

# GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES

---

Shofar Table View

15<sup>th</sup> July 2018



The purpose of life is a life  
of purpose.

Robert Byrne

# Definition of purpose

1. the reason for which something exists or is done, made, used, etc.
2. an intended or desired result; end; aim; goal.
3. determination; resoluteness.

**THE PURPOSE OF OUR LIVES  
IS TO BE HAPPY.**

~ DALAI LAMA



**THE BRIGHT  
DROPS**

# God has called us for a purpose

## Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

# We are to find God's purpose

## Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God

# We are to follow God's purpose

## **Ephesians 2:10**

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

# God determines the process

## **Proverbs 16:9 (NKJV)**

A man's heart plans his way,  
But the LORD directs his steps.

## **Proverbs 19:21**

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the  
purpose of the LORD that will stand.



# God determines the timing

## Ecclesiastes 3:1

To everything *there is* a season, A time for every **purpose** under heaven:

Waiting often produces the time and space for grace to happen- Sue Monk Kid

# God will fulfil his purpose for our lives

## **Psalm 138:8**

The LORD will fulfil his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

## **Isaiah 14:24**

The Lord of hosts has sworn, saying, “Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, And as I have **purposed**, so it shall stand:

# Joseph: from dream to reality: 12 years



# Main events of Joseph's life

- Dream of God's purposes for his life
- Sold into slavery by brothers
- Household slave in Potiphar's house
- Falsely accused of rape by Potiphar's wife and imprisoned
- Interpreting the dreams of his fellow prisoners
- Interpreting Pharaoh's dream
- Promoted to Prime Minister of Egypt
- Provided food for his brothers in time of famine

# 1. Joseph's guarded his heart

## **Proverbs 4:23**

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it

## **Genesis 45: 1-3**

Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Make everyone go out from me!” So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard *it*.

## 2. Joseph accepted the storms of life

There may be many distressing circumstances we find ourselves in, and some of them may even be unjust, as were those in Joseph's life. However, as we learn from the account of Joseph's life, by remaining faithful and accepting that God is ultimately in charge, we can be confident that God will reward our faithfulness in the fullness of time.

- Crisis is the transforming crucible of our lives- Sue Monk Kid

### 3. Joseph served faithfully: in Potiphar's house

#### Genesis 39

Then he made him overseer of his house, and all *that* he had he put [\[b\]](#)under his authority. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's [\[c\]](#)hand, and he did not know what he had except for the [\[d\]](#)bread which he ate.

# Joseph served faithfully: in prison

## Genesis 39

<sup>21</sup> But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave<sup>[g]</sup> him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> The keeper of the prison did not look into anything *that* was under <sup>[h]</sup>Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made *it* prosper.



# Joseph served faithfully: as Pharaoh's PM

## Genesis 39

- <sup>55</sup> So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Then Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, do.”

# 4. Joseph fled from sexual temptation

## **Genesis 39:12**

<sup>12</sup> that she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.

## **2 Timothy 2:22**

22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

# 5. Joseph forgave.

## Genesis 50

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph told them, “Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, to judge and punish you? <sup>20</sup> As far as I am concerned, God turned into good what you meant for evil, for he brought me to this high position I have today so that I could save the lives of many people.

## 6. Joseph's life was a testimony

### Genesis 39

- .<sup>3</sup> And his master saw that the LORD *was* with him and that the LORD made all he did [\[a\]](#)to prosper in his hand.

### Genesis 41

- <sup>38</sup> And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find *such a one* as this, a man in whom *is* the Spirit of God?”

# 7. Joseph gave God the glory

## **Genesis 40: The baker's dream**

<sup>8</sup> And they said to him, “We each have had a dream, and *there is no interpreter of it.*”

So Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell *them* to me, please.”

## **Genesis 41: Pharaoh's dream**

- <sup>15</sup> 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.*”
- <sup>16</sup> So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, “*It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.*”

# 8. Joseph had a close relationship with God

## Genesis 39

- <sup>2</sup> The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian
- <sup>21</sup> But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave<sup>[g]</sup> him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison

## Hebrews 13

- <sup>5(b)</sup> “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” <sup>6</sup> So we may boldly say:
- “The LORD *is* my helper;  
I will not fear.  
What can man do to me?

# God's ultimate purpose for our lives

## Romans

<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

<sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to* be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

## Jacob's final words for his son: Genesis 49

“Joseph *is* a fruitful bough,  
A fruitful bough by a well;  
His branches run over the wall.

<sup>23</sup> The archers have bitterly grieved him,  
Shot *at him* and hated him.

<sup>24</sup> But his bow remained in strength,  
And the arms of his hands were [\[ag\]](#)made strong  
By the hands of the Mighty *God* of Jacob  
(From there *is* the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),

<sup>25</sup> By the God of your father who will help you,  
And by the Almighty who will bless you  
*With* blessings of heaven above,  
Blessings of the deep that lies beneath,  
Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

<sup>26</sup> The blessings of your father  
Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors,  
Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills.  
They shall be on the head of Joseph,  
And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from  
his brothers.