

Settled in God's Word

Dear Mishpocah (Family)

This week's reading in **Genesis 37:1 - 40:23** is also called **Vayeishev**, which is translated, "**And he settled.**" It speaks of Jacob settling in the promised land, and I believe it also indicates the time in his life when he was settled, or abiding in his faith in God, and relating that trust to his sons, as they were willing to receive it. I believe that Joseph was willing to receive the words that his father taught him, and that instruction positioned him in faith, in a relationship with the Lord that sustained him through very difficult circumstances.

I'm sure that most of us have been bullied, mistreated, or falsely accused, at some time in our lives. It seems devastating when it's happening, and some people give in to depression and suicidal thoughts and actions, while others begin to plot revenge.

Can you imagine a teen-aged boy who was a victim of bullying, mistreatment, and false accusation, and yet, we read of nothing of the negative and self-destructive emotions that some would consider natural, and inevitable in such a case. Joseph's brothers hated him, threw him into a pit, and eventually sold him to slave traders. Potiphar, a wealthy Egyptian official, bought him from the slave traders, and, in spite of all the evil treatment he endured, Joseph overcame his past, and served his master with excellence and integrity, which resulted in his being promoted to the position of manager of the official's household.

Genesis 39:1-4 (TLV) ¹ Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt. Potiphar, an official of Pharaoh, commander of the bodyguards, bought him from the hand of the Ishmaelites, who had brought him down there. ² But Adonai was with Joseph. So he became a successful man in the house of his master, the Egyptian. ³ His master saw that Adonai was with him and that Adonai made everything he set his hand to successful. ⁴ Joseph found favor in his eyes, so he served him as a personal servant and he made him an overseer over his household; everything that was his he entrusted into his hand.

Verse 2 of Genesis 39 shows us the reason that Joseph was able to overcome his past, and also why he served the Egyptian master so well that he was put in charge of everything Potiphar owned. ***² But Adonai was with Joseph. So he became a successful man in the house of his master, the Egyptian.***

The reason for Joseph's success was rooted in the fact that YHWH was with him. Joseph had been taught the ways of YHWH and His instruction from his father, Jacob, and we can see that he maintained his trusting ways in severe adversity, or his trust in the Lord positioned him in a place where God is, and therefore, the Lord was with him.

The Lord was with Joseph, but that does not mean that he was immune from satanic attacks. In fact, it seems that the enemy made a point of targeting him to get him to give up, but in contrast to what he might have done, and what many others would have done, we find that Joseph never gave up, and in fact, he flourished in adversity, and therein lies a strategy for each of us to follow. The devil couldn't deceive Joseph into self-pity and hopelessness when attacked with bullying and

abuse, because Joseph was aware that God was with him, and he trusted for his deliverance. As a result of his trust in YHWH, his captivity was turned with favor and promotion, but the devil devised an insidious scheme of attempted seduction from Potiphar's wife that Joseph resisted, but when the wife was humiliated when Joseph refused to give in to her advances, she made the false accusation about him, saying that he had sexually assaulted her, and that got innocent Joseph thrown into prison.

Remember, Joseph was in relationship with God and His Word, and it is recorded in Genesis 37, verses 5 and 9 that the Lord had given dreams unto Joseph that spoke of his being in a place of dominion. It is evident that Joseph was bolstered during the long years of his captivity by these sure words given him by God, and instead of giving in to defeat, he lived as a victor, even in dire circumstances.

Genesis 39:20-23 (TLV) ²⁰ Then Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. So there he was, in the prison. ²¹ But Adonai was with Joseph and extended kindness to him and gave him favor in the eyes of the commander of the prison. ²² The commander of the prison entrusted into Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison, so that everything that was done there, he was responsible for it. ²³ The commander of the prison did not concern himself with anything at all under his care, because Adonai was with him, and Adonai made whatever he did successful.

How can anyone speak of being prosperous while a slave or in prison? How can one speak of living in victory while such outward defeat is evident in one's circumstances? **Pay attention!** for that is exactly what YHWH wrought in the life of Joseph, and because He is no respecter of persons, He will cause each of us to triumph as we trust Him. There is no condition that will not be transformed by the power of God's Word spoken by us in faith. If you will receive it, every evil device, every accusation of evil, and every kind of adversity that you will encounter can be turned by our Father to an opportunity to pour out His blessing. He has promised and manifested His presence, even in prisons, lion's dens, or fiery furnaces. **The secret of Joseph's prosperity was that the Lord was with him, and it is equally true that He is with us. We must acknowledge that He never leaves us and know that, as we use our mouths as instruments of intercession and confession of the Word, He has already given us everything that pertains to life and godliness.** The Father will not allow you to be overcome of evil if you will trust Him. He has ordained that you may overcome evil with good, and even when circumstances appear hopeless, if you will endure and refuse to speak fear, He will always cause you to triumph in the Messiah Yeshua.

Romans 8:37-39 (TLV) ³⁷ But in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Messiah Yeshua our Lord.

Abiding,
Terry