

The Eyes of the Lord Part 3

1 Peter 3

8 Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.**9** Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

10 For,

“Whoever would love life
and see good days
must keep their tongue from evil
and their lips from deceitful speech.

11

They must turn from evil and do good;
they must seek peace and pursue it.

12

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous
and his ears are attentive to their prayer,
but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

David Guzik comments:

Doing good is often difficult because as a general rule, evil is rewarded immediately and the reward of doing good is often delayed. But the rewards of good are better and far more secure than the rewards of doing evil.

Righteous: upright, virtuous, keeping the commands of God.
Innocent, faultless, without guilt.

In Matthew 18 Jesus asks the question “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

2 He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them.

3 And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like

little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **4**
Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus continues:

6 “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

then Jesus says:

10 “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

If you ever wanted a scriptural reference for guardian angels, there’s one...

The eyes of the Lord are on the upright, virtuous, those who keep the commands of God and the Innocent

Scripture indicates Children hold a special place in the eyes of God. I believe that’s one reason children have such amazing faith. He puts eternity and faith in their hearts...

Story: Star in the sky

Genesis 37

1 Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.

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3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. **4** When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. **6** He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: **7** We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.”

8 His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

9 Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”

10 When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?”

11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

The Story continues:

- Joseph’s brothers threw him in a pit.
- Then they pulled him out of the pit and sold him to Midianite merchants for 20 shekels of silver.
- The Midianites merchants then sold Joseph to Potiphar in Egypt.
- Joseph became great in Potiphar’s house.
- Potiphar’s wife tried to trap Joseph and sleep with him but Joseph fled and was falsely accused by her of attempted rape.
- Potiphar then put Joseph in prison and once again Joseph faced another pit...

But the eyes of the Lord were on this young man and God’s purpose for his life didn’t end because of what people did to Joseph. Joseph remained pure and innocent.

Genesis 39

20 ...But while Joseph was there in the prison, **21** the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.

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23 The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Psalm 75 NET

6

For victory (promotion) does not come from the east or west, or from the wilderness.

7

For God is the judge.

He brings one down and exalts another.

- God's favor is not limited to location or circumstances...

"But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor..."

- While Joseph was in prison God gave him a ministry...
- Joseph was known as an interpreter of dreams...
- The very thing Joseph was despised for by his brothers... became his ministry to others...
- Through all the heartbreak and disappointment Joseph served the dreams of others when his own seemed to have fallen short...
- If Joseph had become bitter he would have shut off his ability to hear God..
- Joseph stayed right in his heart and God used him even in the pit...

- When Joseph chose integrity, the Lord was watching...
- When Joseph chose righteousness, the Lord was watching...
- When Joseph served others, the Lord was watching...
- First the Cupbearer, then the Baker, and then the Ruler of Egypt, Pharaoh...

When Joseph was brought before Pharaoh scripture says

Genesis 41

14 So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh.

15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.”

16 “I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.”

- Now the gift of God inside of Joseph that the enemy tried to crush, rises to fulfill the purpose God intended...
- The Thing he could have been bitter about is used for the Glory of God in the presence of Pharaoh...
- God places Joseph in the right place, at the right time with the right people...
- Joseph interprets Pharaoh’s dream and Pharaoh appoints Joseph as second in charge of all Egypt.
- Joseph must have felt invisible to God for most of his journey but the truth is the Eyes of the Lord were on his every move...
- God never left Joseph and he never forsook him...
- God took Joseph from the pit and made him a prince...

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Closing Song:

Genesis 41

50 Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On. **51** Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, “It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household.” **52** The second son he named Ephraim and said, “It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.”