths every year. I want to caution you certainly to not drive distracted, but also, not to read while distracted.

We can look at the life of Joseph or any other biblical character, good or bad, and develop certain principals for living. Don’t be bitter like Cain, it only leads to more trouble and pain. Faithfulness is recognized and rewarded, as in the life of Noah. Being chosen of God to accomplish something does not mean you are without fault, like Abraham. There are many other we could chose from, here in the book of Genesis and throughout the pages of both the Old and New Testament. More important than drawing human principals for living through the story, is the story of God Himself. The personalities of the book are there to display for us the great character of God. If we loose our focus when we read the Bible or in living life in general, we forget that the book and our life is not about the people, it is about God.

The life of Joseph has just three phases: life leading to the dream, life from the dream to the reality, and finally, life with the reality of the dream. All three of these phases were given and designed and brought into being by God. The story tells us about the people yes, but more importantly it tells us about God.

Interog: Have you had a dream lately? Has God given you an insight into who He is, and the role you have in His grand plan to save the world, one soul at a time? Unlike most of us, Joseph had the grand calling to save the world, for us it is much simpler. God is no different today than He was 5000 years ago, He wants to save people, and He wants you to be involved! Will you stay focused on His plan, or will you be distracted?

Read Scripture: Genesis 42:1-9a

1. God Provide the Dream

Joseph’s enthusiastic sharing of the dream was not childish arrogance, but wondrous excitement. He did not need to dream a dream like that, he was already the chosen one in his earthly father’s eyes. God showed Joseph what would happen, not what he wanted.

2. God Protected during the Difficulty

Five times in Gen 39 the Bible states that “the Lord was with Joseph”
The Key was not in Joseph’s positive mental attitude, it was that God was with Him.

3. God Promoted on the right Day

The Pharaoh’s butler forgot for two years, the man who encouraged him in his lowest hour. We do not know what would have happened if Joseph had gotten out of jail early, what we do know is that God saw to it that Joseph was in Jail when Pharaoh had his dream.
God provided the insight Gen 40:16
God fulfilled the vision He gave to Joseph as a boy. Gen 42:9
Joseph fulfilled his purpose in trusting God and saving the lives of all who came for grain. Gen 41:57
God kept His promise to Abram in Genesis 12

Conclusion: In the book of Genesis, God drew people to Himself. Through three famine and a flood, God accomplished His purpose in revealing Himself to the world. Through these vents people came to God and to His people. Today God works another way. God sent His Son to the world to be the “Visible Expression of an Invisible God”. The dream was not about Joseph, it was about what God wanted Joseph to do. Through the life of Joseph, God reveals Himself to be a God of vision, a God of promise, a God of deliverance for His people, and a God whose people are an agent of deliverance to the world. If we loose focus we are of no use to God or to ourselves. Do not be distracted into reading the Bible as if it were some divine code of conduct. Do the do’s and don’t do the don’ts. If you do that you will miss the real message. That message is that God loves you and sent His Son to die for you so that the things that you have done and will do that are wrong can be forgiven, and so that you can live a life that matters for all eternity. One day you will be called, maybe not before a king, but before someone who has a need, and you will have God’s message of peace for them?