

Walking with God on the Road of Destiny

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Christ Mission Ablaze Church



FORWARD

The twenty-first century has people all over the world still looking for solutions to the challenges and difficulties of life. The context of that search may change over the years, but the human heart's basic needs are still the same. We are all involved in a journey through life. What we learn, who we know, and the activity of daily life choices impact how we will live life. We may see only the negatives and dwell on the hardships or we can see all of life as stepping stones to all that God intends for our life.

Solomon X. Y. Jallayu was one of my students in Liberia when I lived there from 2002-2006, teaching at a Salvation Army College. His continuing hunger for God and his pursuit of knowledge and truth have provided unlimited opportunities for teaching and ministry.

This book takes the reader through Genesis 37–45 with Biblical truths and insights gleaned from the life of Joseph. He writes of the life experiences of Joseph, a man from the past, with a perspective of the future. The timeless truths in these pages will open your eyes to the greatness of God and how He uses every situation in life for our good and His glory.

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my beloved wife, Victoria Zarr-Jallayu, who has been my partner in ministry and continually keeps me encouraged, to my three children: Prince, Pamela, Sovic, and Solome who are the gift of God to me, and my mother, Sarah Z. Elliot-Jallayu and my late father, John S. K. Jallayu.

I dedicate this book to each of you and thank God that He has gifted me with your love, support, and friendship.



Introduction

“Though I walk amid trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand, you save me.” (Psalm 138:7)



Your earthly life is a journey. Every child of God needs to know that this journey requires walking with God. The unfortunate thing is that many people do not know that God has a plan and purpose for their life on earth before going to heaven. The Bible has a lot to say about how to prepare and face the future when you are on your earthly journey. It speaks honestly about the difficulties you must face on your journey and how God can preserve your life and prosper you.

This book is a compilation of sermons preached in churches and at conferences, workshops, and leadership seminars. You will journey with Joseph, an Old Testament Bible character, and see how his life circumstances are used to help you understand your walk with God toward your destiny.

The entire book covers Genesis 37-45. From these chapters, eight themes or subjects are drawn as the book chapters. Chapters are prepared so that you can read them on your own or with a group. As you read them, it is hoped that they will inspire you to discover who you are and where God is leading you in your life. Be sure to read the selected chapters in your Bible that go along with each lesson. Also, take time to look up the Bible references mentioned throughout this book.

My prayer is that you find this book helpful as you either begin or continue your journey of discovery in your walk with God on the road of destiny.

Beginning to Walk (Genesis 37:1-11)

Walking requires motion. It involves putting one foot ahead of the other and not remaining static or stationary. The journey in the Christian requires walking as well. It is a faith walk that eventually leads to eternity with God. It is a journey on which every believer in Christ will travel. I want you to realize that even though our final destiny is heaven (eternal life with Christ), it is not the only purpose for which God created us. God created us to rule the earth and have dominion over it, (Genesis 2:26-28). There is an earthly destiny as well as our final destiny when this earthly life is over. The Christian walk has a beginning. You can't just jump onto the path whenever you feel like it. You must start at the beginning. Let's look at how Joseph, the principal character in our studies and a direct example of our Lord Jesus Christ, began his walk with God.

Joseph is a son of Jacob, who is the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. If you look at the historicity of this family in Genesis 29-35, you will notice that Joseph is the first son of Rachel, the younger wife of Jacob. Jacob married Laban's two daughters, Leah and Rachel. These two women and their maidservants bore Jacob's sons and a daughter. God designated Jacob's twelve sons as the beginning of the twelve tribes of Israel. What started as a sorrowful thing became a powerful example of God's working in the life of Joseph and his blood brother, Benjamin, from the very beginning.

Rachel was barren for many years after her marriage to Jacob. She cried out to Jacob and to God in her desperation to have children. God answered her prayer and her first son, Joseph, was born. While Joseph was still small, Rachel gave birth to his little brother, Benjamin, but she died in childbirth. The death of his mother did not stop Joseph or God from walking together on the road of destiny.

Sometimes we say the people we are depending on for survival are no more, so there is no hope for us in this life. That should not be the case for a Christian. Walking with God should be the center of focus

without external distractions. So many people walk with God to their destiny without their parents, children, relatives, and friends.

The journey for the Christian gets it starts with a personal relationship with Christ. And then a dream begins to form, a focus. That is exactly what happened Joseph. Joseph's dream was about leadership. This was not just something that Joseph wanted and began to imagine but he was discovering something about his future which God placed in his spirit. Do you know that God has placed the believers' future within their spirit? This may surprise you, but God does it. When you are asking for God's direction concerning your future, check your spirit because God is Spirit (John 4:24) and He wants His Spirit joined with our spirit.

Wandering is not dreaming because it is most of the time in partnership with our egoistic desire. This desire leads us in the way toward what *we* strive to become: a teacher or accountant, pastor, politician, and so on. And in the end, nothing is accomplished. In the book of Numbers, we read that this happened to the children of Israel in the wilderness. They were not focused nor were they intent on discovering for themselves where God was leading them. A whole generation of them died in the wilderness after leaving Egypt and never made it to the promised land. They were not dreaming or looking ahead, only looking back and wandering. We are not to wander in life and die but to dream and reach our destiny where God is leading us in obedience.

God plants His dream for us within our hearts. I want you to know that Joseph's dream was placed in his heart by God. The Bible says he dreamed two different times and the dreams were consistent with the matter of leadership but they came in different forms. In the first dream, the sheaves of grain (representing his brothers) gathered around and bowed down to his sheaf which rose and stood upright. (Genesis 37:3-7)



In the second dream, Joseph saw the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowing down to him (Genesis 27:9). The main emphasis in these dreams is on the repeated word "bow". There are different elements in each of the two dreams, but the message is the same in both, and both involve the aspect of "bowing". Joseph's brothers and father would one day realize the fulfillment of these dreams. They may not have liked or understood each dream at the time it happened, but for Joseph, the dreams initiated the beginning of an amazing journey with God.

When we start walking with God, He will put within our hearts a dream, a focus, and a desire to fulfill the destiny He wants for us. Today it may come through prayer, the reading and study of God's Word, and fellowship with other believers. The dream God puts inside us does not mean lying down and sleeping or seeing strange things. It is seeking to discover what God has placed in our spirit about our future and then pursuing it.

As Christians, we need to be walking with God and that is also where the dream begins. Are we paying

attention to the dream God wants for us or are we merely wandering Christians? Listen to God. Ask God to show you what you need to discover your dream. Then, catch hold of the dream. Discover your future through God's Spirit within you and pursue what you have discovered. If you are on the journey of your dream, then keep on pursuing the dream God has placed in your heart. Don't let it go.



Conspiracy on the Road (Genesis 37:12-36)

A conspiracy is a secret agreement among people to do unlawful, harmful, or wrong acts. The roots of conspiracy can be found in such things as hatred, jealousy, and envy. When we are walking with God on this road of destiny, we must be aware that there are conspirators along the way. The father of those conspirators is the devil, himself. One thing that should be known to a Christian is that, when walking on such a road, you should be aware that on this journey you will be sure to encounter dangers. The Bible says that we should be "self-controlled and alert" because "your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." (I Peter 5:7,8). The Psalmist, David, could say that "though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. (Psalm 23:4). David said this because he knew he could trust God to bring to pass all that God was stirring up within his spirit. He knew for certain that his dream, his journey was centered on God.

Having named some of the roots of conspiracy, I want us to see how these things operate against us in our lives if we are not careful.

From the text, you will find out that Joseph was loved by his father, Jacob. Joseph, at some point, carried a report to Jacob about the wicked behavior of his brothers. (Genesis 37:2-3). The scripture doesn't tell us the details of what the brothers had done or were doing, but reporting their behavior to Jacob, their father, made them angry with Joseph. Jealousy and hatred had taken root in their hearts against Joseph. Do you stand for truth and right today even when others may hate you for it? Are you standing up for truth as a Christian? Amid conspiracy, Joseph could still see and hear the dream God had put in his spirit. The hatred, jealousy, and envy of the brothers eventually took such deep root that they conspired to kill their brother.

In a later century, this same thing happened to Julius Caesar, a political leader in Rome. His friends plotted against him and killed him while he was leading in parliament.

This same thing happened to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. But, in this case, Jesus conquered death and through His resurrection, has promised to be with us to the end of the age (Matthew 28:26). He will see us safely through the traps of conspiracy.

It was Joseph's brothers who tried to kill him, not some stranger. There is a saying that "When your house doesn't sell you, the street won't buy you." It was Joseph's household that sold him. Sometimes it is not the Muslims, pagans, or Zoroastrians who will sell us, but our Christian brothers, sisters, fathers, and mothers in the church. Even people who claim to be Christ's followers may be the very ones who want to kill our

dreams of marriage, business, education, and living a Christ-like life. Let me remind you of what the Bible says, “when God is for us, who can be against us” (Romans 8:31)?

God has His way to guide you when you are walking with Him. God used Reuben to suggest that Joseph be put into a pit instead of killing him. Do you know that Reuben intended to get Joseph out of the pit later and return him to his father (Genesis 37:18-23)? Yes, that was his intention, but on the other hand, Joseph’s father’s house was not his destiny. In Joseph’s case, returning to his father’s house would have been a regression instead of a progression in Joseph’s journey. Whatever happens to us along the road, God is with us and will take us to our destiny. Keep trusting God when the twists and turns of life may seem confusing or even off track of your dream.

Joseph was stripped naked before he was thrown into the pit. Some may ask the question, ‘Where was God when all this was happening?’ The answer is straightforward.

God was right there with Joseph, encouraging him in his time of trouble. God is looking at us in our struggle on the road. The struggle should not be our focus. Our focus should be on God and the assurance He gives that we are walking with Him

Sometimes we may feel like we’ve been stripped naked in our faith, mind, or emotions. Remember that God is with you and will clothe you with His righteousness and presence. Until we are in the pit, we don’t know that God is in the pit with His children. He knows the situation of every believer. He wants us to trust Him and allow even the stormy confusion to be the stepping stones to our destiny.

As Joseph’s father’s house was no longer his destiny, equally so the pit was not his destiny. When we find ourselves in unwanted and unwelcome situations, remember this is not our destiny but a necessary part of our journey toward lifting us to higher ground.

Because the pit was not Joseph’s destiny, God, who walked with Joseph, spoke to the heart of Joseph’s conspirators to get him out of the pit.



The Bible says some of Joseph’s brothers took him from the pit and sold him to an Ishmaelite caravan on its way to Egypt (Genesis 37:25-28). And so, the journey to Joseph’s destiny continues.

Don't be discouraged when we get out of the pit of one situation only to enter another. It is the continuation of your journey with God to your destiny.

Child of Distinction (Genesis 39:1-12)

When we talk about distinction, we are talking about being separated and showing distinguishing qualities or marks. This is special recognition, honor, and difference as a child of God. The child of God must be distinct because God is distinct. And within the framework of that distinction, the believer in Christ makes his/her journey. Peter said, “You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, and a peculiar people—that you may declare the praise of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light” (I Peter 2:9). Did you notice that Joseph was sold to the Ishmaelites who took him to Egypt? The Ishmaelites bought Joseph from his brothers, then sold him as a slave to Potiphar in Egypt. Potiphar was Pharaoh’s official,

the captain of the guard.

Now, Joseph is in a new home serving as a slave, but he is distinct. Joseph was separated from his family but not from God Almighty. He was stripped of his coat of many colors (Genesis 37:3-23), but not of his virtue, character, dignity, integrity, or God's favor. Too often we allow our present circumstances to rob us of our distinguishing qualities. This should not be the case. We are still His royal priesthood and a peculiar people. Therefore, we should remain in Godly distinction.

In verse 3 of chapter 39, it says that the Lord prospered Joseph, which indicates that he and God were still walking together. I believe that Joseph remained distinct in his slavery. The Bible says he was prosperous in everything he did. For Joseph, prosperity (doing well) was a portion of the blessing God had for him, and the same is true for us. He served the one true God and nobody else. Because Joseph was faithful to God, he experienced growing levels of success even while he was in slavery. I notice that many Christians want to prosper but they don't want to be distinct by being obedient. That's the reason why they follow signs and wonders instead of signs and wonders following them. (Mark 16:17)



Joseph served his master, Potiphar, in slavery. This is a good example for any Christian to follow. One of the inspiring things to learn is that Potiphar's house was blessed because of Joseph, not because of Potiphar, his wife, or other servants. The Egyptians were not true worshippers of the Lord Almighty, but because of Joseph this house was blessed and even Potiphar recognized something different in Joseph and the God he served.

The key question here is: Is your house or someone else's house blessed because of you? This question is not whether all your family members are Christians or whether all the homes you visit and spend time in are all people who have become Christians. No. That is not the point here. Rather, are those homes blessed because of your distinction, dedication, and obedience to the Lord? On the other hand, many of our homes are blessed for the sake of Christ. This is so because Christ lived in obedience to His heavenly Father as a distinct child of God. He was committed to God. We, too, are to follow Christ's example.

To be distinct, we are always faced with temptation and the tendency to yield to temptation. This kind of temptation I call "temptation for distinction". The scripture tells us that temptation is part of your earthly life. But God's Word also says that God "will not allow you to be tempted above what you can bear, but with the temptation will provide a way of escape."

(I Corinthians 10:13) Temptation and trials are there to grow us, make us strong, and keep us holding tightly to Almighty God.

Can you imagine Potiphar's wife, who was well respected in the home, casting her eyes upon Joseph, a foreigner in her land? She said to him, "Come to bed with me." But Joseph refused. He ran from the temptation.

Do you know that she was responsible, but not honorable? I mean big, but for nothing. This same thing continues to happen in our society today.

Married women leave their husbands and enter into immoral acts with a little boy and call him a godson.

God's only son I know is Jesus Christ. Any shadow or duplication of such is an immoral son. Because Joseph is a child of distinction, he refuses to go to bed with this woman. Some young people would say that if they go to bed with such a woman, then they would be in full control of the house. But where are you leaving your mark of distinction? What kind of mark of distinction is it that you should have as a follower of Christ?

There was a princess who wanted to marry but the condition she set for the boy who would marry her was that he had to run a race and catch her. The princess was to start the race ahead of the boys pursuing her. The story says there were three boys in the race who said they wanted to catch her to marry her. They started the race with the princess out ahead of them. The princess was running with gold, diamonds, and US dollars in her hands. When the first boy came close to catching her, she dropped some of the US Dollars. The boy stopped to pick them up and was left behind. When the second boy came close to catching her, she dropped the gold and he stopped to pick it up and was left behind. Finally, the third boy came close to catching her and she dropped a few of the diamond pieces. However, the third boy paid no attention and kept running after the princess. Soon the princess dropped the rest of the diamonds, gold, and US dollars, but still, the boy did not pay attention or stop to pick them up. He continued to run and finally was able to catch her. When the princess asked the boy why he didn't stop to get the items she dropped, the boy said that if he could get the princess, then all of those things would eventually be his, so there was no need for him to be slowed down or stopped by distractions rather than first reach his goal.

This is the same with a person of distinction. When you focus on Christ Jesus, all of who He is and has will be for you. Do not be distracted when those things come your way. You can now see the reason why Joseph didn't identify with immorality to get to his destiny.

No one was around in the house when this temptation came to Joseph. This was an opportunity to prove himself as a distinct child of God. Temptation often comes when no one is around to see what we are doing or going to do. For Joseph, he knew that no one was around to see him, but he also knew that God was there watching over him.

As Christians, our first commitment should be to God. There are sins we can commit that others may never know about. Just because we don't get caught, doesn't mean it isn't a sin. God's Word says, "He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts." (I Corinthians 4:5) (see also Luke 12:2)

The Bible says Potiphar's wife caught hold of Joseph's garment. She wanted to rape him. Do you know that women can rape a man at times? Yes, they do. Potiphar's wife is a clear example. One thing Joseph did was to escape from her hands. In I Cor. 10:13, it is said that God will always find the way out for us when we are tempted. Joseph didn't sit there in the room with the woman, hoping that God would take away the temptation. No. He got out of there as fast as he could. He ran from the temptation. We are not to expect God to do what he gives us sense enough to do. His Word says to flee the temptation (I Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22). Why sit there and call on God to come to you when you have a God-given ability to flee the temptation?



Let Them Lie About You (Genesis 39:13-39)

When you look at the word ‘lie’, it is to make an untrue statement with the intent to deceive; to create a false impression, or to mislead. In many communities, lying is the language of the day. Do you sometimes notice it in your community? How do you feel when someone lies to you or about you to someone else? It is always enjoyable to lie to people when you belong to the devil. Jesus says in John 8:44 that the devil is the father of lies, so lying to people is nothing but doing the will of the devil. But what happens when people lie to you? They want to hurt you and cause you to be worried, traumatized, frustrated, and confused. But amid these things, I was to remind you of this theme—let them lie about you because you are walking with God.

Potiphar’s wife lied about Joseph to her husband and servants. This is not strange. Many times, a liar will seek support from others even though they know they are lying. It is sad when we let one lie lead to another and another. We want others to become part of the lying mess we’ve gotten ourselves into. This is exactly what happened in the situation between Potiphar’s wife and Joseph.

She didn’t stop at one lie but went on to add one lie to another. Many people lie on people to their spouses or bosses as a means to cover their guilt and shame. Potiphar believed his wife without inquiring. Yes, he did. But what did the servants say for or against the allegation? Nothing. If you were the servant or the husband, what could you have said or done? A Christian must always be ready to investigate when what is being said seems so out of character for the person. All of us are capable of such behavior to get back at someone for embarrassing us. We must be careful not to become part of a lie that hurts other people. Whatever situation a Christian finds him/herself in, they must be willing to learn and speak the truth.

If the servant knew the truth, he could have spoken up on Joseph’s behalf rather than remaining silent. Nor did Joseph have the opportunity to explain his side of the story. However, God used this complete injustice toward Joseph to mold his destiny. The lies told by Potiphar’s wife only strengthened him in his journey with God. He remained faithful even though he couldn’t see at the time, any good in what was happening to him. Sometimes this happens in our countries, in school, on our jobs, at home, and even in our churches today. For Potiphar’s wife, the lie was to cover her embarrassment and passion, but God would use her lies for Joseph’s good.

For God, it was for Joseph to keep walking on the road and not stay too long in Potiphar’s house. Potiphar’s house was just another stopping point on Joseph’s journey and not his destiny.

I know many Christians are worrying today because people are spreading lies about them. You may even be the one people are lying about. The liars want you to lose your job, wife, husband, business, etc.

Listen. I continue to say to anyone who is reading this book to let them tell lies about you. Their motive for lying may be quite different from what God wants to do in and through your life amid the lies. The main thing you should be concerned about is to keep faithfully walking with God.

Joseph was sent to prison because somebody lied about him. Looking at a prison is a place of confinement for criminals. But, was Joseph a criminal? No, he wasn’t. However, all who end up in prison are not criminals. Joseph wasn’t placed in an ordinary prison, but a prison for the king’s prisoners (Genesis 39:20). This might have been the inescapable prison. This was a place for criminals against the state. Joseph was not a state criminal but was falsely accused by the spouse of someone in the king’s employment. However, the road leading to Joseph’s destiny meant traveling through the travails of prison. And God would be with him through the hard times in prison as he continued on his road of destiny. Doing well for the Lord’s sake and being faithful to God’s principles does not always mean physical

comfort. There will certainly be hard times on our journey. Isaiah 43:2 reminds us that “when you walk through the waters, I will be with you, when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire (of adversity) you will not be burned.” While Joseph was in prison, the Bible says the Lord was with Joseph and favored him. (Genesis 39:21). The Lord was with Joseph because he was walking with God.

So, it didn't matter where he was or what was going on in his life, he knew God's presence and he stayed faithful in walking with God. God would go through the prison with Joseph. Joseph would not go through this experience alone. Where the presence of God is, there is favor. In this light, the favor of God was upon Joseph in prison. He could have sat around feeling sorry for himself, but he didn't. Instead, he became a source of encouragement for others in prison and became a trusted prisoner by the guards. The scripture says that Joseph became the head of the prisoners. (Genesis 29:22-23). This was the blessing of obedience (Deuteronomy 28:13) because while Joseph was walking with God, he remained obedient to God's Word, ways, and will.

God said in His Word that he would be the head and not the tail. Do you know that Christ will not allow His body, the church, to be the tail and the enemy to become the head over His body? Do you know that when Christ does this, He will be putting His body under the enemy? Do you know that this body can only function the way it should as long as it remains attached to Jesus Christ, the head? This is exactly what Joseph did. As he remained faithful to God, he became the head prisoner. To show that God was with him, the scripture says whatever he did prospered. (Gen 39:21). However, what is prosperity? There are many definitions both denotatively and connotatively. For simple understanding, I will say prosperity is contentment.

Let them lie about you. Contentment will come to you in the Lord. It is not an easy thing for people to lie about you and not retaliate, but with the Holy Spirit, you will honor God when you just keep walking with Him.



Baker and Butler have dreams



Joseph in Prison



Joseph interprets their dreams

Why So Long? (Genesis 40:1-23)

Sometimes when we are traveling on the road to our destiny, we do not get there soon because we are slow in walking or there is little enjoyment on the way. Sometimes people waste time. Sometimes it is for a purpose and the waiting is for the appropriate time. However, Joseph asked for help on his way because, despite his leadership position in prison, he was still in prison.

Joseph's dreams began long before he got to this point on his journey. Now Joseph found himself in other people's dream world. The Bible says that Pharaoh's butler and baker both had dreams while they were in prison. Joseph was able to interpret their dreams. He said that within three days, the butler was going to be restored to his place by Pharaoh. His interpretation of the dream happened just as he had predicted. On this occasion, he asked for assistance from the butler. He said, "Think of me and make mention of me to Pharaoh when it is well with you" (Genesis 40:14). Joseph went to on explain how he was innocent and how he was sold from the Hebrew land but he never spoke ill of his brothers.

Joseph also interpreted the baker's dream and said that within three days, he was going to hang on a tree and birds would eat his flesh. The interpretation Joseph gave was from God so Joseph could not bend the truth. As children of God, we must learn to tell people the truth. Can you still remember that Joseph is walking with God? Yes, that is the reason he told the truth and was not so concerned about the baker's feelings. God's Word is nothing but truth. This came to pass just as Joseph had interpreted from the dream in the life of the baker.



Even after interpreting the dreams of the butler and the baker and requesting assistance from the butler, Joseph was still in prison. The butler promptly forgot about Joseph's request when he was restored to his position in Pharaoh's employment. Why does it sometimes take so long to get to where God is leading? Why do the same things seem to happen to us on the journey of our destiny? Why the long-suffering, temptations, and trials? These are questions that often come to our mind. The answer to these questions is quite simple.

For Joseph, the prison was in Pharaoh's jail. Where or what is your prison? Can you identify your prison? Is it drunkenness, adultery, idolatry, fornication, gossip, jealousy, lying, greed, or some other thing? For Joseph, he knew his prison was in Pharaoh's jail and was even the top leader among the prisoners. Now

listen to your point of deliverance. Joseph knew that he was the leader and also his leadership was in a prison which was not his destiny. Even though he was not satisfied with still being in prison, he remained faithful to God and used his leadership skills wisely. He looked for a way to get out of the prison by asking the butler to remember him to Pharaoh. Even doing his best in leadership, he could hope the prison guards might be able to influence his release. Until you get tired and uncomfortable with your prison life (condition of life), it is difficult to leave from there.

Sometimes we find ourselves in an immoral prison just for little or nothing and feel that we are fully in charge of the situation and so enjoy ourselves. Whatever the case may be, those are still prison conditions or situations. We need to want to leave from there to continue on our journey of faith. We need to call on Jesus Christ to release us from the prison that is holding us down. Jesus is the only one who can release us from the different conditions of prison life. To release people from such a prison is the mission of Jesus (Luke 4:18; I Peter 3:18-22).

Are you still saying it is taking you so long and you have not realized your blessing or reached your destiny? Blessings sometimes tarry for a purpose.

Let me close this section on “Why So Long?” with three possible reasons.

Sometimes our blessing of destiny and reaching our destiny tarries because of our associations. The people we associate ourselves with can be the reason for the delay. Secondly, it may be the influences within our environment. That is, where we dwell and spend our time. Thirdly, perhaps because of immaturity. If we are not mature enough to handle our blessings, our blessings can kill us because of the way we misuse them.

God knows when to release our blessings to us. If Joseph had remained among his brothers, who were his associates, and in the environment of Canaan, his blessing would have been harmful to him. At that point, Joseph was inexperienced and immature in his walk with God. There were things he needed to learn and he needed to grow in maturity and develop his leadership skills along his journey of life before he could arrive well fit for his destiny. His delay was a valuable time of preparation for the right time. Don't you think that one of these reasons might be the cause for your delay? I guess you are getting along in walking with God as a Christian. This is a spiritual matter. Do not take it just literally to hit your brothers and leave your community without prayer and seeking God. It could be God is molding your life right where you are or it could be He is wanting you to move to the next part of your journey.

Why So Long? Yes, it is painful because you want so much to get there or feel you are almost there. This happens, too, for a woman who is pregnant and it is close to time for the child to be born. When it is time for the baby to be born, she must endure a lot of pain. However, after the pain, the joy of celebration for the child who has arrived safely into the world, makes the journey all worth it. It may seem like it is taking you a long time, but you will arrive where God is leading you. Keep trusting and walking with God.

You Will Be Remembered (Genesis 41: 9-13)

There is a story of a man who was assisted by a friend to get through the process that requires a good sum of money to get a USA Visa. Through the help of his friend, he was successful in getting the visa and traveling from Liberia to the United States. The one who assisted asked his friend before he could travel, that when things improved with him in the USA, to please remember the kindness shown to him. The friend agreed to do so and left on his trip. It was unfortunate that the one left behind was soon forgotten when things started going well for the one who traveled to the United States. You might wonder why or how the friend left behind in Liberia could have been so quickly forgotten. Or you may have other

interpretations of this situation. We have a similar situation in our text with the story of Joseph and the butler who forgot about him and his request once things were going well for the butler outside of the prison. Let's see what lessons we can learn in divine order in this situation.

When Joseph interpreted the dream of the butler being returned to his former position in the employ of the Pharaoh of Egypt (Genesis 40), he asked the butler to remember him and make mention of him to the Pharaoh. Joseph's request shows that even though he was in a leadership position within the prison, he was not satisfied to stay in this place forever. We considered this before. You could be in a negative situation that includes adultery, prison, fornication, drunkenness, jealousy, gossip, or any of the other things we mentioned or even more. These are all prisons and they are not your destiny. Don't be satisfied with these things or places. What man may call unfortunate may be fortunate in the big picture of where God is taking you. In our text, the butler forgot about Joseph for two years. Pharaoh freed the butler from prison just as Joseph had interpreted from the butler's dream, but Joseph was never mentioned to Pharaoh as requested (Genesis 40:22-23).

Similarly, someone says they have plans or make promises to give you a job, and money, marry you, help you with school fees, pay your house rent, or help you start a small business as promised, but they fail to remember the promise or plan and fulfill your request. Listen, the Bible says, "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). Some of these things can be painful just as it is with a woman who is about to give birth. The closer the time for the baby to be born, the more intense the pain. But after the severe pain comes the joy of rejoicing over a baby born into the world. The Bible says "Weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5).

The good God was well aware of the reason why Joseph was not mentioned to Pharaoh as soon as the butler was freed from prison. And you can see, that if he had been mentioned to Pharaoh at that time, it would have had no significance because Pharaoh did not need to be met. It was after Pharaoh had a disturbing dream that the God who walked with Joseph brought him into the picture. Joseph's dream, when he was just a young boy, started trouble for him among his brothers. Pharaoh's dream of good and bad years in Egypt soon brought Joseph to prominence.

The Bible says Pharaoh had a dream and wanted someone to interpret his dream but could find no one. It was in this situation that the butler remembered Joseph. You will also be remembered at the right time for your good and the good of the family of God. Pharaoh sent Joseph from prison to interpret the dream. Jesus can release you from your prison because He has work for you to do. Joseph was able to interpret Pharaoh's dream accordingly. Joseph made a statement that is worth paying attention to before his interpretation of the dream. He said in verse 16 of chapter 41 that it is God who gives the interpretation not him. This is how a child walking with God gives God the glory due Him. Don't try to take the glory that belongs to God and become boastful of the knowledge God gives you. Learn from the example of Joseph.

In reading the rest of Genesis 41, we see that Joseph is exalted in Egypt. Let me mention some specific things that are worth consideration in our study.

When Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream, he also gave advice relative to the result of Pharaoh's dream. He said in Pharaoh's two dreams he was being warned that there would be seven years of plenty throughout all the land of Egypt which would be followed by seven years of famine when all the years of plenty would be forgotten. The years of famine would be severe beyond anything they had ever experienced. Joseph's advice in this situation was that during the seven years of plenty, food should be stored up for the seven

years of famine so that the people of the land would not perish from hunger. Joseph's advice was a good one but Pharaoh would need someone with good managerial and economic skills to set up the system.

Life as a whole in our earthly journey with the Lord is full of ups and downs, good times, and difficult times. The question is what precautions are you taking in your good times as preparation in case of difficult times? Many of us do not save, be it money or whatever. That is not a good sign for a Christian who is walking with God. We need to use wisdom in proportioning what the Lord blesses us with. Are you saving? Think about it.

Because of God's dealings with Joseph, Pharaoh promised to make Joseph ruler over everything in the land except for Pharaoh's throne. He would be greater than anyone in the land except Pharaoh. Joseph did not blow a trumpet or get boastful about his new position but faithfully fulfilled the responsibilities placed upon him in humility.

As Christians, we need to humbly accept positions placed upon us accept promises, and keep them as secret until they come to pass.

When the appropriate time came, Pharaoh put his ring on Joseph's hand, arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck. This was a fulfillment of Pharaoh's promise to Joseph. You can now see why Joseph was not remembered by the butler for two complete years. God's time is always the best. God allowed him two more years in prison to continue developing skills that would be needed when he finally did gain his release. And when he did get out of prison, it was with exaltation. Listen to this. Your little delay could be for your exaltation and God's glory.

Joseph, who was rejected by his brothers, now is blessed with a wife and sons. When God exalts someone, it is complete and not halfway. Do you know that Joseph was not just a ruler in Egypt but had a family? This is God's doing. You need to just walk with God and keep trusting Him. He can do the same in your life.

Joseph's firstborn was named Manasseh, which is interpreted, as "for God made me forget my toil and my father's house." There are times in your life when you are walking with God that you will be able to forget your toils and the frustrations that you have had. So, it was with Joseph. Joseph's second son was named Ephraim, which means, "God made me fruitful in the land of my affliction." Joseph was not just faithful in walking with God, but the Lord made him fruitful. This is what God can do.

A farmer can be faithful in all his farm work but he will end up frustrated if he does not yield any harvest or if the farm is not fruitful. Faithfulness minus fruitfulness is equal to frustration. God is not interested in His children being frustrated walking with Him. Therefore, he wants to give you fruitfulness in your faithfulness.

Take note of this. Fruit comes at the end, not at the beginning. Anyone who expects fruitfulness in life before he can be faithful misses the mark of God's divine order.

Let us close this section of our studies with examples from Joseph's life that could be a help to us in our walk with the Lord. Joseph was placed in the pit and from the pit to the palace (house of Potiphar, his slave master); from palace to prison and from prison to a prince. It was at the time of his princely position that his faithfulness to God in the pit, in Potiphar's house, and prison was rewarded with fruitfulness. I pray that the good Lord will bless your faithfulness with fruitfulness.



Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams



Second in Command in Egypt

You Will Recognize Them (Genesis 42:7-8)

Who knows tomorrow? No one knows tomorrow. As humans, we can only know the moment and the hour we are in, and really, not even the next hour. It is only God who knows tomorrow because he is omniscient. That is the reason why we must be careful how we approach life and relationships whatever the category. Relationships may be family, relatives, marital, friendships, etc. In our studies in this section, we will notice that Joseph's brothers didn't know that one day they would be standing in front of their brother, depending on him. They could not know what was in their tomorrow.

However, it now becomes an occasion of repentance for Joseph's brothers. In Genesis 42, verse 8, Joseph recognized his brothers (enemies?) but they do not recognize him. They were wolves in sheep's clothing. From the day they sold Joseph into slavery, they had not yet told the truth to their father. If the house didn't sell you, the street wouldn't buy you. Thanks be to God because the street will know your task when the house sells you. Then, later the house will realize that you have a task that is needed by and for the house. They thought Joseph must have died in slavery.

There came a time when they were approaching the second in command (Joseph) in the whole country of Egypt as if they were kind people but instead, they were wolves in sheep's clothing and Joseph knew it. It is not how life begins with you, how the race starts, or how you begin to climb the mountain. The Bible

says that those who endure to the end will be blessed (James 1:12/ 5:11).

Let me share this insight with you. Do you know that there are wolves against you in your schools, homes, communities, job sites, and even in the church?

Let them be in their sheep's clothing; you will still recognize them and charge a charge against them for change or repentance. In verse 9, Joseph charged his brothers as spies in the land of Egypt. His charge against them was to hopefully bring about healing repentance, not for revenge. It is from this point they confess that they are twelve brothers, but one of them (Joseph) is no more. They were finally able to let go of the lies they'd been living with for so long.

From verses 10-13, they called Joseph their lord and called themselves his servants. Here Joseph's dream from many years before came to pass as he was suddenly in leadership over them. They thought he was no more. People will think that you are no more and even think that your dream will not come to pass, but hold faithfully to God and He will manifest His power in your life. Who knows tomorrow? It is only God who knows our tomorrow, but not man.

The Bible says that Joseph put his brothers in prison for three days. It was still for repentance and not for revenge. It was from the prison they said "We are guilty because we saw his distress when he pleaded with us." This teaches a lesson on how we treat people in our families, such as outside children.

How we treat them is because we are not of the same mother or father. We treat others cruelly, but who knows tomorrow! Reuben stood for the truth. He said to his brothers, "I told you; this is the consequence on us." Sometimes we suffer the consequences of what we have done. But most of us are not prepared to realize it and repent (v. 21-22).

Joseph kept Simeon, the second son of Jacob, in prison until his brothers could return and bring their youngest brother, Benjamin, with them to Egypt. I believe these 10 brothers of Joseph who conspired against Joseph moved in pairs: Reuben and Simeon; Levi and Judah; Issachar and Zebulun; Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. Can we say that lust and fornication; envy and witchcraft; drunkenness and rudeness; grief and searing, etc., are all associated? I can say, "yes".



Let us be careful before we are caught up in such ungodliness. Let me close this section with this analogy Joseph made Simeon stay with him until his brothers could return with Benjamin. Simeon was one of the elder brothers who was to return to Jacob with the rest of the brothers. But matters changed for the brothers and the condition was for the brothers to bring Benjamin with them before Simeon would be released from prison by Joseph.

Meditate on these analogies of Joseph and our Lord Jesus Christ so that you may be strengthened spiritually.

Joseph	Jesus
Brothers rejected him	We and the Jews rejected him
Hated for the coat of many colors and dreams	Hated for His vision, dream, and anointing
Sold as a slave to the Ishmaelites	Sold to sinful men for thirty pieces of silver
Placed in Potiphar’s house as a slave	Placed on the cross as a criminal
Put in prison, but the prison had no power over him	Put in the grave, but the grave had no power over Him
Became head Prince of Egypt	Became Prince of Peace for the world
Brothers went to him in times of need	We come to Jesus in time of need
Hold back Simeon	Hold back blessings
Bring little Benjamin to Joseph	Bring even a little aspect of sin to Jesus

Sitting in the Seat of Destiny (Genesis 43-45:14)

What is it that people usually do when they are seated or when the judge is seated in the court? When Jesus taught His disciples about God being in Heaven in the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9), He was not locating God geographically but positionally in authority and power. In other words, when one is on a seat (throne) or seated, it shows a sign of authority. This is the last lesson of study in this book. When I say ‘sitting in the seat of destiny’, this means that Joseph has arrived at a pivotal point in his destiny. Here is the place in his journey where God has been preparing him all of his life and through all the experiences (good and bad) that he had to go through. He is seated in a position of authority and power for which he has been walking and traveling with God.

It was not an easy thing for Jacob to allow his youngest son, Benjamin, to go to Egypt as was requested by Joseph as we mentioned in our last study. However, Judah and Reuben convinced and promised their father, Jacob, that they would return safely with Benjamin. This time Joseph and Simeon were the worry for Jacob. These two sons are not with him; now someone wants to take Benjamin from him as well. In Chapters 43 and 44 you will notice that Jacob finally allowed Benjamin to go with them. When the brothers came with Benjamin, they were given enough food by Joseph to return to their home. Joseph then asked the servants loading the food to put Joseph’s cup in Benjamin’s sack. On their way home, the servants caught up with the brothers and charged them with stealing Joseph’s cup and it was discovered in Benjamin’s sack.

This time Simeon was released to go but now Benjamin was ordered to stay or go to prison for stealing Joseph’s cup. It was at this time that Judah pleaded with Joseph to take him and let Benjamin go back to Jacob. Judah told Joseph how he promised that Benjamin would return safely.

The brothers kept referring to Joseph as their lord. Whether people accept your dream or not, when the time comes, it will come to pass. Did Benjamin steal the cup? No. But then, what is this all about (Genesis 44:34)? Up to this point Joseph had not revealed his identity to his brothers and they had no idea it was Joseph with whom they were interacting and transacting. Many factors were involved and needed consideration in terms of reconciliation.

In response to Judah’s request, Joseph cannot keep his secret any longer. He finally reveals his identity, begins weeping, and says, “I am Joseph. Is my father living” (Genesis 45:3)? They could not even answer him because of fear. When you reach your destiny, then you can reveal yourself, your location, and your position to your enemies because you have already arrived. This is why David said that God prepares a

table before him in the presence of his enemies in Psalm 23. It was a table of honor. When you sit or reach in the seat of your destiny, God can prepare a table for you in the presence of your antagonists, so they can see your lifting and glorify God in His power.

Joseph did not reveal himself when he was in Potiphar's house or prison or even when he was first released from prison. He never told them of his location and position until after he became head of Egypt (Genesis 45:1-3). He waited for God's timing. Learn this principle of life and live it. When you know or recognize who your enemies are, do not reveal your location and position. That is, do not reveal the level of your plan and progress before God's time. Be patient until you reach your destiny. That is exactly what Joseph did and it was good and rewarding.

The seat of destiny may include forgiveness. When you are sitting in this seat you need to forgive. The brothers of Joseph were afraid when he revealed himself to them. However, Joseph said to them, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into slavery. Don't be distressed and angry with yourselves, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you" (Genesis 45:5).

Even when people's intentions are evil toward you, God can turn it around for your good and His glory. As you sit in the seat of destiny, you will have to forgive those who have wronged you. They may have killed your parents or children or burned down your house during the civil war. You will need to forgive those who denied you your job or a scholarship or who made promises to you and did not fulfill those promises.

When you sit in your seat of destiny, you do not employ only your tribal people such as Grebo, Krahn, Bassa, Kpelleh, Lorma, etc. Forgive once and for all. Put away tribalism, nepotism, and sectionalism. Let your seat of destiny be a blessing to others, even to your enemies. God is only using you as an instrument for His plan and purpose so don't be overwhelmed with pride.

The seat of destiny is a seat of profit-making for the good of the whole country, church, community, house, and family. While Joseph was sitting in the seat as head in Egypt, he was making profit out of the first fruitful seven years, during the last worst years (Genesis 41:53-57; 45:11-15).

The Bible says Joseph kept a portion of the first seven years of produce. Some of us eat all we get when we get our salary. Joseph did not allow the Egyptians to eat all the produce of the seven years of plenty. They were to bring a specific amount to Joseph during those seven years of a plentiful harvest and Joseph put it in storage so that the whole nation and the neighboring nations would benefit from it during the years of famine. Learn to keep a portion of what God blesses you with and not use it all up as soon as you get it.

Let me close this last section of our study with these lessons from the New Testament. In Matthew 25:14-20, Jesus gives a parable of the talents which is primarily about His return, the second coming of Christ establishing His Kingdom. From this parable, we learn that Jesus, Himself, is represented by a man traveling and leaving talents with His servants (us).

The Bible says the servant who was given five talents gained five more talents (profit). The one with two talents gained two more talents (profit). And the one with one talent gained nothing because his excuse was that he was afraid of the master. In other words, he was afraid to take a risk. Life and profit-making as a whole, involves risk-taking in faith. The parable is all about the life and opportunity God gives to each of us. How do you make use of your God-given life and opportunity? Joseph is our example. Life is full of profit-making opportunities for the good of us and our society.

Matthew 6:25-33 gives us the principle for all this profit-making concept that I am sharing with you. In verse 33, it says, "BUT seek FIRST the kingdom of GOD and His righteousness; and all these things shall

be added to you.” The first and foremost thing for every child of God is to seek God’s kingdom and His righteousness. Then, the result will be that all the things needed for your life will be added to you. This is similar to that of making business. Follow this analogy, then you will understand what I am putting forth concerning your life.

To begin a business, a man or woman needs, first of all, a principal (money, capital). So, it is with the child of God. His principal is seeking FIRST the kingdom of God and His righteousness, even before looking for money or capital. It is from the principle that the business person can start on the path of profit. So, it is with a child who is walking with God. Do you realize now that ‘all these things’ will be added AFTER you seek God first? And it doesn’t say, *some of these things*. It says *ALL these things*. That is exactly what we get when we are sitting in the seat of our destiny.



Conclusion

You have finally made it to the end of this book.

Have you discovered anything new?

Have there been any changes in your approach to life before and now?

The purpose of this book is to help you understand the plan and purpose of God for your life in His Word, the Bible, particularly from what we have studied from Genesis 37-45.

I have used Joseph’s life to teach lessons concerning God’s divine will for your life.

I encourage you to keep reading this book with an open mind and make sure to read all of Genesis 37-45 from the Bible prayerfully and seek to understand your particular situation and God’s divine will for you.

I pray and ask that you allow our Lord Jesus Christ to guide you to your place of destiny.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dr. Solomon X.Y. Jallayu is a Liberian from Grand Gedeh County, born unto the union of John S.K Jallayu Sr. and Sarah Elliott Jallayu on December 5, 1973 in Yayankan Welbo District River Gee County. He attended the Moses Tarley Brooks Elementary School in Ziah Town Konobo District Grand Gedeh County, the Zwedru Multilateral High School, Taiville Refugee School, and G.W. Gibson High School respectively.

Dr. Jallayu later attended the Institute for French Studies in Monrovia and the University of Lome in Togo where he obtained a Bachelor of Science (BSc) equivalent degree in Education with an emphasis in French as a foreign Language and history in 1999. He attended The Salvation Army Officer Training College in Liberia and The Salvation Army Leadership Training College of Africa in Zimbabwe where he obtained a diploma in pastoral ministry and a certificate in college administration respectively. He was ordained and commissioned in 2003. He earned his second Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Theology from Global University in Missouri USA. He completed his Master's Degree in Theology from Vision International University in Ramona California USA in 2007. Dr. Jallayu graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in Christian Psychology Education in 2014 from the Evangel Christian University of America in Louisiana USA.

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Dr. Solomon X. Y. Jallayu has been a pastor and educator for over 20 years. He is the Founder of Christ Mission Ablaze Evangelical Ministries in Liberia, the Evangel Christian Academy, and Evangel Christian University College in Paynesville Liberia. He is married to Rev. Victoria Zarr-Jallayu and they are blessed with four children, one son, Prince, who is a Civil Engineer, and three daughters, Pamela, Sovic {who are in university}, and Solome who is still in grade school.