

The God of the In-Between

Introduction

The first thing God told Joseph about his destiny was that the sun, the moon, and the stars would bow down to him. God would raise him up as a ruler and even his parents and brothers would bow before him.

Joseph received the vision directly from God, so he wanted to share his vision with his family. This is the move that shifted him from a place of *vision* to a place called '*in-between*'. The vision for his future was just a snapshot of what his life would one day look like, but God did not tell him that his brothers would throw him in a pit nor sell him to the Midianites. The Lord did not mention the part about the attempts of Potiphar's wife to seduce him or the prison sentence that would be extended an extra two years due to the forgetfulness of Pharaoh's butler. God never mentioned the mess "in between" the vision and the realisation of the promise.

I imagine it must have been incredibly demoralising to expect great things in your life but be confronted with the reality of the betrayal of your brethren, the isolation of the bottom of a pit, the devastation of slavery, the humiliation of rape allegations, the injustice of prison, and the pain of being forgotten...but the word of God reminds us again and again that "...the Lord was with Joseph". Through it all, in Potiphar's house, in the prison cell; the Lord was with Joseph.

So, if perhaps, you are looking at your current situation and it looks as far as can be from the vision God showed you of your future. Take heart, it is not a mistake; it is not an error; it does not mean, that you misunderstood God, or it will never come to pass. It is just the reality of the 'in-between'. God didn't tell you about the stuff you are dealing with now, He might not have warned you about the pit or the prison; but He did promise that He would be with you, even unto the ends of the earth. If that isn't something to shout about, I don't know what is! The great God of heaven who created the universe is right there with you wherever you are, be it in the pit, the prison, or the palace.

Getting Started

- Read Joseph's journey captured in Genesis 37-50 and pay special attention to Genesis 37:6-the end, Genesis 39:2,22-23



1. What were the situations Joseph faced 'in- between' his dream from God and the reality of him possessing that promise?
2. In Genesis 39:2,22-23 What evidence do we see that "the Lord was with Joseph?"

Let's Get Personal

- What comes to your mind when you think of the promise of God over your life? How close does it appear that you are to receiving that promise?
- Write out the following scriptures: 2 Corinthians 1:20; Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 8:28; Isaiah 41:10 and Isaiah 43:2.

Take The Next Step

- Choose your favorite three of these verses and memorise them. Hide them in your hearts.