

## Torah Portion #9: VaYeshev (וישב) "and he settled"

Torah ~ Genesis 37:1-40:23 | Prophets ~ Amos 2:6-3:8 | New Covenant ~ Matthew 1:1-6; Acts 7:9-16

**Our Life In Joseph**

In our lives we all go through hard times, times where we feel like we are in a pit and all alone.

*Gen. 37:24 "Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it." NKJV*

Once Joseph was pulled out of the pit, he was then sold into slavery. We see in *Genesis 39:2a* that Joseph did not turn his back on the Lord for it says *"And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man"* KJV

We see in *Genesis 39:21* that Joseph had not turned his back on the Lord after being put into prison for it says *"But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison."* MEV

In *Genesis 41:38* we see that Joseph still had not turned his back on the Lord even after two years in prison for it says *"Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find anyone like this man, in whom is the Spirit of God?"* MEV

**Joseph knew that God had everything under control.**

In the story of Joseph (*Genesis 37-50*), the hand of the Lord was in every terrible thing that happened to him.

In *Genesis 50:20* Joseph said to his brothers *"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."* NKJV

We need to be attentive to everything in our lives, always watching and listening for the Will of God.

*Prov. 21:1 "A king's heart is like a stream of water in the hand of Adonai; he directs it wherever He wants." TLV*

*Acts 5:38b-39 "(38b) for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; (39) but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God."* NKJV

*Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* NKJV

**Joseph had to have trust in the Lord.**

*Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in Adonai with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding."* TLV

Like King David, Joseph was also a shepherd of sheep. He had an understanding of the message spoken of in *Psalms 23*.

Joseph found that he could find safety in the presence of the Lord as it says in *Psalms 91*.

*Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." NIV*

*2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we live by faith, not by sight." NIV*

Faith understands suffering is temporary and it is a part of the greater purposes of God in this world. Faith sees past the painful moments and trusts that God is working on putting all the pieces together.

**Joseph could not have lived in fear.**

*Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."*

*Psalms 56:11 "In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" NKJV*

**In Closing**

One primary lesson we can learn from these Scriptures is that even though there is suffering in this world, we should not fear but trust that the Lord remains with us to bring about His final purposes.