

God Will You Bring You Back!

Genesis 37-50

- **The Comeback Celebrates New Beginnings.**
- **God Is The God Of The Comeback!**
- **Great Comeback Stories Give Us Hope!**

1. Sometimes Your Comeback Starts In A Pit.

“When Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—and they took him and threw him down into a cistern.” Genesis 37:23-24

“When the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him down to Egypt.” Genesis 37:28

2. When You’re Down To Nothing, God Is Up To Something.

“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.” Genesis 39:1-2

- **Allow Your Difficulties To Drive You To God.**

“Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.” Psalm 62:2

“God was with him.” Acts 7:9

“Now the Lord was with Joseph.” Genesis 39:2,3,21,23

- **While You’re Working, God Is Blessing.**

“Joseph’s master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph’s care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.” Genesis 39:2-3

“Joseph was successful” Genesis 39:2,3,5,6,23

“His master’s wife took notice of Joseph” Genesis 39:6-7

“And after a while his master’s wife took notice of Joseph and said, ‘Come to bed with me!’” Genesis 39:6-7

“When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, ‘This is how your slave treated me,’ he burned with anger. Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. 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.” Genesis 39:19-23

“And he sent a man before them—Joseph, sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons, till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the LORD proved him true.” Psalm 105:17

- **While You’re Waiting, God Is Working.**

24 months of silence.

104 weeks of waiting.

730 days of wondering.

2,190 meals all alone.

12,360 hours of no response.

Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” John 5:16

“Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

“But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

“When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile, when out of the river there came up seven cows, sleek and fat, and they grazed among the reeds. After them, seven other cows, ugly and gaunt, came up out of the Nile and stood beside those on the riverbank. And the cows that were ugly and gaunt ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up. He fell asleep again and had a second dream: Seven heads of grain, healthy and good, were growing on a single stalk. After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted—thin and scorched by the east wind. The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up; it had been a dream. In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.” Genesis 41:1-8

“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. 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.’ ‘I cannot do it,’ Joseph replied to Pharaoh, ‘but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.’” Genesis 41:14-16

“Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, ‘The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream. The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine. It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe. The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon. And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine.’” Genesis 41:25-36

The Math of the pain is clear:

- 1 broken promise
- 2 betrayals

- Several outbursts of hatred
- 2 abductions
- 1 seduction
- 10 jealous brothers
- 1 case of poor parenting

- **When Things On Earth Are Out Of Control, Look To God For His Power.**

“The matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.” Genesis 41:32

3. Joseph's Life Was Not Defined By Problems, But By The Presence Of God.

- **GOD PROSPERED JOSEPH.**
- **GOD PROMOTED JOSEPH.**
- God Is Still On His Throne.

“The matter had been decided by God.” Genesis 41:32

“When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, ‘Why do you just keep looking at each other?’ He continued, ‘I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die.’ Then ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph’s brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him. So Israel’s sons were among those who went to buy grain, for there was famine in the land of Canaan also. Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph’s brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, they did not recognize him.” Genesis 42:1-7

“But his brothers were not able to answer a word because they were terrified at his presence.” Genesis 45:3

- **Joseph Loved His Brothers Even Though They Betrayed Him.**

“He wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him.” Genesis 45:2

“Then Joseph called for his brothers, ‘Come close to me.’” Genesis 45:4

“When they came close he said to them, ‘I am Joseph your brother, the one you sold into Egypt. Do not be distressed or angry with yourselves for seeking me here because it was God who sent me here to save lives.’” Genesis 45:5

“Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.” Genesis 45:14-15

“I have loved you with an everlasting love.” Jeremiah 33:3

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9.

- **Joseph Cared For His Brothers Even Though They Didn’t Deserve It.**

“Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’” Genesis 45:9-11

“Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan, and bring your father and your families back to me. I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you can enjoy the fat of the land.” “You are also directed to tell them, ‘Do this: Take some carts from Egypt for your children and your wives, and get your father and come. Never mind about your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours.’” So the sons of Israel did this. Joseph gave them carts, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he also gave them provisions for their journey. To each of them he gave new clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five sets of clothes.” Genesis 45:17-22

“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.” Genesis 50:20

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.” Isaiah 43:1-2