



## *bloodline* network newsletter

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### **EMPOWERED BY PURPOSE**

*“When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!"... But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.”*

Joseph wept at the distress and doubt of his brothers when they “*fell down before him*” begging forgiveness. He carefully removed their fears saying he would never take the law into his own hands to exact revenge since God had already judged them and turned their spiteful act of vindictiveness into a blessing—even assuring them that his brotherly kindness remained steadfast in providing for them and their children.

Forty years earlier we read, *"His brothers saw that their father, Jacob loved Joseph more than all his brothers, and they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms."* They were all the more incensed when Joseph's dreams prophesied of his position as leader over them.

Jacob loved Joseph yet his fatherly concern was for the well being of all his sons. That was why he called his seventeen year old son Joseph to him and commissioned him to “*see about the welfare of his brothers and the welfare of the flock, and bring word back to him.*” These are the last words his father spoke to him as a lad. So significant was the proceeding word of his father that fulfilling it became Joseph’s life purpose. A word came back to Jacob but not from Joseph—his brothers handed their father what remained of his son Joseph’s bloodied coat.

In Egypt, Joseph was sold to “*Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard.*” At the home of Potiphar, “*Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he owned he put in his charge. It came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house and over*

*all that he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; thus the LORD'S blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field. So he left everything he owned in Joseph's charge; and with him there he did not concern himself with anything."*

The evidence suggests that as a young lad Joseph already learned of God's promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that their seed was destined to become a nation. He also knew he was the son of inheritance and therefore became committed to the last words he heard from his father. The welfare of his brethren became his Life Purpose Statement because he understood his father's vision for the future fulfillment of God's promise to their generations. Joseph manifested his father's heart to become a father of a nation.

Because Joseph did not behave as a victim, he prospered as the Egyptian's overseer. He was quickly promoted for his abilities and decision making skills. It seems incredible that Joseph should have another coat taken from him—but he does and the ambiguity of the incident renders him slave again—only this time in Potiphar's jailhouse. Yet Joseph remained committed to fulfilling his purpose and not embittered with the unrighteousness of the situation.

Joseph did not try to escape his bondage but rather desired the will of God. Therefore prison did not confine or restrain his spirit and he prospered—viewing the situation as God working everything out for good according to the promise given for the future generations of his family. He knew God had control of his life and matured in his captivity and tribulations. Because of his firm belief that he was where God wanted him to be at that time, he recognized possibility and excelled beyond the limitations of his imprisonment.

Dreams and interpreting dreams were part of Joseph's everyday life. He never thought he was betrayed or a victim because he knew his purpose. God had showed it to him in dreams before he ever went to Egypt. Joseph was able to interpret the dreams and events occurring to him according to his Life Purpose Statement and recognized his captivity was the opportunity to fulfill his divine purpose. Therefore it is easy for him to minister of what he has—interpreting prisoner's dreams with such profundity that eventually he is taken before the king to interpret a dream that baffled even the wisest men of the kingdom.

Interpreting Pharaoh's dream, Joseph discloses an adept plan for solving a national crisis. Pharaoh said to his servants, "*Can we find a man like this, in whom is a divine spirit?*" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "*Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you ... See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.*" Only the miraculous hand of God could take a slave who was once the son of a shepherd sojourning in the fields of Canaan and transform him into a "*father to Pharaoh ... and ruler over all Egypt!*"

These were times of great adversity in their world, yet the famine brought money and wealth to the Pharaoh of Egypt. Through it all, Joseph was not obsessed with the accumulation of riches because he was focused on his Life Purpose Statement. He was concerned for the welfare of the people—establishing the very first welfare system. His

plan of assistance was solely for the people's benefit—not binding them in sustained helplessness but providing them with the opportunity to prosper.

God's will has always been for man to prosper and provide for his family. Joseph renewed the people's expectations by not only giving them food, but also securing their future. God had a plan for Egypt's prosperity and employs Joseph to accomplish it. Everything that happened to Joseph was in preparation to fulfill his life's purpose—before becoming overseer in Pharaoh's house, he had already been trained in both Potiphar's house and jailhouse.

His plan for Egypt's success is significant to us as well because the objective was the welfare of the people. Religious systems and welfare agencies would also benefit with a Joseph anointing if instead of minimizing the potential of people by targeting 'symptoms,' they considered 'cause.' Financially aiding present problems supports total dependency but a true objective of promoting self-sufficiency creates prosperity.

We learn from this biblical history that adversity has the capability of transforming man's will into God's purpose. He uses trials and tribulations to transform our nature into His, but He may also use you to change those around you for good as he did with Joseph. Therefore, if God is restoring His House and the process involves some reshaping of character and redefining of purpose, eagerly comply because the ultimate goal is reaching your prophetic destiny 'together' in Him.

Everyone has trials in life but some look at these as catastrophic or as hardships to endure rather than as a barometer of success. Great men develop their skills by making the trials in their life profitable. Challenges should be met with plans to succeed. We set goals to make sure that each trial accomplishes His complete will for us.

Some of us came from dysfunctional or abusive families, yet if our resolve is to fulfill His plan as He reveals it, walking in forgiveness and being forgiven—then like Joseph, we are not a hostage but a host of the kingdom. Joseph believed the dreams God gave him interpreted his Life Purpose Statement and that everything that happened to him was in the providence of God. He was convinced that what God revealed would happen.

*"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope."* Joseph had hope because he knew his purpose and destiny were planned by God—even in adversity and tragic situations. His brothers had not learned this. They could not see past their fearful situations. Their father Jacob had just died, so now who would protect them from the vengeance their past cruelty warranted? What could their fate be? They knew they deserved to die for what they had done so they were afraid for their lives and the lives of their children.

Joseph is deeply touched by their request ... they spoke to Joseph in words that rekindled the proceeding word and vision—the promise he made to his father four decades earlier. Joseph knew he would always honor his father and be concerned for their welfare saying, *"God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save*

*your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God."*  
Their future was safe with him.

If we come under spiritual authority then our life is our own choice, meaning we are not hostage to someone else's evil plan but we are in the plan of God. *"What was meant for evil, He means for good."* God overturns the plans of the wicked. Consequently we are neither helpless nor hopeless. We are at the mercy of God and not man—and we are very safe.

Joseph was innocent of his brothers' cruelty and rose to be Governor of Egypt because he knew the purpose of his life. He knew his life meant something more than what was presently happening to him, that God's plan would eventually come to pass—and it did. His inner hope and expectation in God strengthened him when everything around him screamed of desolation and despair.

Forgiveness is the first step to rising above desperate situations or conditions. If we can forgive, then we see those who spitefully use us as our potential friend and not our enemy. We see his virtues and not his shortcomings, his kindness instead of meanness, thoughtfulness instead of selfishness and rudeness. In other words, we open the door for his deliverance and ours at the same time.

*"Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! For the uncircumcised and the unclean shall no longer come into you. Shake yourself from the dust, arise; Sit down O Jerusalem! Loose yourself from the bonds around your neck, O captive daughter of Zion."*

Some run from situations believing they have found liberty only to discover that they never loosed the chains from around their neck—that changing places did not release their chains because they didn't recognize the cause of their bondage. It would be similar to changing an uncomfortably small shirt but not altering its size, we remain bound. What we really need to know is if this present situation is something that God is using for our good and has purpose (something for us to learn from, etc.) or something to cast off in order to put on the garment of strength which is the real purpose and meaning of our life.

*"Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck."* This is the third reference to coat. As a son he was given a coat of many colors by a loving father and it was brutally taken from him ... as a slave his coat was stolen again for perverse reasons ... but when Joseph put on the garments Pharaoh gave him, he finally put on his strength of purpose. He paid the price to bring his life purpose into reality—doing whatever was required to realize his Life Purpose Statement. Strength is a garment we wear when our purpose is reinforced by our commitment and determination.

How do we awaken to put on strength and beautiful garments? What is our strength? If we love the LORD with all our heart, mind, soul and strength then we take strength to mean *"what our hand finds to do"*—what is within our ability to accomplish. We use

personal initiative and self discipline by doing whatever it takes to manifest our purpose. Our Life Purpose Statement defines how we function.

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