

III- and Well-Favoured Genesis Chapter 41 Verse 4

Ge 41:4 "And the ill favoured and lean fleshed kine did eat up the seven well favoured and fat kine."

Do you ever get in such a state of heart and mind, that everything good you see and feel seems to be swallowed up by ill-favored things? We are often faced in life with obstacles that carry us to the lowest ebbs of despair. Tribulations in life easily swallow up all joy that we may have rejoiced in.

In our spiritual life it is the same, but to an even greater extent, if the devil can draw our minds away from God and godliness. We may have a wonderful worship service, in which we see Christ revealed from the scriptures, we see and feel the joy of humble worship to God, we see the surety of our eternal salvation, and then suddenly, ill health, the daily grind of life, or some other ill circumstance, will just blot that wonderful experience from our hearts and minds, and suddenly, we find ourselves wallowing in the mire, and having a pity party, one of those times when we cry out "Oh woe is me."

The lesson for us, in the scene set before us in this chapter: Joseph is a great example of how to handle the experiences of life that are real downers. He was hated by his own brothers. His own brothers sought to kill him and then sold him into slavery. He was lifted from slavery to being the ruler of his owner's house, and then he was falsely accused of adultery with his owner's wife and cast into prison. In prison he was lifted to be over all the prisoners. When he interpreted the dreams of the baker and butler of Pharaoh, and the butler was released and returned to his position, Joseph was forgotten. We never see in scripture where Joseph despaired of his circumstance. He always just did the best he could, and kept hold of the promise of God, given to him in dreams, that he would one day be ruler over his own family.

Joseph was finally remembered when Pharaoh had his dreams of the ill-favored and the well-favored, that none of his wise men could interpret. Joseph is brought out of prison and exalted to the second ruler over all Egypt. We point out that even in this highly exalted position, Joseph did not become exalted in his flesh.

We see Joseph portraying in the Old Testament, what Paul portrayed for us in the New Testament in:

- **Php 4:11-13; 11 "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."**
- **Heb 13:5-6; 5 "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."**

However, the greatest example we have set before us in scripture in Jesus Christ at his first coming. In both our natural and spiritual circumstances of life: when the ill-favored circumstances are swallowing up our joy and hope, we need to remember the rest of the story. Joseph, who is a picture of Jesus Christ, is called upon to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. Joseph did interpret the dreams and was set over all of Egypt to gather corn for the years of famine. Distribution of the stored-up corn, in the years of famine, was under the authority of Joseph. God's providence to Joseph turned out to be the salvation of the world during the time of famine upon the earth. God specifically orchestrated this whole scene, for the salvation of Joseph and his family, who were a chosen nation of promised seed to Abraham, and to God.

There was another who was sold into Egypt, figuratively, Jesus the Christ, who came to this world in a body of flesh, to fulfill God's prophecies. Understand, God the Son was imprisoned in a body of flesh that he might suffer death, as a man of flesh, for sin, since sin entered the world by a man of flesh, the first Adam. With the life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension back to the eternal heaven, Jesus laid up corn for the sustenance of all of God's chosen people. This corn is laid up in store in the written word of God, the King James Bible. It is distributed by Jesus through the preaching of the gospel to his people.

Well preacher, it was not just Israel that was saved but all the present nations of that time. God tells us in: **Mt 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."** God also told us in: **Re 12:17 "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."** This is true and is a prophetic picture, that the Church of Salvation by Grace is not confined to the lineage of Israel. Remember that God tells us in scripture in:

Re 5:9 "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;" Wherefore, we see the picture that as God sustained all nations in Joseph's time, God sustains all nations today, that "**out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;**" a "**remnant**" shall receive the gift of God's salvation by grace, and these shall be fed from the storehouse of God's mercy and grace, manna from heaven, or corn in Egypt, which is the bread of life.

We remember the bible states in: **Ge 41:57 "And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands."** And then it tells us that Israel, God's promise seed, came to Egypt to buy bread, seen in: **Ge 42:1-3; 1 ¶ "Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? 2 And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. 3 And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt."** However, Joseph's family did not only come to buy corn. It was God's purposed grace, for Joseph's family to come to him. and through Joseph they would be given their own place to dwell in best that Egypt had to offer, and they would be fed with daily provisions by the hand of Joseph. Now, do you see clearly, the picture of the New Testament church established by Jesus Christ?

Where did Jesus establish the Church of Salvation by Grace? In this world in time. Egypt is a figurative picture of the world of sin and sorrow. As Joseph was sent by God to Egypt for the salvation his family, thus, the lineage of Abraham was preserved, to fulfill the promise to Abraham, that from his line would come the Messiah, the promised seed. Jesus Christ was sent into this world in a prepared body to save his family.

Pharoah declared of Joseph in: **Ge 41:38 "And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?"** In comparison, Jesus was the only one, who appeared in human flesh, which was the manifest presence of God. The wisdom of Jesus far exceeded that of any that has ever been born of woman, because he was God in the flesh. Jesus knew the will of God the Father, and Jesus was creator of the earth and heavens.

Joseph was sold into Egypt by his brethren, yet he did not hold that against them, for God had shown him that he was sent to Egypt to save his family alive, by the dreams God gave him, seen in: **Ge 37:5-11; 5 ¶ "And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. 6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: 7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. 8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. 9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying."** Through these dreams, Joseph has a promise of God to hold onto, to keep his soul from sinking in despair in life's ill-favored times. Jesus was sold by his brethren, and by Judas, to bondage and finally crucifixion. Jesus knew this before he left heaven, and he willingly took on a body of flesh to accomplish the Father's will. This was necessary, because Jesus must go to the cross, and thereby save his family eternally. Jesus did not despair at the ill-favored times in his life because he also had the promise of God, seen in: **Joh 10:17 "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again."**

Wherefore, we declare to you today, as a child of God, we are not to despair at the ill-favored times in our lives, because we have the promise from Jesus Christ, seen in: **1Jo 5:13 "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."** Wherefore, when the "**ill favoured and lean fleshed**" times come into your life, do not forget to take time to look at the big picture, and remember:

- God, through Jesus, has provided us a land of promise here in time, the church of Salvation by Grace, and by the gift of the new birth Jesus has adopted us into his family:
- God, through Jesus, has provided for our eternal forgiveness of sins and our eternal salvation in Christ:

- Jesus has promised to return and receive us unto himself, seen in: **1Th 4:13-18; 13 ¶ "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words."**

Praise and glory to our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ, who has provided us with these words of comfort, and many others, which are recorded in the King James bible.

Wherefore, we give thanks to God the Father, that through Jesus Christ we have victory over the "**ill favoured and lean fleshed**." We praise God that he has granted us the privilege of knowing; we have continual access to the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to the glory and honor of his name. We praise God that we understand: as Jesus used the word of God to drive Satan away from tempting him, so the Word of God will overcome the "**ill favoured and lean fleshed**" for us. Hallelujah! Amen!