

Stand for God

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 2/25/2017

God has given us some wonderful examples of the patriarchs who learned to trust in God. Their examples provide some most important life lessons for us. God has given us their stories so that we too may learn to take a stand for Him and His perfect way. Our forefathers – the patriarchs were not born with perfect faith, but had it developed in them by God over time. We have been looking at how Joseph, the son of Jacob, endured many trials throughout his life. We are to learn from what he learned.

When trials come – and they do come – we can look to Joseph's example of patient endurance that comes only through a right faith. God goes into great detail for us. That is why God has preserved such a lengthy record of Joseph's life in the Scriptures. Joseph's life lesson is preserved for us. It is for us to profit by.

When things go badly for us it is easy to think, "I'm the only one who has it this bad." Sickness or health issues, imprisonment, employment, age, accident, financial woes... our list is long ...but just as with Joseph,--if we have that same kind of faith, we know without a doubt that God delivers us out of all of our troubles.

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

When Joseph was sold into slavery – he did not have a **Bible** to inspire him; he did not have a family or **congregation** to encourage him. No! Joseph stood alone—and he **stood for God's** way.

Brethren, today may be our only opportunity to take a stand for God's Truth; we may never have another chance. "We need to make hay while the sun shines."

Through his ethical and excellent attitude, Joseph rose in prominence. God promoted him – but Joseph had to live up to it. Joseph stood for God, and God delivered him from every **dry well** and **prison** he was thrown into.

"Standing for God" means that we fully represent God's way, especially when others fail to do so. We will not go into the Kingdom of God **until** God knows that we will always take a positive stand for Him.

Let's take a look at Joseph as he relentlessly endures, and gives God the credit for everything. Please notice – God's direct intervention – "God was with Joseph." And what we are to **take away from that** is that God is with us today – every bit as much as He was with Joseph. Keep reminding yourselves of that point.

We will see how God's intervention in Joseph's life would establish the Children of Israel in Egypt. God led them into Egypt – **so that** He could deliver Israel from Egypt.

Sometimes we have to **look hard** to see God's hand in our lives – but it's there! Unbeknownst to Joseph, or anybody else for that matter, – God was working out the events and details in a very intricate manner. God would **deliver** Israel from Egypt. This history is recorded for our profit.

You and I, brethren, are individually very important to the Plan of God – even if we can't see it yet – believe it!

As time went on, Joseph began to realize that God was thoroughly involved in his life, and that God had interceded on his behalf many times. Joseph was an instrument in God's hand to do His bidding – but he had no inkling of God's extensive plan to make him the father of England and America in the distant future. Last time we came to – and saw:

Genesis 39:5 ... the **LORD blessed** the Egyptian's house [Potiphar's house] for Joseph's sake; and the **blessing of the LORD** was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

God was directing the steps of Joseph. Potiphar trusted Joseph implicitly and absolutely. Joseph realized that many times God had intervened on his behalf.

I have a church friend who is compiling a **long list** of the times God has miraculously interceded – even to save his life. That is a very profitable endeavor. Joseph came to realize that he was an instrument in God's hands – to do His bidding.

Genesis 39:6 And [Potiphar] left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not what he owned except for the food he ate. And Joseph was a goodly person, and **well favored**.

Joseph was healthy, good looking, masculine, strong, and intelligent. He was charismatic and bright. And the good thing – out of all his brothers – Joseph was closest to God – knowing and recognizing that God was intervening in his life. But Potiphar's wife was a trouble maker and Joseph ended up in an Egyptian prison.

Genesis 39:7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master [Potiphar's] wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

Genesis 39:8 But [Joseph] refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he hath to my hand;

Joseph has been put in charge of everything. Keep in mind that Joseph does not have an inkling of God's vast plans for him. He certainly didn't know that his future children would become Great Britain and America.

Joseph is perhaps, a little naïve in trying to reason with Mrs. Potiphar. He remembers his upbringing, and **faith in God** was paramount with Joseph. Joseph tells Mrs. Potiphar that she **did not** come with his other responsibilities:

Genesis 39:9 There is none greater in this house than I am; neither has [Potiphar] kept back anything from me **except you**, because thou are his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and **sin against God?**

Mrs. Potiphar tried to seduce him and wear him down. Paul gives us the biblical principle:

1Corinthians 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that commits fornication sins against his own body.

Mrs. Potiphar continued to lust after Joseph. Joseph was having to put up with her on the job sexual harassment.

Genesis 39:10 And it came to pass, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be **with her**.

Joseph realized that trouble was brewing and he did not try to reason with her anymore. How many men have that kind of fortitude today?

Joseph was trying to **avoid her** as much as possible – working elsewhere. The home compound was usually a busy place with lots of people and a lot of different activities going on.

Genesis 39:11 And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to take care of his business concerns; and there was none of the men of the house there within.

Uh oh! They are alone. That is something a man never does. Perhaps Joseph was trying to maintain decorum, good manners and politesse, but Mrs. Potiphar was throwing down the gauntlet with a demand.

Genesis 39:12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, **Lie with me**: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

She now uses not so much her seductive powers as before, but becomes bolder with a demand! She propositions Joseph with an imperative in the Hebrew, which is “not so much an invitation as a command - **Lie with me.**”

Joseph had to tear himself away! Mrs. Potiphar began to concoct a story against Joseph’s good reputation.

Genesis 39:13 And it came to pass, **when** she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth,

Genesis 39:14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spoke unto them, saying, See, [Potiphar] has brought in an Hebrew [derogatory identification of Joseph as a low life] unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I screamed at the top of my voice:

Genesis 39:15 And it came to pass, when he heard me scream and yell, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and he got away.

Joseph’s coat is my evidence, she says.

Genesis 39:16 And she kept his garment with her, until **his lord** came home.

“His lord” – that’s an interesting twist of words. She should have said, “**my husband**,” or “my lord,” but she is even accusing Potiphar of putting her in jeopardy.

Genesis 39:17 And she spoke unto [Potiphar] according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:

Mrs. Potiphar was as mean and cruel as Joseph’s brothers had been to him. She lies to her husband:

Genesis 39:18 And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out.

Genesis 39:19 And it came to pass, when [Joseph’s] master heard the words of his wife, which she spoke unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.

Potiphar had a perfect right to be angry – *Joseph had breached the trust he had been given* – or so Potiphar thought.

Potiphar makes a common mistake here – he does not hear **both sides** of the story.

Proverbs 18:17 He that is first [to present] his own [case] seems right ...

So Potiphar throws Joseph in jail.

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.

This is like when Joseph’s brothers threw him into the dry well. We never hear another word about Potiphar and Mrs. Potiphar. We do not know if Potiphar ever learned the truth. They fade into history. God is not using them anymore in this case. I have a suspicion that sooner or later Mrs. Potiphar was found out to be the bold, impudent, immoral woman she was.

Brethren, put yourself in Joseph’s place. Does our faith waiver when things do not go well for us?

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

Have you ever noticed how God closes doors in your life – only to open up a new door that He wants you to do through – and He pushes you through it?

So Joseph is already on the ascendency – being promoted – even while in prison. God keeps promoting Joseph for **His own name’s sake**. God is fulfilling His Plan – right on schedule.

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.

Joseph had this tremendous proclivity or penchant - **this gift** and ability for organization, order, and prosperity. He possesses a very charismatic and disarming personality. That is one of the gifts we'll be given in the World Tomorrow. We will be given charge of certain areas – as Joseph has been made **trustee-warden** of the prison system – while still a prisoner. The keeper of the prison delegated the entire running of the prison over to Joseph.

Genesis 39:23 The keeper of the prison looked **not to anything** that was under his hand; because the LORD was with [Joseph], [*Yahweh* is named to indicate the divine attendance of God and the blessing upon Joseph] and that which he did, the LORD **made it to prosper**.

Notice the trend here? Compare this to the time before with Potiphar.

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

Because the LORD was with Joseph, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper. Still, Joseph was in jail (two years - Gen 41:1) – and that was troubling and perturbing to Joseph. Joseph could not see God directing his steps – as we are able to do in hind-sight.

It certainly did not appear to Joseph that he was the Key to the Promised Land for a great people.

Brethren, we need to remind ourselves daily that we too, are on a journey to the Kingdom of God and the Family of God and the Lord is directing our steps as well. Especially when things stall in our lives – we need to be mindful that God directs our steps.

Perhaps, occasionally, Joseph temporarily lost sight of the fact that God was directing his life. “Maybe God is through with me and is working out His Plan in another way.” There is a very good chance that we too will experience trials before we are able to see where God is taking us.

2Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Joseph languished in that prison for another two full years (Genesis 41:1) before he was raised to his high position in Pharaoh Court. In all that time, Joseph did not cease to give God the credit.

The Dreams of the Butler and the Baker

You know the Story: God will work through Joseph to interpret the dreams.

Genesis 40:1 And it came to pass after these things, that the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker had **offended** their lord the king of Egypt.

Pharaoh was probably having a big banquet to impress somebody – and it went badly.

Genesis 40:2 And Pharaoh was angry against two of his officers, against the chief of the **butlers**, and against the chief of the **bakers**.

Genesis 40:3 And [Pharaoh] put them in jail in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound.

Genesis 40:4 And the captain of the guard **charged Joseph with them** [along with everything else], and he served them: and they continued a season in ward.

Genesis 40:5 And they [each] dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream in [the same] night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which were bound in the prison.

God was the author on those extremely vivid dreams – that begged an interpretation.

Genesis 40:6 And Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them, and, behold, they were angry.

Genesis 40:7 And he asked Pharaoh's officers that were with him in the ward of his lord's house, saying, Wherefore look ye so troubled today?

They must have shared their dreams with one another upon awakening.

Genesis 40:8 And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, **Do not interpretations belong to God?** Tell me them, I pray you.

Only God can reveal the meaning of dreams that He sends to someone. Not magicians of astrologers.

Genesis 40:9 And the chief **butler** told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine was before me;

Genesis 40:10 And in the vine were three branches: and it was as though it budded, and her blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes:

Genesis 40:11 And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand: and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand.

Genesis 40:12 And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days:

Genesis 40:13 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler.

“Remember me when you get out. Don't forget about me in this prison.”

Genesis 40:14 But **think on me** when it shall be well with thee, and show kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house:

“I was kidnapped and sold into slavery. I'm innocent, I have a clean slate and have done nothing that warrants this treatment I'm receiving.”

Genesis 40:15 For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.

Joseph is there at the hand of his jealous brothers. It does not look at this point that Joseph holds the key to the Promised Land. We need to remind ourselves often that we are on a journey to the Kingdom of God. Even when we suffer what seems like defeating setbacks – we trudge forward ever closer to the Kingdom. Now we look at the second dream that came the same night – to the **baker** now.

Genesis 40:16 When the **chief baker** saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph, I also was in my dream, and, behold, I had three white baskets on my head:

Genesis 40:17 And in the uppermost basket there was of all manner of bake-meats for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head.

Genesis 40:18 And Joseph answered and said, This is the interpretation thereof: The three baskets are three days:

Genesis 40:19 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee.

Genesis 40:20 And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants: and he lifted up the head of the **chief butler** and of the **chief baker** among his servants.

Genesis 40:21 And he restored the **chief butler** unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand: [wine taster as before]

Genesis 40:22 But he **hanged the chief baker**: as Joseph had interpreted to them.

You would think the **butler** would jump up and down saying, David got the interpretations of the dreams right!"

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

God's timing was not yet – for Joseph. But God's plan was right on schedule – as it is today.

Two years - that is a long time for an innocent man to wonder if he will ever be released. How long does your beard grow in two years?

Genesis 41:1 And it came to pass at the **end of two full years**, that **Pharaoh dreamed**: and, behold, he stood by the river.

Pharaoh dreamed – now it's really time for Joseph to go to work! Pharaoh dreamed about heifers, cows – fat and healthy cows.

Genesis 41:2 And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favored **kine** and fat-fleshed; and they fed in a meadow.

Genesis 41:3 And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill favored and lean-fleshed [skinny]; and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river.

Pharaoh dreamed about more cows – sick and skinny cows.

Genesis 41:4 And the ill favored and lean-fleshed kine did **eat up** the seven well favored and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke.

Pharaoh dreams about corn next:

Genesis 41:5 And [Pharaoh] slept and dreamed the **second time**: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, **plump** and good.

Genesis 41:6 And, behold, seven **thin** ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them.

Then a strange thing that could only happen in a dream...

Genesis 41:7 And the seven thin ears devoured the seven plump and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream.

Genesis 41:8 And it came to pass in the morning that [Pharaoh's] spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.

Where is Joseph? Right where he's been for the last two years – in that filthy jailhouse.

Acts 7:10 [God] delivered [Joseph] out of all his afflictions, and gave him favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

Let's watch God's **handiwork** taking place.

Genesis 41:9 Then spoke the **chief butler** unto Pharaoh, saying, I do **remember** my faults this day: It's about time! Actually God had prevented it from coming to his mind.

"I messed up – I should have told you about Joseph's ability to interpret dreams long ago."

Genesis 41:10 Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the **chief baker**:

Genesis 41:11 And we [each] dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream.

Genesis 41:12 And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret.

And Joseph got it exactly right – it happened as he said it would!

Genesis 41:13 And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, **so it was**; me he restored unto mine office, and him [the **chief baker**] he hanged.

Genesis 41:14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and **he shaved himself**, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.

Genesis 41:15 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.

Genesis 41:16 And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It **is not in me**: God shall give Pharaoh **an answer of peace**.

“Shalom” means **peace**. Joseph was telling Pharaoh, “It’s a good thing.” “Shalom” also means the tranquility and harmony of Justice, Prosperity, Salvation, Healthiness, Wholeness, Integrity, Soundness, Righteousness and Well-being.

Genesis 41:17 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the river:

Genesis 41:18 And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fat-fleshed and well favored; and they fed in a meadow:

They were fat, beefy, good looking cattle.

Genesis 41:19 And, behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and very pitiful and emaciated, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness:

Genesis 41:20 And the skinny and the pitiful kine did eat up the first seven fat kine:

In Pharaoh’s dream the skinny cows ate the fat cows.

Genesis 41:21 And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still emaciated, as at the beginning. So I awoke.

Genesis 41:22 And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up in one stalk, full and good:

Genesis 41:23 And, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them:

Genesis 41:24 And the thin ears **devoured** the seven good ears: and I told this unto the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.

And again, Joseph never takes the credit for interpretation – but gives it to God – from whence it came. Joseph said, “Both dreams have the **same** interpretation – they both have the **same** prophetic meaning.”

Genesis 41:25 And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh **is one**: **God hath showed** Pharaoh what He is about to do.

Genesis 41:26 The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is **one**.

Genesis 41:27 And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine.

Genesis 41:28 This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do **He showed** unto Pharaoh.

God gave the dreams, and the interpretation thereof.

Genesis 41:29 Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt:

Genesis 41:30 And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty **shall be forgotten** in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land;

Genesis 41:31 And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous.

The seven years of plenty will **not** be enough to **offset** the seven years of famine.

Egypt would really be bad off at the end of the seven years of famine. And for **sure** the dreams would be fulfilled.

Genesis 41:32 And for that the **dream was doubled** unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is **established by God**, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

Genesis 41:33 Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

Joseph told Pharaoh that he needed a good administrator with the authority to administer those fourteen years of national crisis.

Genesis 41:34 Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and **take up the fifth part** of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years.

That's a 20% tax on all the produce - to be redistributed during the famine – as far as it would go.

And the prophecy foretold that it would not be enough to **mitigate the severity** of the famine altogether. Egypt would be really bad off at the end of the seven years of famine.

Genesis 41:35 And let them gather all the food of **those good years** that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

Genesis 41:36 And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.

Genesis 41:37 And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants.

Genesis 41:38 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the **Spirit of God** is?

How did Pharaoh know that Joseph was led by God's Holy Spirit. God had to reveal that to Pharaoh.

Genesis 41:39 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath showed you [Joseph] all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou are:

Genesis 41:40 Thou shall be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

Let me ask a question here: "Who **promoted** Joseph to this high authority?"

Genesis 41:41 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee **over all** the land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:42 And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

I think that by now Joseph understood how **fleeting** man's honor is. Remember that Joseph had all the authority in Potiphar's house too – and it was taken away in a flash.

Real promotion comes only from God.

Psalm 75:6 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

That leaves the North. Where is God's throne? In the sides of the **north**, right?

Isaiah 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in **the sides of the north**:

Psalm 75:7 But God is the judge: he puts down one, and **He sets up another** - - - promotion comes only from God.

Pharaoh held a great **parade** to mark the occasion of Joseph's promotion so that everyone would know without a doubt who was in charge.

Genesis 41:43 And [Pharaoh] made [Joseph] to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:44 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

The Jewish writers believe that the name Zaphnathpaaneah means: "The man to whom mysteries are revealed." Josephus thought so.

But Jerome, (420 AD) - theologian and historian, best known for his translation of most of the Bible into the Latin Vulgate thought that the Egyptian name Zaphnathpaaneah meant: "the one who preserves life."

Some day we will find out for sure – but since we know without a doubt that God's stamp was on all these things, I want to believe that the name Zaphnathpaaneah, was significant to the **redemption of Israel** – the reason that God is working all these things out through Joseph.

God began to use Joseph mightily to **deliver** Israel when he was **thirty** years old. Do we need a detail like that? Remember that Jesus—**deliverer**—was **thirty** when He began His public ministry. Not a coincidence – I think!

Genesis 41:46 And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:47 And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls.

Genesis 41:48 And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same.

Genesis 41:49 And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.

That 20% really added up! Joseph was having his own bumper crop!

Genesis 41:50 And unto Joseph were born **two sons** before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him.

Genesis 41:51 And Joseph called the name of the firstborn **Manasseh**: For God, said he, hath made me **forget** all my toil, and all my father's house.

Joseph was finally comforted and relaxed from all his previous trials and tribulations. He was able to **forget** his troubles. Everything Joseph had endured was worthwhile!

Brethren, you and I, we would **not** be here except for this son, **Manasseh** father of the United States of America.

Genesis 41:52 And the name of the second called he **Ephraim**: For God hath caused me to be **fruitful** in the land of my affliction.

And our brethren in England and the colonies, would not be here except for this son, **Ephraim**.

Remember back in verse :16 where Joseph told Pharaoh, “God shall give Pharaoh an answer of **peace**”?

Well, that **peace** also came into Joseph’s life for the first time.

He married and began a family in “Shalom” – tranquility and harmony – and finally comforted.

God delivered Joseph out of all his afflictions.

Genesis 41:53 And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended.

At the first the land yielded only a normal crop – but the famine gradually got worse and worse.

Genesis 41:54 And the seven years of dearth **began** to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt **there was bread**.

They did not need to dip into the **great storage facilities** yet.

Genesis 41:55 And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.

Genesis 41:56 And the famine was over all the face of the earth: And Joseph opened all the storehouses, and **sold unto the Egyptians**; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt.

There is an economic principle here – Joseph did not give **free bread** away. Especially to foreigners (like Canaan – uh-huh) who were also hit by the famine.

Genesis 41:57 And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.

Next time we will see how beautifully God **worked it all out** to bring all of Joseph’s family down into Egypt.

We can see God’s hand **so obviously** in the entire undertaking.

Brethren, do we see God’s hand at work - **today**?

End: Stand for God