

## The In-Between Time

### Introduction

Most of the time when we receive a prophetic word from God, we hope to see some clue that it is going to happen as soon as possible, preferably the next day! This suits our instant-everything mindset and preferences. However, often we don't even see a hint of this prophetic word coming to pass the next day, and in fact, many times the exact often occurs. This is common in scripture and is known as prophetic contradiction.

An example of this is Joseph (Gen. 37-45). We will be looking at the account of Joseph more closely to glean what we can from God's process with him. He received a dream from the Lord regarding his future destiny. It involved leadership and specifically, his family submitting to his authority. Soon after he received this word, he was thrown into a pit and sold into slavery. How is that for contradiction? The prophetic word (dream) was about Joseph being a leader and the first portion of the process of fulfilment of the word required Joseph be a slave. What a fascinating picture of prophetic contradiction. Joseph then successfully endured many difficulties, trials and tests of his heart. At the end of this process, when Joseph was ready and the surrounding situation and people were ready, the Word that God had given him was fulfilled.

The process is critical in preparing us for the calling. Unfortunately, many of us don't understand that God is not in a rush to fulfil His Words. He is secure in His ability to fulfil His Word at the right time. He is at peace. Many of us are in a rush to see the fulfilment of the Word for one reason or another. Maybe it's unbelief or anxiety that it may not happen, maybe it's a desire to prove something to someone, maybe it's a desire to be successful and to be seen as such, or maybe it simply is a holy desire to serve God and fulfil His purpose on our lives. Whatever the heart and motives, God is just as much about who we are becoming as about reaching the end goal. He doesn't neglect the former in pursuit of the latter.

The question is, are we ready? God's instruction when He called Jeremiah was,

### Jer. 1:17

*"Prepare yourself and arise"*

It would be prudent of us to ask God how we should best prepare ourselves and position ourselves for the fulfilment of His Word to us.

In our excitement at receiving a Word, many of us move quickly into unbelief because we look at the evidence or lack thereof soon after receiving it. I would imagine that many times He is able to fulfil His Word to us immediately upon giving it, but we are not ready or mature enough, to have it fulfilled. We see from the Israelites journey through the wilderness into their promised land that God is more concerned with our own hearts and readiness to stand in the promised land, than rushing and giving us what He promised or what we want. (Deut. 8:2)

Paul says to Timothy, *"I charge you to wage the good warfare according to the prophecies that were given you". (1 Tim. 1:18)*

Why would God give us that sword, that word, if we did not need to use it for something? Generally, the tougher the resistance, the stronger and clearer the word He will give. So, if the word He gave you is very strong and really clear, consider for a moment that was so clear for a reason. You are possibly going to encounter some resistance to its fulfilment. If we look at Joseph, his word was very clear. Once he received the word, he entered a process that tested his heart. It seems that Joseph kept his heart throughout the time that God was working on his character and at the appointed time, God fulfilled the word He declared at the start. It just took a period of time. That period of time was the process that Joseph had to walk through. There was no short cut.

### **Let's take a closer look at the account of Joseph's life:**

#### **Gen. 30: 22-24**

*Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. And she conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my reproach." So, she called his name Joseph, and said, "The Lord shall add to me another son."*

- When Joseph was born, to his mom he was a trophy in a rivalry between sisters – Leah and Rachel. Rachel had been barren for years and Leah had born Jacob sons. Finally, Rachel had a child, but not after heart ache and anger.

#### **Gen. 37:2**

*Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father.*

**Joseph ... was feeding the flock** — literally, "Joseph being seventeen years old was a shepherd over the flock" - he a lad, with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah. Oversight or superintendence is evidently implied. This post of chief shepherd in the party might be assigned him either from his being the son of a principal wife or from his own superior qualities of character; and if invested with this office, he acted not as a gossiping tell-tale, but as a "faithful steward" in reporting the scandalous conduct of his brethren. (Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary)

**Gen. 35:25-26**

*The sons of Bilhah, Rachel's maidservant, were Dan and Naphtali; and the sons of Zilpah, Leah's maidservant, were Gad and Asher.*

- So, at the age of 17, Joseph was already in a chief position over some of his older brothers. He was leader.

**Reading Genesis 37:1-11**

*Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also, he made him a tunic of many colours.*

- Even though Joseph was born out of rivalry, and was a tool used in a war game, he meant something else entirely to his earthly father, and his heavenly father had plans that no one could fathom or imagine for him! So, it doesn't matter how we are born, and the circumstances and reasons for our birth, God has His own plans!
- That coat of many colours probably fed his brother's envy. Sometimes the favour on our lives can feed envy from other people. We may not understand the hatred and accusation levelled at us. But sometimes it's because of the favour on our lives.

*But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.*

- The favour of God often provokes jealousy. Unfortunately, the jealousy tends to come from those we love and trust and least expect it to come from – our brothers. We can't let it touch our hearts though. I don't think Joseph did.

*Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. So, he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed, your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf." And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So, they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.*

- Joseph seems to be quite outside the matrix of self-protection and trying to win favour from his brothers. He seems quite confident.

*Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." So, he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.*

- I think his father had already noticed the quality of his character and natural leadership abilities.

Picking up the story in Genesis 37:12:

Joseph's father sends him to go and check up on his brothers who have taken their father's flocks to feed in Shechem. Joseph discovers that they have moved on to Dothan and goes to find them there.

### **Gen. 37:18-20**

*Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming! Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!"*

- Jealousy and envy if left to fester, will grow into hatred and murder. Murder can be literal, or simply what we say with our mouths against people.

Well, Reuben's conscience kicked in and he convinced the brothers to throw Joseph into a pit rather, intending to take him back to his father. When Midianite traders passed by, Judah convinced his brothers to sell Joseph. I think God knew that the time had now arrived for Joseph to be separated from his brothers before they

followed through on what was in their hearts. I think God sent the Midianite traders at that point in time. That was the point when Joseph's training began in earnest.

- Many of us receive a Word from God, or a promise from God, or a calling and no sooner than we receive it, it seems like circumstances tend to go the other way. Or maybe they don't go the opposite direction, but it just seems like the fruit you are waiting for never comes... rather a barrenness of what God has promised you.

Be encouraged:

- Even Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. The wilderness is a place of barrenness or no evident fruit or life. But the life God is focussing on here is the life inside of you, which is necessary to contain the fruit he wants to give.

- Joseph had to be thrown into a pit to begin his earnest preparation for what God had for him. God had to put him there so that he could eventually be positioned aright for the promotion God promised him. God knows how to position us for what He has for us.

- So, Joseph is taken to Egypt as a slave by the Midianites (God even uses our enemies to position us where we need to be for His promotion).
- He was taken as a slave. Completely under the radar. I am not sure anyone could have guessed how God was going to move Joseph in His dealings with him.
- Joseph received the Words from God. Awesome words. Great promises. He had a wonderful life. In one moment, one day, it was all taken away, or so it seemed. He was thrown in a pit and then demoted to "slave". Mm. Interesting process.

There is a quote I like, not sure who wrote it:

When God wants to drill a man  
And thrill a man  
And skill a man,  
When God wants to mould a man  
To play the noblest part;  
When He yearns with all His heart

To create so great and bold a man  
That all the world shall be amazed,  
Watch His methods, watch His ways!  
How He ruthlessly perfects  
Whom He royally elects!  
How He hammers him and hurts him,  
And with mighty blows converts him  
Into trial shapes of clay which  
Only God understands;  
While his tortured heart is crying  
And he lifts beseeching hands!  
How He bends but never breaks  
When his good He undertakes;  
How He uses whom He chooses  
And with every purpose fuses him;  
By every act induces him  
To try His splendour out—  
God knows what He's about! - (Author Unknown)

This is such an apt picture of the process of God. When God calls you, He is going to mould you whether you like it or not, and it may not always be comfortable but at the end of the day it is worth it.

- Once in Egypt, Joseph was sold to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh.
- Again, God positions Joseph. He is serving someone of high rank in Pharaoh's leaders. He is serving someone and will learn many things that will prepare him for when he too holds rank as one of Pharaoh's leaders.
- Do not despise serving another man's vision when it is similar to yours. God has positioned you. There are tests made for you in that place. Will you be faithful with that which belongs to another man?

**Gen. 39:2-6**

*The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. So, Joseph found favour in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put*

*under his authority. So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had in the house and in the field. Thus, he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate.*

- Joseph was a slave. But we are informed that the Lord was with him. Think on that! Our physical circumstances cannot affect God's Presence with us unless we let them!
- Joseph was a slave. But we are told he was successful. I wonder in whose eyes he was successful. We have to live for the audience of one. And be faithful to Him, no matter our situation.
- Potiphar saw that God prospered all that was in Joseph's hand. This gave Joseph favour in Potiphar's sight. Interesting. He carried prosperity, even though he was a slave.
- When Joseph's brothers saw favour on his life, they were envious. When Potiphar saw God on Joseph, he favoured Joseph. I think a major difference between Potiphar and Joseph's brothers was that Potiphar wasn't competing with Joseph. He was in a different matrix. People will envy you if they view you as a threat, or if they see you as competition. Maybe if they are insecure, or do not have what you have but want it. When people are secure, they are unlikely to envy.

Joseph had been faithful thus far. Probably passed various character tests with flying colours. Maybe at this point God knew Joseph was ready for the next level of testing. The water Joseph is in heats up a bit:

**Gen. 39:7-10**

*Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.*

- This was a test of the fear of God. Did Joseph fear God? He feared God above any other. The test was protracted, because it lasted “day by day”.

**Gen. 39:15-18**

*When Potiphar’s wife caught him to force him to lie with her, Joseph fled, leaving his coat in her hands. And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside.” So, she kept his garment with her until his master came home. Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, “The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me; so, it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside.”*

- The test mutated and grew harder: Now it had become a test of false accusation.
- Because of the false accusation, Potiphar grew angry with Joseph and threw him into prison. Joseph now found himself in another pit. Only this time, in a foreign land. It seems to me; the tests were getting more intense and the situation was looking less like it was a set-up for God’s positioning and plan. But God knew how and why He was positioning Joseph there!

**Gen. 39:21-23**

*But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph’s hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph’s authority, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.*

- Joseph was in prison. Yet we are told that the Lord was with him.
- We are also told that God gave him favour.
- How many of you would believe that the Lord was with you and had given you favour if you found yourself in that situation?
- He rose to position of leader, even in prison.
- The Lord caused him to prosper, even in prison.
- I believe he must have kept his heart.

I think we have to change the way we view success. We need to change the way we view “arrival”. We need to change our understanding of how God works in us in our lives.

- **The prison/hiddenness test.** Your attitude counts in hiddenness. You may be trapped in circumstances, unable to break free or break out. You may be stuck in a place of hiddenness and misunderstanding. God will still be with you and cause you to prosper if your attitude and character remains true.

While Joseph is in prison, Pharaoh becomes angry with his chief butler and baker and they get thrown in the prison where Joseph is.

**Gen. 40:4**

*And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them; so, they were in custody for a while.*

- **Servant test.** Joseph was charged with them. He served them. Because he was serving them, he was positioned aright for God’s next move:

**Gen. 40:5-7**

*Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, had a dream, both of them, each man’s dream in one night and each man’s dream with its own interpretation. And Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them and saw that they were sad. So, he asked Pharaoh’s officers who were with him in the custody of his lord’s house, saying, “Why do you look so sad today?”*

- His heart is in his service. He is not offended and bitter and consumed by his own bad luck. He is not worried about the apparent lack of faithfulness of God. He is about serving and concerned for the people God has given him to lead, albeit it in apparent prison and hiddenness.

They tell Joseph that they have each had a dream and don’t understand them. He says that interpretations of dreams belong to God. Please will they tell him their dreams. And so, they do.

Joseph correctly interprets their dreams. The butler to be restored to service in three days, and the baker to be beheaded in three days. And it was as Joseph said. He also asked the butler to remember him and mention him to Pharaoh. Joseph wasn’t so comfortable in that prison that he wanted to stay. No! He did want out! He just didn’t let that affect his heart.

**Gen. 40:23**

*Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph but forgot him.*

- **The forgotten test**

Two years pass. The butler had forgotten about Joseph.

- Do you feel like God has forgotten about you?

God had not forgotten about Joseph. He never forgets us!

**Is. 49:14-16**

*But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me,*

*And my Lord has forgotten me."*

*"Can a woman forget her nursing child,*

*And not have compassion on the son of her womb?*

*Surely, they may forget,*

*Yet I will not forget you.*

*See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands;*

*Your walls are continually before Me.*

- This is the point where God decides it's time to manifest what He prophesied way back many years ago. "It's time for my purposes to be fulfilled. It's time.". When it's time according to God and when you've done your time and passed your tests, it doesn't matter where you are, obscurity, in a prison, misunderstood, falsely accused, fallen out of favour with leaders... it doesn't matter. If God is in it, He will do it. If God is in it, He will use the very things that have come against you as a stepping stone to your promotion and the fulfilment of His Word. But only when its time and we have been proven and tested by the process of His choosing.
- God gives Pharaoh 2 dreams. A complete set-up for Joseph's success. The magicians and wise men of Egypt couldn't help Pharaoh with his dreams. Of course, the Butler then remembers Joseph and tells Pharaoh about him. And Pharaoh calls for Joseph.

**Gen. 41:14-16**

*Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that you can understand a dream, to*

interpret it.” So, Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.”

- Just for good measure there is a test of glory thrown in here. Who will Joseph give glory to for the interpretation of the dreams?
- He passes with flying colours.
- Who do you give glory to for what comes naturally to you?

Well, Joseph interpreted the 2 dreams correctly, and then God gave him wisdom to know what to do with the dreams, i.e. how to apply wisdom in the situation, or the application of the interpretation of the dreams.

With every word there is the

- revelation (dream, vision, Word, promise from God),
- interpretation
- application.

**Revelation** (Pharaoh’s dreams):

- 7 fat cows came out of the river. Then 7 skinny cows came after them and ate up the fat cows.
- 7 heads of grain on one stalk came up, and then 7 withered, thin and bighted heads sprang up after and devoured the fat heads.

**Interpretation:**

- 7 good years of great plenty followed by 7 years of terrible famine.
- 2 dreams as the thing is established.

**Deut. 19:15**

*by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.*

**Application:**

**Gen. 41:33-36**

*“Now therefore, let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, to collect one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years. And let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming, and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. Then that food*

*shall be as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land may not perish during the famine.”*

Boom!

Joseph's 24-hour miracle or suddenly (which is never really a suddenly):

**Gen. 41:37-44**

*So, the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?”.*

(This was the distinguishing factor and reason for the favour).

*Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.” And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, “Bow the knee!” So, he set him over all the land of Egypt. Pharaoh also said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.”*

You might feel like God's word was fulfilled by this major promotion. You feel like Jo was vindicated. The fulness of the word had not come to pass! God was not done.

**Gen. 41:46**

*Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

- He was 17 when God gave him the dreams.
- He was 30 when he stood before Pharaoh and was made 2 I.C. of Egypt.
- 13 years for God's process up to this point. Very quick. Jo must have passed his tests with flying colours the first time.
- Sometimes I think we delay our process by our hearts and failing God's tests in obscurity.

The 7 years of plenty came and went. 7 years of famine ensued. It was severe and eventually Jacob said to his sons to go down to Egypt and buy food that they may not die.

**Gen. 42:6**

*Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth.*

- This means that it would have been 13 years (before he stood before Pharaoh and became 2IC of Egypt) + at least 7-9 years before his brothers came and bowed before him. = just over 20 years for the word to be fulfilled.

**Gen. 45:4-8**

*And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.*

A few other examples:

**Moses**

**Acts 7:23-30,35**

*"Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand. And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and tried to reconcile them, saying, 'Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?' But he who did his neighbour wrong pushed him away, saying, "Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?" Do you want to kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?' Then, at this saying, Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons.*

*“And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai... This Moses ... is the one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the bush.*

**Ex. 7:7**

*And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.*

- **40 years!**

**The exodus of the Israelites**

**Deut. 8:2-5**

*And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you.*

- 40 years before entering the promised land.
- 40 years before God even permitted them to fight for the land.

**Abraham**

In Genesis 12:1-3, when Abram is 75, God gives him a promise:

*“Get out of the country from your family. From your father’s house to a land I will show you and I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and I will make your name great. You will be a blessing and I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you and you and your family of the earth shall be blessed”.*

- The promise was reaffirmed by God when he was 99, that is 24 years later.
- How long have you been waiting?
- Finally, when Abraham was a hundred years old God fulfilled the promise.

- Abraham waited 25 years for His Word to be fulfilled.

## David

### 1 Sam. 16:13

*Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward.*

- When David was a teenager, he was anointed as the next king of Israel.
- It was then that he faced Goliath, was banished by Saul, hid in the desert, lived on the run, forced out of the nation, and fought many battles.
- It was nearly 15 years between the time that he was anointed king and actually became king.
- He was tested, just like Joseph, so that God could convert him from a shepherd into a king.

### 2 Sam. 5:3-4

*Therefore, all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord. And they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.*

### Sacrifices/Costs in the process

If you look at Joseph, Abraham, Moses, David, they all had a preparation process. They all had a price to pay. Do you know the sacrifice that God is calling you to, the lifestyle that you need to walk to walk in fulfilment of the Word or calling over your life? These are things that we need to think about and ask God to give us wisdom on.

Amy Carmichael who went on a ministry trip in the late 1800s, was called from England to minister in India and China. She said, *“Never I think, not even in Heaven, shall I forget that parting”* when she left England. *“It was such a rending that I never wanted to repeat and even now my heart winces at the thought of it. The night I set sail for China on March the 3rd 1893. My life on the human side was broken and it never mended again but He has been enough”*.

In God's process, there are many different types of tests, individualised by God for each one of us. Some examples (adding to the ones already given in Joseph's case) include:

- Test of obscurity
- Test of lack of recognition
- Test of fear of man
- Test of misunderstanding
- Test of faith
- Test of rejection
- Test of power
- Test of integrity
- Test of faithfulness
- Test of submission
- Test of Lordship (who is your God?)

### **Conclusion**

- There is always an in-between time.
- It's that time between the declaration of God's Word and the fulfilment of His Word.
- This time is a process where God is working on us, preparing us and moulding us.
- There will be many tests in this process.
- We see this very clearly in the life of Joseph.
- How we respond in the process is critical.
- We can prolong or shorten this process by our responses to His tests along the way.
- We can be encouraged that God is patient and never gives up on us.

In my follow-up message, I will be giving tools and weapons to use in the in-between time.