Joseph - Reigns with the King (2 Timothy 2:11-12)



A. Introduction

Like any good parent who desires the best for their children, our God unlike any other god, has the same thoughts towards us. However, it will come to fruition only if we fulfil our part. God desires that we

- 1. Become His Children John 1:12 (gave us the right), Rom 8:14 (those led by the Spirit)
- 2. Joint heir with Christ Rom 8:16-17
- 3. Reign with Christ 2 Tim 2:11-12 and above all
- 4. Bride of Christ 2 Cor 11:2, Rev 19:7

As much as it is True that our God is Love and His mercy endures forever, He is also **The God of Justice and Righteousness** e.g. Isaiah 56:1.

Our walk with The Lord is a Journey – from Cradle TO Christ. Therefore, individually we must start run, and finish well as we all must appear before The Judgment Seat of Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:10. We are saved by Grace, by Faith alone – but rewarded according to our obedience to our individual call of God. **Five foolish** <u>virgins</u> were Left Behind – Wise man built his house upon The Rock – Rock of Yeshua also called "The uncompromised Word of God", The Unleavened Bread. Revelation 19:13.

WORD of God is not subject to interpretation, but Revelation that comes from The Holy Spirit – Holy Spirit is not double-minded. All the stories in the Bible, particularly the Biographies of great saints of God foreshadow **how we may finish well**. Pay close attention to how they lived on earth daily and learn of them.

1. Foreshadowing of Christ

Joseph's life foreshadows the lifestyle of a person who will Reign with Christ – Pharaoh was a <u>"Type of"</u> of a King of kings. During the **seven years** of famine, all the kings of the world had to submit to Pharaoh **and** Joseph reigned with him, almost with equal Power – Therefore he is a very good role model.

I will summarise how it ended – that is the way God thinks and acts. Isaiah 46:9-10 \rightarrow God has declared The End from The Beginning – before the Foundation of the World. The Word of God is a Lamp unto my feet and a Light unto my path – Ps.119:105.

- i) The Anointing in Joseph interpreted the Dream Joseph was very careful to acknowledge God before he opened his mouth Genesis 41:16.
- ii) Joseph then had the audacity to tell Pharaoh how this 14 Year Global Project should be managed -

Literally making Pharaoh very rich like a king of kings, right in the middle of a 7-year Famine. Seven may also represent the Millennium – famine for satan and abundance of riches in Christ for the saints. God is looking for people to Reign with HIM – some given 10 cities, some 5 – Luke 19:11-27 - and some at the highest level as Joseph was with Pharaoh.

<u>2 Tim 2:11-12</u> This is a faithful saying: For **<u>if</u>** we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. **<u>If</u>** we endure, we shall also reign with Him. **<u>If</u>** we deny Him, He also will deny us.

DON'T FORGET THE "IFs".

Joseph had two major skills which he had already developed, besides his anointing to interpret Dreams – i.e.

i) Project Management at Global Level.

ii) Royal Etiquettes, including people's management.

Where did Joseph receive his training? - In Very Lukewarm environments in the natural – Potiphar's house starting as a slave and later through very **HONEST, HARD WORK was promoted as the chief butler.** Later in prison, falsely accused – no opportunities as we enjoy here in church, TV Evangelists and teachers, Bible colleges, conferences and seminars AND **no winging either**.

Key: Thirteen long years of being trained by The Royalty of The Highest – in Potiphar's house and in prison – The Lord was with Joseph - Genesis 39:2 and 21.

We do not know exactly where we are – **until the rubber hits the road** – Peter sincerely thought he Loved Yeshua with Agape Love until he was tested and denied Yeshua 3 times before servant girls. We have **the opportunity to test our level of endurance through the trials, tribulations and temptation** – **E.g.** if you ever get an opportunity to do some ministry, even short-term, in an underground church scenario – e.g. North **Korea, China or in a combat zone, among the victims of a natural disaster,** etc – **grab it and let your rubber be tested** before it is too late.

Life for the Israelites in Egypt began to turn around from bad to worse **after the death of Joseph**. It was not necessarily the death of Pharaoh – Daniel had favour under 5 kings in Babylon. He represented all the Jews in exile. Blessed to be a Blessing.

That's supposed to be the End of The Message. As I mentioned earlier, God has commanded us to "**Preach the Gospel of The Kingdom**", not just Salvation – Mat.24:14 – declaring the End from The Beginning. So, I was just being obedient to God's ways.

2. Just a couple of more thoughts from my own personal walk with God – please bear with me.

- Our learning will not have any power or benefit until we apply what we learn in our daily living. We mature as we put into practice what we learn. Hebrews 5:12 to 6:3.
- All the stories in The Bible are there for us today, here and now. They are not there to make those characters look good or bad. They are very transparent stories.
- God's Plan for our lives started before we were formed in our mother's womb our greatest discovery
 is to find out this plan and the greatest achievement is to fulfill it.
- When we were born again, we were like newborn babies. Don't stay there mature because Yeshua is not coming for a Baby but for His Bride to join the Royal Family of God. Maturity comes through practice.

<u>**1** Pet 2:1-2</u> Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, **as newborn babes**, **desire the pure milk of the word**, that you may grow thereby.

- Everything happens for Good for those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose Rom.8:28. Whether we are in prison, palace or in Patmos in exile – we should be unstoppable.
- Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

With the right attitude, negative circumstances like Lockdowns – become like fuel to fire to boost up our momentum.

- Those who serve The Lord in the Fear of God are like Jewels in His hand, sadly the opposite also true Malachi 3:16-18.
- Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
- What has been prophesied or the discovery of God's will is only the beginning of a Lifelong Journey. Your faithfulness in persevering to The End is the most important factor. RUN IN A WAY TO FINISH WELL - <u>Acts 20:23-24, 1 Corinthians 9:23-25.</u>
- Dreams are one of the ways God communicates with us. God spoke to Joseph in 2 Dreams Gen. 37:5-9.

3. Joseph's family background

Bit of Joseph's family background, which all of us can relate to in some ways. If you perceive them through the eyes of God, they will work for you and not against you. Joseph's father Jacob was a man who had come thru many trials with God's favour all the way – to a great extent, he knew what he was doing. He had 12 sons and a daughter. There were many issues with most of them. E.g.

- Reuben the eldest son had a relationship with Bilhah, Jacob's concubine. Gen.35:22
- Simeon and Levi created a life-threatening situation for Jacob when he was on his way to meet his brother Esau – Gen.34:30. They had no control over their anger.
- Judah his sons had major issues that 2 of them were killed by God. He unknowingly went into his daughter-in-law Tamar thinking she was a harlot
- There were issues with the **Tribe of Dan** that they were not included in Rev. 7:4-8.
- Dinah the only daughter got involved with the Prince in the city of Shechem Gen.34
- Most of Joseph's brothers envied him to an extent that a couple of them wanted to see him dead

In the midst of all these Joseph kept himself pure and never did anything to cause any pain to his father. I say he was in his own "Lalaland" with God. Besides, he was the elder son of Rachel, the wife Jacob loved most. Is it a wonder that Jacob favoured Joseph more than all his other children? – Gen.37:3-4.

Jacob's favouritism for Joseph made his half-brothers so jealous that they were ready to murder him. Was Jacob wrong? I don't think so. God also bypassed all the others including 10 brothers older than him and gives a Dream to Joseph which eventually was going to save the whole world - Gen.37:1-11. God is never wrong, therefore so was Jacob.

Yeshua had His favourites too – Peter, James and John and I too. I love to invest in people who are passionate about The Lord. There is nothing wrong in showing special favour towards who God favours. They produce very good ROIs for His Kingdom.

B. 7 Lessons from the Life of Joseph who Finished Well

1. Be found innocent before God in all that you do,

Among your family, workplace, friends, church, etc Like Mother Theresa – she never got involved in any of the politics, including in the church she would have attended but quietly fulfilled God's call on her life that impacted the whole world.

Joseph's brothers were very **jealous that Jacob favoured Joseph**. **Joseph had 2 Dreams from God** - To make matters worse – Joseph shared his dreams with his brothers and father.

<u>Gen 37:6-8</u> So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf." And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

Joseph had another dream suggesting that his whole family would bow down to him and that was it. Brothers were furious. Expect that. E.g. When Samuel anointed David as the next king – none of his brothers or his father were excited about it. – 1 Samuel 16 and 17.

BE CAREFUL WHO YOU SHARE YOUR GOD-GIVEN DREAMS WITH. PONDER IN YOUR HEART – as Mary did when the Angel spoke to her – Luke 2:19.

Why did he share his dreams with his family? Was he boasting, therefore proud? I don't think so. I see TWO possible reasons why he did so.

a. He was being innocent and transparent. If pride was involved God would never have chosen Joseph. God hates pride.

How often have you heard people say – "I don't like being told". So nobody tells. It is very difficult to tell people what they do not want to hear. Sometimes when I go before the mirror, I see it in me as well – and that does not make it a right attitude. The proud are not teachable – therefore fools.

Prov 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

We need His grace every moment.

b. We see a parallel in the life of Yeshua. **Every year His parents went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.** Yeshua was 12 years old. Coming back After the Festival, the **parents thought Yeshua was with the group** and they did not know that He was missing for one whole day.

Instead, He had stayed back in The Temple. Three days later when the parents who by then were in such a panic saw Him in the midst of teachers discussing and asking them questions. Luke 2:48-49 So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, your father and I have sought You anxiously."

Did He say "sorry?"

<u>Luke 2:49-50</u> And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

Sounds arrogant, being least sensitive to how the parents would have felt. Pride is a sin – He knew no sin.

Joseph was just being transparent and honest. **Be found innocent in a world of darkness** – yet walk circumspectly – **Eph 5:15-21.**

2. <u>Submit to God and do not use your own understanding, resources or talents to work your</u> way out to the top.

<u>Prov 3:5-6</u> Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Probably a few days later Joseph was sent to his brothers who had gone to Shechem to feed their father's flock: genesis 37:12-36

<u>Gen 37:12-14</u> Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." So he said to him, "Here I am." Then he said to him, "Please go and see <u>if it is well</u> with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me." So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem.

Joseph was so innocent that he did not suspect anything. Elder brothers are there to look after the younger

- They wanted to kill him
- Reuben suggested that they threw him in an empty pit his plan was to come back and take him back to the father. Gen 37:21-22
- While Reuben was away, all the brothers got together and sold him to a Midianite Trader as a slave for 20 shekels Gen 37:25-28.

<u>Key:</u> Joseph could have easily persuaded the trader to take him back to his father and Jacob would have given ½ his wealth to redeem the son he loved most. Joseph didn't do that – instead, trusted God and submitted to His will.

We see a parallel in the life of Yeshua in the Garden of Gethsemane.

<u>Matt 26:53-54</u> Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"

One Legion is 6,000 Angels – 12 = 72,000. One Angel can take on an Army of 185,000 and prevail – 2 Kings 19:35. **Total surrender to God's will.**

When Paul was thrown in prison, he did not send desperate prayer requests or use any political influence to get out of the prison – **but trusted in The Lord, hence we have the Epistles.** Eph 6:19-20.

When you ask God for His will for your life and then if you try to back out – God gets angry – Exo 4:14.

3. <u>Do Everything as unto the Lord whether Leading Worship, Preaching the Gospel, Driving a</u> Car, at Work, Home or Washing Toilets – 24/7

God detests lackadaisical attitudes – but do everything with an excellent spirit as it is said about Daniel – Daniel 5:12. Work hard. There is going to be lots of hard work in The Millennium Kingdom of God in an environment of prevailing justice and righteousness.

Col 3:23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

God's eyes are on you- seeking to "**Promote"** you. Ps 139:7-12.

Yeshua on The Cross

We do not know how many Roman Soldiers would have got saved by just watching the way Yeshua responded to those who tortured and crucified Him. He is asking us to be a Light as He was.

When you got saved the old man died and was crucified with Yeshua Gal 2:20 and you have been resurrected with new citizenship in Heaven – Phil 3:20. Yeshua is The Perfect example to follow of how a citizen of Heaven conducts him/herself on earth. Heb 2:12.

PEOPLE MUST SEE CHRIST IN YOU AND WORKING THROUGH YOU.

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

Promotion, Prosperity, Power and Position – follows you like a shadow. Don't go after it. Deut 28:1-14, Josh 1:7-8.

<u>Gen 39:2-4</u> The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to <u>prosper</u> in his hand. 4 So Joseph found favour in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.

Even an **unbelieving master will see Christ in you** – we are God's sweet aroma in Christ – 2 Cor.2:15 - we attract the favour of God and the favour of man naturally.

Luke 2: 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men.

Satan knew that at the rate Joseph was going, he could impact the whole World, which is exactly what God has *called us to do*. We can't define our territory of influence or ministry – He Does – His Will, His Way.

<u>Acts 1:8</u> But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Are you baptised in The Holy Spirit and speak in tongues? It has been given to you for "one purpose and one purpose alone" in order to be part of His Army to fulfil what God is doing at this time in His'tory – to bring the Church age to the closure. That is Revival.

Matt 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

When you seek Revival, you must be found faithful in witnessing to your neighbour, the smaller picture, but your mind must focus with a clear understanding of the Biggest Picture – where it is supposed to end.

Has satan got a trap for that? He knows the damage you will cause to his kingdom if you go all the way.

Satan knew Joseph could not be tempted with prosperity, power or position. People who become victims of such things are the weakest links in The Body of Christ.

Joseph had been away from home for 3+ years and all that time in Potiphar's house. He was about 20+ years old. Satan now uses Potiphar's wife to seduce Joseph and **satan knew that if Joseph did not give in, she could get him into a deep life-threatening predicament** – a no-win situation.

If Joseph gave in, then he would lose his presence with God -

<u>Gen 39:7-9</u> And it came to pass after these things that **his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph**, and she said, **"Lie with me."** ⁸ **But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand.** ⁹ There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and <u>sin against God</u>?"

<u>James 1:12</u> Blessed is the man who **endures** temptation **(CJB: perseveres through temptation)**; for **when he has been approved<u>, he will receive the crown of life**</u> which the Lord has promised to **those who love Him**.

Joseph would have remembered his great-grandfather about whom it was said:

<u>Gen 26:5</u> because Abraham obeyed My voice and **kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and** My laws."

This was long before The Law was given through Moses.

The First piece of Armour is:

<u>Eph 6:14</u> (KJV) Stand therefore, **having your loins girt about with truth,** and having on the breastplate of righteousness.

<u>Dan 3:16-18</u> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and <u>He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known</u> to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set <u>up."</u>

5. Joseph in king's prison – before king's Palace

The woman made a serious allegation against Joseph and Potiphar put him in the prison. Joseph seemingly had lost the battle with the possibility of losing his life in the end. Genesis 39:11-19

<u>Gen 39:20-21</u> Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison<u>, a place where the king's</u> <u>prisoners were confined</u>. And he was there in the prison. But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

<u>Gen 40:1-4</u> It came to pass after these things that the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt. And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief butler and the chief baker. So he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison, the place where Joseph was confined. And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them; so they were in custody for a while.

Years go by. Joseph was 17 years when his brothers betrayed him. When he was 28 years old, the two prison mates have dreams. Joseph used his anointing to interpret their Dreams. He didn't think it was below him to use his anointing to interpret their dreams knowing very well his calling was to change nations.

Never ever think that simple, poor broken individuals are not worthy of your personal time and attention – every man and woman on earth is created in the Image of God. See how Yeshua treated the woman caught in adultery – John 8.

The Dreams were bad news for the Baker, but great news for the Butler Read Gen 40:6-21.

<u>Gen 40:12-13</u> And Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days. Now within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand according to the former manner when you were his butler.

After interpreting the Dreams, <u>Joseph made a tiny mistake, we may be full of them!</u> – he tried to use his connection with the Butler to get out of prison.

<u>Gen 40:14-15</u> But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house. (ALMOST 10 YEARS) 15 For indeed I was stolen

away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon."

Joseph – **you still have one more lesson to learn**. This is different from the prayer of Paul when he was in prison – **Eph 6:19-20.**

Gen 40:23 Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

The task before Joseph was so humongous that **God wanted Joseph not to trust in man, but in Him alone** – **never turning to the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil** – **or lean on what was right in his own eyes** – Gen 2:17 and Jud 17:6.

Those who do not learn how to handle disappointments God's way – will not go very far. After being in ministry outside the local church environment, working with quite a few churches for nearly 30 years – we have had our share of disappointments.

6. Equipping comes from the Lord

2 more years went by – **God gives 2 dreams to Pharaoh** that none of his "wise men" with their PhD's from the **University of Egypt** could interpret and <u>God reminds the Butler about Joseph.</u>

<u>Gen 41:12</u> Now there was a young Hebrew man with us there, a servant of the captain of the guard. And we told him, and he interpreted our dreams for us; to each man he interpreted according to his own dream. And it came to pass, just as he interpreted for us, so it happened. He restored me to my office, and he hanged him."

<u>Gen 41:14-16</u> Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they **brought him quickly out of the dungeon;** and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it <u>said of you</u> that you can understand a dream, to interpret it." So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, <u>"It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an</u> <u>answer of peace</u>."

God can use man to help you – in His Time. The Anointing in him helped him to interpret the Dream. **READ Gen 41:17-32**. **But there was something else that Joseph did.** Joseph suddenly had the audacity **to counsel Pharaoh how to run the whole project** so that <u>Pharaoh will emerge as a Superhero</u> at the end of the 14 years – **Our mandate is to make The King of kings look good**.

Pharaoh immediately recognised that Joseph had more wisdom than the sum of all his wise men.

<u>Gen 41:39-42</u> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you." And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.

Anointing in him interpreted the dream and in addition, where did he get his training to:

- Manage such a huge Global operation lasting 14 years
- People management skill in a palace is it a shadow of things to come in the Millennium Mega Kingdom
- Royal etiquettes

The Only Book of Law that will be used by Yeshua when He Reigns with a Rod of Iron in The Millennium is The Bible – remember what God said to Joshua in Josh 1:7-9 – do not turn to the Right or the Left. God chose Joshua to lead God's people to the Promised Land and Yeshua to take us to our Promised Land – both names mean Salvation.

Here on earth as we MUST train ourselves to do everything according to The Absolute Truths in The Bible. He is watching us to position us – 10 cities, 5 cities, nations or assistant to the assistant of someone in charge of a street. <u>**Rev 3:21**</u> To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

This was said to those who were overcomers in a Lukewarm church – **God had nothing good to say about that church** - like Joseph's environment for 13 years – don't blame your environment or the church – it is you. **To be an overcomer is a choice.**

I say this from the bottom of my heart – personal perspective – **my focus is not what I am going to be or the Rapture to get out of here** – God is absolutely faithful – my task is to do what He wants me to do here and now. Paul asked – **"what do You want me to do, and Isaiah said, 'Here I am. Send me."** Will you?

Joseph was so powerful even Potiphar, who threw him in prison without a proper inquiry, NOW had to make an appointment to see Joseph. Pharaoh was a type of king of kings – during the latter 7 years of famine all the kings of the world had to submit to Pharaoh for their survival – so Joseph reigned with Pharaoh, the king of kings. Does it ring a bell?

<u>2 Tim 2:11-12</u> This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure **(KJV – suffer), We shall also reign with Him**. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

There is a lot to think about. Finally.

7. Forgetting those things which are behind

He did not let any of these, past, present or future – make him proud or take advantage of his position for personal gain.

<u>Phil 3:13-14</u> Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

As far as Joseph was concerned, he was serving God, and being a light to Glorify God – Place did not make any difference – Prison or Palace.

- When Potiphar's family got the news, their household would have been filled with fear. Potiphar would have had a massive fight at home with his wife. Joseph just carried on as if nothing happened.
- He did not hold any grudge against Pharaoh's butler for forgetting him for 2 long years
- Later on, when his brothers came to him for food instead of being filled with anger he was
 overwhelmed with Joy that he cried so loud that the house of Pharaoh heard it.

<u>Gen 45:1-2</u> Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.

Can we take the life of Joseph and draw the parallels with our lives and circumstances and sincerely seek the Lord to see where we need to change? The fact that we are still alive is a great blessing and opportunity which time will take away from us. A Living dog is better than a dead lion – Eccl.9:4. Walk circumspectly redeeming the time because the days are evil – do not be unwise, <u>know what the will of The Lord is</u> – Eph.5:15-17. A hut in Heaven is exceedingly better than wealth worth billions on earth – put that into a practical perspective in all our ways.

We can't unwind the clock. If we could, there are billions in eternity who would give all their wealth and an arm and a leg to exchange places with you and me – and that includes Hitler, Stalin, Mao-Tse Tung, and Yeshua's disciple Judas.

There is none in Heaven who walked in the perfect will of God, including those who have paid the highest price regretting their lives on earth. They have an Eternity to rejoice.

We are on a journey - and God's plan for our lives is that we may

- Reign with Him 1 Tim 2:12, Luke 19:17
- We become Joint Heir with Christ Rom 8:17 (we suffer together, we may be glorified together -

Bride of Christ – 2 Cor 11:2, Eph 5:22-23, Rev 19:6-8

These rewards are for Eternity. That is why Paul said:

<u>Rom 8:18-19</u> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

Let me conclude with the following plea from Paul, who had such deep revelations of the Mysteries of The Gospel:

Gal 4:19 My little children, for whom I labour in birth again until Christ is formed in you,

Let us fellowship and serve one another not for the sake of fellowship, but that we may build one another with Christ in the Centre.

- 1. Be found innocent and transparent before God.
- 2. Trust in the Lord. Do not lean on your understanding.
- 3. Do everything as unto The Lord.
- 4. Promotion and success will follow you like a shadow, do not chase after them, be Holy.
- 5. From king's prison to king's palace place does not matter. Where you stand now is your Holy Ground.
- 6. Equipping comes from The Lord.
- 7. Forgetting those things which are behind forgive looking Onward and Upward.