

April 24th

Blessing Causes Amnesia

“Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore them to him. Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. “For,” he said, “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father’s house.” The name of the second he called Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.” **GENESIS 41:50-52**

Amnnesia. You may have seen examples of it on television or movies. Most often, these brain problems are portrayed on the screen as also forgetting one’s name. However, according to the Mayo Clinic, amnesia doesn’t usually involve that kind of loss. Instead, a brain injury or trauma can cause the brain to struggle to remember past events that were once familiar. What does this have to do with Joseph? If anyone had emotional trauma, it would be Joseph! He was betrayed, sold, imprisoned, and forgotten. His brothers thought he was dead. His father believed that he was dead. But God. God continues to write His purposes on His story...through the life of his servant Joseph. What does God want to teach us here?

God is giving us more timestamps near the end of Genesis 41. Verse 46 states that Joseph was thirty years old when he spoke with Pharaoh. Remember what Pharaoh’s dreams meant? There would be seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine. In verse 50 God gives us another timestamp. It’s now the year before the famine came, which would put Joseph at 36 years of age. Nineteen years later, Joseph becomes a father to two boys, and it’s here where we see Joseph’s amnesia. Do you recall how important names are in the Bible? What does Manasseh’s name mean? His name means “making to forget.” And what do you see in Joseph’s statement about the name? “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father’s house. Manasseh’s name means “making fruitful.” God has given Joseph so much blessing that his past suffering pales in comparison to his present situation. God is so good!

Men, this attitude that Joseph has is before God reunites him with his family. We know the end of the story, but he doesn’t. He continues to give God credit and praise for what only God can do! But how does this impact us in April of 2026? Have you been captured by Satan’s lie? The lie that makes your present suffering forget God’s blessings? Paul David Tripp calls this concept “gospel amnesia.” We forget who we are and what God has given us because of our suffering. Joseph has a case of reverse amnesia. The blessings that God has given cause him to forget his trouble in the past. But men, these blessings that God has given him are dwarfed by the blessings of the gospel that are given to you! Now, it’s impossible for us to forget our sufferings completely. But God can give us a renewed perspective. Can you make it your prayer today to have the same mindset as Paul in Romans 8:18: *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”*? God has given you the riches of being God’s child...His man! How will this impact you today?

Spend some writing down how God’s gospel blesses you. Share those blessings with someone else today, then take some time to thank God for His blessings.

For Further Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14