

Dream Job

Helping Troubled Hearts Find Hope

July 26, 2026



Today we're learning to allow the Lord to transform us, so we can offer that hope to others!



Ever mistake God's silence for *absence*? Well don't. Instead, understand that **the Lord excels in delayed response, because *that's His workshop*** where He prepares us, as His workmanship, for our created purpose within His plan for the eternal best of every created being, by helping us **learn to trade getting whatever we want, for becoming whatever He wants.** Because:



[God] is *able* to do far beyond *all* that we could ask or *imagine* – Ephesians 3:20 CEB



[And] [The Lord is] a *Stronghold* in the *day of trouble* – Nahum 1:7 NKJ



[So] Return to your *Stronghold*, O *prisoners of hope* – Zechariah 9:11-12 ESV



[For He] has said, "I will *never leave you nor forsake you.*" – Hebrews 13:5 NKJ



Which we *emphasized* with a *hindsight list* of but-to-do-thats, when:



[Pharaoh] **[ultimately]** dressed [Joseph] in *robes* of fine linen and put a *gold chain* around his neck. He had him *ride* in a *chariot* as his second-in-command, and ... *put* him in *charge* of the *whole* land of *Egypt*. – Genesis 41:42-43 NIV



But to do that, *Pharaoh* had to *see* him in *action*. But to do that, *Pharaoh* had to have a *reliable* recommendation. But to do that, the *cupbearer* had to *see* him in *action*. But to do that, *innocent Joe* had to get *sent* to the *royal prison*. But to do that, the *Mrs.* had to make a *false allegation*. But to do that, *she* had to *relentlessly, aggressively pursue* him. But to do that, *Potiphar* had to *purchase* him as a *slave*. But to do that, the *Ishmaelites* had to *kidnap* him and *take* him to *Egypt*. But to do that, his *brothers* had to *betray* him and *sell* him. But to do that, they had to *really hate* him. But to do that, he had to be *really arrogant* and *hateable*. And to do that, the Lord simply *gave* a *teenager* *God-given dreams* of *greatness* and *avored son status* and let the *dominos* of *human nature* *fall* where they *self-willed*. And:



When *two full years* had passed, [since Joseph interpreted the *cupbearer's dungeon dream*; and the *day of trouble* came for] *Pharaoh* [who] had a [very *disturbing*] *dream* ... out of the [Nile] there came up *seven cows, sleek and fat* ... [then] *seven other cows, ugly and gaunt*, came up ... [and] *ate up* the *seven sleek, fat cows*. Then ... *seven heads of grain, healthy and good*, were *growing* ... [and] *seven other heads* ... *thin and scorched* ... *swallowed up* the *seven healthy, full heads*. ... In the morning *his mind was troubled*, so he sent for *all the magicians and wise men* ... but *no one* could *interpret* them – Genesis 41:1-9 NIV



Ever had a *nightmare so realistic*, you keep *reacting after you wake up*? Once, Shar *tore the blankets off the bed looking for the spiders!* And one *morning* she was *mad* at me, and said she was still *upset* for *how I'd treated her in a dream*. That's why I put the *spiders* in the *bed*. But **nothing's worse than when life becomes a living nightmare**. I subtitled this message: **Helping Troubled Hearts Find Hope**. But it *should've* been: **Helping Troubled Hopes Take Heart**. Because:

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart!" – John 16:33 NIV

"Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." – Matthew 14:27 ESV

"Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." – Matthew 9:2 NIV

"Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." – Matthew 9:22 ESV

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. – Psalm 31:24 NIV



Did you know **Pharaoh's wise men used a dream-decoding directory**? The 12th-Dynasty words contained in this 3,200-year-old *royal Egyptian dream book* (of Qeniherkhepshef) dates its *contents* to *Joseph's day* and *Pharaoh's dream*! It lists *scenarios* with GOOD (in *black*) or BAD (in *red*), and a *meaning*. But, **everything's based on puns and similes and word associations**. It has the style of a *fortune cookie* with the science of a *hit-or-miss horoscope*! For instance: If you have a *harp/benet* (BEN-et), something *evil/bint* (BEAN-et) will *happen*." But to an *illiterate culture*, this was *esoteric* and *abstruse* and *magical*.

We can use the dream book the same way *they* would've: "Were you *plunging* into the *river*? That's *good*." "Were you *feeding* the *cattle*? That's *bad*." "Did you *kill* a *cow*? That's *good*." **Worldly wisdom won't answer life's nightmares**. For *that* you need the *Spirit of God* and the *Word of God*. Especially in a *crisis*. I read the *decoder* and was *shocked* to find the *cupbearer's dream*, that Joseph *interpreted*! (Gen 40:11) If he'd asked the *magi* the *meaning* of **"pressing grapes into a cup"**, they would've said, **"That's bad. It's the removal of possessions."** **"Not the restoration of possessions?"** **"The opposite."** **"Huh. Joseph contradicted the manual."**

Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh ... "[When you] put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the *captain* of the [royal] guard, we dreamed ... [And] a young Hebrew ... servant of [Potiphar] ... *interpreted our dreams* ... [and he wasn't vague; he was precise and clear, and contradicted the manual] [and] so it came about. [With astonishing accuracy] I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged." Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the *pit*. – Genesis 41:9-14 ESV

All is *calm* and downright *dull* in the *cool, dark dungeon* – till Potiphar *bursts* in and *rushes* him out, and through the *streets*, and into the *palace*. Where he's *pushed* and *pulled* by *frantic groomers* and *clothiers* and *perfumers* and *decorum officials*. This is how you *enter*! This is how you *bow*! This is how you *speak*! **A despised slave is about to counsel a divine king!** How is this even *happening*?! And somebody get this guy a *royal razor*!

When he had *shaved* and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh. – Genesis 41:14 NIV

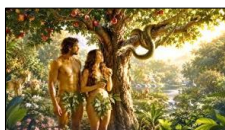


That would've been the **12th Dynasty Pharaoh, Senusret II**. And one of the reasons they *detested* Hebrews was, they were so *hairy*. Egyptian culture was crazy for *shaving*. Head to toe! Hebrews had *beards*. Egyptians had *wigs*. These **two gold-handled razors were found in Senusret II's family tomb!** And not only that, but they retrieved **the sacred serpent from the Senusret II's headdress!** The serpent was a symbol of Egypt's power and protection, and Pharaoh's sovereignty. Imagine the *thoughts racing* through Joseph's mind! "If I mention the *One True God*, I'll likely be executed. I'm not ready for this! God, give me two more years in that *safe, dull dungeon!*" Oh, but he was ready. **All that waiting wasn't wasted time, it was doing the deep work God can only do in the delays.** Joseph just wanted God to get him out of the *pit*, and out of *enslavement*, and out of the *prison*. But, **the Lord was too busy working within to let him out just then.**

You see, the *pit* stripped away his *status-symbol* as *avored son*. *Kidnapping* confronted him with the *fact* that he had *no clue* how God would *fulfill* his *dreams*. *Slavery* equipped him with an *Egyptian education* in *agriculture*, *language*, and *management*. *Overseeing* a *hostile household* helped *hone* his *diplomatic* and *social skills*. *false accusations* and *imprisonment* heightened his *sense of truth* and *justice*. And he found *purpose* in *prison* by *caring* for those *sharing* his own *suffering*. All the while, *all that waiting* was *serving* to *build relationships* between a *despised Hebrew* and *Egypt's rulers and officials*. And **he learned to put his hope and trust in the Lord alone.** Cuz, at the *end* of the *day*, every *delay* carries an *unseen* and *unheard* message: **God hasn't forgotten you, He's forming you.** For *His plan* and your *created purpose*. Even if it's to *serve out your days* in a *pit* for the *eternal best* of everyone who'll ever live. So:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me." – John 14:1 NIV

But I am afraid that, as the *serpent* deceived Eve by his *craftiness*, your *minds* will be led *astray* from the *simplicity* and *purity* of devotion to Christ. – 2 Corinthians 11:3 NAS



Wanna *hear* something *wild*? **Joseph's Bible was Genesis up to chapter 11.** Basically it was the *serpent* in the *garden*, and *Noah's Ark*. And Joseph's great-grandpa **Abraham was 58 when Noah died.** And *Lamech*, **Noah's dad was 56 when Adam died!** Think *how many times* little Joe had *heard* about *Adam* and *Eve cursing* the *world* by *cozying up* to the *serpent* – and how a *Savior* would one day *crush* its *head*. And now, Joseph is *bowing* to a *deified ruler* with a *snake* on his *head*! *This* might be the *one* he saw when he went before *Pharaoh*!

And **ol' serpent head is about to meet the Spirit of the living God.** And we know from *hindsight* that they *hit* it *off* like *gangbusters*! But little Joe's gotta be *unnerved* to *realize* he's *Pharaoh's last hope*! **He doesn't know how God's been preparing Pharaoh for this moment.** But, a *3rd Dynasty Pharaoh* famously wrote about a *legendary, 7-year-drought*, saying: "My heart was in great *affliction*. Because *Hapi* [the *river god*] had *failed* to come in ... *seven years*. And *grain* was *scant*." (Famine Stela) And just 42 years *earlier*, an *Egyptian plantation owner* *lamented* about being *unprepared* for a big *famine*. (Heqanakht Papyri) But an *Egyptian governor* *boasted* that: "No one [in *his district*] was *unhappy* [pardon the *pun*] ... in the *years of famine* ... [because] I *preserved the food*." (Tomb of Ameni)

Pharaoh 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.” [Pre-pit Joseph would’ve said: “You’re darn *tootin’!* And I *want* to. But my God is *hesitant* to *speak* while I’m *unjustly incarcerated*.” But every but-to-do-that, from the *pit* to the *prison* has *prepared* him for this *moment* with the *perfect response*] “I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but [my] God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.” [Because, what’s Pharaoh *desire*? *Truth*. And God *honors true seekers*. And truth – even *hard truth* – is the *only* thing that will *set you free* from a *troubled heart*] Then Pharaoh said ... “I was standing on the bank of the Nile, when out of the river there came up seven cows, fat and sleek [Spell #148 in the *Book of the Dead*, which reaches back to their day, hails *seven* celestial cows as providers of *food* in the *afterlife*] ... [But] After them, seven other cows came up—scrawny and very ugly and lean. [Pharaoh now *shares* his *emotional distress*, which he didn’t *dare* to *share* with his *judgy magi*] I had never seen such [horrifically] *ugly* cows in all the land of Egypt. [Seems little Joe’s *disarming demeanor* freed up Pharaoh to *speak freely*] [They] ate up the seven fat cows that came up first. [They were *canni-bulls*] ... I also saw seven heads of grain ... [blah, blah, blah (no one likes to hear dreams) and then he *confesses*] I told this to the *magicians*, but *none* could explain it to me.” [The *decoder* doesn’t contain a *single submerged cannibal cow reference*. But Joseph doesn’t *trash* Egyptian *theology*] Then Joseph said ... [safely assuming the *insanely miraculous events* that led to him *offering advice* to Pharaoh means, my] God has revealed to Pharaoh what *He* is about to do. [And since Joseph’s great-grandpa Abraham famously went to Egypt during a *big famine*, and his grandpa Isaac was famously *warned not* to go to Egypt during a *big famine*] The seven good cows ... and the seven good heads of grain are [most likely] seven years ... [and] the seven lean, ugly cows ... [and] seven worthless heads of grain ... are seven years of *famine*. ... [If so, my] God has *shown Pharaoh* ... seven years of great *abundance* are *coming* ... but seven years of *famine* will *follow* them. ... [It’s not *just* about *speaking truth*, it’s about *offering hope*. So he *proposes a solution* and *lays out a plan*] Let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and ... [and] appoint commissioners ... [to] collect all the food ... [to] be held in reserve ... [And let’s *cut to the chase*] The plan seemed good to Pharaoh ... [so he said] “I hereby put you in charge” – Genesis 41:15-41 NIV

I love so much about this *part* of the story! I love how Pharaoh *shares* his *fears* and *frustrations* and *failings* with a *despised Hebrew*. Cuz it says so much about Joseph’s *manner*. And it makes me wonder: **Does my demeanor cause those who despise my faith to open up or clam up?** Hopefully there’s such a sweet *brokenness* about us that they can’t *help* but *open up* to us. And I love how **Joseph promotes the Lord instead of himself**. Cuz it *showcases* the *transformative power* of God’s but-to-do-that’s! And I love how Joseph *doesn’t* take the *bait* to *bash* the *magi*. Because, **it’s a tempting trap to throw us off track when someone admits the failure of their false beliefs.**



So, just let ‘em know you *care*. And *humbly share*. Why *trash* anything? That’s what the *one* with the *weak argument* does. Our *attitude* should be like, “You’re eating *cold oatmeal*? Taste and see that *chicken* and *waffles* are *good!*” We *can’t* know how God has been preparing others, or what role He’ll called you to play. We can only **meet the moment by offering His hope and our help to un-trouble their hearts.** Until then:

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait – Psalm 27:14 NIV