

119

MINISTRIES

“The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below.”

Parashah Points: Miketz – Hope in God

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Miketz, which is Hebrew for “at the end,” and it goes from Genesis 41:1 to Genesis 44:17.

This parashah tells the story of Joseph’s interpretation of Pharaoh’s dreams, which leads to his rise to power in Egypt (Genesis 41).

Due to a famine in the land of Canaan, Joseph’s brothers travel to Egypt to buy grain where they encounter Joseph who, at this point, is the second in command over all of Egypt. But after many years, Joseph’s brothers didn’t recognize him (Genesis 42:1-17).

Joseph orders his brothers to go back to Canaan and return with his brother Benjamin to Egypt. So they depart back home (Genesis 42:18-38) and then return to Egypt with Benjamin (Genesis 43).

The parashah concludes with Joseph detaining Benjamin (Genesis 44:1-17).

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to present a thought on healing and hope.

Joseph faced many painful trials. Out of hatred and bitter jealousy, his own family betrayed him, threw him into a pit, and sold him into slavery. After that, he was falsely accused and sentenced to prison for a crime that he didn’t commit.

And yet, through a series of miraculous events in prison, Joseph was put in a position to directly advise the Pharaoh, which led to him being given authority over all Egypt. Joseph’s situation had entirely changed. He was no longer a slave or a prisoner, but second in command over Egypt. On top of that, God even gave him a wife and children:

Genesis 41:50-52

Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore them to him. Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. “For,” he said, “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father’s house.” The name of the second he called Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

Sometimes in life you might face difficulties that seem utterly unbearable in the moment. You might feel that life will never get better and that you’ll be stuck in the pain you feel forever.

Maybe you’ve lost someone whom you loved deeply. Maybe someone close to you—a spouse or sibling or a parent—betrayed your trust or deserted you. Maybe, in this moment, you are reluctant to believe that God even cares, or that you’ll ever heal from your heartache.

Understand that you are not alone. Also, it’s okay to not be okay. These deep and painful emotions are expressed all throughout the Bible. Read the Psalms sometime. Read Job. An entire book of the Bible, Lamentations, is literally a five-chapter lament in which Jeremiah bitterly cries out to God in agony and grief. Go ahead and let it out.

However, also understand that in the midst of your despair, comfort and hope is available. God is near to the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18). In the midst of all of your pain, He is there with you, holding you.

While it’s difficult to see past our current situations and feelings when we’re in pain, we must remember that there *is* hope. Like Joseph, God will bring us through, and we will be able to heal and move forward. In the world to come, there will be no more pain (Revelation 21:4). This is the great hope that we can hold on to as believers.

And even in this life, we are not doomed to despair. Our God is capable of turning things around—pulling us out of our “prison,” if you will, and bringing us to a place where we can honestly say, “God has made me forget all my hardship.” He did it with Joseph. Don’t give up. Hope in God.

Psalm 42:11

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

EMAIL: Info@119ministries.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/119Ministries

WEBSITE: www.TestEverything.net & www.ExaminaloTodo.net

TWITTER: www.twitter.com/119Ministries#