

MIKETZ - GENESIS

- At the End Of -

Dan Stolebarger - Holy Ground Explorations
Chapter 41-44:17

INTRODUCTION



PARASHAT MIKETZ - 'At the End Of'

It is not happenstance, that the portion of Mikeitz is so linked with the festival of Chanukah, A festival of seeing light in the midst of darkness and of yearning for endings that will bring new beginnings.

Joseph entry into Egypt was **not really about** the envy of his brothers or their plots.

Joseph's time in the prison **was not simply a result his time** in the house of Potipahr.

All these events were threads of a tapestry meant to create the stage for the next development of Hashem's plan ... that being the first exile of the Jewish people .

All his in in fulfillment of the covenant Hashem made with Avraham;

And He said to Abram, "You shall surely know that your seed will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and they will enslave them and oppress them, for four hundred years. And also the nation that they will serve will I judge, and afterwards they will go forth with great possessions. **(Genesis 15: 13-14)**

Joseph understood that all that he has gone through has prepared him and his people for all they will yet go through.

For there shall be another vision for the appointed time; and He shall speak of the end , and it shall not fail; though it tarry, wait for it, for it shall surely come; it shall not delay.(Havakuk 2:3). It will come quickly, abruptly and unexpectedly. That is the nature of such destiny changing endings. **(Moshe Shorashim)**

JESUS AND JOSEPH

He was a shepherd, deeply beloved and anointed by his father, who sent on a mission to seek the welfare of his brothers. He was a dreamer and a "decipherer of secrets," who was hated by his brothers, who refused to believe in him, conspired to kill him, stripped him of his robe, threw him into a pit, and betrayed him for a few pieces of silver... He was raised from the pit, however, filled with the Spirit of God, and made overseer of all of the world. He ascended from a place of death to the "right hand of the majesty on high," crowned with glory and honor, before whom "every knee would bow." He was given a Gentile bride and became the "bread of life" and savior to the entire world. He later revealed his true identity to his brothers during a time of great tribulation and was regarded as alive from the dead by his father, who regarded him as the redeemer of Israel.

Just as Joseph was finally revealed to the Jewish people as a Messiah and Savior (though they had initially betrayed him and rejected him), so will the Jewish people come to see that Jesus (Yeshua) is the promised Jewish Mashiach and the Savior of the world. Meanwhile, "Jesus" remains a "disguised Egyptian..." **(Hebrew4Christians)**

1 At the end of two full years, Pharaoh dreamed, and behold, he stood by the river.
Remember from last week - Sages ... because he asked twice to be remembered.
This means that Joseph was imprisoned for a total of 12 years and was about 30 years old.

8 In the morning, his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all of Egypt's magicians and wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

9 Then the chief cup bearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, "I remember my faults today.

10 Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, with the chief baker

Possibly they were killed like the Baker - that would have jogged the wine stewards memory

³³ "Now therefore let Pharaoh look for a discreet and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. ³⁴ Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint overseers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt's produce in the seven plenteous years.

1/5 may seem large. However, the large amount would allow for spoilage, for extra grain for trade, and for extra grain to plant after the 7 years of famine.

³⁷ The thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants.

³⁸ Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?" ³⁹ Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Because God has shown you all of this, there is no one so discreet and wise as you. ⁴⁰ You shall be over my house. All my people will be ruled according to your word. Only in the throne I will be greater than you." ⁴¹ Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Behold, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

⁴² Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand, and put it on Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in robes of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck. ⁴³ He made him ride in the second chariot which he had. They cried before him, "Bow the knee!" He set him over all the land of Egypt. ⁴⁴ Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh. Without you, no man shall lift up his hand or his foot in all the land of Egypt."

⁴⁵ Pharaoh called Joseph's name **Zaphenath-Paneah**. He gave him **Asenath**, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On as a wife. Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.

⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Wisdom and Knowledge:

It's good to remember the difference between knowledge and wisdom. Knowledge tells you what is going on; wisdom tells you what to do about it. Knowledge is the diagnosis; wisdom is directed to the cure. Knowledge is good and necessary – it just isn't enough.

Our world has a lot more knowledge than wisdom. Our scientists, poets, politicians, and all the rest can often see what the problems are.

Zaphenath-Paneah - literally means 'He who explains what is hidden'

Asenath - daughter of Potiphar, which vindicated him from Potiphar's wife

Manasseh and Ephraim - In spite of his success, he did not abandon his Israelite heritage. He gave his two sons characteristically Hebrew names. Manasseh (forget) signified that God had made him forget the misery of his separation from his family. Ephraim (fruitful) signified that God had made him fruitful in the land of Egypt.

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1 At the end of two full years, Pharaoh dreamed, and behold, he stood by the river.

Dan Stolebarger - Take this in ... ever felt forgotten by God? After all the Joseph had been through he still had to wait two FULL years!!! As we begin to read about his ascension let us not forget the WAITING. My belief, however, is that God was just as much present with him in the prison that he was when he literally reigned in Egypt! So, even in the waiting may we all KNOW of His promised presence! NEVER FORGET that Jesus said that he would NEVER abandon us!

The following narratives show that God used the famine to bring Israel into Egypt under the rulership of Joseph. The nation would remain there some 400 years, as God had prophesied to Abram (Genesis 15:13).

5 The sons of Israel came to buy among those who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan. 6 Joseph was the governor over the land. It was he who sold to all the people of the land. Joseph's brothers came, and bowed themselves down to him with their faces to the earth. (God fulfilled the dreams He gave Joseph at the age of 17) 7 Joseph saw his brothers, and he recognized them, but acted like a stranger to them, and spoke roughly with them. He said to them, "Where did you come from?"

They said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food."

8 Joseph recognized his brothers, but they didn't recognize him. 9 Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed about them, and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land."

17 He put them all together into custody for three days. (Again the thread of 3 days)

²⁴ He turned himself away from them, and wept. Then he returned to them, and spoke to them, and took **Simeon** from among them, and bound him before their eyes.

²⁵ Then Joseph gave a command to fill their bags with grain, and to restore each man's money into his sack, and to give them food for the way. So it was done to them.

Simeon was chosen because he was the one who threw Joseph into the pit (Rashi)

³⁷ **Reuben spoke to his father**, saying, "Kill my two sons, if I don't bring him to you. Entrust him to my care, and I will bring him to you again."

³⁸ He said, "My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he only is left. If harm happens to him along the way in which you go, then you will bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol."

Jacob, however, ignored him, probably because of the dishonor Reuben showed him earlier when he violated his marriage with Bilhah.

7 Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them.

Andrew Suedkamp - I love the parallels between Joseph and Jesus. Here, the first time the sons of Israel encounter Joseph, they don't recognize him for who he is. It is not until later when he reveals himself to them. Likewise, it will be the second time that Jesus comes that He reveals Himself to the Jews.

21-22 "In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us." And Reuben answered them, "Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy?"

Andrew Suedkamp- To stay with the theme that I started above with respect to similarities between Joseph and Jesus, I think of Zechariah 12:10, "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn."

8 Judah said to Israel, his father, "Send the boy with me, and we'll get up and go, so that we may live, and not die, both we, and you, and also our little ones. **9** I'll be collateral for him. From my hand will you require him. If I don't bring him to you, and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever; **10** for if we hadn't delayed, surely we would have returned a second time by now." (Only a father could realize the magnitude of the loss of two of his children. Of all the brothers, only Judah who had lost two of his children could appreciate his father's grief)

11 Their father, Israel, said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: Take from the choice fruits of the land in your bags, and carry down a present for the man, a little balm, a little honey, spices and myrrh, nuts, and almonds; **12** and take double money in your hand, and take back the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks. Perhaps it was an oversight. **13** Take your brother also, get up, and return to the man. **14** May **God Almighty (El Shaddai)** give you mercy before the man, that he may release to you your other brother and Benjamin. If I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."

15 The men took that present, and they took double money in their hand, and Benjamin; and got up, went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.

²⁸ They said, "Your servant, our father, is well. He is still alive." They bowed down humbly. ²⁹ He lifted up his eyes, and saw Benjamin, his brother, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me?" He said, "God be gracious to you, my son." ³⁰ Joseph hurried, for his heart yearned over his brother; and he sought a place to weep. He entered into his room, and wept there. ³¹ He washed his face, and came out. He controlled himself, and said, "Serve the meal."

A noon meal was prepared for Joseph's 11 guests. When they presented their gifts to Joseph they bowed down before him in fulfillment of Joseph's dream (37:7).

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"And they answered, "Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive." And they bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves."

Genesis 43:28 NKJV

Glen Iverson - Joseph had a dream in Genesis 37 that his brothers would bow before him. This is fulfilled here, but not the way that Joseph may have thought. Because his arrogance angered his brothers, he went to Egypt in chains and God lifted him up to a powerful position. However for God to elevate Joseph, He also humbled him in prison. If one wants to be used by God, they need to be humble. This can be done the easy way or the hard way...

He commanded the steward of his house, saying, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in his sack's mouth. ² Put my cup, the silver cup, in the sack's mouth of the youngest, with his grain money." He did according to the word that Joseph had spoken. ³ As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their donkeys. ⁴ When they had gone out of the city, and were not yet far off, Joseph said to his steward, "Up, follow after the men. When you overtake them, ask them, 'Why have you rewarded evil for good? ⁵ Isn't this that from which my lord drinks, and by which he indeed divines? You have done evil in so doing.'" ⁶ He overtook them, and he spoke these words to them.

¹¹ Then they hurried, and each man took his sack down to the ground, and each man opened his sack. ¹² He searched, beginning with the oldest, and ending at the youngest. The cup was found in Benjamin's sack. ¹³ Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey, and returned to the city.

In genuine despair for Benjamin's predicament, the brothers tore their clothes. They could not let Benjamin die! Ironically a few years earlier, the same brothers had been debating whether to kill Joseph. Instead of tearing their own clothes in grief, they had torn Joseph's robe in order to cover up what they had done.

² Put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his money for the grain.” And he did as Joseph had told *him*.

Troy Anderson – Joseph is one of my favorite people in the scriptures just because of all that he went through and all that he accomplished through God. But, this story is confusing to me. Why did he do this? Was it to get them back for what they did to him or is there another reason? Joseph could have done anything he wanted to them so why this deception?

CONTRIBUTORS

Andrew Suedkamp

Glen Iverson

Troy Anderson

Sharon Stolebarger

The Complete Jewish Study Bible - David Stern

Tanach - STONE EDITION - Rabbi Nosson Scherman

Hebrew4Christians.com

Nelson NKJV Study Bible

Moshe Shorashim

David Guzik - Enduring Word

