



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Genesis 37:1-40:23
- Matthew 7:7-11
- John 15:18-20
- Romans 8:28-39

## HOW DO YOU EAT AN ELEPHANT?

- Dreams and Promises
- It's Not Looking Good
- Delay not Denial

*Do you ever feel discouraged? Of course you do. How often is it because you are certain that God has made certain promises to you, and yet there is one disappointment after another? The twists and turns of the unexpected can get pretty exhausting, don't you agree?*

*I'll let you in on a little secret, one hiding in plain sight. Yahweh's delay is not Yahweh's denial. The Scriptures are filled with God's promises and we could fill a book with how many times the journey towards those promises goes sideways. Wait a minute, we already have the book that is filled with those stories.*

*But seriously, you could probably fill a book with your own stories. And what I want to share with you today is how to be encouraged, even in the midst of what seems like a complete denial*

*of God's promises. Just think about Joseph; he had a few really incredible prophetic dreams in which he was promised a powerful role in leadership, however, on his journey he was stripped naked, sold into slavery, accused of rape, thrown into prison, and seemingly forgotten. And consider Tamar, Judah's daughter-in-law, as she was promised three successive husbands from the sons of Judah, yet she remained childless.*

*Well, Joseph ultimately landed in command of the most powerful nation in the world, and Tamar gave birth to a son from whose line came the Messiah. No, God's delays are definitely not His denial. They are just part of a much bigger plan. Think of it this way: How do you eat an elephant? Answer: One bite at a time!*

## **THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE**

**Consider Joseph:** "So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and **indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.**" And his brothers said to him, "**Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?**" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, **the sun, the moon, and the eleven**

**stars bowed down to me.**" So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? **Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"**"

Genesis 37:6-10 NKJV

"Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the **land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him** with their faces to the earth." (Genesis 42:6 NKJV)... "Then he said, "Swear to me." And he swore to him. **So Israel bowed himself** on the head of the bed." Genesis 47:31 NKJV

**Consider Tamar:** "Then **Judah took a wife** for **Er** his firstborn, and her name was Tamar." (Genesis 38:6 NKJV)... "And Judah said to **Onan**, "**Go in to your brother's wife** and marry her, and **raise up an heir** to your brother."" (Genesis 38:8 NKJV)... "Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "**Remain a widow in your father's house till my son Shelah is grown.**" For he said, "Lest he also die like his brothers." And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house." (Genesis 38:11 NKJV)... "Then it happened, as he drew back his hand, that his brother came out unexpectedly; and she said, "How did you break through? This breach be upon you!" **Therefore his name was called Perez.**" Genesis 38:29 NKJV

## **OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE**

**Consider Joseph:** “Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I hope in Him!” **The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him.**” Lamentations 3:22-25 NKJV

**Consider Tamar:** “**You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;** You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, **To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent.** O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever.” Psalms 30:11-12 NKJV

“The book of **the genealogy of Jesus Christ**, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. **Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar**, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.” (Matthew 1:1-3 NKJV) “**For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah**, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.” Hebrews 7:14 NKJV

**Consider all of us!** “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**”” John 16:33 NKJV

# Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. If you consider the key figures throughout the entirety of Scripture, and search for those who have the most content in which their lives are the center of attention, who comes to mind? Well of course Y'shua would be number one, and no doubt there is Abraham and Moses. And David is a central character with much content focusing on him and his son Solomon. Also, you can argue that three quarters of the book of Acts has Paul at the center of the action. And there are prophets who penned long books, but those were more about the prophecy than the prophet. And then there's Joseph. He has thirteen chapters in Genesis, more than one quarter of the first book the Bible, in which the events of his life are center stage. That says something! We can easily agree that, of the half dozen or so most prominent figures in the Bible, Joseph is one of them.
2. We begin now with the area of Scripture that just might be the deepest and richest prophetic soil in the entire bible—the narratives about the life of Joseph. Four portions starting today and until the end of Genesis have Joseph as the focal point.

- a) This portion follows Joseph from Canaan to Egypt to prison. In addition, this week's reading contains the story of Judah and Tamar.
- b) We start out and see that Joseph brings his father a bad report about his brothers while they were tending the flocks.
- c) We learn that Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age through his favorite wife and true love Rachel.
- d) Jacob gives Joseph a special robe and when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

### **Genesis 37**

- 3. Joseph has two dreams that make his brothers hate him even more: *“Your sheaves of corn gathered round mine and bowed down to mine; and the sun and moon and eleven stars bowed down to me.”*
- 4. Even Jacob questioned him about the dreams, *“Will your mother and I bow down to you?”* Of course, in the end, this all happens just as in the dreams.
- 5. Joseph is then sent to check on his brothers pasturing the flock in Shechem?
- 6. His brothers plot to kill him; *“Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, ‘Some wild*

*beast has devoured him.’ We shall see what will become of his dreams!”” Genesis 37:20 NKJV*

7. Reuben convinces them to not take his life but, instead, recommends they throw him into this cistern so he can rescue him later and take him back to his father.
8. In a compromise, they sell him to the **Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver**, who then take him to Egypt.
  - a) **Memory Lane:** Ishmael was the one jilted by Jacob’s father Isaac, and Jacob jilted his own brother Esau, and Esau ultimately married one of Ishmael’s daughters, so the line of Ishmael has in it both Ishmael and Esau, the two brothers jilted by the Isaac—Jacob—Joseph line!
  - b) Besides Ishmael being Esau’s uncle, he also becomes his father-in-law! Remember, back in Genesis 28, Esau saw that his father Isaac considered Canaanite women unacceptable. So, he takes two more wives, one of them the daughter of Abraham’s oldest son Ishmael, the one “supplanted” by Isaac! Remember, Ishmael is Isaac’s half brother, therefore Esau’s uncle. Both Jacob and Esau marry their first cousins. Jacob ultimately marries his Mother’s brother’s (Laban’s) daughters (Leah and Rachel) and Esau marries his father’s brother’s (Ishmael’s) daughter (**Mahalath**)! “*So Esau went to*

*Ishmael and took **Mahalath** the daughter of Ishmael, sister of Nebajoth...*” Genesis 28:9

- c) Chapter 36 recounts the entire family line of Esau and his sons. We see that Esau took wives in Canaan and his five sons were born in Canaan: Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah. These five sons became the “Chiefs of Edom” in Mt. Seir. Esau is synonymous with Edom as Esau is the father of the Edomites. **Note:** Reuel was Ishmael’s grandson born to his daughter Basemath—“and **Basemath**, *Ishmael’s daughter, sister of Nebajoth.*” Genesis 36:3
- d) **Scholarly question:** are Mahalath and Basemath the same women? Most scholars believe they are one and the same as chapter 36 also mentions Esau’s other wives by different names than those of chapters 26 and 28. They are possibly “renamed” as descriptive of the chief character traits they display, a common occurrence in Scripture. The debate does however go on, did Esau have 3 or 6 wives? Some scholars believe they are two separate women, as both Jacob and Esau both marry their first cousins. Jacob married two cousins, his Mother’s brother’s (Laban’s) daughters (Leah and Rachel), so maybe so did Esau. Just food for thought.



9. Joseph's brothers take his fancy robe and put goat blood on it to show Jacob, so they can convince him Joseph was killed by a wild animal.
10. Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

### **Genesis 38**

11. It's time to shift gears—all eyes on Judah
12. Judah leaves his brothers, meets the daughter of a Canaanite man, marries her and has a son, Er.
13. Er, his firstborn, eventually marries Tamar.
14. But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the LORD's sight; so the LORD puts him to death.
15. Judah tells his second born Onan to sleep with his brother's wife and fulfill your duty to her as a brother-in-law to raise up offspring for your brother. [See the Law of the Levirate marriage—Deut. 25:5-10, also see the question posed to Y'shua in Matthew 22:23-33; (28) "Whose wife of the seven will she be?"]
16. But Onan knew that the child would not be his; so whenever he slept with his brother's wife, he **spilled his semen** on the ground to avoid providing offspring for his brother.
17. What he did was wicked in the LORD's sight; so the LORD put him to death also.

18. So Er, the firstborn is dead, and now Onan the second born is dead—Move on to Shelah, the third son!
19. But the third son is too young, so Judah tells Tamar to wait until **Shelah** grows up... But he REALLY does not want to give his third son for fear he will die too, just like his brothers.
20. So Tamar goes to live in her father's household.
21. And when Shelah was grown and still not given to her...she plots a way to have children!
22. This is what she does after Judah's wife dies (her ex-mother in law)—What Drama!
23. After Judah had recovered from his grief, he goes to Timnah on sheep-shearing business. Tamar hears he is coming so she disguises herself as a prostitute and positions herself so he would encounter her on the way.
24. She was not happy that Shelah had now grown up, yet she had not been given to him as his wife.
25. Judah fornicates with her and in exchange he promises to send her a goat. Tamar requests his **seal and its cord, and his staff to can hold in her possession as a guarantee of payment.**
26. Judah sends the goat when he gets back home, so he can have his pledge returned from the woman, and finds there hasn't been any shrine-prostitutes in the area.

27. Judah decides to let her, whoever she was, keep what she has and forget the whole thing, so he does not get exposed.
28. About three months later Judah was told, 'Your daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of prostitution, and as a result she is now pregnant.' Judah says to, 'Bring her out and let her be burned to death!'
29. As she was being brought out, she sends a message to her father-in-law. 'I am pregnant by the man who owns these (and she shows the **seal and cord and staff**). He did not sleep with her again. **MIND YOU, Y'SHUA COMES FROM THE LINE OF JUDAH!**
30. Twins are born as a result (like Jacob and Esau), and there is BIRTH CONTROVERSY. Zerah sticks his hand out first and is "tagged" with a scarlet thread, but then he draws back and Perez come out first!

### **Genesis 39**

31. Back to Joseph as our focus
32. Yahweh was with Joseph in EVERYTHING and he prospered.
33. Potiphar saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.
34. Joseph found favor and was made overseer of Potiphar's house, and all that he had he put under his authority.

a) *“So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field.”* Genesis 39:4-5 NKJV

b) **\*NOTICE THIS WAS JUST LIKE JACOB AND LABAN:**

*“Laban said to him, “Do me this favor. I’ve discovered by a divine sign that the LORD has blessed me because of you,”*  
Genesis 30:27

35. **STAYING RIGHTEOUS!** Potiphar’s wife attempts to seduce Joseph multiple times and he refuses to participate. He realizes what favor he has and resists, over and over again, to violate his master’s trust **nor to sin against Yahweh.**

36. Joseph is falsely accused and imprisoned, but again Yahweh prospers him and Joseph finds great favor with the warden.

a) *“But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph’s hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph’s authority, because the*

*LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.” Genesis 39:21-23 NKJV*

## **Genesis 40**

37. The dreams of Genesis 40 set the stage for Joseph’s great prophetic call later on! Let’s call these dreams his “second set of dreams encounter.” Overall, there are three critical dream narratives within in Joseph’s life, two in this portion, and one in the next.
- a) 1ST (The two dreams in chapter 37 showing all members of Joseph’s family bowing down to him—sheaves of grain and the sun, moon and stars.)
  - b) 2nd (The two dreams, one of the baker, one of the cupbearer, here in chapter 40.)
  - c) 3rd (The 2 dreams that tortured Pharaoh in Chapter 41)
38. Pharaoh’s chief cupbearer [wine] and chief baker [bread] are sentenced to **the same prison** with Joseph and they are assigned to Joseph who is IN CHARGE!
39. The two men have dreams the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own [opposite meanings].
40. Joseph notices their disturbed countenance the next morning and their anxiety, as they have no one to interpret their dreams.

In steps Joseph *“Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams.”*

- a) *“And Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and saw that they were sad. So he asked Pharaoh’s officers who were with him in the custody of his lord’s house, saying, “Why do you look so sad today?” And they said to him, “We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it.” So Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please.””* Genesis 40:6-8 NKJV

### **Interpretation**

41. The chief cupbearer’s dream means that within three days Pharaoh will **lift up his head** and restore him to his position.

- a) **KEY FAITH GLITCH: Joseph attempts to do something HIMSELF to get released!** *“But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house. For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon.”* Genesis 40:14-15 NKJV

42. The chief baker’s dream means that within three days Pharaoh will **lift off his head** and impale his body on a pole. And the birds will eat away his flesh.

43. Three days later was **Pharaoh's birthday** [Reminds me of the tradition to release a prisoner on a leader's birthday like the offer to release either Yahshua or Barabbas.]
44. The **chief cupbearer** is restored to his position, and **the chief baker is impaled** just as Joseph said to them in his interpretation.
45. *"Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him."*  
Genesis 40:23 NKJV
46. Past year's teachings on this portion: [Influencing Atmospheres](#) & [Between Two Verses: Prepped for Power](#)

## DREAMS AND PROMISES

### 1. A Whole Bunch of Promises

#### A. Promises to Joseph

(1) Here's a fancy robe because you are my favorite! And by the way, its bright colors will put a target on your back!

(a) "Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. **Also he made him a tunic of many colors.**" Genesis 37:3 NKJV

1. "But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, **they hated him** and could not speak peaceably to him." Genesis 37:4 NKJV

(2) Joseph dreams of rising to great prominence. It wonderful, except it makes him despised all the more!

(a) "Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, **my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.**"” Genesis 37:5-7 NKJV

1. "And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" **So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.**" Genesis 37:8 NKJV

(3) If one vision was not enough, Joseph has a 2nd dream confirming his rise to great power. Even his father, who is biased for him, has concerns about Joseph’s calling!

(a) "Then he dreamed still **another dream** and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. **And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.**"” Genesis 37:9 NKJV

1. "So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and



I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" **And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.**" Genesis 37:10-11 NKJV

## **B. Promises to Tamar**

- (1) Judah to Tamar: "Take my first son." (But that goes sideways)
  - (a) "Then Judah took a wife for **Er** his firstborn, and her name was Tamar." Genesis 38:6 NKJV
- (2) Judah to Tamar: "Take my second son." (But that goes sideways)
  - (a) "And Judah said to **Onan**, "Go in to your brother's wife and marry her, and raise up an heir to your brother."" Genesis 38:8 NKJV
  - (b) See The Law of the Hebrew Servant in "[Bondage and Bondservants](#)" for details about the command for a brother to step in and give his deceased brother an heir.
- (3) Judah to Tamar: "Eventually, take my third son." (But in this case he doesn't even mean it, and this too goes sideways)
  - (a) "Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house till my son **Shelah** is grown." For he said, "Lest he also die like his brothers."

And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house."

Genesis 38:11 NKJV

### C. Promises to Israel

(1) I will give you a massive land flowing with milk and honey!

(a) "And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. **So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey,** to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."" Exodus 3:7-10 NKJV

(2) I will give you complete favor in the sight of the Egyptians. It's all good; my man Moses has a lot of clout!

(a) "Speak now in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbor and every woman from her

neighbor, articles of silver and articles of gold.” **And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt,** in the sight of Pharaoh’s servants and in the sight of the people.” Exodus 11:2-3 NKJV

(3) Bonus—Think about Abraham

- (a) He was promised to be the father of nations with descendants as numerous as the stars of the heavens and the sands of the seashore and then what happened? NOTHING! Well except for his wife Sarah’s intervention that gave him a son (Ishmael) from another woman (Hagar) midway through the “delay.” That turned into a complicated mess! But he did finally receive the promise—25 years later! (See Genesis 12-22)

Remember: Yahweh’s delay is NOT Yahweh’s denial!

#### **D. Promises to You (just a small sample)**

(1) Ask, Seek, Knock: everyone who asks receives. Really?

How’s that working for you?

- (a) “**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. **For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.** Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him

a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" Matthew 7:7-11 NKJV

(2) Seriously, every good gift He has promised will be yours.

God does not change His mind! Really!

(a) "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, **with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.**" James 1:17 NKJV

(3) Really, you have at your disposal everything you need that pertains to life and godliness!

(a) "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has **given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,** through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." II Peter 1:2-4 NKJV

## Summary: DREAMS AND PROMISES

### 1. A Whole Bunch of Promises

#### A. Promises to Joseph

- (1) Here's a fancy robe because you are my favorite! And by the way, its bright colors will put a target on your back!
- (2) Joseph dreams of rising to great prominence. It wonderful, except it makes him despised all the more!
- (3) If one vision was not enough, Joseph has a 2nd dream confirming his rise to great power. Even his father, who is biased for him, has concerns about Joseph's calling!

#### B. Promises to Tamar

- (1) Judah to Tamar: "Take my first son." (But that goes sideways)
- (2) Judah to Tamar: "Take my second son." (But that goes sideways)
- (3) Judah to Tamar: "Eventually, take my third son." (But in this case he doesn't even mean it, and this too goes sideways)

#### C. Promises to Israel

- (1) I will give you a massive land flowing with milk and honey!
- (2) I will give you complete favor in the sight of the Egyptians. It's all good; my man Moses has a lot of clout!

- (3) Bonus—Think about Abraham: He was promised to be the father of nations with descendants as numerous as the stars of the heavens and the sands of the seashore and then what happened? NOTHING! Well except for his wife Sarah’s intervention that gave him a son (Ishmael) from another woman (Hagar) midway through the “delay.” That turned into a complicated mess! But he did finally receive the promise—25 years later! (See Genesis 12-22)

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- (1) Ask, Seek, Knock: everyone who asks receives. Really? How’s that working for you?
- (2) Seriously, every good gift He has promised will be yours. God does not change His mind! Really!
- (3) Really, you have at your disposal everything you need that pertains to life and godliness!

IT’S NOT LOOKING GOOD

**2. A Whole Bunch of Misfortune**

**A. Stripped Naked, Sold into Slavery, Accused of Rape, Thrown into Prison, and Seemingly Forgotten**

- (1) Stripped Naked: that colorful robe you got, the one that drew attention to you, yeah, that’s coming off!

(a) “So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they **stripped Joseph of his tunic**, the tunic of many colors that was on him. Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.” Genesis 37:23-24 NKJV

1. **Not an accident— Conspiring against God’s favor.**

**And what was it that made Joseph’s brothers so angry that they wanted to KILL HIM? It was those darn dreams! Yes, the same glorious prophetic dreams that had in them all those amazing promises to Joseph:** “Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, **they conspired against him to kill him.** Then they said to one another, “**Look, this dreamer is coming!** Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, ‘Some wild beast has devoured him.’ We shall see what will become of his dreams!”” Genesis 37:18-20 NKJV

a) **Comfort time out—don’t worry about it when it looks totally bleak and everything you are sure your were promised by God looks as far away as east is from west:** ““And I say to you, My friends, **do not be afraid of those who kill the body,** and

after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!” Luke 12:4-5 NKJV

(2) Sold into Slavery: It’s going from bad to worse. Those dreams of greatness just took a nosedive as Joseph not only has no place of leadership, he’s now a slave in Egypt! How ironic, as it was from Egypt that Israel was delivered!

(a) “And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt. So Judah said to his brothers, **“What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites,** and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh.” And his brothers listened. Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, **and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.”** Genesis 37:25-28 NKJV

1. **False Evidence (You are dead but you are really alive)—and to make sure no one “goes-a looken” for**



**you, there is an elaborate scheme against you that insures everyone thinks you're dead!** "So they took Joseph's tunic, **killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood.** Then they sent the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. **Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?"** And he recognized it and said, "**It is my son's tunic.** A wild beast has devoured him. **Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces.**"

Genesis 37:31-33 NKJV

(b) **Off to the new boss:** "Now the Midianites had **sold him in Egypt to Potiphar,** an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard." Genesis 37:36 NKJV

1. **Just when things seem so bleak, so hopeless, Yahweh gives us reminder of His promises. Joseph finds compete favor in Potiphar's house and is put in charge:** "Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. **The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man;** and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord

made all he did to prosper in his hand. **So Joseph found favor in his sight**, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. So it was, from the time that he had **made him overseer of his house** and all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had in the house and in the field. **Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand**, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance." Genesis 39:1-6 NKJV

- (3) Things are going so good, and again there is so much attention on you, that you have a target on your back. Joseph is falsely accused of raping Potiphar's wife. He seems to do everything right, denying the temptation, even running from it, but in the end he is "found guilty." So much for the promise of greatness.
- (a) "And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my

hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. **How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?**” Genesis 39:7-9 NKJV

(b) “So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her. But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, that **she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.**” Genesis 39:10-12 NKJV

(c) “And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside, that she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, **“See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us.** He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside.” So she kept his garment with her until his master came home. Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, “The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me; so

it happened, as **I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside.**”” Genesis 39:13-18 NKJV

(4) Thrown into Prison: you are guilty as charged; I don't even want to hear what you have to say in your own defense.

(a) “So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, “Your servant did to me after this manner,” that his anger was aroused. **Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison,** a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.” Genesis 39:19-20 NKJV

1. **And again, when things are at rock bottom, God inserts a glimmer of hope, as Joseph finds favor in prison and is put in charge. Maybe God's promises are real!** “But **the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.** And **the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners** who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.” Genesis 39:21-23 NKJV

(5) Seemingly Forgotten: And through a whole series of events that seemingly favor Joseph, he ultimately ends up feeling forgotten and despaired.

(a) Joseph interprets the chief baker's and chief butler's Dreams and they both come to pass, but...

1. "Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him." Genesis 40:23 NKJV

(b) See all that happened between these two verses

(Genesis 40:23 and Genesis 41:1): [Between Two Verses: Prepped for Power](#)

## **B. Back to Tamar—Still without a Son**

(1) Husband #1—Dies because he is wicked!

(a) "Then Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar." Genesis 38:6 NKJV

1. "But Er, Judah's firstborn, **was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord killed him.**" Genesis 38:7 NKJV

(2) Husband #2—dies because he is disobedient!

(a) "And Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and marry her, and raise up an heir to your brother."" Genesis 38:8 NKJV

1. "But Onan knew that the heir would not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in to his brother's

wife, that he emitted on the ground, lest he should give an heir to his brother. **And the thing which he did displeased the Lord; therefore He killed him also.**" Genesis 38:9-10 NKJV

(3) Husband #3—Judah lies to Tamar as he has no intention of ever giving over his third son!

(a) "Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house **till my son Shelah is grown.**" For he said, "**Lest he also die like his brothers.**" And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house."

Genesis 38:11 NKJV

1. **Tamar takes things into her own hands!** "Now in the process of time the daughter of Shua, Judah's wife, died; and Judah was comforted, and went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. And it was told Tamar, saying, "Look, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep." So she took off her widow's garments, covered herself with a veil and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place which was on the way to Timnah; **for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given to him as a wife.**" Genesis 38:12-14 NKJV

### C. Backed Up against the Sea

- (1) We were promised deliverance. We came out into freedom. All for what? So we can die with our backs up against the sea!
- (a) “Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; **you shall camp before it by the sea.** For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘**They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.**’ Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord.” And they did so. Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, “**Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?**” So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and **he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out**

**with boldness.** So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon. And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. **So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. Then they said to Moses, “Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness?** Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.”” Exodus 14:1-12 NKJV

- (2) How did they even get backed up in such a bad spot? God sent them that way—ON PURPOSE! Wait a minute, first God makes amazing promises, then He seems to deliver on those promises, and then He orchestrates some bizarre circumstance that apparently ruins those promises!
  - (a) “Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that **God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near;** for God said,



“Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.” **So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea.** And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.” Exodus 13:17-18 NKJV

#### **D. Why Have You Forsaken Me?**

- (1) Even our blessed Savior seemed to be forsaken!
  - (a) “Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “**My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**”” Mark 15:33-34 NKJV
- (2) If it was good enough for Him, it’s good enough for you! If they hated Him they will hate you. If they persecuted Him, they will persecute you!
  - (a) “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. “**Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.** And then many will be

offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another." Matthew 24:7-10 NKJV

- (b) **“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ **If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.** If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.” John 15:18-20 NKJV

(3) Tribulation is a guarantee; but also is the victory!

- (a) “And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, **“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”**” Acts 14:21-22 NKJV
- (b) “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**” John 16:33 NKJV

## Summary: IT'S NOT LOOKING GOOD

### 2. A Whole Bunch of Misfortune

#### A. Stripped Naked, Sold into Slavery, Accused of Rape, Thrown into Prison, and Seemingly Forgotten

- (1) Stripped Naked: that colorful robe you got, the one that drew attention to you, yeah, that's coming off!
- (2) Not an accident— Conspiring against God's favor. And what was it that made Joseph's brothers so angry that they wanted to KILL HIM? It was those darn dreams! Yes, the same glorious prophetic dreams that had in them all those amazing promises to Joseph.
- (3) Comfort time out—don't worry about it when it looks totally bleak and everything you are sure your were promised by God looks as far away as east is from west.
- (4) Sold into Slavey: It's going from bad to worse. Those dreams of greatness just took a nosedive as Joseph not only has no place of leadership, he's now a slave in Egypt! How ironic, as it was from Egypt that Israel was delivered!
- (5) False Evidence (You are dead but you are really alive)— and to make sure no one "goes-a looken" for you, there is an elaborate scheme against you that insures everyone thinks you're dead!
- (6) Off to the new boss: Joseph is sold in Egypt to Potiphar.

- (7) Just when things seem so bleak, so hopeless, Yahweh gives us reminder of His promises. Joseph finds complete favor in Potiphar's house and is put in charge.
- (8) Things are going so good, and again there is so much attention on you, that you have a target on your back. Joseph is falsely accused of raping Potiphar's wife. He seems to do everything right, denying the temptation, even running from it, but in the end he is "found guilty." So much for the promise of greatness.
- (9) Thrown into Prison: you are guilty as charged; I don't even want to hear what you have to say in your own defense.
- (10) And again, when things are at rock bottom, God inserts a glimmer of hope, as Joseph finds favor in prison and is put in charge. Maybe God's promises are real!
- (11) Seemingly Forgotten: And through a whole series of events that seemingly favor Joseph, he ultimately ends up feeling forgotten and despaired.
- (12) Joseph interprets the chief baker's and chief butler's Dreams and they both come to pass, but...Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph.
- (13) See all that happened between these two verses (Genesis 40:23 and Genesis 41:1): [Between Two Verses: Prepped for Power](#)

DELAY NOT DENIAL

### 3. The Final Outcome

#### A. Joseph's Power

(1) **Step ONE:** Joseph is finally remembered—the time has come; the suffering is over; Joseph is about to be called out of his training and into his destiny.

(a) “Then the chief butler spoke to Pharaoh, saying: “**I remember my faults this day.** When Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, both me and the chief baker, we each had a dream in one night, he and I. Each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his own dream. Now there was a young Hebrew man with us there, a servant of the captain of the guard. And we told him, and he interpreted our dreams for us; to each man he interpreted according to his own dream. And it came to pass, just as he interpreted for us, so it happened. He restored me to my office, and he hanged him.”” Genesis 41:9-13 NKJV

(2) **Step TWO:** Come out of the dungeon and change your clothes! It's time to reclaim your true identity.

(a) “Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they **brought him quickly out of the dungeon;** and he

shaved, **changed his clothing**, and came to Pharaoh.”

Genesis 41:14 NKJV

(3) **Step THREE:** It’s time to rise to power!

(a) “So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?” Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, **“Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word;** only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.” And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.”” Genesis 41:37-41 NKJV

(4) **Step FOUR:** It’s time for that robe that was torn from your body and stained with the blood of an animal to be restored, but even better. This time you get a Royal Robe AND the signet ring of a King. And it’s time for the bowing to begin!

(a) “Then Pharaoh took **his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.** And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and

they cried out before him, “**Bow the knee!**” So he set **him over all the land of Egypt**. Pharaoh also said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.””  
Genesis 41:42-44 NKJV

- (5) **Step FIVE:** Cleared of all Wrong Doing—a complete reversal of the injustice coming out of Potiphar’s house!
- (a) “And Pharaoh called Joseph’s name Zaphnath-Paaneah. And he gave him as a wife Asenath, the daughter of **Poti-Pherah priest of On**. So Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.” Genesis 41:45 NKJV
- (a) [**Poti-Pherah**] he whom the Ra gave  
(b) [Potiphar] belonging to the sun
- (6) **Step SIX:** Dreams coming full circle! His brothers and his father do bow down!
- (a) “Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the **land**. **And Joseph’s brothers came and bowed down before him** with their faces to the earth.” Genesis 42:6 NKJV
- (b) “Then he said, “Swear to me.” And he swore to him. **So Israel bowed himself** on the head of the bed.” Genesis 47:31 NKJV

**B. Tamar’s Legacy—a tainted line but somehow still Holy**

(1) Tamar gives birth to Judah's son Perez—"The Line of Judah"

(a) "Now it came to pass, at the time for giving birth, that behold, twins were in her womb. And so it was, when she was giving birth, that the one put out his hand; and the midwife took a scarlet thread and bound it on his hand, saying, "This one came out first." Then it happened, as he drew back his hand, that his brother came out unexpectedly; and she said, "How did you break through? This breach be upon you!" **Therefore his name was called Perez.** Afterward his brother came out who had the scarlet thread on his hand. And his name was called Zerah." Genesis 38:27-30 NKJV

1. Read Genesis 38 for all the sorted details including Judah's immoral acts with an apparent harlot, his complete willingness to forget the whole thing followed by his exposure, all of which, even in there absurdity, ended with this: "**Then he [Judah] gave them to her [Tamar], and went in to her, and she conceived by him.**" Genesis 38:18 NKJV

(2) Perez is in the line of Christ!

(a) "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac



begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.

**Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar,** Perez begot

Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram." Matthew 1:1-3 NKJV

(3) And it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah!

(a) **"For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah,** of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood." Hebrews 7:14 NKJV

### **C. Israel's Deliverance**

(1) I know it seems that all hope is lost and you are all about to die at the hands of the Egyptians, however, stand back and see the salvation of the Lord!

(a) "And Moses said to the people, **"Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord,** which He will accomplish for you today. For **the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.** The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."" Exodus 14:13-14 NKJV

(2) Yahweh's sentiments: No matter how bad it looks, no matter how trapped you feel, no matter how hopeless and in despair you are, it's all part of the plan. If we don't die with Christ we can't live with Him. And it is highly unlikely that you would volunteer to do it yourself. So, I must make outrageous promises, and then I have to back

you up against the sea so you know that you can do nothing in your own strength, and then I will deliver you in such a marvelous and supernatural way. There will be no mistake; you will always know it was Me!

- (a) “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. **We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed**— always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our **body**. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then **death is working in us, but life in you**. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that **He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus**, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.” II Corinthians 4:7-15 NKJV

- (b) See: [Hard Pressed on Every Side](#)

#### D. Be of good cheer!

(1) You win in the end!

(a) "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**" John 16:33 NKJV

(2) Why? Because He is risen!

(a) "But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. **He is not here; for He is risen**, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." Matthew 28:5-6 NKJV

(3) How and for what purpose? You are a new creation and that can only happen because you first die with Christ. That is what all the delays are for! In your new life you are made ministers of reconciliation. What does that mean? It means that you are actually assigned to be legal ambassadors for King Y'shua and you are commissioned to go out and stand in His place as if God was pleading through you! You actually take on the role of being the righteousness of God in the earth. That doesn't just happen. It takes a whole process: Promises to Rock Bottom to Victory!

(a) “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creation; old things have passed away**; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through **Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation**, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us**: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, **be reconciled to God**. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**” II Corinthians 5:17-21  
NKJV

**E. Final words of encouragement: it does not matter what it looks like along the way!**

(1) Cry out to Yahweh; He is listening. Even in what seems like a grave, He will sustain you. You might be weeping at one point, but joy is coming and at that time it will be rock solid. Your sadness will turn to dancing and your slave clothes will be replaced with royal robes.

(a) “I will extol You, O Lord, for You have lifted me up, And have not let my foes rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I

**cried out to You, And You healed me. O Lord, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive,** that I should not go down to the pit. Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name. For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; **Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning. Now in my prosperity I said, "I shall never be moved."** Lord, by Your favor You have made my mountain stand strong; You hid Your face, and I was troubled. I cried out to You, O Lord; And to the Lord I made supplication: "What profit is there in my blood, When I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your truth? Hear, O Lord, and have mercy on me; Lord, be my helper!" **You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever."** Psalms 30:1-12 NKJV

- (2) His mercies are new every day and you will see that He is so good if you are willing to seek Him and wait. It's a process just like it is to grow from a child to an adult. In the early days, when things seem confusing and aren't

going your way, just be silent. The hard times won't last forever, and when things turn, it will be glorious.

- (a) **“Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed,**  
Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I hope in Him!” **The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him.** It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the Lord. **It is good for a man to bear The yoke in his youth. Let him sit alone and keep silent, Because God has laid it on him; Let him put his mouth in the dust— There may yet be hope.** Let him give his cheek to the one who strikes him, And be full of reproach. **For the Lord will not cast off forever. Though He causes grief, Yet He will show compassion According to the multitude of His mercies.**”Lamentations 3:22-32 NKJV

**F. How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time (God’s delay is NOT His denial!)**

- (1) **“Hope deferred makes the heart sick,** But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.” (Proverbs 13:12 NKJV) Focus on the desires of Yahweh not on the complications right before your eyes. You see, if you know His word, you can

be confident that it will always work out. It's much harder if you don't have knowledge and understanding about the way God operates. Trust me; stay on the right path and you will reap the ultimate rewards.

- (a) **“He who despises the word will be destroyed,** But he who fears the commandment will be rewarded. The law of the wise is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death. **Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful is hard. Every prudent man acts with knowledge,** But a fool lays open his folly. A wicked messenger falls into trouble, **But a faithful ambassador brings health.** Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, But he who regards a rebuke will be honored. A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul, But it is an abomination to fools to depart from evil. He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed. **Evil pursues sinners, But to the righteous, good shall be repaid.”** Proverbs 13:13-21  
NKJV

1. **Connect the dots!** “we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: ...**be**

**reconciled to God...** that we might become **the righteousness of God** in Him." II Corinthians 5:20-21

- (2) Remember where we started. Joseph's brothers and his father ultimately bowed to him. Even with all he had to endure, stop and consider how it all turned out.
  - (a) "Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And **Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him** with their faces to the earth." Genesis 42:6 NKJV
  - (b) "So **Israel bowed himself** on the head of the bed." Genesis 47:31 NKJV
- (3) And Tamar gave birth to the line of Messiah...
  - (a) "For it is evident that **our Lord arose from Judah**, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood." Hebrews 7:14 NKJV
- (4) And you were predestined to be MORE THAN CONQUERORS! No matter what it looks like and no matter how many bites it takes to eat an elephant, keep biting and keep chewing; nothing can separate you from God's ultimate promises.
  - (a) "And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.** For whom He foreknew, He



also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? **Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?** It is God who justifies. **Who is he who condemns?** It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." **Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God

which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:28-39  
NKJV

**Summary:** DELAY NOT DENIAL

### **3. The Final Outcome**

#### **A. Joseph’s Power**

- (1) **Step ONE:** Joseph is finally remembered—the time has come; the suffering is over; Joseph is about to be called out of his training and into his destiny.
- (2) **Step TWO:** Come out of the dungeon and change your clothes! It’s time to reclaim your true identity.
- (3) **Step THREE:** It’s time to rise to power!
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- (2) Read Genesis 38 for all the sorted details including Judah's immoral acts with an apparent harlot, his complete willingness to forget the whole thing followed by his exposure, all of which, even in there absurdity, ended with this: "...and she [Tamar] conceived by him [Judah]."
- (3) Perez is in the line of Christ!
- (4) And it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah!

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**E. Final words of encouragement: it does not matter what it looks like along the way!**

(1) Cry out to Yahweh; He is listening. Even in what seems like a grave, He will sustain you. You might be weeping at one point, but joy is coming and at that time it will be rock solid. Your sadness will turn to dancing and your slave clothes will be replaced with royal robes.

(2) His mercies are new every day and you will see that He is so good if you are willing to seek Him and wait. It's a process just like it is to grow from a child to an adult. In the early days, when things seem confusing and aren't going your way, just be silent. The hard times won't last forever, and when things turn, it will be glorious.

**F. How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time (God's delay is NOT His denial!)**

(1) **"Hope deferred makes the heart sick,** But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life." (Proverbs 13:12 NKJV) Focus on the desires of Yahweh not on the complications right before your eyes. You see, if you know His word, you can be confident that it will always work out. It's much harder if you don't have knowledge and understanding about the way God operates. Trust me; stay on the right path and you will reap the ultimate rewards.

(2) Remember where we started. Joseph's brothers and his father ultimately bowed to him. Even with all he had to endure, stop and consider how it all turned out.

(3) And Tamar gave birth to the line of Messiah...

(4) And you were predestined to be MORE THAN CONQUERORS! No matter what it looks like and no matter how many bites it takes to eat an elephant, keep

biting and keep chewing; nothing can separate you from God's ultimate promises.

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

### **1. Discuss the promises made to Joseph in his dreams and how it put a large target on his back.**

- A. What happened to him that could easily make him forget those promises? Use his own brothers and Potiphar's wife in your answer.
- B. In the end, after all the challenges, how were those promises fulfilled?

### **2. What happened to Tamar's first two husbands (Er and Onan) and why?**

- A. What did Judah promise her regarding his third son Shelah?
- B. What did Tamar do when she realized Judah had no intention of giving her Shelah as a husband?
- C. What dishonorable thing did Judah do that ultimately gave Tamar what she wanted?

### **3. What did God promise Israel in their deliverance from Egypt?**

- A. What happened that immediately challenged their faith regarding those promises?
- B. How was the problem resolved?
- C. How does that incident relate to II Corinthians 4:7-15?

**4. How have you been severely challenged following promises you are certain God made to you?**

- A. What have you learned about the necessity of those challenges?
- B. Why is it critical to understand what it takes to be a new creation in Christ?
- C. What ministry flows from that understanding as per II Corinthians 5:17-21?
- D. How do trials following God's promises relate to the growth from childhood to adulthood?

**5. No matter what is happening at the time, use Romans 8:28-39 to prove the following:**

- A. All things will work out?
- B. You will not only survive, but thrive?
- C. You can eat an elephant, as long as you do it one bite at a time?