

Genesis 39.1-6

God's School of Hard Knocks

“God loves you and has a Wonderful Plan for Your Life!” – Widely Spoken

Lots of People CONVINCED it is TRUE

Lots of People too Heartbroken, Sick, Hungry, Poor, Abused to BELIEVE It

One Biblical Hero who Would have AGREED – At least in his Youth - True

Study of Genesis – Return to BEST Known son of JACOB >> JOSEPH

Even those w/ Little Knowledge of Scripture often Know Joseph's LIFE

DRAMATIC TRAJECTORY Pampered Son – Pit – Prison – Pharaoh's VIZIER

## 1. Adventures of the Dreamer

### a. Boy for Blessing

#### 1) Covenant Family

God made MOST AMAZING Promise spoken by that Time to Grandfather

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 12.1-3

#### 2) Choice of his Father

The LORD said to her (Rebekah), “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.” Genesis 25.23

God SELECTED the Younger JACOB over his Twin Brother ESAU

So out of his 12 Sons, Jacob choses JOSEPH over the other 11 for the Blessing

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. Genesis 37.3

So Joseph sat in His FANCY FROCK with Feet Up on COUCH

Enjoying his PLAYSTATION on his BIG FLATSCREEN

Now Joseph had a dream, and told it to his brothers... “Hear this dream that I have dreamed: Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.”  
Genesis 37.5-7

## b. Boy for Beating

### 1) “Problem” Disappears

But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him... His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.  
Genesis 37.4,8



his brothers went to pasture their father's flock ... So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan... They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer...” ... (they) sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt. Genesis 37.12-19

Will the Lord be faithful to his promise to Joseph, this spoiled but charismatic and noble lad, utterly alone, sold as a slave in a foreign land? Bruce Waltke

Suspense BUILDS – While EXALTATION follow HUMILIATION?

### 2) Promises Declared

Joseph's World was turned UPSIDE Down – But he landed on his FEET

DREAMER landed DREAM Job – C.O.O. for One of TIGER'S of EGYPT

There – FAR from Home & Family & Promised Land – CLEAR Message

Moses, our Narrator, tells us 6 Times in 6 Verses – Emmanuel, God with him

Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. **The LORD was with Joseph**, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that **the LORD was with him** and that **the LORD caused all that he did to succeed** in his hands. So **Joseph found favor** in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. **From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had**, in house and field. So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Genesis 39.1-6

“God loves JOSEPH and has a Wonderful Plan for HIS Life!”

Still WORK in PROGRESS – More than DECADE in Prison, before PALACE

So DOES “God loves You and have a Wonderful Plan for Your Life!”??

HOW does this Story of Joseph – HELP us Answer this Important Question?

Will every Christian Travel Path from PIT to PALACE like Joseph?

From Barrios to Boardroom? – Poverty to Plenty? – Starvation to Success?

Will every True Christian that Lost Home – Storms, Fires, Floods get Upgrade?

Read BIBLE like READ a MAP



When your Boss told You,

‘you’re going to China’ > thot...WHERE?

Is that in AFRICA? Is it near NAMBIA?

Then you were SURPRISED to find it in Asia!

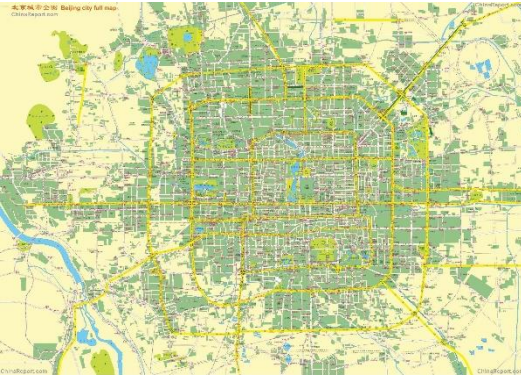


You get map of Asia and find CHINA! Wow!

Who knew PEKING is NOW BEIJING!

And that’s were you are being Sent...

To the CAPITAL City of China!!



Map of Beijing is Amazing!

CITY is bigger than your STATE!

And looks like you'll NEVER be LONELY

but HEY, where is COOLEST place in BJ

BICF ZGC...? How can I find that??



Wow! There IT is!

And HERE WE are!

From ALL Corners of the GLOBE!

COOL as CUCUMBERS!!

WHY I did I take you on this CARTOGRAPHIC FIELD TRIP?

Because the BIBLE reveals God and His Plan w/ Increasingly Clear DETAILS

REASON Why they call the New Testament NEW – Latest & Clearest

TRUE SON of Abraham NOT Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, or Judah >> JESUS!

Joseph is one of HERO'S of Genesis – Rarely MENTIONED in N.T.

Is Named on ALL-STAR Team of O.T. in Hebrews 11, Stephen in Acts 7

Jesus and Apostles NEVER recommend Joseph as Model or TYPE of Faith

Part of SUPPORTING CAST behind HEADLINE & HERO – Lord Jesus Christ

One thing TRUE Joseph & ALL God's Children: EMMANUEL God with US

RISEN Lord tells GLOBAL Church

Jesus: “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28.20

But does GOD WITH US always mean Health, Houses, and Happiness?

## 2. Advance of the Disciple

When JESUS comes GOD'S MAP is BIGGEST and CLEAREST

Look at JESUS is to Look into the FACE of God > Fully God and Man

Indeed, Jesus does BRING a WONDERFUL Plan for this Whole World

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3.17,18

Jesus: "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" John 10.10

Jesus: "And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

John 17.3

Just SOME of LOW HANGING FRUIT – Wonderful Words of JESUS

a. Downward - The Wonderful Plan of Jesus is call to DIE

Night before he is NAILED to Cross –

Tells 1<sup>st</sup> Followers Not to expect Happiness but Hatred

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

John 15.18,19

When he CALLED the CROWDS, He called them to a CROSS

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

Luke 9.23,24

When he described TRUE HAPPINESS it is PAINFUL Road to HEAVEN

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven"

Matthew 5.11,12

When Jesus calls a disciple, he calls him to come and die. Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Genesis 39.<sup>1</sup>Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. <sup>2</sup>The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup>His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. <sup>5</sup>From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. <sup>6</sup>So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

Moses intentionally uses BORING WRITING Style convey BLESSED Truth

Look at Repetition – Joseph, Joseph, Joseph...the Lord, the Lord, the Lord

God's wonderful plan for our life is not for our ease and comfort, but rather a plan for our death and resurrection – dying to sin and our old self and rising to a whole new life in him. He loves you and me too much to leave us unchanged. This process is often hard and painful, as Joseph discovered, and the pathway along which you are called to walk may be similarly confusing and disorienting. Yet, along that difficult pathway, Joseph found the Lord was with him, even when he felt most abandoned and alone.

Iain Duguid

## b. Forward

Close w/ brief look at TESTIMONY of man in PRISON

Very Familiar w/ JOSEPH Story and the JESUS Story > following in Same Path

But whatever gain I had (IMPRESSIVE RELIGIOUS CREDENTIALS), I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his

resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3.7-11

Paul's Goal and God's purpose in Life > is the **KNOW CHRIST**

Not happening thru his **RELIGION**, only by his **RELATIONSHIP** with Christ

If want to be **WITH** Jesus – you become **UNITED** to Him in **SUFFERINGS**

Verse 7: “I counted them loss for the sake of Christ.”

Verse 8a: “I count all things to be loss for the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

Verse 8b: “For him I have suffered the loss of all things.”

Verse 8c: “And I count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ . . . .”

Verse 9: “. . . and that I may be found in him [so as to have God's righteousness, not my own] . . . .”

Verse 10 “. . . that I may know him”

FOUR Specifics of what it means to know Christ -

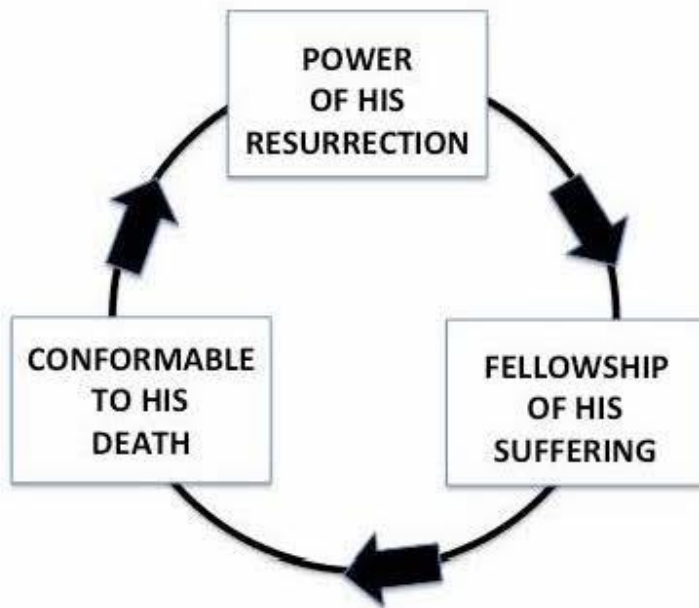
“. . . [to know] the power of his resurrection”; and

“the fellowship of his sufferings”;

“being conformed to his death”;

“in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Whatever Paul **LOSES** is More than **WORTH IT** to **GAIN CHRIST**



Just as many people find God through affliction and suffering. They find that adversity moves them toward God rather than away. Troubled times awaken them out of their haunted sleep of spiritual self-sufficiency into a serious search for the divine... When pain and suffering come upon us, we finally see not only that we are not in control of our lives but that we never were. Tim Keller

If we have never sought, we seek Thee now;  
Thine eyes burn through the dark, our only stars;  
We must have sight of thorn-pricks on Thy brow,  
We must have Thee, O Jesus of the Scars.

The heavens frighten us; they are too calm;  
In all the universe we have no place.  
Our wounds are hurting us; where is the balm?  
Lord Jesus, by Thy Scars, we claim Thy grace.

If, when the doors are shut, Thou drawest near,  
Only reveal those hands, that side of Thine;  
We know to-day what wounds are, have no fear,  
Show us Thy Scars, we know the countersign.

The other gods were strong; but Thou wast weak;  
They rode, but Thou didst stumble to a throne;  
But to our wounds only God's wounds can speak,  
And not a god has wounds, but Thou alone.

Edward Shillito, "Jesus of the Scars" 1919



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