

**Date:** April 19, 2026

**Title:** God of Our Past, Present, and Future

**Passage:** Genesis 41:50-57

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Summary:

I. God rules our past (v.50-52)

II. God rules our present (v.53-56)

III. God rules our future (v.56-57)

Key Truths:

- Likewise, God calls His people to be obedient both in speech and in conduct. We must speak the truth, and we must live worthy of the truth.
- God does not erase but redeems our past. He redeems it for a starving world to speak .
- God uses you: your past, present, and future as ambassadors for reconciliation.
- Jesus knows how to die. How is He? He is alive for all time. He is the "why" for your entire existence (past, present, future).
- Jesus bought your past, present, and future with His blood. From His love, your life is His. Jesus is also yours through faith in Him. Jesus is now our past, present and future.
- What to do? "Go to Jesus...and He will tell you what to do."

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What's a takeaway from the sermon you can apply to your life?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

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**Introduction**

"The Sun Also Rises" (Ernest Hemingway)

- One character was asked how he became bankrupt. The reply: Gradually, then suddenly.
- Likewise, God works gradually and suddenly.
- This was Joseph's life.
  - For 13 years, he was sold as a slave and underwent trial over trial. (Gradually)
  - But then suddenly, he was presented before Pharaoh and promoted as Prime Minister of Egypt. (Suddenly)

God rules our past, God rules our present, God rules our future.

- God does not erase but redeems our past. He redeems it for a starving world.

**Passage:**

Genesis 41:50-57

Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore them to him. Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. “For,” he said, “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house.” The name of the second he called Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of Egypt came to an end, and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do.”

So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.

**EXPOSITION**

1 Peter 1:23

since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

**I. GOD RULES OUR PAST**

Genesis 41:50-52

Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore them to him. Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. “For,” he said, “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house.” The name of the second he called Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

*Potiphera priest of On*

- Joseph's father-in-law who served as a priest for the Egyptian god "Rah"
- Egypt god "Rah"
  - Rah was their god of the future.
- But who truly foretells the future? The one who worships the one true God.

*Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. “For,” he said, “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house.”*

- Joseph recognizes that God has given him grace to forget the past.

- With the birth of his son, Joseph named his son reflecting his heart where he thought God wanted him to forget the past.
  - No record of Joseph ever previously contacting his family otherwise.
  - Joseph tries to bury the pain of his family past
    - But God will later use it.
      - God had previously given Joseph special dreams foretelling the future.

*The name of the second he called Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”*

- God provided a second son.
- Egypt that was his hell had now become a home.

God does not only erase our past but rules our past.

- Dream the best that God can possibly do and He will do incomparably better than that.
- Here: Joseph's own two sons will replace his father's oldest two sons as the tribes of Israel.

## **II. GOD RULES OUR PRESENT (v.53-56)**

Genesis 41:53-56

The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of Egypt came to an end, and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do.” So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt.

*The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of Egypt came to an end, and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said.*

- God brought about what He had previously revealed and what Joseph had said.

*There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.*

- God's grace - people would live because Joseph responded to the revelation of God.
- Likewise, God calls His people to be obedient both in speech and in conduct.
  - We must speak the truth, and

- We must live worthy of the truth.
- Heaven is full of the righteous who responded to God's righteousness.
  - Let's be faithful in both speech and obedience.

*When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread.*

- Pharaoh was said to be the "son of Rah".
  - People went to Pharaoh seeking relief.
    - Does Pharaoh go to "Rah", their god? No, instead:

*Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do."*

- Pharaoh re-directs everyone who is seeking relief from the famine from himself to instead to Joseph.
- Joseph now feeds those that Joseph had previously wished to forget.
  - The prior slave trader who mistreated Joseph would now be fed.
  - Potiphar's wife who falsely accused Joseph would now be fed.
  - The cupbearer who forgot Joseph for years would now be fed.

What is our present if not for the accumulation and culmination of our past?

- The present is all our past lived right now.

*So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt.*

- Joseph now had to face his enemies and treat them well.
  - Yes, there was great evil. But God has been so good.

Proverbs 25:21

If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink,

Romans 12:20-21

To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- God's plan is for us to love our enemies.

### Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

- God was working in Joseph through all these experiences.

### **III. GOD RULES OUR FUTURE**

#### Genesis 41:57

Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.

*all the earth...because the famine was severe over all the earth.*

- The scope of the famine was world-wide.
- Likely Joseph's family was now on their way to Egypt seeking relief.

*“God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house.”*

- Joseph thought he would forget his past.
  - Yet he would face it and see God redeeming it.
- God is reconciling the world.
  - God uses you: your past, present, and future as ambassadors for reconciliation.

Christ is our God. The God of our past, present, and future.

#### Luke 24:40

And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

#### Revelation 5:6

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

- Jesus even in His redeemed state, did not erase the scars of the crucifixion. Jesus' past was redeemed and brought about eternal life.

What for us to do?

- Stop starving in fear. God has the final word.
- Jesus knows how to die. How is He? He is alive for all time. He is the "why" for your entire existence (past, present, future).

- Jesus bought your past, present, and future with His blood. From His love, your life is His.
- Jesus is now our past, present and future.
- What to do? "Go to Jesus...and He will tell you what to do."
  - What does Jesus say?

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.