

Morning Sermon February 21, 2021
“Undefeatable, Unstoppable, God-given, Dreams”
– Genesis 37:5-8; 42:6; 50:20

I. *Joseph’s teenage dreams seem immediately dashed by the jealousy and cruelty of his brothers -*

1. *Joseph is a teenager - 17, and a tattletale on his older half-brothers - Genesis 37:2 (NKJV)*

2. *He is also LOVED MOST by Jacob his father -*

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. also he made him a tunic of *many* colors. Genesis 37:3 (NKJV)

3. *He is HATED by his half-brothers -*

⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. Genesis 37:4 (NKJV)

4. *He (Joseph) is a dreamer of big, God-given dreams -*

⁵ Now Joseph had a dream, and he told *it* to his brothers; and they hated him even more.

A. *His dreams picture sheafs bowing and the sun, moon and stars bowing - Genesis 37:5–11 (NKJV)*

B. *Yet, they are about his brothers bowing, and his brothers are determined to dash such dreams, even if it means murdering their brother -*

¹⁹ Then they said to one another, “Look, this dreamer is coming! ²⁰ Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, ‘Some wild beast has devoured him.’ We shall see what will become of his dreams!” Genesis 37:19–20 (NKJV)

5. *By God’s providence and the scruples of some brothers who would not murder their brother, Joseph is sold rather than killed. That being the case, wanting to permanently rid themselves of ‘the dreamer’ they must make it look like Joseph died. Though not all of the brothers are equally guilty, all were guilty of this lie, a 20-21 year maintained lie -*

³¹ So they took Joseph’s tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood. ³² Then they sent the tunic of *many* colors, and they brought *it* to their father and said, “We have found this. Do you know whether it *is* your son’s tunic or not?” Genesis 37:31–32 (NKJV)

6. *Dreams seemed dashed & drowned (especially for Jacob) by the bloody coat the brothers “found” and yet Joseph is not dead, nor were his dreams -*
³³ And he recognized it and said, “*It is* my son’s tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces.” Genesis 37:33 (NKJV)

³⁴ Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days. ³⁵ And all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and he said, “For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning.” Thus his father wept for him.

II. *Despite seemingly “dashed dreams” Joseph is a dedicated and successful servant, for which he is rewarded by Potiphar, but not by his wife -*

³⁶ Now the Midianites had sold him (Joseph) in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard. Genesis 37:34–36 (NKJV)

1. *Joseph was successful even in slavery -*

² The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. Genesis 39:2 (NKJV)

2. *This success led to favor and promotion -*

³ And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. ⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all *that* he had he put under his authority. Genesis 39:3–4 (NKJV)

3. *Joseph had a lot going for him, it seemed, but sin is a mighty foe, its defeat can be painful and slow, and it can come at us from multiple angles. Joseph’s short-lived success is quickly destroyed by the sinfulness of Potiphar’s unfaithful wife -*

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. ⁷ And it came to pass after these things that his master’s wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, “Lie with me.” ⁸ But he refused and said to his master’s wife, “Look, my master does not know what *is* with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. ⁹ There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you *are* his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” Genesis 39:6B–9 (NKJV)

III. *Joseph’s righteous refusal of his master’s wife’s evil desires, plus her LIES sent Joseph to prison, but even there by God’s grace he prospered -*

²⁰ Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison. ²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. ²² And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. ²³ The keeper of the prison did not look into anything **that was** under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made **it** prosper. Genesis 39:20-23 (NKJV)

1. *After successfully interpreting the butler's dream Joseph hoped to be "remembered" by this servant, but was forgotten! Oftentimes, sins against us are not cruelty, but carelessness, not sins of commission, but of omission -*

¹⁴ But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house. Genesis 40:14 (NKJV)

²³ Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him. Genesis 40:23

2. *Two full years passed; and Pharaoh had his dream before the butler remembered Joseph, during that two years Joseph had no indication 'when' or even 'if' the butler might remember him -*

⁹ Then the chief butler spoke to Pharaoh, saying: "I remember my faults this day. ... ¹² Now there was a young Hebrew man with us there, a servant of the captain of the guard. And we told him, and he interpreted our dreams for us; to each man he interpreted according to his own dream. ¹³ And it came to pass, just as he interpreted for us, so it happened. He restored me to my office, and he hanged him." Genesis 41:9 & :12-13

IV. *By God's gracious providence Joseph is brought before pharaoh, and before Pharaoh, Joseph:*

1. *Gives glory to God -*

¹⁶ So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "**It is** not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace." Genesis 41:16 (NKJV)

2. *He explains to Pharaoh the significance of two very similar dreams -*

²⁵ Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh **are one**; God has shown Pharaoh what He **is** about to do: Genesis 41:25 (NKJV)

³² And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice **because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.** Genesis 41:32 (NKJV)

3. *Joseph's key to interpreting dreams, applies to the apocalyptic vision of the Book of Revelation: 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets and 7 Bowls are all describing the same coming*

*kingdom of Christ, which also **must** shortly take place. ... Revelation 1:1 (NKJV)*

4. *The content of these dreams, Joseph explains to pharaoh, predicts seven good years followed by seven years of famine - Genesis 41:26-31, he tells pharaoh right preparation for the years of famine can avoid disaster - Genesis 41:32-37.*

V. *This leads to Pharaoh's promoting Joseph to second in command in Egypt and ultimately to the fulfillment of Joseph's teenage dreams -*

³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, **there is** no one as discerning and wise as you. ⁴⁰ You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you." Genesis 41:39-40 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt. Genesis 41:46 (NKJV)

Add to this time, 7 years of plenty before the start of the famine, add another year for Joseph's brothers' delay before coming and you have three sets of 7 or 21 years between Joseph's dreams at age 17 and their fulfillment at AGE 38 -

⁶ Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers **came and bowed down before him** with **their** faces to the earth. Genesis 42:6 (NKJV)

VI. *Fulfilled dreams destroy any need or desire Joseph might have had for revenge -*

²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; **but** God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as **it is** this day, to save many people alive. Genesis 50:20 (NKJV)

For a time, Joseph seems to toy with and test his brothers, but this testing only reveals that they were sorry for the sin they committed against him years before -

1. *Without slavery in Egypt, Joseph would not have come to power!*
2. *Nor would his dream about his brothers bowing come true!*
3. *Nor would he have audience with pharaoh to interpret pharaoh's dreams "to save many people alive." Genesis 50:20*
4. *Evil is turned to good in Joseph's life - Genesis 41:50-52*
5. *We see even more evil works turned to good in Christ's cross -Acts 4:27-28.*
6. *We should trust God's providential control even in the worst of circumstances Romans 8:28-29.*

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