

This portion of Scripture gives examples of God caring for individuals and masses. Whilst they are unaware he repositions people and the environment in which they live. Their needs are provided for miraculously. Their needs are provided for after long periods of waiting, much sorrow and pain. They appear to need preparation for the blessing. All things happen precisely in the Lord's timing.

USAMPS Weekly Bible Study  
08 Mar 2011  
God Accepts Us Where We Are

(Please read Genesis 37, 39-45)

1. Please describe what kind of a person Joseph was when God first spoke to him? (Read Gen. 37)

He was seventeen years old, the youngest of eleven boys, an informant to dad and daddy's favorite boy. He was boastful and prideful. He was a self-centered brat. He was annoying to the degree that his brothers could not even stand to be in his presence. They hated him and wished he was dead. His life is spared but he is sold into slavery. Though things do not appear to be going well God is moving the pieces into position. His own actions infuriated his brothers but also became the means through which he could be properly repositioned.

2. How did slavery and isolation affect Joseph's relationship with God? (Read Gen. 39)

The Lord gave him success in everything he did. Gen. 39:3 and 21

Joseph did not have control over the environment (where he lived, who he worked for, etc.), but he was also not left alone to fend for himself. This relationship/conversation continued. Joseph's resolve was tested but his developing godly character allowed the journey through treacherous paths unscathed. His commitment to righteousness was challenged but his dedication to God superseded every adversity he faced.

3. What two spiritual gifts do we see exhibited by Joseph during his time in prison? (Read 40-41)

(interpretation of dreams and word of knowledge) Last week CH Jay very emphatically said God does not have someone else speak to us until he already attempted to speak to us first. He may have messages for unbelievers too. (i.e. the cupbearer and baker) We often become imprisoned by our own choices. Joseph was in a prison not of his own choosing. God is the source of all giftings. He prepares and uses people who are faithful to redirect praise to God for what he does through them. No self elevation required. God enables those who are in conversation with him to speak and act on his behalf.

"I cannot do this, Joseph said, "God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires." Gen. 41:16

4. How long was it from the time Joseph was threatened by his brothers and sold into slavery until he was elevated as second in command to Pharaoh in Egypt? (Read Gen. 41:46)  
-thirteen years old

It took thirteen years for Joseph to arrive at the place/the position God wanted him to be.

5. Why did it take so long for Joseph to get into position?

God was changing the hearts of the speaker and those who would be listening. The speaker (Joseph) needed to experience humility, resolve and dedication. The listeners needed to use up all their resources before they would be ready to hear and respond to God's provision.

6. When does Joseph fully understand why he has had to suffer and forcibly moved away from his family?

God sent Joseph ahead of his family to preserve all of their lives. Gen. 45:7-8

When we are not able to see God's hand upon our lives we merely need to trust his heart. He is ever mindful of our situations and always providing for our needs.