

Parashat Miketz / פרשת מקץ

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A humble life is a blessed life!

This Weeks Reading List:

Torah: Genesis 41:1-44:17

Haftarah: 1 Kings 3:15-4:1

B'rit HaChadashah: Romans 10:1-13

When Yosef was 17 years old he was sent by his father to check on his brothers. As soon as his brothers see him they grumble in their hearts and to each other and then decide to take off his coat and throw him into a pit. Shortly after these events Yosef is removed from the pit and sold to a caravan of Yishmaelim (Ishmaelites). Yosef is then purchased by Potiphar and quickly gained favor in Potiphar's eyes and was set as superintendant in control of all Potiphar's household. False accusations then caused Yosef to be put in jail and again he gains favor and is set in charge of all the inmates who are imprisoned by the jailor. Now after having interpreted the dreams for the butler and the baker Yosef is called to interpret the two dreams which Pharaoh has dreamt.

Genesis 41:15-40

41:15 Pharaoh said to Yosef, "I had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it; but I've heard it said about you that when you hear a dream, you can interpret it." 41:16 Yosef answered Pharaoh, "It isn't in me. G-d will give Pharaoh an answer that will set his mind at peace." 41:17 Pharaoh said to Yosef, "In my dream, I stood at the edge of the river; 41:18 and there came up out of the river seven cows, fat and sleek; and they began feeding in the swamp grass. 41:19 After them, there came up out of the river seven more cows, poor, miserable-looking and lean -I've never seen such bad-looking cows in all the land of Egypt 41:20 Then the lean and miserable looking cows ate up the first seven fat cows. 41:21 But after they had eaten them up, one couldn't tell that they had eaten them; because they were as miserable-looking as before. At this point I woke up. 41:22 But I dreamed again and saw seven full, ripe ears of grain growing out of a single stalk. 41:23 After them, seven ears, thin and blasted by the east wind, sprang up. 41:24 And the thin ears swallowed up the seven ripe ears. I told this to the magicians, but none of them could explain it to me." 41:25 Yosef said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are the same: G-d has told Pharaoh what he is about to do. 41:26 The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears of grain are seven years - the dreams are the same. 41:27 Likewise the seven lean and miserable-looking cows that came up after them are seven years, and also the seven empty ears blasted by the east wind - there will be seven years of famine. 41:28 This is what I told Pharaoh: G-d has shown Pharaoh what he is about to

do. 41:29 Here it is: there will be seven years of abundance throughout the whole land of Egypt; 41:30 but afterwards, there will come seven years of famine; and Egypt will forget all the abundance. The famine will consume the land, 41:31 and the abundance will not be known in the land because of the famine that will follow, because it will be truly terrible. 41:32 Why was the dream doubled for Pharaoh? Because the matter has been fixed by G-d, and G-d will shortly cause it to happen. 41:33 "Therefore, Pharaoh should look for a man both discreet and wise to put in charge of the land of Egypt. 41:34 Pharaoh should do this, and he should appoint supervisors over the land to receive a twenty percent tax on the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. 41:35 They should gather all the food produced during these good years coming up and set aside grain under the supervision of Pharaoh to be used for food in the cities, and they should store it. 41:36 This will be the land's food supply for the seven years of famine that will come over the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish as a result of the famine." 41:37 The proposal seemed good both to Pharaoh and to all his officials. 41:38 Pharaoh said to his officials, "Can we find anyone else like him? The Spirit of G-d lives in him!" 41:39 So Pharaoh said to Yosef, "Since G-d has shown you all this - there is no one as discerning and wise as you - 41:40 you will be in charge of my household; all my people will be ruled by what you say. Only when I rule from my throne will I be greater than you."

בראשית “in the beginning” G-d by his power created the heavens and the earth. Would it be any problem for him to also work in Yosef’s life? In Yosef’s life Hashem gave him a prophetic dream when he was 17 years of age about his future. Now after 13 years Hashem is bringing that plan to completion, but notice how Hashem does not immediately place Yosef into high position, rather, He first went through small steps, in Potiphar’s home, then in jail, and finally over all of **מצרים** (mitzrayim, Egypt).

Something I noticed is the kind of faith Yosef had during his life. Through the good and the bad he continued to honor Hashem. Now in these verses we see Pharaoh asking Yosef to interpret his dream and Yosef answers him by saying: *“41:16 Yosef answered Pharaoh, "It isn't in me. G-d will give Pharaoh an answer that will set his mind at peace."* This answer Yosef gave Pharaoh is very significant. Significant because Pharaoh’s are regarded as gods and retaining their god status even after death. A pharaoh’s will was supreme and he governed with royal decree along with the assistance of “viziers.” A vizier is the chief minister or executive officer and we can see this when pharaoh refers to his officials: *“41:38 Pharaoh said to his officials, "Can we find anyone else like him? The Spirit of G-d lives in him!"* When pharaoh asks Yosef to interpret the dream Yosef points to the one true G-d. After Yosef’s interpretation pharaoh and all the counsel of pharaoh recognized the wisdom G-d had given him and then made him the most powerful man in mitzrayim outside of pharaoh himself.

In his early years, Yosef was a young immature man who was an accuser of his brethren as well as being spoiled by his father Yitzchak (i.e. having a coat of many colors). In order to make Yosef a man which could rule and reign, a man of wisdom and a man that feared Hashem, Yosef had to go through trials and hardships. There are occasions where G-d causes us to go through tough times to purge out and humble our hearts.

Are you going through trials in your life today?

By the time Yosef met pharaoh he was ready to give Hashem all the credit no matter what happens by becoming a humble man of faith in the trials of his life. When Yosef reaches this point in his life, it is easily recognized: *41:38 Pharaoh said to his officials, "Can we find anyone else like him? The Spirit of G-d lives in him!"* Are you to the point in your life where others can recognize the Spirit of G-d lives in you too?

Yeshua Hamoshiach also demonstrated what it means to live humbly and to lay one's life down supplanting his will with the will of the Father in heaven. Are you ready to set your will, desires, and all that you are aside and live the will of your Father in heaven? Sometimes things happen contrary to what we believe are going to take place in our lives. Yosef probably thought that his dreams which he had as a teenager were not going to take place after spending so much time in Jail. But with patience and trusting in Adonai, Hashem delivered him and blessed him with much responsibility, authority, and wealth in his job and the blessing of family and children.

I want to encourage you to keep the faith, keep believing in G-d's Messiah Yeshua no matter what happens. Yeshua understood what it means to be humble, and to live humbly. In the scriptures there are a lot of people whose lives are orchestrated based upon the humbling of their hearts in order to increase their faith. I think G-d wants to do the same for us too.

Philipians2:7-9

2:7 On the contrary, he emptied himself, in that he took the form of a slave by becoming like human beings are. And when he appeared as a human being, 2:8 he humbled himself still more by becoming obedient even to death - death on a stake as a criminal! 2:9 Therefore G-d raised him to the highest place and gave him the name above every name; (CJB)

James4:10

4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. (CJB)

If you are His child through faith, then humble yourself today before Adonai decides to do it for you. I have to say that it is much easier to humble ourselves than to have G-d do it for us.

Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
"Yeshua" King Messiah for ever and ever