

Hang onto Your Hope

Dear Family,

I often notice how easy it is, when there are difficulties, attacks, and trouble in our lives, to suppose that we are unique, and no one else can even imagine what we are going through. We somehow, mistakenly think that, "Nobody knows the trouble I've seen." When "We're too busy, or when things are just "Out of whack," we act as though everything about us is unique, and it is impossible that anyone else can understand. That is called, "feeling sorry for yourself," or "having a pity party." This morning I was thinking about challenges that I am confronting right now, and started to entertain feelings of being somewhat overwhelmed. In those early morning hours, words from the 121st Psalm rose up as I prayed in the spirit:

Psalms 121:5-7 ⁵ "The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. ⁶ The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil:" he shall preserve thy soul."

1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Those words were just what I needed to see and hear. God keeps and safeguards me no matter what things look like. He won't even let natural phenomena harm me, and without exception evil cannot harm me. He protects me by changing the way I think. The Torah portion for this week is found in **Genesis 37:1—40:23**, and as I was meditating on the life of Joseph whose brothers hated him, threw him into a pit and eventually sold him to slave traders, I realized that the challenges I am facing are no big deal. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery instead of killing him which was the original plan. He was purchased from the slave traders by an Egyptian official named Potiphar, and because he did an excellent job for him, he soon promoted him to be the overseer of his house. Things were looking up for Joseph, but don't forget that he was a young man kidnapped from his father and his home, and try to understand how dire this must have seemed to Joseph, and consider how hopeless he must have felt.

Genesis 39:1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

*Genesis 39:2 **And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.***

*Genesis 39:3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that **the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.***

Genesis 39:4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

The enemy continued to attack; evil plans, and unjust accusations resulted in Joseph being

thrown into prison. Every bit of the evil treatment that was heaped upon this young man was unjust, for he had, in no way, committed any crime worthy of such punishment, and there was no quick resolution to this injustice. He spent nearly thirteen years as a slave or bound in prison though he was innocent of all the charges.

Genesis 39:20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.

*Genesis 39:21 **But the LORD was with Joseph, and showed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.***

Genesis 39:22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.

*Genesis 39:23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because **the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.***

Joseph literally might have given up, and even perished in such horrible circumstances. 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**, for you see God had given him dreams to reveal His plans and purposes for Joseph (Genesis 37:5, 9). These dreams revealed that Joseph would stand in a place of dominion. These promises given in supernatural dreams kept Joseph in a place of trust during the long years of his captivity. These prophetic words were given to him by God, and instead of giving in to defeat, by holding on to that revelation, **he lived as a victor, even in horrible circumstances.**

To the natural mind, prosperity while a slave or in prison, cannot be possible, and it would be unthinkable to think of living in victory while such outward defeat is all that one can see, but that is exactly what YHVH 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 reversed by our Father to an opportunity to turn loose the blessing He has promised and manifest His presence, even in prisons, lion's dens, fiery furnaces, or the myriad of challenges that you are presently facing.

The secret of Joseph's prosperity was that the Lord was with him, and he knew it. It is equally true that He is with us. Do you know it? Are you persuaded? 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 will show you His avenue for escape from every circumstance that the enemy brings against you. God 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.

It is so important for us to see that even during times when faith is tested, there is great victory for those who remain faithful **Truly, it is during times of testing that we can**

make our potential actual. Don't allow the attacks of the enemy to discourage you. **Never! never quit!**

Psalms 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Everyone have a wonderful celebration in the wonderful name of Yeshua,
Terry