

I Remember Always There With Me¹

“²³Yet the chief of the cupbearers did not remember Joseph – indeed, he forgot him” (Gen. 40:23)”

Joseph is almost 30 years old. Two years to the day after the release of the Chief of the Cupbearers, on the anniversary of hope lost, the last time he got excited about something happening, on this, another miserable day at the jail, at night, Scripture tells us that Pharaoh had a dream. Who can you trust? Answer: *“not my brothers, not my employer, not the people I serve, not my comrades and fellow companions in misery, no one!”* That is, no one except *Yah Adonai*. Thirteen years have passed since *Joseph* was first sold and became a slave. Can you imagine trusting *Yah* that much? *Joseph* trusts and he remembers.

There are at least two significant names in *Parashat Miketz* which deserve our attention. Biblical names are very important, especially in their original Hebrew translation! In today’s *Torah* portion we are told that *Joseph* had two children who were born to him in Egypt by his Egyptian wife, Potiphar’s and Potiphar wife’s daughter: *Manasseh* and *Ephraim*. Moreover, the text informs us the reasons for *Joseph* giving them their names. We are told that *Joseph’s* firstborn was named *Manasseh* because for *Joseph* it meant: *“because God has caused me to forget all my trouble and all my father’s house.”* (Genesis 41:51). According to the JPS, the meaning of the Hebrew word *Menashe* is, *he who causes to forget*.

Joseph’s second son was named *Ephraim*. There is a slight difference of opinion concerning the meaning of this word. It could have been from the Hebrew root, פרה, which would indicate *fertile land*, or from the root אפר, which means *pasture-land*. Either etymology would aptly describe the future territory of the tribe bearing that name which was located west of the Jordan in the central region. It was blessed with good soil and rainfall. Thus, the name speaks of fruitfulness or fertility. *Joseph’s* own intention was for the name to signify: *“God has made me fruitful in the land of my oppression”* (Genesis 41:52). These two boys become future tribes of Israel and are memorialized eternally in the blessing the Jewish People pronounce over our male sons every shabbat: *“Yesimcha Elohim keEphraim veche-Menasheh.”*

“God’s ways are not our ways” (Isaiah 55:8, 9). Scripture tells us that: *“¹⁸Where there is no divine vision people cast off restraint, but blessed is the one who keeps Torah”* (Proverbs 29:18). Therefore, we need vision, i.e., a revelation from *Yah*. That is what Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Paul got. We must have more than goals and dreams, we must have His strategy, His plan, His knowledge, His goals for us. In short, we must have a *Yah*-revelation to guide our paths and give us direction. This is our *Google Map* for life.

However, when *Yah* is really interested in bringing forth something great, He often causes the death – even double & triple deaths of vision. These deaths are all related to the potential (gifting) He has given us. With the dreams and interpretations, which clearly came from *Yah* as a gifting unto *Joseph*, there he is still in jail. In trouble (one more time?) for exercising his *Yah*-given gifts. How often do we despair in the gifting *Yah* has given us when they seem to bring nothing but trouble! Is *Yah* causing multiple deaths of vision in your life? Perhaps your release from prison & the palace are just around the corner...

What vision should we have? It starts with the word *trust* (*believing*). To have vision is to believe and to trust completely in *Yah Adonai*. The following points have something to do with the word leave.

¹ *Remember*, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Lauren Daigle, Paul Mabury, © 2018 Capitol

1. *Leaving life to gain it* – to die to our own nature (cf *Rev. 12:11*). We must leave our comfort zone in order to bring forth the vision from *Yah Adonai*.
2. *Leaving room for the Ruach to guide us* – We should not fill up the space with our own spirit to serve *Yah* but leave room for His guidance and grace (the desire and the power to do His Will).
3. *Leaving the secular and searching for holiness* – We need to do this every day, reminding ourselves to leave the secular because it creeps into us every day, every moment. Like we say at *Havdalah* inclosing Shabbat: *Adonai who makes a distinction between the sacred and the secular*
4. *Leaving the emotional and impulsive soul zone and entering the zone of body, soul and spirit worship* – We differentiate between that which is natural to the psychological man and engage ourselves in worship of the Creator of the universe. We make this a way of life & our second nature.
5. *Leaving certain things in the world in order to do ministry*—*Yah Adonai* may require us to make difficult choices.
6. *Leaving the ministry if Adonai directs you* – A willingness to change direction and let the Lrd take us through the death of a vision.
7. *Leaving your family and maybe your children in order for them to grow into independence* – Many of us are facing these issues in the very near future.
8. *Leaving Yah's fragrance behind to impart His presence in others* – Outreach.
9. *Leaving an inheritance*—We need to have a long term vision to raise the foundations of many godly generations.
10. *Leaving things up to Adonai* – Surrendering yourself.

Vision is what we receive, it is what we see, it is what we lose, and it is how we get discouraged when we notice the difference between what we know (envision) and what actually is (reality). In spite of success in our endeavors, we have also experienced failures. Failures prompt us to ask *what am I doing* or *Am I in the right place* or *Is this God's Will?* I believe it is important to be honest about ourselves and honest about our motives or we might not be able to make it to where *Yah Adonai* wants us to go ultimately because hardship and opposition will surely come our way. We need a vision to start, and to know the what, where and when to say/not say and how to do things. A vision to keep you going, regardless of circumstances, because often circumstances are against you. If we can catch a fresh vision in these days, we'll be able to continue in the path He has laid for us. If we are able to renew what *Yah* gave us, we'll be able to serve Him in a happy and successful way. On the anniversary of *Joseph's* forgotten day, the cupbearer remembered *Joseph*, *Yah* never forgot, and the rest is history. *Shabbat Shalom!*