



Revealing Words Bible Study

“Purpose Over Location”

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Purpose Over Location

In the Book of Genesis, we read about the story of Joseph. After being sold into slavery by his brothers (Genesis 37:12-36) and being falsely accused by Potiphar’s wife (Genesis 39:1-21), Joseph found himself in a dungeon (Genesis 40), a far cry from the vision he saw of himself while still with his father and brothers.

Joseph’s time in the dungeon was not wasted and instead, a season of preparation that God used to shape him for the calling ahead. Though Joseph was unjustly imprisoned after being falsely accused by Potiphar’s wife, the Bible shows that “the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison” (Genesis 39:21). Even in the dungeon, Joseph remained faithful, using his gifts to interpret dreams for Pharaoh’s officials, which later became the very means by which God elevated him to power. His confinement was a crucible where his character was refined—he learned patience, humility, and reliance on God’s timing. Without the dungeon, Joseph could not have developed the wisdom and resilience needed to govern Egypt during famine, nor would he have been positioned to save his family and countless others. As Romans 8:28 declares, “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.” Joseph’s dungeon was not the end of his story but the necessary step toward his destiny, proving that God can use even the darkest seasons to prepare His people for extraordinary purposes. What looked like defeat was actually divine training, and Joseph’s faithfulness in the dungeon became the foundation for his faith which led to the saving of his entire people.

God’s Purposes in Trials:

1. Romans 8:28 says God works all things for good. How does Joseph’s story illustrate this truth?

2. Read Psalm 27:13, how can you trust God’s purpose when your circumstances feel unfair or painful?

From Dungeon to Destiny:

3. How did Joseph's time in the dungeon prepare him to lead Egypt during the famine (Genesis 39:20–23)?

4. What does Joseph's story teach you about how God shapes character before entrusting greater responsibility? Read James 1:2–4 for more insight to this question.

Seasons of Waiting:

5. Genesis 39:21 says "the Lord was with Joseph." How can this verse encourage you when you feel abandoned or mistreated?

6. Why do you think God allowed Joseph to remain in the dungeon for a time before elevating him? Read Psalm 105:19 for further insight as to why.

7. What lessons can you learn from Joseph's faithfulness while unjustly imprisoned?

8. How can your current season of waiting or hardship prepare you for a future calling? Let Romans 5:3–4 encourage you in your present season.

Serve Where You Are:

9. Joseph used his gift of interpreting dreams while in prison. How does this demonstrate the importance of using your gift(s) even in difficult circumstances (1 Peter 4:10)?

10. What gift(s) has God given you that can be used to serve others, even in challenging seasons?

Practical Application:

11. Read Ephesians 2:10, what is God calling you to do? How is your present situation preparing you?

12. How can you serve where you are? What lessons can be learned? Use Colossians 3:23 as inspiration to keep going.