

PREPARATION

Hello I'm Jim Fuller. I'd like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures with you.

I'm sure you remember the story in the Bible about Joseph and his coat of many colors. He also had a dream about his future. It's recorded in Genesis 37.

It's a long elaborate story but I will try to summarize it as briefly as I can.

In Joseph's dream, he saw all of his family bowing down to him. He shared his vision with his father and his brothers. They were not at all thrilled about his vision of all of them bowing down to the youngest member of their family.

His brothers became extremely jealous and thought seriously about killing him. His brother Reuben intervened and suggested just throwing him in a pit and they did that. Reuben intended to come back later and rescue him. While Reuben was away his brother Judah came up with the idea of selling him to the Ishmaelite slave traders.

They threw him in a pit and when the slave traders passed by they sold him into slavery to the Egyptians.

He ended up as a household servant in the house of Potiphar one of the Pharaoh's officers. Because of the excellence of his service, Potiphar put him in charge over all of his belongings.

When Potiphar's wife made unwanted sexual advances, and he rejected her, she framed him and he ended up in an Egyptian prison.

Again, the excellence of his service landed him in an elevated position in the prison.

Two of the king's servants ended up in prison with Joseph. They both had a dream on the same night and Joseph interpreted their dreams for them signifying that one of them would die and the other would be reinstated. Joseph asked the one who was reinstated to remember him and help him get released. He was forgotten and spent two more years in prison.

One day the king had a dream, and the reinstated cup bearer said, I know a guy in prison who can interpret those dreams. Joseph was summoned by the king and he interpreted correctly the King's dream and was released from prison. The King was so impressed with Joseph that he exalted him as second-in-command over all of Egypt. He told Joseph that no one in Egypt would lift their foot or their hand unless he said so.

Sometime later there was a famine in Israel. Joseph's brothers were sent to Egypt to purchase food to save their family.

Joseph's brothers did not recognize him in his exalted position. When he saw his brothers come to Egypt to acquire food, he wept. When he revealed his true identity to his brothers they were afraid of Joseph retaliating with vengeance for them selling him into slavery. Joseph said don't even think badly of yourself, because it wasn't you who sent me here. God sent me ahead of you to be the salvation of our family.

Joseph had them bring their father Jacob and their entire tribe to Egypt were they were spared from death by famine.

I'd like to take a few minutes and share with you a couple things that the Holy Spirit has shared with me out of this story.

#1. The gifts of God are irrevocable.

Man was created as God's supreme creation to manifest God's eternal life, to establish His Kingdom on the Earth and fill the whole earth and everyone in it with His glory.

Isaiah 46 says, that God knows the end from the beginning and He will accomplish His purposes

In spite of bad decisions on our part, or resistance from Satan through people, or seeing every situation as being contrary to the fulfillment of God's word, His desired purpose will come to pass.

A great example of this is in

Matthew 26, when the Pharisees plotted to kill Jesus.

Verse 4 says, they plotted together to arrest Jesus covertly and kill Him. But they were saying, "Not during the feast of Passover, otherwise a riot might occur among the people."

But God said, sorry boys, you can make all the plans you want, but I've got him being crucified on the day of atonement as the perfect sacrifice for My people, and I also have Him coming out of the grave on Sunday morning with the keys of death and Hell.

#2. Our natural perceptions and evaluations of situations and circumstances have absolutely nothing to do with God fulfilling His will.

I would bet that when Joseph was sitting in that pit, he probably thought this doesn't exactly LOOK like the fast-track of exaltation for me.

And when Potiphar's wife framed him he probably thought this doesn't FEEL like what God showed me in my dream.

I would think after being forgotten by the Pharaoh's cup bearer and spending two more years in prison Joseph probably THOUGHT, I may never get out of here.

Yet, in spite of any or all of these perceptions, God showed His ability to raise Joseph from prison to Pharaoh's Palace in just one day.

Our natural perceptions are totally unreliable at perceiving God's destiny that He has planned for us

#3. God is prepared to take whatever time it requires to prepare His people to walk in the destiny and calling that He has for them.

Here are some examples.

After coming back with a good report from spying out the promised land, Caleb and Joshua waited 40 years to re-enter and conquer Canaan.

After David was anointed king, he spent 13 years running from Saul before he actually became king over all of Israel.

After Moses escaped from Pharaoh's hand in Egypt he spent 40 years tending sheep in Midian before God called him to deliver the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt.

Paul spent 14 years in Arabia before teaching in the school of Tyrannus and evangelizing the entire Asian provinces.

It was 13 years before Joseph's vision came to pass.

Psalm 105.19 states,

Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the Lord refined him.

The king sent and released him,

The ruler of peoples, and set him free.

He made him lord of his house,

And ruler over all his possessions,

I asked the Holy Spirit one time, why there had to be two more years in prison for Joseph?

He responded, Joseph's circumstances and testings were extremely difficult, because the outcome was very extreme. The entire existence of God's chosen people was in the balance.

God worked His revelation into Joseph's heart and allowed him to see God's perfect plan of sending him ahead to deliver His people.

If he hadn't done that work in Joseph's heart, his brothers wouldn't have lived until sundown when they arrived in Egypt. There would have been no tribe of Judah, no Lion of Judah, no Messiah, to come and save all mankind from eternal separation from the Father.

#4. God can use anyone, from any background, in any circumstance to fulfill His desired purpose.

He can use an fierce warrior like Samson or pretty Jewish girl like Esther.

He can use an 80 year old man with a walking stick and a stutter like Moses to deliver His people from the bondage of Egypt. He can also use a young virgin girl like Mary to bring forth the Messiah to save all of mankind.

In conclusion, here is what I believe that God is saying to us right now.

God wants to make Himself known to the whole world in these days. God's people are His chosen vessels to accomplish this purpose.

He is looking for people who will make room for Him to be God within them. People that will hear His voice, go where He says to go, and do what He says to do, empowered by His Holy Spirit.

The prophet Malachi said in chapter 3.

Who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like launderer's soap. And He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness.

I believe we are in a time of God refining the hearts of His children to be completely focused on Him and the destiny that He has for us in these days.

I believe that He wants all of us to look at everything that has happened in our life up to this point, as preparation for outpouring.

He wants to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we could ever dare ask or think, by His power that works within us.

We need to repent of ourselves and let Him be everything that He is and wants to be in us and through us to make Him visible to this entire world.

God bless you.

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