



Stories of Great Influencers (7): Joseph

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God's Promise was Fulfilled

- God to Abraham
 - I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse, And all peoples on earth will be blessed through you (Genesis 12:1-3).
 - The personal blessing; the land promise; the national promise; the universal blessing;
- God's promise to Abraham unfolds across patriarchs.

Covenant Promise	Covenant Family	Preserve People	Covenant Nation	Land-settled Nation
Abraham to Isaac Only 1 son	Jacob 12 tribes	Joseph Migration & sojourning; 70 members	Moses 2 millions	Joshua

Joseph's Life

Beloved Son (0-17 yrs)

- Born in Haran;
- Travel to Cannan with family when 6 years;
- Sold as a slave in Egypt (17 years);

Enslaved (17-30 yrs)

- Put in prison by Potiphar;
- Interprets dreams for Pharaoh's high officials (28 years);
- Interpret dreams for Pharaoh (30 years);
- Appointed as overseer (30 years);
- Marries Aseneth (30 years);

30-39 Years

- Has two sons;
- End of 7 years of plenty (37 years);
- Family comes to buy grain (39 years);
- Family moves to Egypt (39 years);

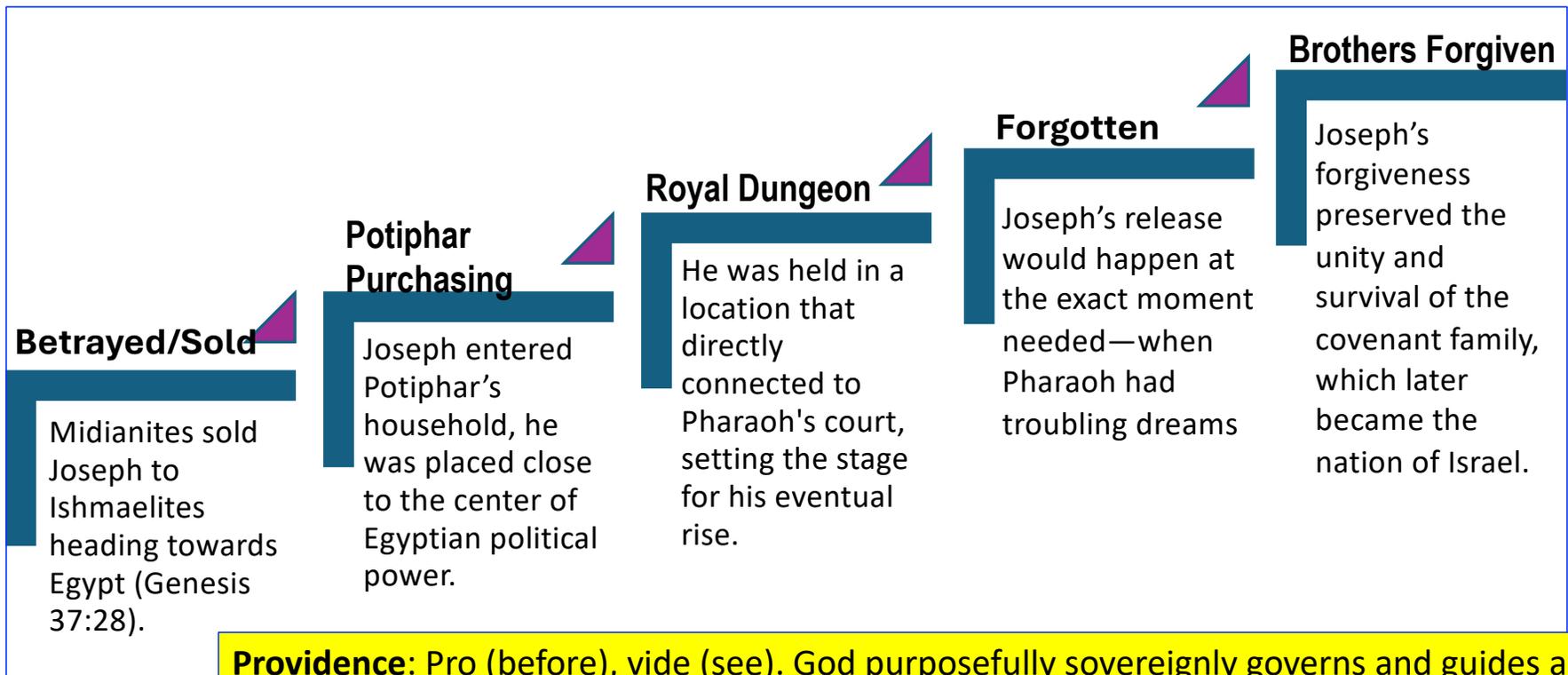
40-110 Years

- Jacob dies (56 years);
- Joseph dies (110 years);

Biblical Record of Joseph's Life

- God used Joseph to bring Israel to Egypt, where the family grew into a nation.
 - Your servants have tended livestock from our boyhood on, just as our fathers did.' Then you will be allowed to settle in the region of Goshen, for all shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians (Genesis 46:34).
 - But the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them (Exodus 1:7).
- Joseph's life is recorded to magnify the providence of God
 - It was not you who sent me here, **but God. He** made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt (Genesis 45:8).
 - You intended to harm me, but **God** intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives (Genesis 50:20).
- The confidence of faith
 - By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones (Hebrews 11:22).

His life is a Manifestation of God's Providence



Providence: Pro (before), vide (see). God purposefully sovereignly governs and guides all creation, including natural events and human history, to fulfill His eternal purposes.

Joseph the Visionary

- God revealed the future plan to Joseph
 - Listen to this dream I had: 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 (Genesis 37:6-7).
 - I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me (Genesis 37:9).
 - Here comes that dreamer (Genesis 37:19).
- What is vision and why it matters?
 - Divine revelation, God's communication, heavenly messages.
 - And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions (Joel 2:28-29).
 - Vision gives the direction for our lives; a strong unity with God.
 - It gives us hope at any circumstances. It lets us see what is unseen.

Joseph who Knows the Purpose of God

- Joseph knew God's purpose through the dreams;
- God revealed purpose progressively through events
 - In Potiphar's house, Joseph prospered because the Lord was with him (Genesis 39:2–6).
 - In prison, God was still with him and gave him favor (Genesis 39:21–23).
 - When interpreting Pharaoh's dreams, Joseph recognized God's hand on him.
- He completed God's purpose fully at the end
 - After reuniting with his brothers and seeing the survival of Israel, Joseph says: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good" (Genesis 50:20).
 - All his trials (betrayal, slavery, imprisonment) were part of God's plan: 1) preserving his family/nation; 2) saving many lives during famine.

Joseph who Waits on God Patiently

- Joseph endured long periods of suffering
 - Sold into slavery by his brothers and serve as a slave in Egypt.
 - Falsely accused and imprisoned.
 - Forgotten in prison for 2 years after helping the cupbearer (Genesis 41).
- Joseph remained faithful during waiting
 - He served faithfully in Potiphar's house.
 - He maintained integrity when tempted by Potiphar's wife.
 - He continued serving responsibly even in prison.
- Waiting prepared him for leadership
 - Joseph's years of waiting helped prepare him for the enormous responsibility of managing Egypt's food supply during famine.
 - When he became the prime minister under Pharaoh, he had already learned in administration, humility and dependence on God.

Joseph is a Strong Example of Humbleness

- Giving God credit before Pharaoh
 - Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” “I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires...” Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do (Genesis 41:15-16, 25).
 - Humility is acknowledging God as the source of his insight and power, not taking personal glory.
- Forgiving his brothers
 - “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” (Genesis 45:5).
 - “Don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them (Genesis 50:21).
 - Joseph could have sought revenge for being sold into slavery, but instead he forgave them. Humility is submitting personal hurt to God’s greater plan and putting the welfare of others above self-interest.

Joseph and Jesus

- Relationship with their father
 - Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other his sons... (Genesis 37:3).
 - This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:17).
- Hated, despised and humiliated
 - They stripped him of his robe...and they took him and threw him into the cistern (Genesis 37:23-24).
 - They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him (Matthew 27:28).
- Sold for money
 - Sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt (Genesis 27:28).
 - They counted out for him thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15).
- Resisted temptation but falsely accused
 - He left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house (Genesis 29:12).
 - We have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet he did not sin (Hebrews 4:15).
- Exemplify forgiveness
 - Do not be angry with yourselves... for God sent me ahead of you to preserve life (Genesis 45:5).
 - Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing (Luke 23:34).