

# פרשת וישב / Parashat Vayeshev

Shabbat Kislev 25, 5770, December 12, 2009  
32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of G-d  
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## Trusting in the Lord

### השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Genesis 37:1-40:23  
הפטרה: Amos 2:6-3:8  
הברית: Matthew 1:1-6, 16-25  
החדשה

10 According to scripture (*Bereshit / Genesis 39:2*) the Lord was with Yoseph, the question I know most of us probably have is if G-d was with Yoseph why would he allow such circumstances to occur to him? Sometimes the things that happen in our lives are based upon a plan the Lord has for us to help others. While we read through this week's parsha, try to think about how the Lord has been working in your life that has affected others similarly to the way the Lord worked in Yoseph's life.

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## בראשית 39:1-6

ס השני ויקרא שמו יוסף:  
מצרימה ויקנהו פוטיפר סרים פרעה שר הטבחים  
איש מצרי מיד השמעאלים אשר הורדהו שמה:  
ויהי יהוה אתיוסף ויהי איש מצליח ויהי בבית אדניו  
המצרי: וירא אדניו כי יהוה אתו וכל אשר הוא עשה  
יהוה מצליח בידו: וימצא יוסף חן בעיניו וישרת אתו  
ויפקדהו על-ביתו וכל-ישלו נתן בידו: ויהי מאז  
הפקיד אתו בביתו ועל כל-אשר ישלו ויברך יהוה  
את-בית המצרי בגלל יוסף ויהי ברבת יהוה בכל-  
אשר ישלו בבית ובשדה: ויעוב כל-אשר-לו ביד  
יוסף ולא ידע אתו מאומה כי אסדהלם אשר הוא  
אוכל ויהי יוסף יפה-תאר ויפה מראה: ויהי אחר

20 After the Lord had blessed Yoseph a serious problem began to develop. Potiphar had great confidence in Yoseph by placing all of his household and estate into his care. It was at this time Potiphar's wife began to notice Yoseph and made advances towards him trying to seduce him to lay with her. Yoseph's rejection of her resulted in him being falsely accused and placed in prison for an indeterminate time. Scripture doesn't say but I wonder if Yoseph ever asked why

25

### Bereshit / Genesis 39:1-6

39:1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there. 39:2 The Lord was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. 39:3 Now his master saw that the Lord was with him and how the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hand. 39:4 So Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he owned he put in his charge. 39:5 It came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house and over all that he owned, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; thus the Lord's blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field. 39:6 So he left everything he owned in Joseph's charge; and with him there he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. (NASB)

30 this was happening to him? The single events and especially the bad ones are usually the kind that we ask the “why is this happening to me?” kinds of questions and it can be difficult to see the end like we see here in the story of Yoseph; G-d’s plan was to save many lives. Life has its ups and downs, the good and the bad, the joyful and sad experiences. The Lord is working in our lives in ways that may have a significant impact upon others whom He is trying to reach out too through us.

35 While reading about all that Yoseph had gone through I am reminded of something Yeshua said about being persecuted for righteousness sake in *Matthew 5:10-12*.

***Matthew 5:10-12***

40 *5:10 ‘Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 5:11 ‘Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. 5:12 ‘Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

45 For righteousness sake Yoseph’s master (Potiphar) unknowingly took him and put him into the prison (*Bereshit / Genesis 39:20*). Scripture again tells us that the Lord was with Yoseph (*Bereshit / Genesis 39:21*) and soon he was excelling and gaining the recognition of his superiors in the prison system. In the long run however, these events were orchestrated to move Yoseph into a position for him to speak with the King of Egypt and eventually become a very powerful ruler over all of Egypt. Scripture does not make it clear whether Yoseph struggled with his trust in the Lord, but trusting in G-d’s plan for our lives, like in Yoseph’s is very important.

55 The wisdom literature says, *Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. (NASB)* it all comes down to trusting in the Lord. However, this is one of the most difficult scripture verses to come to terms with in our lives whether on a conscious or a unconscious level. Most of us have trouble trusting in the Lord at least in one area or another in our lives. Trust is difficult and it is hard to come by in our relationships here on earth. For example, for years I had been mocked and made fun of because of my faith. I did not go through the kinds of trials Yoseph did but they were trials nonetheless that refined my faith, outlook on life, and my relationship with the Lord. G-d’s ways don’t always make sense, and that is because we want to make a life that is set on our own terms and timetables. Take for example G-d’s promise to Avraham. He promised Avraham a son from his own body through his wife Sarah. It took approximately 24 years before this promise was fulfilled in the manner in which G-d had promised. Avraham and Sarah however had difficulty trusting the Lord and came up with another way (read Parashat Lekh Lekha, *Bereshit / Genesis 15-17*) through Sarah’s servant Hagar. Having to trust in G-d requires us to surrender the time for completion of G-d’s plans. Most of us have a tendency to “claim” a trust in G-d but in the first sign of difficulty or trial we think G-d no longer loves us because he is allowing these things to occur. Did

75 you know that the trials and difficulties in our life, like what happened to Yoseph, are one of the ways G-d works to help us to grow spiritually? The concept of trials and troubles is not taught very often, but scripture (*Romans 8:28*, *Hebrews 12:1-6*, and *James 1:2-8*) indicates that our lives and struggles are meant to help us to grow.

80 ***Romans 8:28***

*8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (NASB)*

85 According to *Romans 8:28*, if you are called to His purpose, meaning that you are called to serve the Lord, all things, no matter the circumstance, work together according to the plan G-d has for your life. This single scripture verse suggests that the trials, difficulties, and even illnesses may be used according to G-d's purposes in our lives.

90 ***Hebrews 12:1-6***

95 *12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 12:3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. 12:4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; 12:5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, 'My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him; 12:6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives.'* (NASB)

105 According to the book of Hebrews, Yeshua suffered the shedding of blood for our sins. This is a powerful thing fulfilling the blood requirement according to the Torah for the forgiveness of our sins. It is interesting how the writer of Hebrews compares Yeshua's shedding of blood to our striving against sin. The discussion ensues about our call as sons of G-d and the discipline of the Lord and our striving against the sin in our lives even to the point of the shedding of our own blood. Have you ever thought about that before? Do you know anyone who has resisted to the point of shedding blood in their striving against sin? Resisting sin, trusting, and giving control of our lives to G-d are all interrelated. Should our trust in the Lord be so serious that we should consider even the point of the  
115 shedding of our blood?

***James 1:2-8***

120 *1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,*  
*1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 1:4 And let*  
*endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete,*  
*lacking in nothing. 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God,*  
125 *who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to*  
*him. 1:6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who*  
*doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 1:7 For*  
*that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,*  
*1:8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (NASB)*

130 According to the book of James, we should consider it all joy when we  
encounter various trails. Are these trials only those which are related to  
persecution because of our faith? At one point in my life I thought this scripture  
referred to only the kind that related to persecution for our faith. I have come to  
realize that all trials, whether persecution, illness, or simple interpersonal  
135 relationship issues are ways in which G-d is testing and refining our faith. In  
James, “lacking nothing,” “wisdom,” “faith,” and “doubt” are juxtaposed to  
encountering trails. Trials come whether it is a persecution of faith or simply  
life’s ups and downs; this scripture suggests that only claiming to trust in G-d will  
show an absence of wisdom and faith and an abundance of doubt.

140 So how do we apply this to our lives? Remember that our trials are given  
to us for a purpose. The Lord allows trials in our lives, sometimes they are small  
and other times huge as in the life of Yoseph in this week’s parsha. G-d is in  
control and allows us to experience trials because He is more concerned with our  
character than He is about our feelings. Yoseph certainly had hurt feelings but he  
145 learned to trust in the Lord nonetheless. The trials whether we understand them  
or not are meant to mold us into the person He wants us to be. So, we have a  
choice today, to get angry or to realize that all we can do is trust in the One who  
formed us, Almighty G-d.

150 Heavenly Father,

Sometimes I don’t understand why I go through the trials that I do but  
please help the trials that I have to purify and strengthen my faith for Your glory.  
Help me to develop patience and obedience to Your Holy Word. Help me to learn  
155 the lessons that You are trying to teach me and most of all help me to truly trust in  
You. Thank you Lord for Your Son Yeshua and His shed blood. I give you all  
the glory, the honor, and the praise, in Yeshua’s name I pray.

Amen!

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**Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!**

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הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:  
Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,  
“Yeshua” King Messiah forever and ever

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