God Leads Israel To Egypt

A Rollercoaster Life

Joseph goes down into the pit; Raised out of the pit Joseph goes down into slavery in Egypt; Raised to chief of Potiphar's house Joseph goes down into prison; Raised up to vizier of Egypt by Pharaoh

The man at Shechem bad luck; Potiphar's wife; a forgetful butler A series of unfortunate events? Or God's sovereign will at work

God used extraordinary, unforeseeable hardships in Joseph's life Each of these events was necessary to get him to be vizier of Egypt

God used ordinary, everyday, hard work in Joseph's life
Joseph learned management skills at each of these positions

God works through random, unforeseen, 'chance' events that no man has control over

God works through consistent preparation and hard work, training, growth in us!



What if Joseph were an activist?

How might he have viewed his dreams?

How does this narrative challenge an activist mentality?

Your Best Life Now?

Your Best Life Now: 7 Steps to Living at Your Full Potential, by Joel Osteen

"The first step to living at your full potential is to enlarge your vision. To live your best life now, you must start looking at life through eyes of faith, seeing yourself rising to new levels... You must conceive it and believe it is possible if you ever hope to experience it. To conceive it, you must have an image on the inside of the life you want to live on the outside." (Osteen, 4)

"We have to conceive it on the inside before we're ever going to receive it on the outside. If you don't think you can have something good, then you never will. The barrier is in your mind." (Osteen, 4)

"You must conceive it in your heart and mind before you can receive it. In other words, you must make room for increase in your own thinking, then God will bring those things to pass." (Osteen, 6)



What if Joseph were a quietist? ist

How might he have viewed his life?

How does this passage challenge a quietist mentality?

Joseph as Vizier

Genesis 41: 43-44

43 and he made him to ride in his second chariot; and they cried before him, "Bow the knee!" Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. 44 Moreover Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no man shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."

First reference to chariots in the Bible First reference to horses in the Bible

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→ Ab-r-k

= "heart to you" in ancient Egyptian

barak="kneel" in Hebrew

Joseph's rule was praiseworthy; a blessing to the Egyptians



Jacob adopts Ephraim and Manasseh
Ensure they're raised in Israel, not in Egyptian culture

Joseph's descendants / children were raised in the Covenant

Israel Mummified

Genesis 50:2-3 And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel; forty days were required for it, for so many are required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.

Insights from Modern Egyptology

- 35 days were required to prepare the body for mummification
 - Organs were removed, then the body was dried
 - Used 600 lb of natron (baking soda + salt) to dry the body
 - After 35 days, there was still some flexibility left...
 - That's when they crossed the arms and wrapped the body
- 5 days to wrap the body and complete the mummy
- 35 + 5 days = 40 days
- 70 days = the Egyptian period of mourning rituals

Living In Egypt: Think Like An Egyptian



