

# I am the Lord, your Maker, and I am Making You



## 1 The Making of Joseph

### 1.1 Gen 39:1-4

**Gen 39** <sup>1</sup>Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And **Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian**, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. <sup>2</sup>The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. <sup>3</sup>**And his master saw that the LORD was with him** and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all *that* he had he put under his authority.

### 1.2 Gen 39:20-23

**Gen 39** <sup>20</sup>Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the **king's prisoners were** confined. And he was there in the prison. <sup>21</sup>**But the LORD was with Joseph** and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. <sup>22</sup>And the **keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners** who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. <sup>23</sup>The keeper of the prison did not look into anything *that was* under *Joseph's* authority, because **the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.**

### 1.3 Ps 105:16-22

<sup>16</sup>Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread.

<sup>17</sup>**He sent a man before them—Joseph—who was sold as a slave.**

<sup>18</sup>**They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons.**

<sup>19</sup>**Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him.**

<sup>20</sup>The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free.

<sup>21</sup>He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions,

<sup>22</sup>To bind his princes at his pleasure, And teach his elders wisdom.

## 2 The Summation of Joseph's Life

### 2.1 Our Wedding gift

Our wedding gift from a bunch of young people whom Paul and I served.

- Revival card – future newspaper article on the revival shaking the nations.  
Silver plate engraved with “There is none upon earth I desire besides you, Lord my God.” (Ps 72:25)  
Prayer mat
- Wedding message - Apostle Paul's confession in *Acts 20:24* - *But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*

Lord, let it be to us according to Your Word in their blessing over our lives.

### 2.2 Theological Summary of Joseph's Life

Ps 105:16-22 is a condensed version of Joseph's life.

- 14 chapters in Genesis into the 7 verses.
- The theological summary & the essence of Joseph's life in v17-19.
- God's word came to him in dreams as a young man.
- And he was tested and tried UNTIL God's word came to pass in his life.

### 3 Joseph's Small Ambition – Boss over His Brothers (Jacob vs Esau?)

Joseph wanted to be his brothers' boss – be the family chief, perhaps like his own father Jacob took the birthright from Esau, the older brother.

He was well on his way.

#### 3.1 The Dysfunctional Chosen Family – Joseph was well on his way!

Joseph was Jacob's favourite older son from his favourite wife among the 4.

Joseph's older brothers, one by one, disqualified themselves from their birthright for the first born.

- Reuben sleeps with his father's concubine, the mother of his two brothers.
- Judah has twin sons with his daughter-in-law, Tamar. He was deceived into thinking Tamar was a prostitute.
- Jacob's daughter, Dinah, was raped on an outing.
- Simeon and Levi wiped out the entire population of men in a village in revenge killing.

#### 3.2 Jacob openly promoted Joseph above his brothers.

Jacob dressed him in a multi-coloured robe.

- Joseph was the second youngest of the 12 in the family, but acted like their boss.
- While his brothers worked in the field with the sheep, Joseph would write reports on them to his father.
- His brothers were much older than Joseph – the older sons of Leah, his stepmother, were probably 30-35 years old. Joseph was 17.
- And now Joseph was even having prideful dreams about how he will rule over them all, and letting everyone know about it at the dinner table.

### 4 God Sends – Sold as a Slave

#### 4.1 Winds and Storms to Purify

The final incredible sin his brothers commit was to actually sell Joseph, their little brother to the foreign slave traders.

- And let Jacob think Joseph was devoured by a wild beast.
- Jacob never recovers from this trauma till he sees Joseph alive 20 years later.
- He was taken in heavy iron chains around his bleeding feet and neck, roped together with other slaves taken by the slave traders.
- Walked in loincloth for a week – his multicolour robe was stripped off him by his brothers.
- Worth 20 shekels of silver, 228 grams of silver = AUD\$225
- He was displayed and sold in the slave market in Egypt.
- Slaves were piece of property in those days, inspected like animals.
- God sent him, he was sold as a slave. This is the pathway of God's calling, shortcut to his destiny.

Wine being poured into vessel – again and again to purify.

- Gunk will settle at the bottom. So This pouring / settling process takes the gunk out of the wine.
- So God pours us from one situation to another, one circumstance to another, one place to another.
- We feel like dying – but that's the process of making quality wine.
- When we willingly are poured out by God's hand, we become a drink offering holy unto the Lord.

## 4.2 Heat and Pressure to Strengthen (God's Trade Secret)

V18 – he was laid in iron – iron entered into his soul.

God put iron strength in Joseph that wasn't there in his younger days as his father's favourite son.

- Strength to withstand adverse circumstances in life, to withstand the long waiting period, to withstand loneliness, and look to the Lord only.
- God subjects us to heat and pressure at times to put an iron backbone into us.

Sword is made by subjecting metal to heat, then pressure (hammering), then cooling in water over and over again.

- And a sword to cut and pierce is produced.
- There are famous sword legends in many countries - special swords made fit for kings and warriors.
- So sharp it can slice a hair, yet so strong it cuts through metal and not break.
- The secret of the sword making is trade secret, not revealed to anyone.
- One secret in Korean sword making - temperature of the cooling water. Someone tried to steal it from a swordsmith, secretly dunked his hand in the cooling water, the swordsmith cut it off!

Coca cola – I wondered why other cola makers can't get the taste exactly like coca cola. Cos they don't know the trade secret, can only imitate, but can't get it accurately.

- The ingredients are no secret, but proportions of various components to get that exact taste is the trade secret.
- One person is in charge of water, another in charge of sugar, another whatever, they only know their own component, and no one else's.
- The total combination = known only to the owner.

So God's dealings in your life.

- What proportion, how long, what kind of dealings = > trade secret of God, to make you exactly according to His precise plan.
- You won't know, devil won't know, others definitely don't know.
- Whose fault was it that got Joseph into this much trouble? The Psalmist says, 'God sent him – he was sold.' Both are true.
- God's hand initiated it, and used even the evil in the chain of events to bring His perfect will for Joseph and the chosen family and for the nations.

## 4.3 Wound and Scars - Building Depth of Character

Joseph's feet were hurt by the iron shackles. I wonder why it is recorded? Scars?

- The people who put their hands up and say 'Lord use me' receive holy wounds and carry holy scars on them.
- Things that put depth of character into them, but is nevertheless a scar.
- Apostle Paul said to his opponents in Corinth – Please, don't trouble me anymore, I carry on my body the marks of death of Jesus.
- The resurrected Lord has the mark of crucifixion in his hands, feet, his side - his back, forehead?
- Out of the wounding of our life, life flows.

Egypt was the land of affliction for Joseph.

- Joseph doesn't return to his homeland to his father and brothers even when he makes it big in Egypt. He could have flattened his brothers with the display of Egyptian pomp, power and glory.

- First son Manasseh means “God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household”
- Second son Ephraim means “God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

Someone said, I don’t want to listen to someone who doesn’t know what it is to fail, to be weak, or to be frail.

- It is crushed grapes that produce wine.

How long did God leave Joseph in prison?

- I suggest to you - until God knows Joseph gives up on his own plans, and gives into God’s sovereign plans he doesn’t understand. :

1) Joseph lets go of the dream of returning home to his father’s house.

2) Joseph will not wipe out his brothers in vengeance when he has the power to do so.

- Joseph has to stay put in Egypt and prepare the empire for the global famine.

He was the deliverer appointed by God to save the world from starvation.

And preserve the bloodline of the chosen family, through whom the Messiah was to come.

## **5 Conclusion - What is the Summation of Your Life?**

What would be God’s summation of your life? What do you want it to be?

- One who completely surrendered.
- One who poured oil on Jesus’ feet.
- One who ate the scroll of God’s Word and prophesied His word.
- One who became God’s manure for the seed bed of the next generation.

I am the Lord, Your Maker. I am Making you.

- I encourage us to yield to the hand of God taking us to the place of our divine appointment in Christ.