

Bible/College Class Notes – God’s Great Plans – Lesson 34

God’s Plan Unfolds, Strangely at First.

This week we learn more of how God preserved Joseph’s life -part of His plan to save his family.

“It is good for me that I have been afflicted (troubled); that I might learn Thy statutes (laws).” Psalm 119v71.

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Genesis 39v1-12 (Joseph remains faithful to God)	
Monday	Genesis 39 v13-23 (Joseph is falsely accused)	
Tuesday	Genesis 40v1-13 (Joseph cast into prison)	
Wednesday	Genesis 40v14-23 (Joseph forgotten in prison)	
Thursday	Psalms 97 (The Sovereign Lord, reigns in righteousness)	
Friday	Psalms 31 (Trust in the Lord, despite our trials)	
Saturday	Galatians 5v16-26 (Christians show the Fruit of The Spirit)	

Important Lesson for us today: *In Genesis we read how God used dreams in the time of Joseph. But does God speak to us today through dreams? The answer is emphatically NO. When Joseph was alive little of The Bible was written down. Some 400 years later, God used Moses to write Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy under the inspiration (guidance) of The Holy Spirit. So, today, we have the complete, inspired, Word of God - the Old and New Testaments containing the books Genesis to Revelation. There is no new revelation from God – He has given us all the truth we need in The Bible – so as to know His Eternal, Sovereign, Unchanging Character – Father, Son and Holy Spirit; His Holiness, Law, Judgements, Warnings, Promises, and His Mercy in sending His Son, The Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and rise again, to be the Saviour of sinners. His gift of faith and repentance enables us to believe, obey and serve Him based on the principles of His Word.*

This is The Word of Truth which we preach and teach in our church.

Hymn 526 - Encouraging us to be at peace in all circumstances - the same way that Joseph was.

Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin? The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging round;

On Jesus’ bosom nought but calm is found.

Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown? Jesus, we know, and He is on the throne.

Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours?

Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers.

It is enough, earth’s troubles soon shall cease, And Jesus call us to Heaven’s perfect peace.

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

Joseph’s ‘Ups and Downs’ in Egypt.

• Background to This Lesson.

- Jacob, now called Israel, loved Joseph more than his other sons, causing their envy.
- Aged 17, Joseph dreamt – showing that one day all his family would bow before him.
- Reuben and Judah prevented their envious, and hateful brothers, from killing him.
- Instead, he was sold for 20 pieces of silver to Ishmaelite traders, travelling to Egypt.
- They daubed Joseph’s coat with blood. Jacob was lied to, ‘a wild beast has killed him’.

• Joseph is Taken to Egypt, Sold as a Slave - But Knows God’s Care.

- Bought by Potiphar, Pharaoh’s Captain of the Guard. Now a slave, working long hours.
- Joseph did not despair, but worked hard, knowing he had to serve the Lord his God.
- He was so trust-worthy that Potiphar promoted him to be Head of his House.

• Potiphar’s Wife was Jealous and Tried to Trap Joseph into Sin.

- Joseph escaped from her evil advances of seduction; but she took his tunic.
- She falsely accused Joseph to her husband, Potiphar, who put Joseph in prison.
- Although another ‘low’ in Joseph’s life, he did not complain, but fully trusted God.
- Again, he was recognised for his trustworthiness, and was put in charge of the prison.

• Joseph meets two men who had fallen into disfavour with Pharaoh.

- He took interest in Pharaoh’s Head Butler and Head Baker who were in prison.
- They both had dreams - Joseph, guided by God, interpreted them correctly.
- The Butler was to be restored to his position, but the Baker was to be executed.
- Joseph, who was not guilty, asks the Butler to raise his own case for release.
- Sadly, the Butler forgot Joseph. So, Joseph remained in prison for two more years.

• Joseph Knows God is working out His Sovereign Plan & Purpose.

- Joseph’s character and skills were being shaped by God for an important future role.
- By proving his love to God through all difficulties Joseph could be fully trusted.
- In his lonely cell Joseph kept up his faith, prayerfully and patiently waiting for his Sovereign God to work out His plan, in His perfect time. Joseph was at peace.

• Consider, there are only two ways we can look at any event in life.

- E.g. Christ’s Death on the cross – **Either**, ‘how foolish of God to allow this to happen to His Son’, **OR** to see this as the greatest achievement of all time, to save sinners like us.
- **Either** we can make all the sad things that happen to us an excuse to grumble against God and reject His love and forgiveness, **OR** we can own Him as our Saviour, trusting Him to work all things for our spiritual wellbeing and eternal good. (**Romans 8v28**).
- **Either** we can look at the triumphs and tragedies of this sinful world and imagine it has no Creator, Ruler or Judge, **OR** see events as God’s Sovereign permissive acts, teaching us we belong to Him and that we must answer to Him on Judgement Day.

Consider where you stand. Read again the Either and the OR statements above.

God shapes a Christian’s character by obedience to His Word and the events of life. The Fruit of the Spirit is ‘patience, long-suffering, forbearance,’ as described in Galatians 5v22.

The Prophet Isaiah wrote, “For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul (undo) it? And His hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?” Isaiah 14v27.