

December 5, 2023

Steady in Times of Trouble

Shalom,

Every believer will face trials that will test their faith. **The way we respond to trials, challenges, and outright attacks upon us, is a measure of how completely we trust. We have within us what it takes to overcome, to trust in God, and claim the victory He has promised for every situation.** Wrong choices can make any attack an opportunity for the flesh, and certain defeat. The faulty thinking that is utilized to make choices to react with fleshly, natural responses will leave us with no true weaponry or armor as victims of evil, feeling sorry for ourselves and blaming others for our trouble. **There can be no growth in us with such an attitude, but it is wonderful to know that to those who rely on the grace of God and His power working in them will always be strengthened to resist evil and realize, or actualize, the great potential God has placed within His people. Trusting in God and His anointing working in us will always bring about true victory.**

But thanks be to God, Who in Messiah always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us reveals everywhere the aroma of the knowledge of Himself. (2 Corinthians 2:14 TLV)

Joseph is a great example of trusting God and growing in faith until the promises given to Him were manifested and realized in the natural. The Torah portion for this week, found in **Genesis 37:1–40:23**, which is called **Vayeishev**, and is translated, **“And he settled”** in which Jacob returned to the land of Israel to the place God had set for him, is the beginning of the life of Joseph. Jacob had been severely tested during his time away from the land of promise, and his sons were witnesses to the testing he endured. Although Joseph was younger than all but one of his brothers, he seems to have had a remarkably close relationship with his father and an understanding of God’s working in his life. By listening to him and watching him, as Jacob drew closer to God, Joseph was maturing in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

This relationship had given Joseph understanding of God’s way of doing things and greatly influenced his sense of godliness as he paid attention to Jacob and patterned his life in the same manner. This was evident in the way Joseph behaved in times of adversity, being sold by his brothers, living as a slave, and being falsely accused and imprisoned. Notice how, during difficult testing, **he endured and remained steady in his trust in God, allowing the favor of YHWH into every difficult situation he encountered. He yielded himself to being used as an instrument to do good in times of resistance and was qualified by testing to accept a place of amazing**

responsibility over his former captors. He is a powerful example of the grace available to those who truly submit themselves to God.

The life of Joseph shows that, even though God had chosen Joseph and shown him through dreams what was in his future, the fulfillment of the dreams seemed **slow in coming**, and every indication in the natural made the dreams appear impossible; but **Joseph, because of the training and adherence to the instructions** Jacob had imparted to him, was diligent and **self-disciplined** to the point that, even when in a strange land and culture under the adversity of slavery and the temptation of immorality, he stood firm in the Torah of his father. It is true that his deliverance and promotion came in one day, but Joseph endured years of mistreatment before that day came. **His patience and endurance in following a lifestyle of discipline and trust**, even as a slave and a prisoner, **empowered** Joseph to stand for God and His teaching. Yes, Joseph had a great call of God upon his life, and don't miss the fact that, as he endured hardship, **he was never a victim**. Joseph, because he chose to walk in God's teaching and instruction, and because he never let go of the assignment God had given him through many temptations, made his calling and election sure. God had, in every difficult circumstance, seen to it that Joseph was equipped to live in victory until he became Prime Minister of Egypt.

All God's people have been given grace and amazing gifts to fulfill the ministry God has placed upon us. **There will be attacks leveled at us to deter us from fulfilling our ministry in the Body of Messiah, but when we submit and are disciplined to endure, we will reap if we faint not.**

*So let us not lose heart in doing good, **for in due time we will reap if we don't give up.** Therefore, whenever we have an opportunity, let us do good toward all—especially those who belong to the household of faith. (Galatians 6:9-10 TLV)*

Recognizing the care God has for each of us will guard our hearts and minds from the faithless attitudes of the natural man and strengthen us so that, even though weapons may be used against us, they will not prosper.

*Yes, you yourselves planned evil against me. **God planned it for good,** in order to bring about what it is this day—to preserve the lives of many people. (Genesis 50:20 TLV)*

***No weapon formed against you will prosper and you will condemn every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of Adonai's servants—their vindication is from Me. It is a declaration of Adonai.** (Isaiah 54:17 TLV)*

Safe in His care,
Terry

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