

Message Notes

Joseph: Stuff Happens!

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction - "Farewell to a faithful servant"

Meanwhile, back at the Ranch...

A Dark Story - Genesis 38:1-30
Matthew 1:2-3, 6-7, 16

Today's Message: Stuff Happens!
Joseph (Part Deux): Genesis 39:1-41:36

Maybe this isn't gonna be so bad
Genesis 39:1-6a

You've got to be kidding me!
Genesis 39:6b-20a

But, God was with Joseph
Genesis 39:20b-23

Preparation, and More Disappointment
Genesis 40

Big Dog has a Dream!
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Dude! I Totally Spaced that Out!
Genesis 41:8-13

"Bring me the Left Hander!"
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A Sneak Peak at Next Week
Genesis 41:37-40

Themes that Develop through Scripture
THE BIG IDEA!!

Hypocrisy
Proverbs 26:23-28
Matthew 15:7-9

Stuff Happens
Psalm 23:4
Lamentations 3:19-27
2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Gospel Application -
"Where's your hypocrisy meter at?"
Something to remember...
"But God was with Joseph..."

Proverbs 26:23-28

²³Like a coating of glaze over earthenware are fervent lips with an evil heart. ²⁴A malicious man disguises himself with his lips, but in his heart he harbors deceit. ²⁵Though his speech is charming, do not believe him, for seven abominations fill his heart. ²⁶His malice may be concealed by deception, but his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly. ²⁷If a man digs a pit, he will fall into it; if a man rolls a stone, it will roll back on him. ²⁸A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

Matthew 15:7-9

⁷"You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:
⁸"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."

Psalm 23:4

⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Lamentations 3:19-27

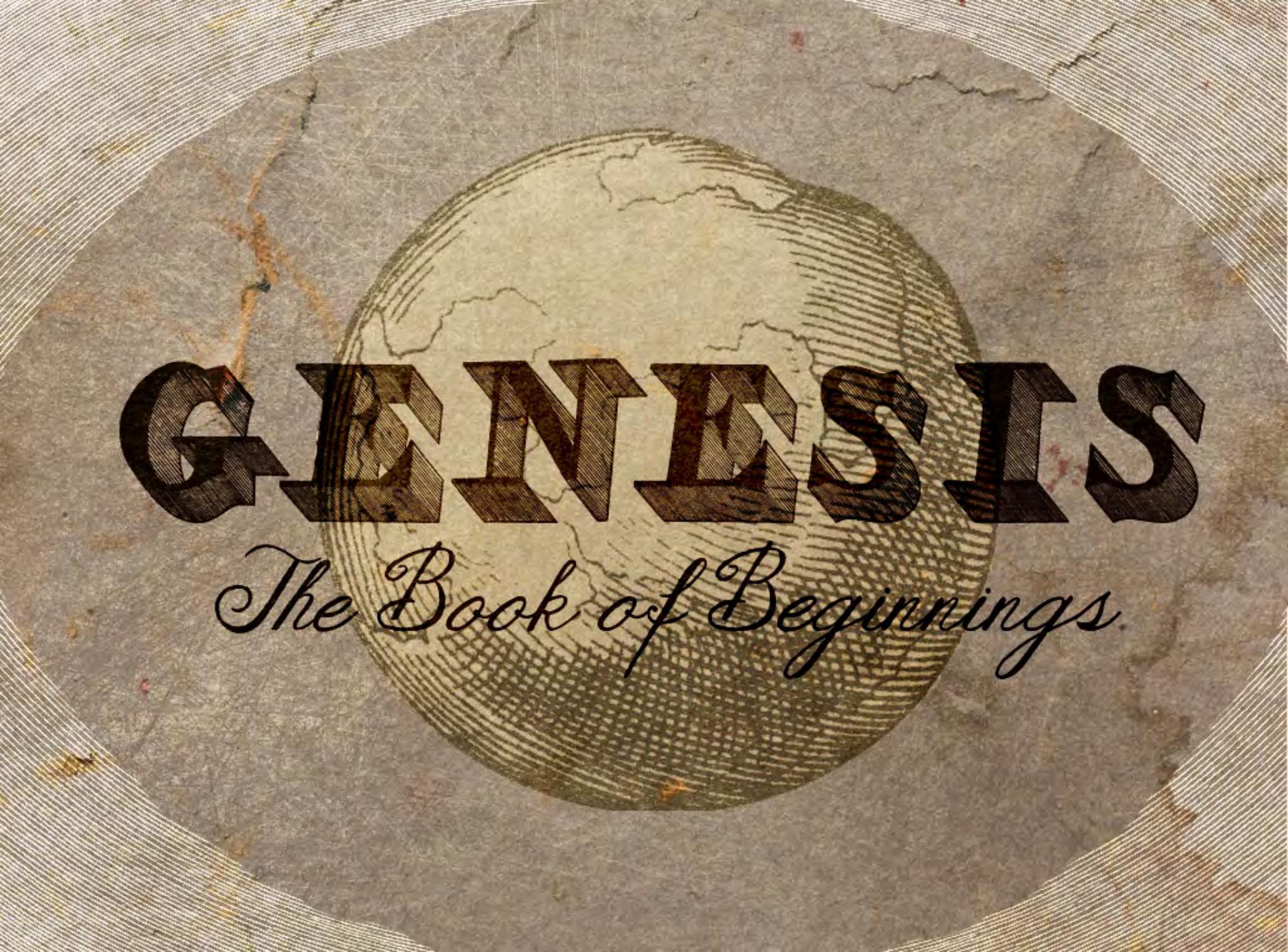
¹⁹I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. ²⁰I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. ²¹Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:
²²Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." ²⁵The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; ²⁶it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. ²⁷It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

⁷To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

William E. Berg





GENESIS

The Book of Beginnings



Joseph (Part One): Dreams and Dysfunction

MEANWHILE



BACK AT THE RANCH

GENESIS

38



Genesis 38:1-30

¹At that time, Judah left his brothers and went down to stay with a man of Adullam named Hirah. ²There Judah met the daughter of a Canaanite man named Shua. He married her and lay with her; ³she became pregnant and gave birth to a son, who was named Er. ⁴She conceived again and gave birth to a son and named him Onan. ⁵She gave birth to still another son and named him Shelah. It was at Kezib that she gave birth to him.

Genesis 38:1-30

⁶Judah got a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. ⁷But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the LORD's sight; so the LORD put him to death.

Genesis 38:1-30

⁸Then Judah said to Onan, “Lie with your brother’s wife and fulfill your duty to her as a brother-in-law to produce offspring for your brother.” ⁹But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his; so whenever he lay with his brother’s wife, he spilled his semen on the ground to keep from producing offspring for his brother. ¹⁰What he did was wicked in the LORD’s sight; so he put him to death also.

Genesis 38:1-30

¹¹Judah then said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, “Live as a widow in your father’s house until my son Shelah grows up.” For he thought, “He may die too, just like his brothers.” So Tamar went to live in her father’s house.

Genesis 38:1-30

¹²After a long time Judah's wife, the daughter of Shua, died. When Judah had recovered from his grief, he went up to Timnah, to the men who were shearing his sheep, and his friend Hirah the Adullamite went with him.

Genesis 38:1-30

¹³When Tamar was told, “Your father-in-law is on his way to Timnah to shear his sheep,” ¹⁴she took off her widow’s clothes, covered herself with a veil to disguise herself, and then sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that, though Shelah had now grown up, she had not been given to him as his wife.

Genesis 38:1-30

¹⁵When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. ¹⁶Not realizing that she was his daughter-in-law, he went over to her by the roadside and said, “Come now, let me sleep with you.”

“And what will you give me to sleep with you?” she asked.

¹⁷“I’ll send you a young goat from my flock,” he said.

Genesis 38:1-30

¹⁷ “I’ll send you a young goat from my flock,” he said.

“Will you give me something as a pledge until you send it?” she asked.

¹⁸ He said, “What pledge should I give you?”

“Your seal and its cord, and the staff in your hand,” she answered. So he gave them to her and slept with her, and she became pregnant by him. ¹⁹After she left, she took off her veil and put on her widow’s clothes again...

Genesis 38:1-30

²⁴About three months later Judah was told, “Your daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of prostitution, and as a result she is now pregnant.”

Judah said, “Bring her out and have her burned to death!”

Genesis 38:1-30

²⁵As she was being brought out, she sent a message to her father-in-law. “I am pregnant by the man who owns these,” she said. And she added, “See if you recognize whose seal and cord and staff these are.”

Genesis 38:1-30

²⁶Judah recognized them and said, “She is more righteous than I, since I wouldn’t give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not sleep with her again.

Genesis 38:1-30

²⁷When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁸As she was giving birth, one of them put out his hand; so the midwife took a scarlet thread and tied it on his wrist and said, "This one came out first." ²⁹But when he drew back his hand, his brother came out, and she said, "So this is how you have broken out!" And he was named Perez. ³⁰Then his brother, who had the scarlet thread on his wrist, came out and he was given the name Zerah

Matthew 1:2, 3, 6, 7, 16

²Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
³Judah the father of Perez and Zerah,
whose mother was Tamar,
Perez the father of Hezron...

⁶David was the father of Solomon,
whose mother had been Uriah's wife,
⁷Solomon the father of Rehoboam...

¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of
whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.



Joseph (Part Two): STUFF HAPPENS

This might no be so bad?



A TTITUDE **E**

WHEN LIFE HANDS YOU LEMONS, MAKE LEMONADE.

This might no be so bad?

Genesis 39:1-6a

¹Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

This might no be so bad?

Genesis 39:1-6a

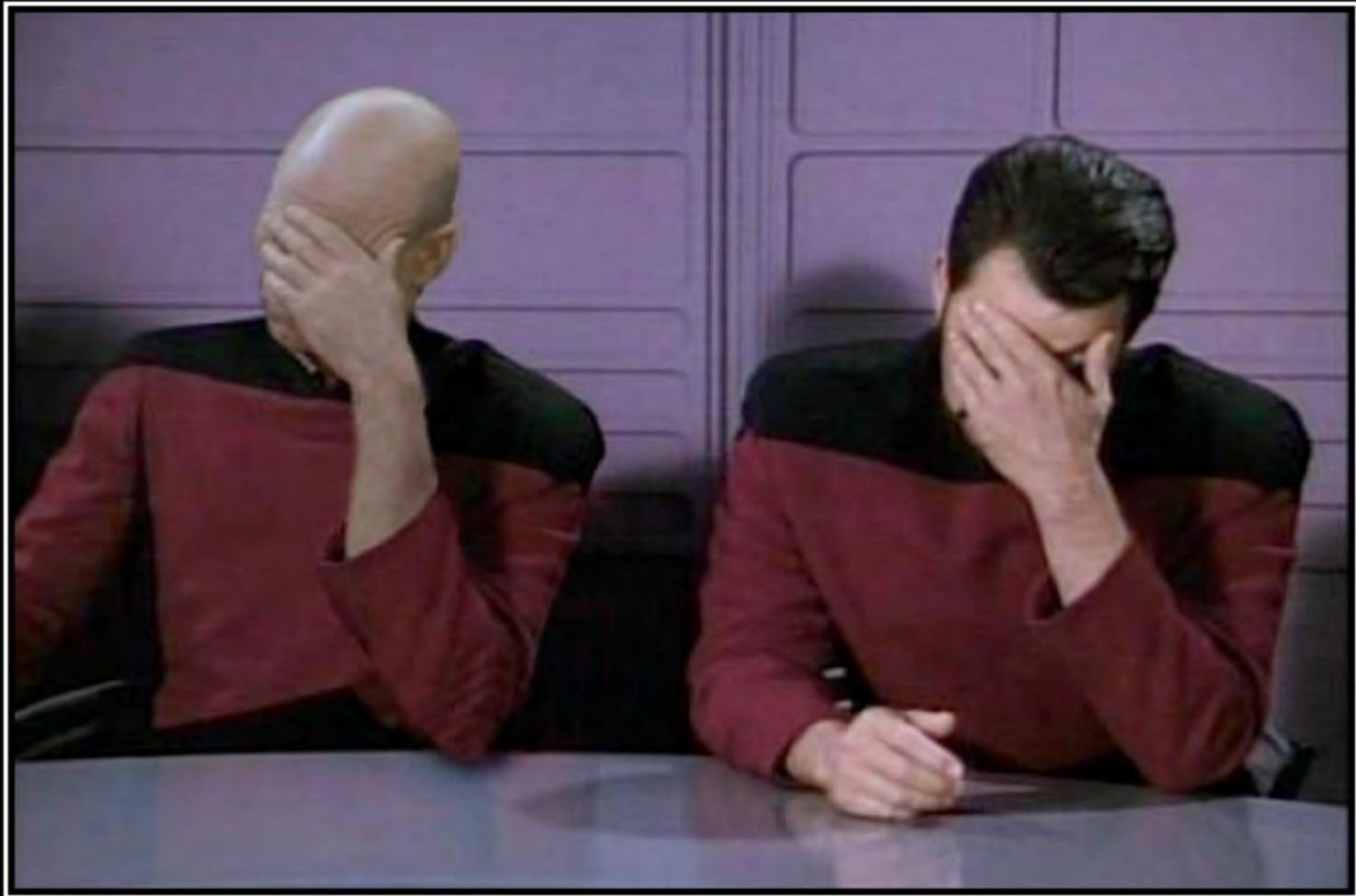
²The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. ³When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, ⁴Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household,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

This might no be so bad?

Genesis 39:1-6a

⁵From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that 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. ⁶So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

You've Got to Be Kidding Me!



DOUBLE FACEPALM

FOR WHEN ONE FACEPALM DOESN'T CUT IT

You've Got to Be Kidding Me!

Genesis 39:6b-20a

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,⁷ and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said,
"Come to bed with me!"

You've Got to Be Kidding Me!

Genesis 39:6b-20a

⁸But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.

⁹No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" ¹⁰And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

You've Got to Be Kidding Me!

Genesis 39:6b-20a

¹¹One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. ¹²She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

You've Got to Be Kidding Me!

Genesis 39:6b-20a

¹³When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, ¹⁴she called her household servants. “Look,” she said to them, “this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. ¹⁵When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

You've Got to Be Kidding Me!

Genesis 39:6b-20a

¹⁶She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. ¹⁷Then she told him this story: “That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me.

¹⁸But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

¹⁹When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is how your slave treated me,” he burned with anger. ²⁰Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

But...



But...

Genesis 39:20b-23

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

²³The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Preparation...and more disappointment



Preparation...and more disappointment

Genesis 40:1-23

¹Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt.

²Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, ³and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined. ⁴The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them.

Preparation...and more disappointment

Genesis 40:1-23

After they had been in custody for some time, ⁵each of the two men – the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison – had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own.

Preparation...and more disappointment

Genesis 40:1-23

⁶When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. ⁷So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?"

Preparation...and more disappointment

Genesis 40:1-23

⁸“We both had dreams,” they answered, “but there is no one to interpret them.”

Then Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams.”

Preparation...and more disappointment

Genesis 40:1-23

⁹So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, “In my dream I saw a vine in front of me, ¹⁰and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it blossomed, and its clusters ripened into grapes.

¹¹Pharaoh’s cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh’s cup and put the cup in his hand.”

Preparation...and more disappointment

Genesis 40:1-23

¹²“This is what it means,” Joseph said to him. “The three branches are three days. ¹³Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh’s cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. ¹⁴But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. ¹⁵For I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon.”

Preparation...and more disappointment

Genesis 40:1-23

¹⁶When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation, he said to Joseph, “I too had a dream: On my head were three baskets of bread. ¹⁷In the top basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head.”

Preparation...and more disappointment

Genesis 40:1-23

¹⁸“This is what it means,” Joseph said. “The three baskets are three days. ¹⁹Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat away your flesh.”

Preparation...and more disappointment

Genesis 40:1-23

²⁰Now the third day was Pharaoh's birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials: ²¹He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's hand, ²²but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation.

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²³The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

Big Dog has a Dream

If you are going to dream
dream big



Big Dog has a Dream

Genesis 41:1-7

¹When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile, ²when out of the river there came up seven cows, sleek and fat, and they grazed among the reeds. ³After them, seven other cows, ugly and gaunt, came up out of the Nile and stood beside those on the riverbank. ⁴And the cows that were ugly and gaunt ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up.

Big Dog has a Dream

Genesis 41:1-7

⁵He fell asleep again and had a second dream: Seven heads of grain, healthy and good, were growing on a single stalk. ⁶After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted – thin and scorched by the east wind. ⁷The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up; it had been a dream.

“Dude! I totally forgot about that guy!”



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Genesis 41:8-13

⁸In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.

“Dude! I totally forgot about that guy!”

Genesis 41:8-13

⁹Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “Today I am reminded of my shortcomings. ¹⁰Pharaoh was once angry with his servants, and he imprisoned me and the chief baker in the house of the captain of the guard. ¹¹Each of us had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. ¹²Now a young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his dream. ¹³And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was hanged.”

“Bring me the left hander!”



“Bring me the left hander!”

Genesis 41:14-36

¹⁴So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh.

¹⁵Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.”

“Bring me the left hander!”

Genesis 41:14-36

¹⁶“I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.”

“Bring me the left hander!”

Genesis 41:14-36

¹⁷Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “In my dream I was standing on the bank of the Nile, ¹⁸when out of the river there came up seven cows, fat and sleek, and they grazed among the reeds. ¹⁹After them, seven other cows came up – scrawny and very ugly and lean. I had never seen such ugly cows in all the land of Egypt. ²⁰The lean, ugly cows ate up the seven fat cows that came up first. ²¹But even after they ate them, no one could tell that they had done so; they looked just as ugly as before.
Then I woke up.

“Bring me the left hander!”

Genesis 41:14-36

²²“In my dreams I also saw seven heads of grain, full and good, growing on a single stalk. ²³After them, seven other heads sprouted – withered and thin and scorched by the east wind. ²⁴The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven good heads. I told this to the magicians, but none could explain it to me.”

“Bring me the left hander!”

Genesis 41:14-36

²⁵Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁶The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream. ²⁷The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine.

“Bring me the left hander!”

Genesis 41:14-36

²⁸“It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁹Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, ³⁰but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. ³¹The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe. ³²The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.

“Bring me the left hander!”

Genesis 41:14-36

³³“ And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. ³⁴Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. ³⁵They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. ³⁶This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine.”

Next week on The Life of Joseph...

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Genesis 41:37-40

³⁷The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. ³⁸So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?”

³⁹Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. ⁴⁰You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.”

*Themes that are further
developed in the Bible*

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The BIG Idea!

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Life sucks at times!

**"Life is
hard.**

**It's harder
if you're stupid."**



John Wayne

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