

From the Dungeon to the Throne



GARY HARGRAVE



God Is Ordering Your Steps

The story of Joseph foreshadowed what God planned to do with all the children of Israel. Joseph was sold into slavery first and later made a captive in Pharaoh's dungeon (Genesis 37:28, 39:20). Israel followed this same pattern when they were taken into slavery in Egypt and later went into captivity in Babylon. And Joseph is an illustration of what God is doing in your life as well.

He [God] sent a man before them,
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.
They afflicted his feet with fetters,
He himself was laid in irons;
Until the time that his word came to pass,
The word of the LORD tested 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.

PSALM 105:17-21

The story of Joseph reveals God's hand and purposes in his life—and the same is true for you. The Word of the Lord is testing you. You may think the things happening in your life are a result of spiritual warfare, demonic influence, or other negative elements affecting your circumstances. You may have gone through some difficult experiences, but God was in your circumstances. Perhaps you are enslaved spiritually as though serving under a taskmaster. Or maybe your life is like a stronghold of captivity, and you feel locked up in a dungeon. If so, the Word of the Lord may be testing you, and God is looking for a specific right response to come out of your spirit.



The Refining Fire of the Word of God

Joseph had a Word from God. The Lord showed him through dreams and visions what He wanted him to do and what He wanted him to be. As a result, Joseph experienced the refining fire in a tremendous way (Malachi 3:2-3). His father rebuked him (Genesis 37:10). And his jealous brothers sold him into slavery. His life was full of testing, disappointment, and abuse. Challenged by these difficult circumstances, Joseph had to consider, “How am I going to react?” Psalm 105 gives God’s explanation of what really happened to him.

Until the time that his word came to pass,
The word of the LORD tested him.

PSALM 105:19

God was not putting Joseph through terrible circumstances for no reason. He was watching to see how Joseph would react to everything that he went through. God tested his spirit to see what was in the core of this man. Likewise, God is testing and trying your spirit to see what is inside of you. God planted a Word in your heart like a seed, and you are to bear much fruit in the Lord by virtue of this planting (Matthew 13:23). The seeds of some pine trees, however, require the intense heat of fire to break their dormancy and help them germinate. Through fiery trials, God will continue to refine your spirit until everything that can be shaken is removed and there is nothing left in you but the response of Christ (Hebrews 12:26-29).

Remember what Yeshua (Jesus) said on the cross, “Father, forgive them” (Luke 23:34). He was whipped and beaten, abused, and lied about. But everything Yeshua experienced came down to that one moment on the cross. It all came down to how He would react. Would He bring judgment on the entire world and lock humanity up in our sin or would He forgive and release us from our sin? As a man, Christ went through tremendous mental and emotional experiences while the Word of God tried His entire being (Isaiah 53:3; Hebrews 5:7-8). That is what Joseph experienced.



The Lord Is Giving You a Personal Directive

The Lord planted a Word in your heart that is going to test you and prove you. You may feel a sense of despair or despondency and wonder, “When will this ever end? You don’t realize how maligned and lied about I’ve been! It is so unfair that I can’t take it anymore!” Believe me, I am talking out of personal experience too. Yeshua faced the same thing: “What are these wounds between your arms?” Then he will say, “Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends” (Zechariah 13:6). Have you ever felt that way? Were you bitter about it, or did you say, “Lord, I’m Your vessel”?

I believe so deeply that Joseph’s story is a personal directive from the Lord to you individually and to the entire Body of Christ. Spend time reading about the life of Joseph and the details of your life will become evident. The heart of the story is in Genesis chapters 37, 39-42, 45, and 50. Notice that God blesses everyone around Joseph, but he does not receive any of the blessing himself. Does that ring a bell with you? As you read his story, you will find yourself saying, “That is what happened to me!” The Lord blesses everyone and everything around you, but you never experience it yourself because you are still in captivity. Right? God blessed the household

of Potiphar, who was Joseph's master and owner. The blessing and commission on Joseph manifested everywhere around him, but he was a slave and did not own anything. It is easy to get angry and bitter at your brothers who sold you into slavery or feel like some "wonderful saint" around you is getting you into trouble. Have you felt jealousy and competition? Joseph always faced the underlying challenge, "What is your response going to be?" As you go through these experiences, what is your reaction? God is looking for a right spirit.



Lord, I Am Your Servant

At first, everything was going well in Potiphar's house. Joseph was Potiphar's most trusted slave because his master was getting all the benefit. Joseph served Potiphar faithfully when suddenly Potiphar's wife lied about him. Immediately, Joseph was thrown into captivity in Pharaoh's personal dungeon. Yet even in captivity, the blessing flowed from Joseph to others. The jailer turned over all the responsibility to Joseph, but it was like rubbing salt in his wounds. Not only did Joseph have to be a captive in this dungeon, but he also had to oversee everything. The jailer had a great time because Joseph took care of everything. It was the most anointed dungeon that ever existed. Everyone saw the blessing on Joseph's life and recognized that he was a man of God. They drew the anointing and blessing from him. What did Joseph get back? Nothing! Although the jailer had the key, he kept Joseph locked up in captivity.

Soon the baker and the cupbearer were thrown into prison and each one had a dream. In the middle of his own captivity, Joseph sought God and interpreted their dreams. What a blessing!

Don't you love being God's anointed? You have to minister to others amid your own captivity, but the testing is, "How does your spirit respond?" Do you have an angry spirit over what you have gone through? Soon you are not just angry at the ones around you, but you start getting angry at God. You question, "Why are You doing this to me?" You may feel like you cry out to the Lord for things to happen and the blessings always manifest somewhere else. Have you ever had that feeling? What was your response? Were you bitter about it or did you say, "That was God! Father, I am your servant"? It is a basic principle in God that no matter how bad the circumstances get, you still must have a right spirit.



Come Through Your Experiences Like Joseph

Joseph is an illustration of how God operates with His people, and his story should make you feel better about your life. When the cupbearer was released from prison, Joseph said, "Remember me. I blessed you and interpreted your dream for you by the Spirit of God. Please tell Pharaoh that I'm here." Does the cupbearer do that? No. And Joseph sits in Pharaoh's dark, moldy, stinky dungeon for another two years getting his spirit right—or not. God put him through everything. When the Israelites went into slavery and captivity, God kept pointing to this passage, saying, "Come through this like Joseph." And that is what God is telling you, "Come through your experiences like Joseph." Consider everything that has ever happened in your life and take the negative side out of it. It is not the fault of your brother or the fault of God or the fault of the cupbearer, so let go of your anger and bitterness. At some point, Pharaoh had a dream and the cupbearer remembered that Joseph could interpret dreams.

Then Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph, and they hurriedly brought him out of the dungeon; and when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came to Pharaoh.

GENESIS 41:14

Joseph was released from captivity, catapulted literally into being next to the king of Egypt, and had to start moving in God. His release happened suddenly when his spirit was right, and the testing was over. That is about how much time you are going to have as well. When you stand before the king it will all make sense. All you can do now is hang onto the Word. I do not care how much you have gone through or how long it takes. I do not care how impossible it seems. It will happen in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).

Pharaoh said, “Only in the throne I will be greater than you” (Genesis 41:40). He took off his signet ring and gave it to Joseph. Then Joseph had the power to put others in captivity. What God is going to do will happen so fast! And that will test your spirit. Do you see what God is trying to do? Things never make sense during a time of testing in the dungeon. Get rid of the reactions in your spirit now because once you are delivered, you will not have time to get a right spirit. It must happen within the context of your captivity.



God Is Laboring to Perfect His Son in You

This is not just a story; it is your life. You have a Word from God that was planted in your heart for a purpose, and it is going to multiply and bear fruit. But it cannot come to fruition until God first perfects that which concerns you (Psalm 138:8, KJV). You may feel like what is happening to you cannot possibly be God. But reevaluate your life and get God's thinking about

each situation. Get His mind and purpose in it and it will overwhelm the other wrong emotions in you, and you will recognize that God was with you at every step. When others violated Joseph, he recognized that God was preparing him, perfecting him, and positioning him in the place to be used exactly as God willed. Fantastic! Joseph was able to forgive his brothers and say, “You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive” (Genesis 50:20).

God is laboring to perfect His Son Jesus Christ in you (Colossians 1:28-29). It is the quality of your spirit that He is looking for. The problem is not satan or your brother. The seed of a Word from God is testing and perfecting you. God is once again raising up human instruments to be the salvation of an age—but you must be prepared. Like Christ on the cross, there is going to be one right response that comes out of your spirit and that is what God is looking for. God has taken years to prepare the Body of Christ for this one moment, and we are not going to miss it. Father, let us see the truth about how You are leading and perfecting each one of us.

ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel and the lands of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God*, and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org.

ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

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