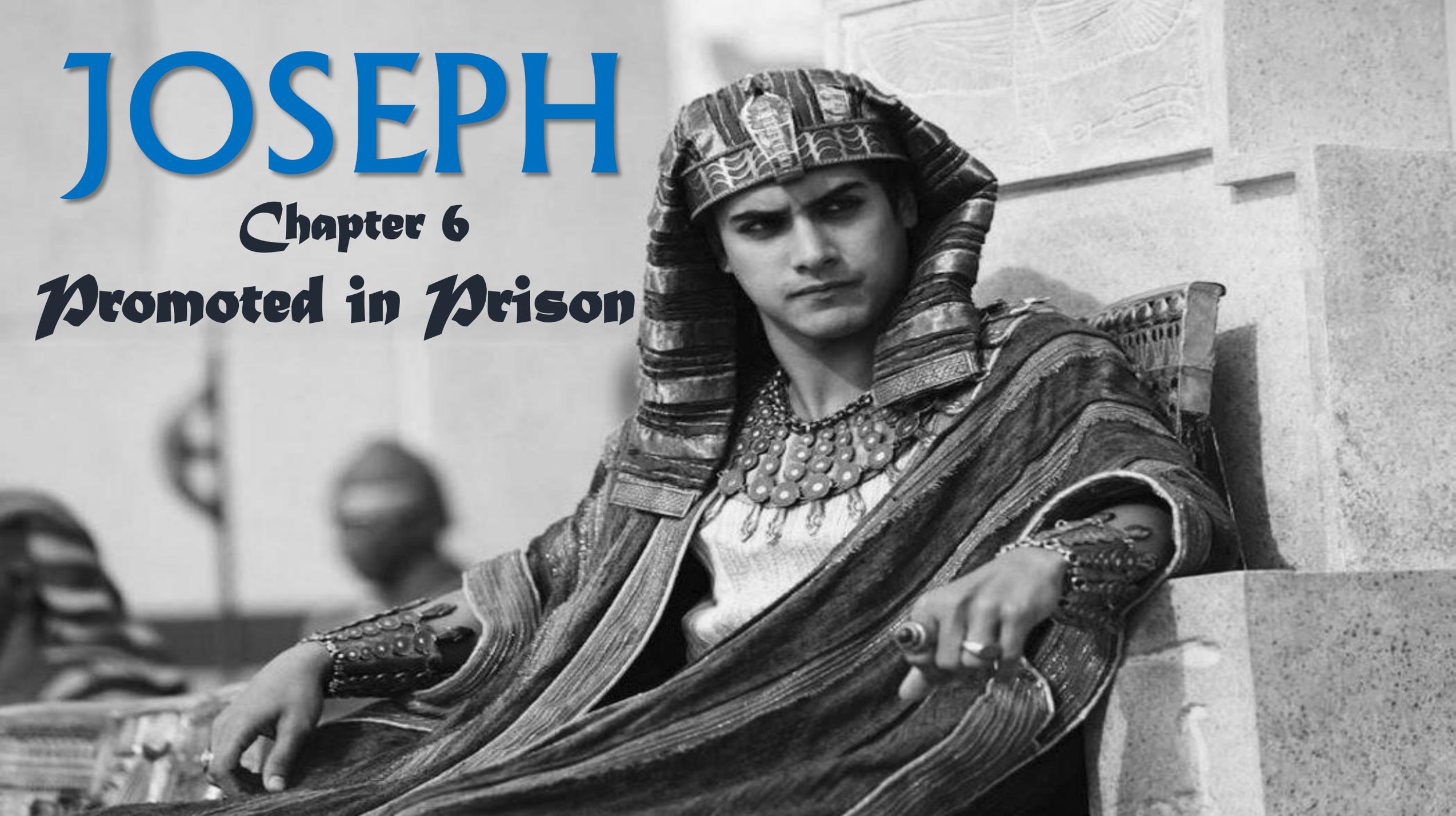


JOSEPH

Chapter 6

Promoted in Prison



**There are several ways to interpret
the main themes in the life of Joseph.**

Depending on which lens
you look at his life through,
each lens will influence how
you interpret certain events...
such as his time in prison.

For some, they prefer
to emphasize the similarities of
Joseph and Jesus

They prefer to interpret the main themes
of the life of Joseph through the lens of
'suffering-servant & salvation'

Joseph was the beloved son of Jacob.
He was sold by Judah into slavery.
He was sent away to Egypt as though
to pay for the sins of his brothers.

Jesus was the only beloved Son of God.
He was sent away to earth to pay for the
sins of His creation. He was sold by Judas
to the Sanhedrin.

At Potiphar's house,
Joseph was innocent of any crimes,
yet his robe was stripped and he was
sentenced to prison.

At Pilate's court,
Jesus was innocent of any crimes,
yet His robe was stripped and He was
sentenced to death.

In prison, **Joseph** was amid two other criminals, one was raised to life, the other raised to death...before Joseph himself was raised up to the right hand of Pharaoh and given all authority over the land.

On the cross, **Jesus** was amid two other criminals, one was raised to eternal life, the other to eternal death...before Jesus Himself was raised up to the right hand of God and given all authority over the world.

Through his work, **Joseph** is able to save from starvation all who come to Egypt.

Finally, his sinful brothers are granted forgiveness and given a share in the kingdom of the King, due to the status of Joseph.

Through His work, **Jesus** is able to save from sin all who come to Him through faith. And, His sinful brothers & sisters are granted forgiveness and given a share in the kingdom of God, due to the status of Jesus.

Though the similarities are fascinating;
there is a potential of over-spiritualizing
the **man-Joseph**...as well as missing the
emphasis of Joseph as **every-man**.

I prefer to interpret the main themes of
the life of Joseph through the lens of
'faithful-believer & sanctification'

Of the many themes in Joseph's life;
favoritism, deception, faithfulness,
diligence, purity, patience, providence,
preparation for ministry, repentance,
forgiveness, restoration...

**I believe there is one overarching emphasis
which trumps or encompasses the rest...**

Joseph is an example of the kind of person that God wants all believers to be, as they navigate through all of life's ups & downs.

Joseph is also an example of how God will use all of life's ups & downs to forge us into the kind of person He wants us to be!

**Joseph's faith in God, his work-ethic,
his purity and his ability to deal with;**

**loss, suffering, much, little,
those who sinned against him,
those in high places and low places...**

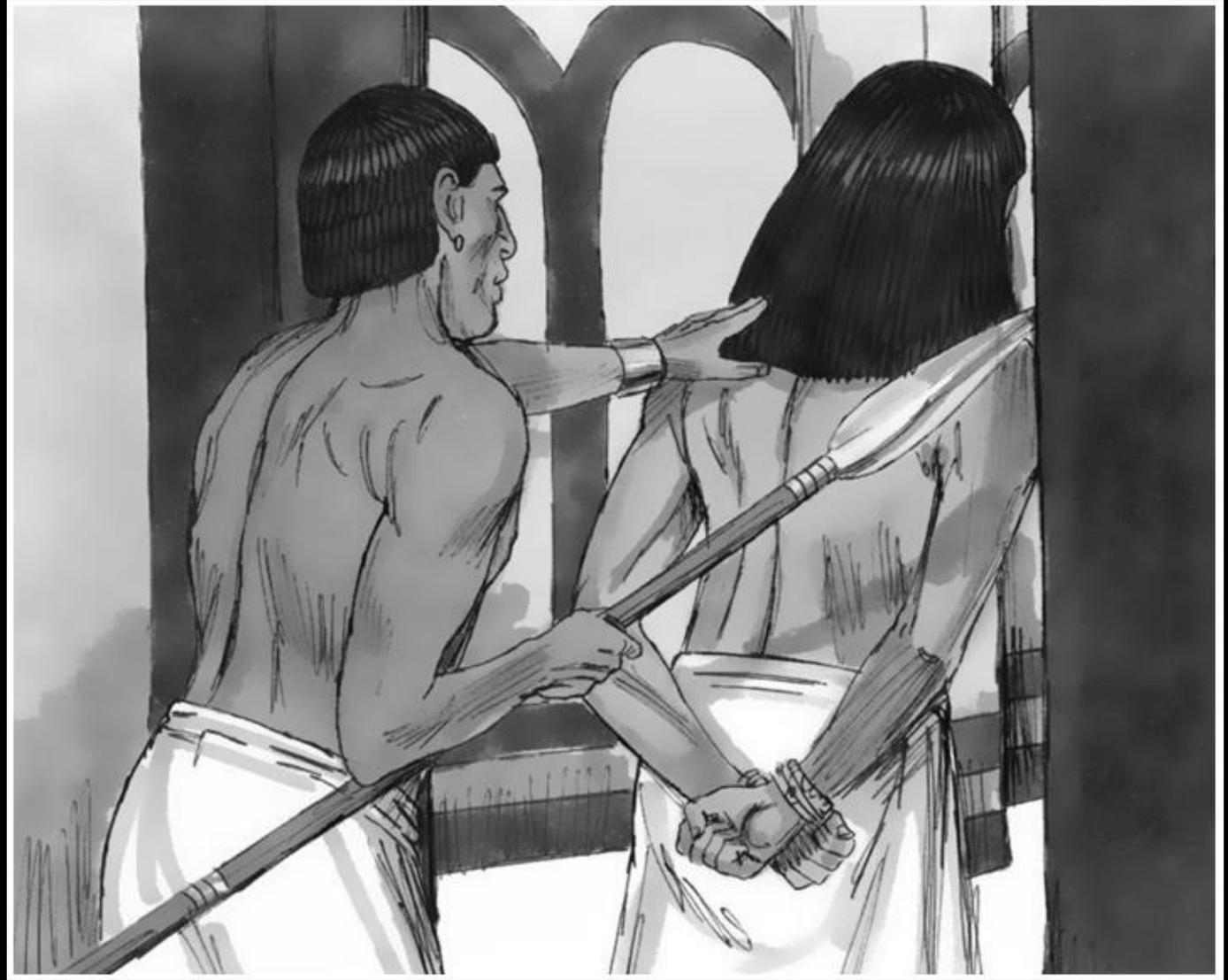
**...are all examples
of how God wants every-believer
to be in the same sort of situation.**

**And these events are all examples
of how God will use all these things
in the life of every-believer
to disciple them into
a God-honoring person & minister.**

Chapter Six

Promoted in Prison

The years in prison
reflect the
7 years of famine
which are to come.



In prison, Joseph will learn the disciplines needed to work diligently during years of little and years of despair. He will also learn how to be compassionate towards criminals.

Part 1

Joseph: Diligent in Despair

Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.

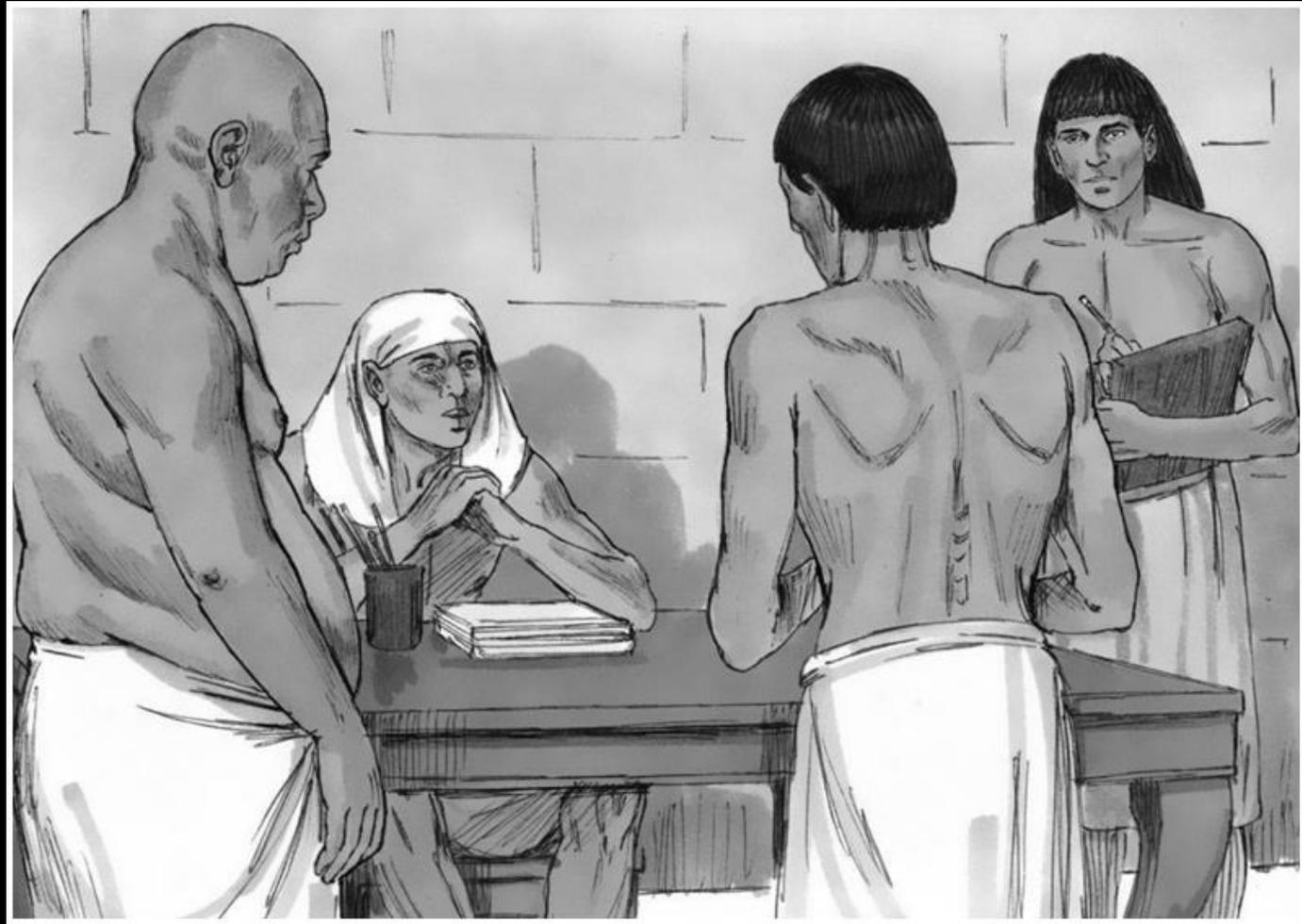
Genesis 39:20-21

So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Genesis 39:22-23

As in Potiphar's house,
Joseph's *success* in prison
was not primarily owing to Joseph,
but rather to the Lord.

However, Joseph's positive response to his situation and his trust in the Lord was also a source of this blessing.



**Had Joseph been angry, bitter
and a lazy in prison would the Lord
have blessed his labor?**

**Again, the Lord blessed Joseph's labor
because Joseph was passing the 'second test'.**

**That is; in spite of all that happened to him,
Joseph was choosing to believe the Lord
& work diligently unto the Lord.**

**There is much we could say here,
but we only have time for 3 points...**

(1) Joseph did not allow his suffering to *dictate* his faith, his attitude, his outlook, his effort etc.

His situation did not *determine*
his personal character.

**(2) Joseph walked faithfully with
God in every setting that he was in.**

His location did not determine
his *devotion* to the Lord.

(3) Joseph was a benefit & a blessing to everyone he came into contact with.

**Other's personalities,
other's situations & sin,
did not affect him...
and he was a benefit to all.**

Part 2

Joseph: Caring for Criminals

Some time later, the cupbearer
and the baker of the king of Egypt
offended their master, the king of Egypt.

Genesis 40:1

An entire session could be spent on
those words...“some time later”

Who are we while we wait for the...

“some time later”

Do we trust God for the...

“some time later”

Are we productive while we wait for...

“some time later”

Pharaoh was angry with his two officials,
the chief cupbearer and the chief baker,
and put them in custody in the house of the
captain of the guard, in the same prison where
Joseph was confined. The captain of the guard
assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them.

Genesis 40:2-4

Do we believe that God intends for Joseph to meet Pharaoh, interpret his dreams and save the world from the coming famine?

**Do we believe that God could get Joseph
to Pharaoh any ol' way that He pleases?**

Then why would God allow the path
to Pharaoh to be to so painful,
so *difficult* and so long?

Because the Lord has something
to teach Joseph along the way.

The Lord doesn't want Joseph
to simply arrive at the *destination*...

He wants Joseph to be certain kind
a man when he arrives at Pharaoh's court.

By allowing Joseph to be put in prison...

Joseph was being shown how to manage **during** times of **despair** and he was being prepared to deal graciously with criminals.

**These skills will be needed;
as his criminal brothers will come to
town seeking food during a time of despair.**

**As in the merchant-caravan & the cistern,
the cupbearer and baker did not
arrive a moment early or a moment late.**

They arrived just at the moment that
The Lord knew that Joseph was ready
to have compassion on criminals,
as he himself was now a criminal.

*This account is similar to Paul & Silas
and the Philippian jailer.*

*Paul has a vision of a man in Macedonia
begging for help and takes it to mean that
the Lord wants him to go there.*

Ultimately, we know that Paul was mistreated and thrown in prison and the man that The Lord indented Paul to meet in the vision was the captain of a jail.

What is the best way to meet a jailer?

To be thrown in jail.

What is the best way to know how to be compassionate with criminals?

To be charged as a criminal.

After they had been in custody for some time, each of the two men—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison—had a dream the same night...

Genesis 40:4-5

One night...



...they both have
disturbing dreams.



When Joseph came to them the next morning,
he saw that they were dejected. So he asked
Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with
him in his master's house,
“Why do you look so sad today?”

Genesis 40:6-7

Remember in Genesis 37:4 before Joseph had a dream, we were told that his brothers **'hated him'** and **'could not speak a kind word to him'**.

Upon having a dream,
in which his brothers bow before him...
he obliviously tells them about it.

Upon telling them the first dream,
his brothers were angry about it
and confronted him over it.

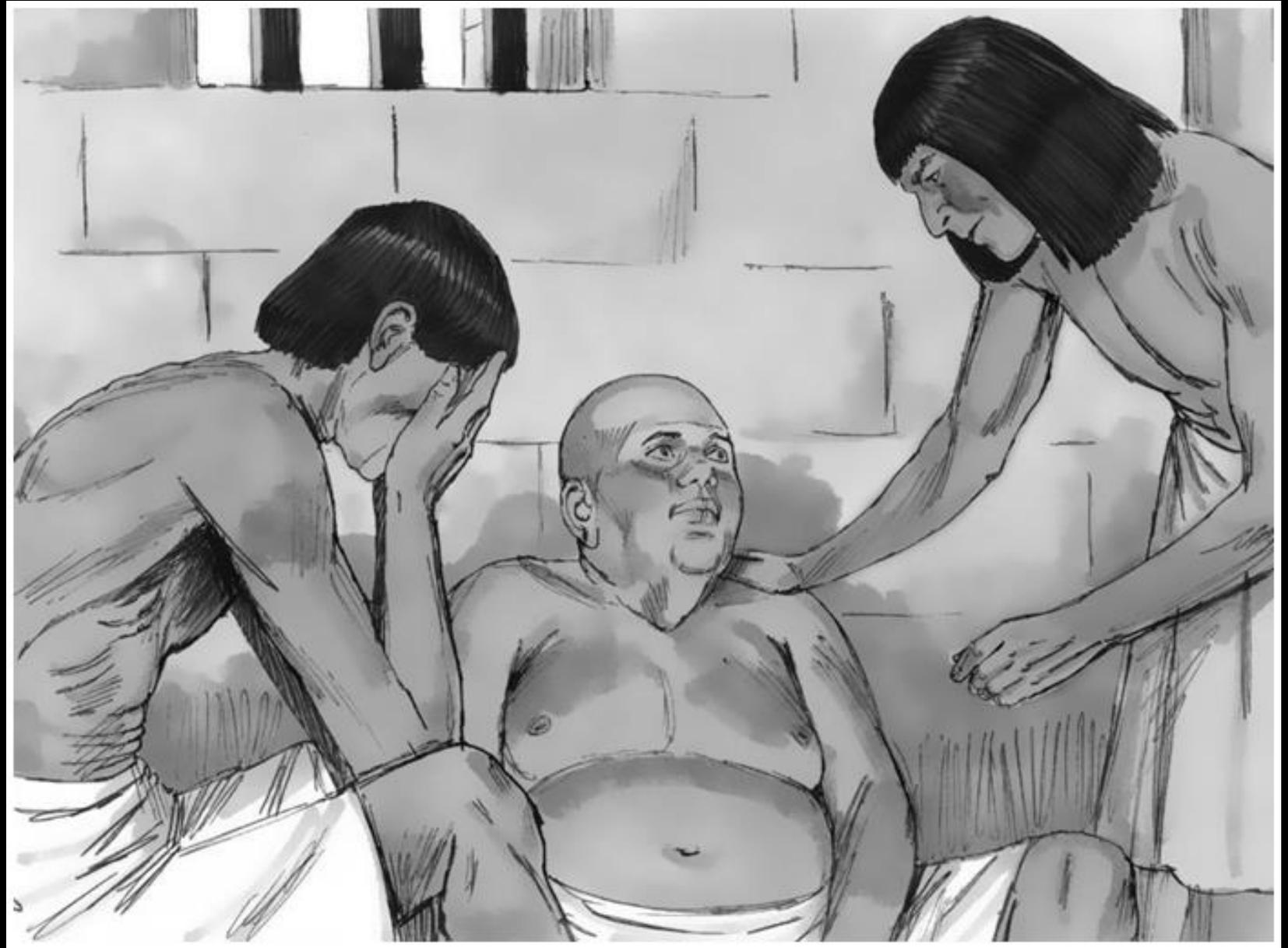
Genesis 37:5-8 says twice that they
'hated him all the more' because of
his telling of the dreams.

Oblivious to their pain, Joseph has another dream and tells them about it yet again!

Joseph didn't
take notice of
his brother's
troubled
reaction to his
own dream...



...but now he does notices the troubled reaction of Pharaoh's servants to their own dreams.



Joseph has been humbled.

Joseph is caring for others.

During a time of despair...
Joseph is compassionate to criminals.

**It is this very act of noticing their pain
which will be his passport out of prison!**

Part 3

Joseph: Future Foretold

“Why do you look so sad today?”

“We both had dreams,” they answered, “but there is no one to interpret them.” Then Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams.”

Genesis 40:7-8

Here we get another suggestion that during the caravan ride to Egypt, God revealed some portion of the meaning of Joseph's dreams to him.

**By Joseph's statements,
he show us what he already knows:**

- (1) God communicates in dreams**
- (2) Only God gives the proper meaning**
- (3) God will give Joseph the meaning**

The only recorded experience that Joseph has had to this point in his life with regards to dreams are his own two dreams.

**This is the only recorded experience
which could have given Joseph the
knowledge that he has about God & dreams.**

An argument could be made that divine interpretations of Joseph's own dreams are the reason he knows the things he knows.

He knows these things because...

- (1) God communicated to Joseph in dreams**
- (2) God gave Joseph the proper meaning**
- (3) God affirmed to Joseph the ability
to interpret future dreams**

It is my belief that this knowledge
and not Joseph's own *piety*...

...was the basis of Joseph's relationship with God and his ability to remain positive in suffering, *pure* in sexual temptation and productive in prison.

**God has revealed to us many things
about our future with Him..**

**These amazing promises are
the basis of our relationship with God
and our ability to remain
positive in suffering,
pure in sexual temptation
and productive in all situations.**

So the chief cupbearer
told Joseph his dream...

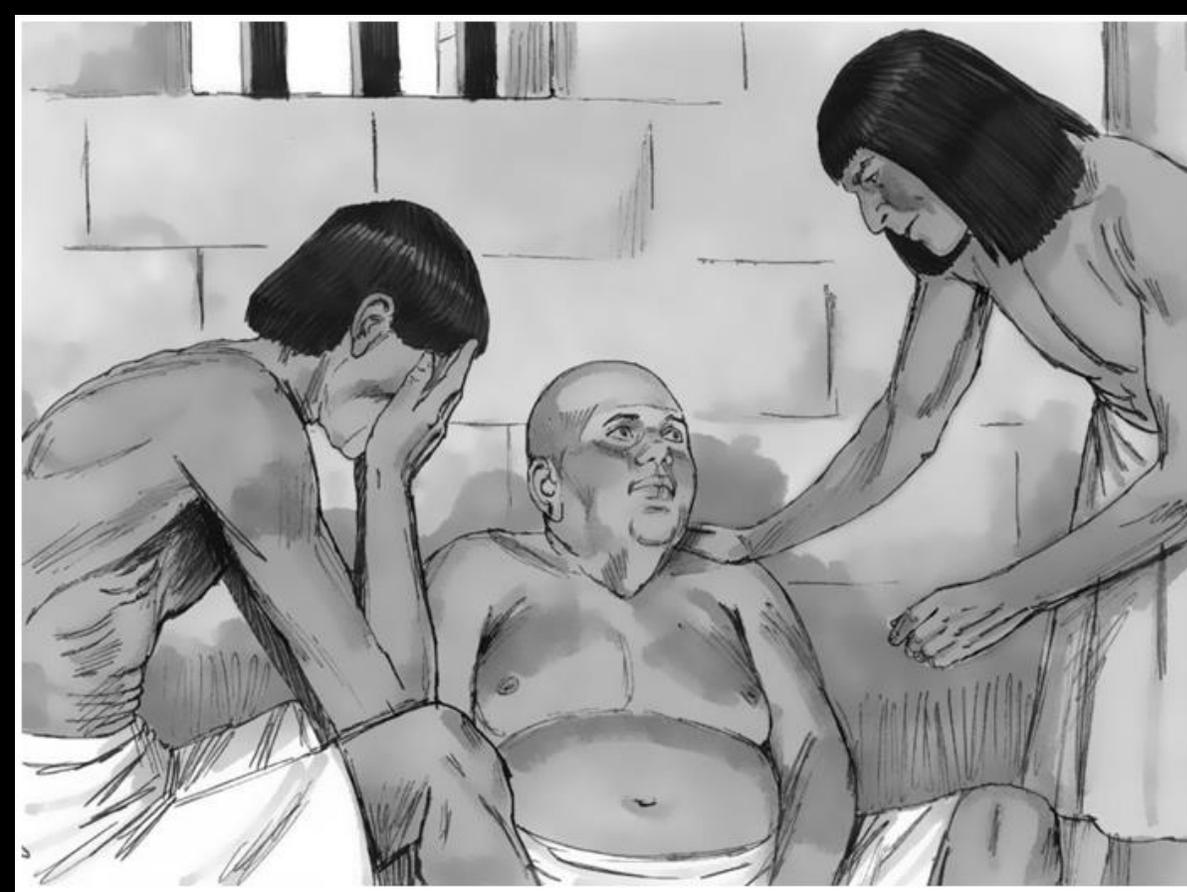
Genesis 40:9

We don't have time to go through each dream, but only to offer a summary.

**By the Lord's power,
Joseph interprets the dreams.**



**One is a
favorable interpretation
the other is not.**



The numerical elements in each dream represent time. Joseph *prophesies* that in three days the cupbearer will be restored to his post and the baker will be executed.

This is a bold *prediction* as in three days,
everyone will know whether or not
Joseph is a senseless lunatic or
a servant of The Lord.

Joseph asks
the cupbearer to
remember him
before the King
when his dream
comes true.



“...when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon.”

Genesis 40:14-15

This is another hint that Joseph has some understanding of the notion that his journey will go all the way to Pharaoh's court.

**Why would a foreign, convicted rapist...
Who was sentenced lightly for his crime...
want his name brought before the King?**

The only logical reason is that he has an indication that this foreign, godless ruler will fear God and have compassion on him...

**It is also worth mentioning,
that even though Joseph was walking
faithfully with the Lord during suffering...**

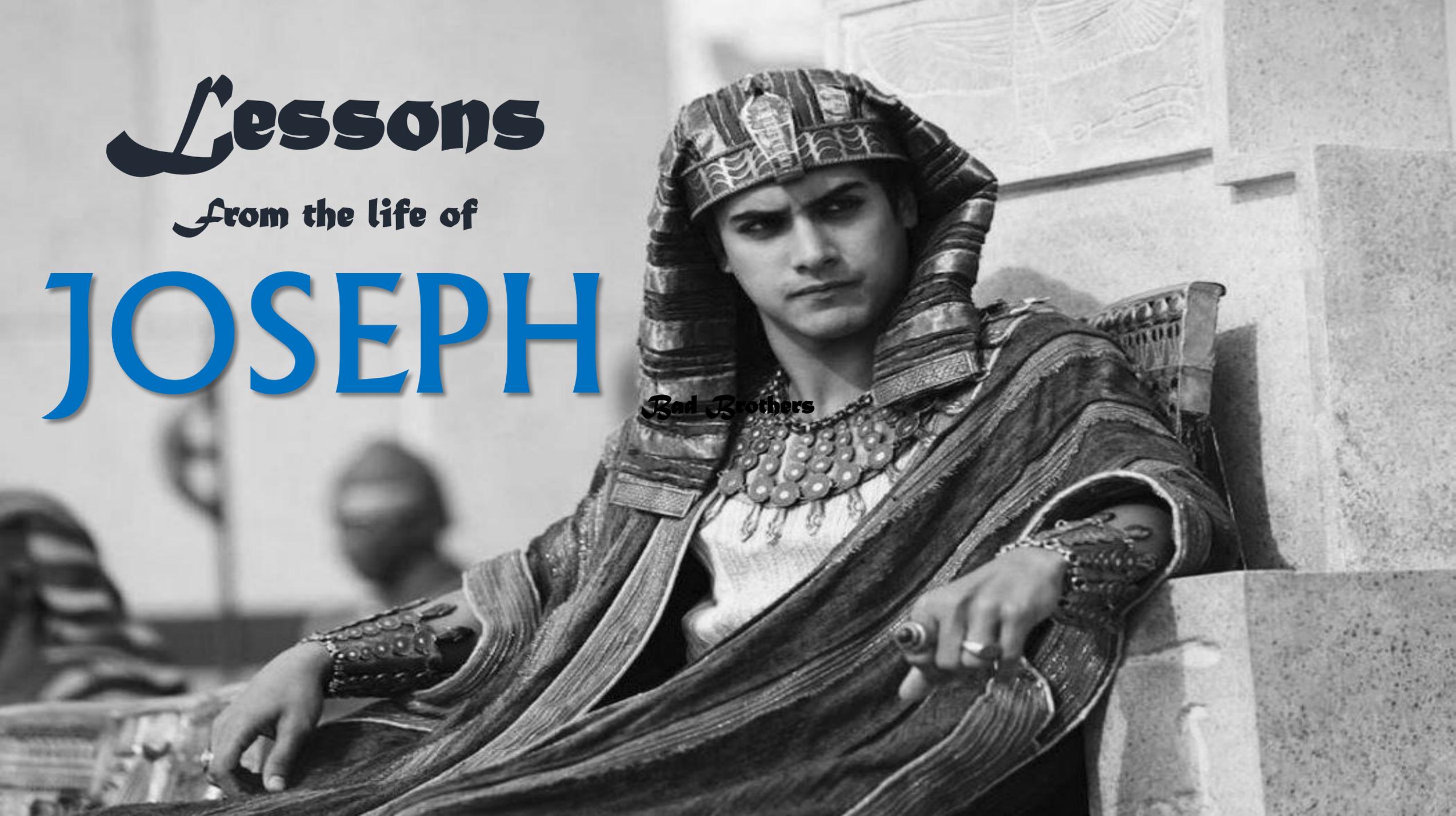
He also yearned for that *pain* to end...
And it was within God's *purpose* for him to
lay the ground work to escape the suffering.

Lessons

From the life of

JOSEPH

Bad Brothers



Lesson 1

Our relationship with the Lord must
be the most important thing to us...
Because it is the most important thing.

When troubles and trials come,
oftentimes, our relationship with the
Lord is the only thing we have left.

**Will it be a strong enough of
a bond to see us through?**

No matter how low we go...
An empty pit, a prison cell or our grave...
The Lord is still there and His promises
will see us through.

Lesson 2

By the help of the Holy Spirit we must strive to be the same person, with the same faith and the same character in all of life's ups & downs.

Lesson 3

By the help of the Holy Spirit we must strive to be a *servant* and a blessing to all we come in contact with; no matter what *situation* we may find ourselves in.

Lesson 4

We must realize that in all of life's circumstances God is wanting to grow our faith in Him and in His promises.

He will also likely use the very elements of the situation which we are in to refine us in specific or according ways.

Lesson 5

In life's delay's, don't discount The Lord's perfect sovereignty & divine goodness.

**He knows what He is doing
and He can be trusted.**

**Discouragement may cause us to overlook
the purpose of it and the passport out of it!**

Chapter Seven

Summoned by Pharaoh