

# Trusting God in the Pit

Genesis 40-41

March 26, 2023 | Jason Finley, Lead Pastor for Equipping

**Genesis 39:21, 23** | 21 But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison... 23 The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed.

**Big Idea: Trust God's good providence by His Word.**

## I. God's Word reveals His sovereign rule. (40:1 - 41:36)

### 1. God alone possesses unlimited knowledge (omniscience)

**Psalm 139:4, 6** | 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether... 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

**Romans 11:33-34** | 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether... 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

### 2. God alone orchestrates history (omnipotence)

**Isaiah 46:9-11** | ...For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' 11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

- Your circumstances do not always meet your desires. How do you respond?

"My restless spirit wants to get going, but when I accept the place that God has given me—in traffic, a checkout line, or with a whining child—I open a small door from my soul to God." —Paul Miller, *A Praying Life*

**Galatians 6:9** | And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

**Romans 5:3-5** | 3 We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

- People and systems will desert you. Upon whom will you trust?

**Romans 5:3-5** | 8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. 9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

- The best of humanity's knowledge and resources will fail you. Upon what will you stand?

**1 Corinthians 1:19-21** | 19 For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." 20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

"Joseph was confident in God and humbly dependent upon him. He did not need to promote himself, even after so many disappointments, because his trust remained in God to protect him and provide for him." –Iain Duguid

## II. God's Word enables us to flourish through uncertainty

### 1. Because it makes us discerning and wise (41:37-39)

**Hebrews 1:1-2** | 1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

**2 Timothy 3:15-17** | 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

We are constantly lured to seek discernment and wisdom in the wrong places. Let your life be shaped by God's Word, which alone makes us discerning and wise.

## 2. Because it always proves true (41:40-57)

**Psalm 18:30** | This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

**Hebrews 9:27** | It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.

**Ephesians 1:7-8** | 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight.

**Acts 16:31** | “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.”

## Benediction

**Psalm 18:30** | This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.