

JOSEPH - A TRAINING OF A STATESMAN  
The Old Testament Today  
Banska Bystrica, 27th December 2020

מִצֶּרֶת לְפָסֶף וְכִיּוֹר לְזָהָב וְאִישׁ לְפִי מִהֶלֶל

Pro 27:21 The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and a man is tested by his praise.

OUTLINE

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**0. INTRODUCTION**

**0.1. THE PROBLEM OF SUCCESS**

- [FLAVEL] Riches and honours make trial what we are ; ...the vain-glory of good Hezekiah rose like froth or scum upon the pot, when heated by prosperity.
- **Dt 8:10-14** When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. <sup>11</sup> Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: <sup>12</sup> Lest *when* thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt *therein*; <sup>13</sup> And *when* thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; <sup>14</sup> Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

## 0.2. FORGIVENESS AND RESTORATION

- revealing the *heart*...
- beware of *testing* your neighbours → **Galatians 5:25-26** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another (ἀλλήλους προκαλούμενοι), envying one another (ἀλλήλους φθονοῦντες)

### 1. FAVOURED IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

**Genesis 37:2-5** These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. <sup>3</sup> Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. <sup>4</sup> But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him. <sup>5</sup> Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more.

#### 1.1. THE WAY UPWARD

- Favoured by the father → abuse (?) reporting on brothers
- gifted by God → abuse (?) bragging about dreams

#### 1.2. STOPPED BY OTHERS

- sold as slave

### 2. HIGH POSITIONED SLAVE IN EGYPT

#### 2.1. THE WAY UPWARD

- **Genesis 39:2-6** The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup> His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. <sup>5</sup> From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. <sup>6</sup> So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.
- → responsibility

#### 2.2. STOPPED

**Genesis 39:6-9** Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. <sup>7</sup> And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." <sup>8</sup> But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. <sup>9</sup> He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

**Genesis 39:11** But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house  
imprisoned

### 3. A TRUSTED PRISONER IN EGYPT

#### 3.1. THE WAY UPWARD

- **Genesis 39:20-23** And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. <sup>21</sup> But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. <sup>22</sup> And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were

in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. <sup>23</sup> The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.

- **Genesis 40:20-22** On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. <sup>21</sup> He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. <sup>22</sup> But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them.

### 3.2. STOPPED

**Genesis 40:23** the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him

## 4. THE PRIME MINISTER OF EGYPT

### 4.1. THE WAY UPWARD

- God's gift
- **Genesis 41:39-44** Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. <sup>40</sup> You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you." <sup>41</sup> And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." <sup>42</sup> Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. <sup>43</sup> And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, "Bow the knee!" Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. <sup>44</sup> Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."

### 4.2. SELF-STOPPED

#### 4.2.1. TOWARD HIS BROTHERS

- **Genesis 45:5** And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves (תִּשְׁעָבוּ וְאַל יִחַר בְּעֵינֵיכֶם אֵל) because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life .

#### 4.2.2. TOWARD HIS FATHER