

Genesis 47.13-27 “And the Government will be on His Shoulders”
 We’re GATHERED from Many Nations in most Populous Nation of World
 Like Wise Men who Followed Star > UNITED in Seeking & Serving JESUS
 Our Unity is PRECIOUS – We are to Make Every Effort to MAINTAIN It!

One thing that HELPS us STAY United – FOCUS on Jesus

AVOID Controversial Issues like POLITICS and ECONOMIC THEORIES
 Surely we’d NEVER talk about One NATION being SOLD into SLAVERY...

UH OH! ---- Moses must NOT have read the MEMO!

Been Following Story of our HOMEBOY Joseph

We have CHEERED as he SAVED Egypt & Middle East from STARVATION

NOW we READ Joseph SELLS EGYPT into SLAVERY!

All power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely. Lord Acton

Some Commentators compare Joseph to many of History’s BAD BOYS

When the missionaries arrived, the Africans had the land and the missionaries had the Bible. They taught us how to pray with our eyes closed. When we opened them, they had the land and we had the Bible. Jomo Kenyatta

NOW Kenyatta’s SON has ALL the LAND! ONLY God can be Fully Trusted!

1. The Worst of Times

Thank God FEW of us have ever EXPERIENCED Such DESPERATE Situation
 Far TOO MANY Dear People in MODERN World ARE in Such MISERY!!

a. Land Languished – 4000 yrs ago in MIGHTY Kingdom of EGYPT

v. 13 Moses HEAPS GRIM phrases into ONE SAD SENTENCE

v. 13 Now there was *no food in all the land*, for the *famine was very severe*, so that the land of *Egypt and the land of Canaan languished by reason of the famine*

Sometimes we DON'T LIKE Choices in BUFFET Line here in BEIJING

HERE was NO Buffet – Just LONG LINES of DESPERATE People

v. 14 And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, in exchange for the grain that they bought. And Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.

ALL of their FOOD STORES were EMPTY- Then so were BANK Accounts

v. 15 And when the money was all spent in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, “Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? For our money is gone.”



vs. 16-17 And Joseph answered, “Give your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for your livestock, if your money is gone.” So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the herds, and the donkeys. He supplied them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year.

Joseph has BIG VISION to KEEP them AND their LIVESTOCK ALIVE!

v. 20 So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for all the Egyptians sold their fields, because the famine was severe on them. The land became Pharaoh's.

Later Pharaoh's DECLARED **“I am Egypt!”** – They could THANK Joseph

v. 26 So Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt, and it stands to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth

Are these PROOF Texts for 'ISM – Communism? Socialism? Capitalism?

Blue-print for wanna-be-dictators with voracious appetites?

Historical Narrative in Scripture > DESCRIPTIVE Not PRESCRIPTIVE

Descriptive (what happened)

Prescriptive (what we must make happen everywhere, for all time)

b. Citizens Enslaved

v. 18-19 And when that year was ended, they came to him the following year and said to him, “We will not hide from my lord that our money is all spent. The herds of livestock are my lord's. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our land. Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we with our land will be servants to Pharaoh.

Some Commentators compare Joseph to many of History's BAD BOYS

ANCIENT Translation of KJV 47.21 > Made some link Joseph with POL POT

“And as for the people, he removed them to cities from one end of the borders of Egypt even to the other end thereof”
Genesis 47.21 KJV

VAST HUMAN MIGRATION Like Pol Pot forced Cambodians to Countryside

v. 21 As for the people, he made servants of them from one end of Egypt to the other.
ESV

WAS a GRIM Situation – TODAY MORE Slave than Any Time in HISTORY

GLOBAL SLAVERY FACTS

Slavery generates **\$150 billion**
for traffickers each year.

There are
tens of millions
of people in slavery today.
Researchers estimate
40 million are enslaved.

50%

of slavery
victims today
are in labor
slavery



37.5%

of slavery
victims today
are in forced
marriage
slavery



12.5%

of slavery
victims today
are in sex
slavery



25%

of slaves today
are children
under age 18



FIRST Readers of Story – JEWISH People Liberated from SLAVERY in Egypt

NOW Settling PROMISED Land – Some of their OWN BROTHERS Enslaved

Poor Harvest – Bad Management – Death in Family...

FORCED to Give LAND Away – WORK Land, Held by WEALTHY Kinsman

“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”
Leviticus 19.33,34

400 yrs BEFORE this was Written – JOSEPH was Living Out THIS TRUTH!

c. Priests Prospered

v. 22 Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had a fixed allowance from Pharaoh and lived on the allowance that Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their land.

v. 26 ...the land of the priests alone did not become Pharaoh's.

The priesthood often accumulated significant political power to itself and used its sometimes extensive economic resources to wield that power. Many pharaohs found it advantageous to curry favor with them. John H. Walton

TODAY Many PROSPERITY PREACHERS like Connected Clergy in Egypt

Bible says Preachers CAN Live Off Gospel – Some Livin’ REAL GOOD!

MOSES is Speaking to the PRIESTS of ISRAEL

“The Levitical priests, all the tribe of Levi, shall have no portion or inheritance with Israel. They shall eat the LORD's food offerings as their inheritance. They shall have no inheritance among their brothers; the LORD is their inheritance, as he promised them.”
Deuteronomy 18.1,2

Levites NOT Landowners – Needed SUPPORT of People they SERVED

Provided Check/Balance against CORRUPTION & COMPLACENCY

d. Toil for Taxes

vs. 23,24 Then Joseph said to the people, “Behold, I have this day bought you and your land for Pharaoh. Now here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land. And at the harvests you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and as food for yourselves and your households, and as food for your little ones.”

Joseph sets up SYSTEM of EQUITY and DIGNITY with OPPORTUNITY INCENTIVES to WORK – FLAT TAX – Harder they Work, MORE they EARN

The Egyptians were grateful for this agreement, for by it Joseph had preserved their lives, just as he had preserved the lives of his own family. Indeed, by ancient standards it was a modest tax rate; the average was about a third.

Iain Duguid

WRITTEN about MY COUNTRY – Probably APPLIES to YOURS too...

Our system is so riddled with hidden taxes that most of us cannot tell how much tax we are paying.

Edgar K. Browning

A lot we're NOT TOLD in Brief Verses

Joseph trying to Get Nation thru 7 yrs of FAMINE

PHARAOH used this as OPPORTUNITY to OWN the LAND FOREVER!

2. The Best of Times

a. Program of Joseph

God Carries Out HIS Plans thru PEOPLE – One of them was JOSEPH

Egyptians realized HARD TIMES required HARD SOLUTIONS > Grateful!

v. 25 And they said (*to Joseph*), “You have saved our lives; may it please my lord, we will be servants to Pharaoh.”

the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household

Acts 7.9,10

GOD Appointed JOSEPH for “a time such as this”...

Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it...” Joseph answered Pharaoh, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer..... God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt, but after them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt. The famine will consume the land, and the plenty will be unknown in the land by reason of the famine that will follow, for it will be very severe.
Genesis 41.15-31

Then Joseph SHIFTS from INTERPRETATION to APPLICATION

Since this is GONNA HAPPEN here’s what you NEED TO DO about it!

Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt...so that the land may not perish through the famine.” Genesis 41.33,36

This GOD-FEARING Hebrew wins TRUST and FAVOR of the PHARAOH

This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?” Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you.”
Genesis 41.37-40

Christians must pioneer change and show themselves to be good planners who are able to take care of their personal and public responsibilities and meet present and future needs of their families and of society. Samuel Ngewa

Joseph used his POSITION for BENEFIT of the PEOPLE

I lived Nation Central Asia where Gov’t says “*Oil Fields belong to President!*”

Joseph remained CLEAN and COMMITTED to God & WELFARE of PEOPLE

Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured...all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.

Genesis 41.49,57

Joseph > Foresight: Food in Egypt / Wisdom: Ensured Needy People ATE IT

b. Promise to Abraham

DETAILS of Egyptian History NOT Main Focus of BIBLE

If was History of EGYPT we'd know WHO was Pharaoh Joseph Served – Don't!

We DO know that GOD Saved Egypt to SAVE His People

The LORD said to Abram, "...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
Genesis 12.3

PROMISE of Blessing Nations > CENTRAL HOPE of the Story of Bible

God REPEATS the PROMISE to ABE'S Grandson JACOB

"I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac... Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed." Genesis 28.13,14

STARVATION in Canaan puts PROMISE in JEOPARDY

MAIN Reason for this Text > CONTRAST > God's Blessing on ISRAEL

AFFLICTION on Egypt was time of AFFLUENCE for ISRAEL

v. 27 Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen. And they gained possessions in it, and were fruitful and multiplied greatly.

FIRST Time in Bible word ISRAEL used to Describe NATION

For the Israelites of Moses' day, it must have seemed strange to remember a time when they were the prosperous class in Egypt and the Egyptians were in bondage, rather than vice versa.
Iain Duguid

God used JOSEPH to SAVE ISRAEL and EGYPT...

Joseph said to them (*his brothers*), "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about *that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.*" Genesis 50.19,20

c. Purpose of the Church

Our PROMISE KEEPING SOVEREIGN God – Turns...

Worst of Times to Best of Times for the PEOPLE of HIS COVENANT

If you were entrusted with arranging the circumstances under which the people of God could be “fruitful and increase in number”... You certainly would not choose Egypt; it was the most pagan, spiritually debased area of the ancient world.

James Boice

The YEARS in EGYPT were times of ADVERSITY AND Great GROWTH

FAMILY Lived 3 Generations in CANAAN, ONLY 70 people over 200 yrs!

All the persons of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were seventy.

Genesis 46.27

After 400 DIFFICULT Years in Egypt > More than 2 Million ISRAELITES

GOD Not only has PROMISES for Israel IN Egypt, he has Promises FOR Egypt

In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD at its border. It will be a sign and a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt. When they cry to the LORD because of oppressors, he will send them a savior and defender, and deliver them. And the LORD will make himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day and worship with sacrifice and offering, and they will make vows to the LORD and perform them. And the LORD will strike Egypt, striking and healing, and they will return to the LORD, and he will listen to their pleas for mercy and heal them. In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, “Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance.”

Isaiah 19.19-25

THAT DAY of Isaiah's PROPHECY is NOW in JESUS CHRIST

APOSTLE PETER preached PROMISE of God on Pentecost in Jerusalem

And DR. LUKE tells us there were EGYPTIANS who Received the SPIRIT

...we hear, each of us in his own native language?... *from* Egypt... we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." Acts 2.8-12

ALL this Happened because TODDLER Jesus went on Mission Trip to EGYPT

"Out of Egypt I called my son." Matthew 2.15

God turns PLACE of HOSTILITY to HOMELAND for His SON our SAVIOR

TODAY'S GLIMPSE of Work of Joseph, Pharaoh's Admin > Advent PROMISE

Jesus will DO SOMETHING None of our Pres., Kings, Parliaments CAN DO

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9.6,7

Just WHAT Government is ON His Shoulders – Mine, Yours, Africa, Asia, UN?

He is WORKING thru all the CRAZIES that Run our COUNTRIES

Helping Not Destroy WORLD before He Finishes GATHERING His ELECT

The HELPLESS, BLOODIED, BEATEN Man before Pilate Not look KINGLY

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." John 18.36

WORLD tried to KILL Him – 3 days later ROSE in POWER and GLORY

REIGNS over World from Right Hand of God – King of Kings, Lord of Lords

The GOVERNMENT Jesus came to SHOULDER was His CHURCH

Oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him - endless energy, boundless strength! All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but forever. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church.

The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence. Ephesians 1.19-23 The Message

The CHURCH – every Tribe, Tongue, People, Language – that Love Jesus Christ

That is the CENTER of God's Plan – The PEOPLE given to HIS Son

The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world;

the world is peripheral to the church.

through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places Ephesians 3.10

ANGELS Not watching UN General Assembly, White House, Blue House, 10 Downing, Kremlin, Great Hall of the People, Not REAL Places of POWER

ANGELS Watching the Church – Redeemed are THEATER of God's MERCIES
GLORIFY God who Continues to FORGIVE and BLESS his FEEBLE Church

WORST of TIMES often USED by God to bring us to BEST OF TIMES

LOOK at the CROSS – PLACE we were SAVED, Place being SANCTIFIED

Of Course OUR Preference would be EASY LIFE – At Least MY Preference

But if GOD is going to GROW you, He will PRUNE you...

Jesus: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” John 15.1,2

An American Student came to visit Jonathan Chao in Hong Kong early 1980’s
 “If God loves the Chinese church, why did he allow them to suffer so much?”

Relatively Peaceful Years – 19th Century and first Half of 20th Century

Jonathan CHAO est. Growth of Chinese Church – 840,000

After DECADES of PERSECUTION Against Church in China...

“In my opinion, the church in China is growing by leaps and bounds because it has suffered for Christ’s sake and has learned that suffering is central to Christian maturity and church growth.” Jonathan Chao, 1984

After Traveling with Chao into China – Meeting Amazing Chinese Believers...

Student was Asking a DIFFERENT Question...

“If God loves the American church, why hasn’t he allowed them to suffer so their faith would be strengthened, their lives purged, and their relationship with Jesus deepened to serve him wholeheartedly?”

Christian FAITH Thrives in HARDSHIP – Paul embraced Thorn in Flesh...

He (*God*) 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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Corinthians 12.9

The WORST of Times and the BEST of Times

Genesis 47¹³Now there was no food in all the land, for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished by reason of the famine. ¹⁴And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, in exchange for the grain that they bought. And Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁵And when the money was all spent in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? For our money is gone." ¹⁶And Joseph answered, "Give your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for your livestock, if your money is gone." ¹⁷So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the herds, and the donkeys. He supplied them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year. ¹⁸And when that year was ended, they came to him the following year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is all spent. The herds of livestock are my lord's. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our land. ¹⁹Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we with our land will be servants to Pharaoh. And give us seed that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate." ²⁰So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for all the Egyptians sold their fields, because the famine was severe on them. The land became Pharaoh's. ²¹As for the people, he made servants of them from one end of Egypt to the other. ²²Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had a fixed allowance from Pharaoh and lived on the allowance that Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their land. ²³Then Joseph said to the people, "Behold, I have this day bought you and your land for Pharaoh. Now here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land. ²⁴And at the harvests you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and as food for yourselves and your households, and as food for your little ones." ²⁵And they said, "You have saved our lives; may it please my lord, we will be servants to Pharaoh." ²⁶So Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt, and it stands to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth; the land of the priests alone did not become Pharaoh's. ²⁷Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen. And they gained possessions in it, and were fruitful and multiplied greatly.