

WHEN YOUR DREAMS UNRAVEL, DON'T FORGET THE PROMISES

Text: (Genesis 37:17-20, NIV)

¹⁷ So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. ¹⁸ But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

¹⁹ "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. ²⁰ "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

INTRODUCTION

A. God Is in Charge of All Things

1. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose" (Romans 8:28, KJV).
2. "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" (Romans 8:28, NIV).

I. TYPES OF DREAMS

A. Literal Dreams from God

1. "An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit'" (Matthew 1:20, NIV).

II. FROM HERE TO THERE

A. The Unfolding of the Dream

1. "Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens" (Psalm 119:89, NIV).
2. "Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more" (Genesis 37:5, NIV).
3. "So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the richly ornamented robe he was wearing—and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

Judah said to his brothers, 'What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.' His brothers agreed.

So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt...

Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard" (Genesis 37:23-28, 36, NIV).

3. "The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master" (Genesis 39:2, NIV).
4. "The LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden" (Genesis 39:21, NIV).

B. Thwarting the Process

1. "The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, 'Why is this happening to me?' So she went to inquire of the LORD. The LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger'" (Genesis 25:22-23, NIV).

III. THE UNRAVELING OF YOUR DREAM

A. The Last Temptation of Christ

1. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin" (Hebrews 4:15, NIV).
2. "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42, NIV).
3. "Jesus replied, 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head'" (Matthew 8:20, NIV)
4. "By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken" (Isaiah 53:8, NIV).
5. "Yet it was the LORD'S will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand" (Isaiah 53:10, NIV).

B. Avoid Bitterness

1. "See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many" (Hebrew 12:15, NIV).