



God's Plan For Us

"I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end"
(Jer 29:11)

God knows everything! He has looked into every possible future for each of us and He knows everything that will ever take place

upon this earth. The Prophet Isaiah recorded this most amazing attribute of the Almighty when he wrote, "I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 ***Declaring the end from the beginning***" (Isa 46:9-10). The essence of that passage means that God already knew everything that would ever happen in time from the very beginning!

Now we must first realize that God lives outside of time, as we understand it! If you would like to know more about the relative essence of time with respect to the Scripture you can obtain a copy of the ***Rivkah Ministries*** Bible Study entitled, "***How do we relate to time?***" You will find a copy of that study at the website: <http://www.Rivkah.org>.

Many people ignorantly claim that since God knows everything, as we have just read out of the Book of Isaiah, then it follows that God has predetermined – predestinated if you will, everything that will ever take place. The net result of that line of thinking by most people is that everything that ever happens is ultimately part of the will of God! Do you think that this line of thinking is true? Is everything that takes place upon this earth really the will of God? What about 9/11? Was it God's will that 3,000 souls would be lost in the World Trade Center? – Discussion.

Many people honestly believe that since God knows everything then He is ultimately responsible for everything that ever happens. This kind of thinking leads to the conclusion that since God allows evil things to happen then He is ultimately responsible for every evil outcome. Many philosophies including atheism have resulted from this line of reasoning.

In reality, this kind of predeterminist thinking is not Biblically correct. It





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can be proven from Scripture that God clearly does have a plan for every human being; however, God's best plan for each of us does not just automatically come to pass in

our lives! Each of us is ultimately responsible to discover the plan that God has predetermined for us and we are then responsible to work with God to bring that plan into fruition. However, do not be fooled, God does not force anybody to make choices according to the plan which He has established for their lives!

Let's begin by proving from Scripture the concept that God does not intervene in the affairs of people; instead, God has given to each of us a free moral agency. This means that we make our own choices and we then are responsible for our own results! Just because God knows our choices ahead of time does not mean that we do not have every opportunity to make each choice on our own! Let's take a look at a specific Biblical example that proves this notion.

When the Prophet Samuel was an old man the elders of the nation of Israel came to him demanding a king. Samuel, the nation's first prophet unsuccessfully attempted to dissuade the people from their desire for a king. Instead, God told Samuel to give the people what they wanted, "Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. 22 And the LORD said to Samuel, **Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king**" (1 Sam 8:21-22). God ultimately helped Samuel choose their king, "Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, **a mighty man of power**. 2 And **he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people**" (1 Sam 9:1-2). So here we find Saul a man of good stock literally standing head and shoulders above all the rest. Saul was the seventh (*meaning completion*) generation from Jacob/Israel who named his last male child, "son of my right hand" (*Benjamin*). Therefore Saul was a perfect choice to become King over Israel!

"It happened" that Saul came before the prophet Samuel when he was seeking his fathers missing asses. Saul and his companion decided to go and inquire of the prophet in order that they may find the lost donkeys. Notice what happened as Saul approached Samuel, "Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying, 16 To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and **thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel**, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me. 17 And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, **Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign (become the King) over my people**" (1 Sam 9:15-17).

Saul became king over the nation and in his third year the Philistines amassed a great army against Israel, "When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) **then the people did hide themselves in caves**, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits. 7 And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and **all the people followed him trembling**" (1 Sam 13:6-7). The situation really looked bleak and everything was beginning to quickly breakdown. Further, Saul became fearful because Samuel had not shown up on the appointed day. In this stressful situation, the new king acted presumptuously and ordered,



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"Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering" (1 Sam 13:9). The big problem was that Saul was not a priest and therefore he had

absolutely **no authority** to make a burnt offering unto the LORD! Notice what happened, "as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. 11 And Samuel said, What hast thou done?" (1 Sam 13:10-11). Saul began to make excuses, "Because I saw that *the people were scattered* from me, and that *thou camest not within the days appointed*, and that *the Philistines gathered* themselves together" (1 Sam 13:11). Therefore Samuel said to himself, "The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and *I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering*" (1 Sam 13:12). Saul's excuse was that he "**forced**" himself to make an offering! Notice Samuel's reply, "**Thou hast done foolishly**: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: **for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever**. (Saul's disobedience was not a small matter to God! If Saul had obeyed God his kingdom would have been established forever! There is no equivocation in Samuel's statement. His words are evident that God's plan for Saul was that he would be a king over Israel forever; however, Saul disobeyed and disqualified himself from fulfilling that plan of God!) 14 But **now thy kingdom shall not continue**: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, **because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee**" (1 Sam 13:13-14). God had a perfect plan for Saul's life; however, out of his own choices Saul disqualified himself from walking in God's best plan!

Notice, Saul's disobedience to God did not end with him making an illegal offering! Just two chapters later we find Samuel rehearsing in the ears of Saul that the LORD had chosen him, "**The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king** over his people over Israel" (1 Sam 15:1). Samuel literally warned Saul that he must continue in obedience to the word of the LORD, "now therefore **hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD**" (1 Sam 15:1). The point is that Samuel continued to caution Saul to obey the word of God!

After Samuel warned Saul, he gave him God's command, "Now go and smite Amalek, and **utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.**" (1 Sam 15:3). Does anybody have a problem understanding that simple command? Notice Saul's response to God's command; so Saul assembled a great army and went after the Amalekites, "Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt" (1 Sam 15:7-8). So far so good, Saul smote the Amalekites; however, notice the very next thing that happened, "And **he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive**, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. 9 But Saul and the people **spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them**: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly" (1 Sam 15:8-9). Saul and the people did not properly obey God's order to, "**utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not.**"

It should not take a great deal of imagination to anticipate God's reaction to Saul's second act of disobedience, "Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying, 11 **It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king**: for he is turned back from following me,



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and **hath not performed my commandments**. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night" (1 Sam 15:10-11). God knew what Samuel's choices would

be long before he made him king; nevertheless, God gave Samuel an opportunity to prove himself! Notice Samuel's nonchalant and delusional attitude toward the whole episode, "And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: **Lhave performed the commandment of the LORD**. (Saul knew that he had not properly obeyed God! Notice his words just a little later, "But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things **which should have been utterly destroyed**" (1 Sam 15:21). Nevertheless here we find Saul acting as if he had obeyed!) 14 And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? 15 And Saul said, **They** have brought them from the Amalekites: (Notice Saul's use of pronouns, "they!") for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we (Notice Saul's use of the pronoun, "we!") have utterly destroyed" (1 Sam 15:13-15). In this verse Saul begins to rationalize his disobedience. As he is rationalizing to Samuel, he almost sounds like a father trying to explain to a policeman how his children were acting up in the automobile and he accidentally began to speed while trying to correct their unruly behavior. Saul's excuses not withstanding, Samuel continued to chide the disobedient king, "When **thou wast little in thine own sight**, (This does not mean when Saul was a small child; rather, it means when he was not swelled-up in pride. Ultimately, pride is the source of all disobedience!) wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?" (1 Sam 15:17).

Just because God knows which choices we will make ahead of time does not mean that we do not have our own opportunity to make those choices. The main distinction in the person that chooses to walk in the ways of God is that he properly reverences God. Those who properly reverence Him will submit to His will; out of that submission He teaches us which choices to make, "What man is **he that feareth the LORD**? him **shall he teach in the way that he shall choose**" (Ps 25:12).

So what about 9/11? Was it God's will that 3,000 innocent souls would suddenly have their lives snuffed out that day? If it is true that God knows and allows everything that happens then these horrible things must actually be part of His will! If you are unclear about the actual origins of evil you may obtain a copy of the ***Rivkah Ministries*** Bible Study entitled, "***Evil, where did it come from?***" You may obtain a copy of that study from the Internet at: <http://www.Rivkah.org>.

The question for our study is, "Did God somehow make Saul disobey?" Of course not, James writes very clearly about this issue, "Let no man say when he is tempted, ***I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*** 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away ***of his own lust, and enticed***" (James 1:13-14). Paul adds, "for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet" (Rom 7:7). Our own evil desires (*lusts*) are the causes that ultimately lead us into sin! Returning to that passage in the Book of James we find, "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:15).



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Instead of leading us into sin God has a wonderful plan for each of us! We can begin to recognize God's plan by observing some of the darkest days in Israel's history. God

told that nation through the prophet Jeremiah, "**For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end**" (Jer 29:11). God has plans "**the thoughts that I think toward you**" that he establishes for us. Those plans are intended that we would arrive at "**an expected end.**" It is interesting that God revealed to Jeremiah, "**Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations**" (Jer 1:5). God revealed to Jeremiah that He knew him long before he was formed in his mother's womb! The Apostle Paul describes that God called him to be an Apostle from his mother's womb, "**But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen**" (Gal 1:15-16). The same is true for you and me; God developed a plan for our lives before we were formed in our mother's womb.

Did God set-up Saul to fail? NO! God knew that Saul would fail; but Saul had a free will choice! Secondly, when you consider this whole concept it means that King David was actually God's second choice! If Saul had obeyed God we would very likely be reading the psalms written by Saul! Instead, God cannot promote continued disobedience nor can He promote the lack of repentance. Saul never did repent to God. Instead he argued his point of view as he placed the blame on the people, "**And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD . . . But the people took of the spoil.**"

So what does all of this mean for us today? Can we actually thwart God's plan for our own lives? Indeed, we must learn to cooperate with God's plan for us! Notice what Paul said, "I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God" (1 Cor 15:9). Paul continues in the next verse to identify the source of his success, "**But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**" (1 Cor 15:10).

God predetermined a purpose and a plan for Paul and Jeremiah; He also has a plan for you and for me! We have already covered what God told the whole nation of Israel through Jeremiah the Prophet, "**I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end . . . 13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. 14 And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity**" (Jer 29:11-14).

Let me ask just a few questions: Do you really believe that we are approaching the end of the age? Do you think that Jesus is about to return for His second coming? If we really believe these statements, then we need to realize that all of the incidents that we have been studying concerning Saul and the nation of Israel were recorded specifically for us! Notice what Paul writes, "**Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come**" (1 Cor 10:11). The whole history of Israel was obviously written for all Christians since the church age began; however, these stories are specifically germane or relevant for the specific people



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who shall live just prior to the return of Jesus Christ "*upon whom the ends of the world are come!*"

We have the Bible so we can examine the process and the specific incidents involved in the selection of the kings over the nation of Israel; however, we must realize that God is still in the process of choosing kings today, "And ***I appoint unto you a kingdom***, as my Father hath appointed unto me; 30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Luke 22:29-30). Indeed we have a kingdom set before us, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure ***to give you the kingdom***" (Luke 12:32)! God has chosen you, "But ***ye are a chosen generation, a royal (kingly) priesthood***, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9). Since we are chosen then we must work with God in the same fashion that David worked with Him! If we act like Saul and prove to be disobedient then we "*upon whom the ends of the world are come*" would be guilty of ignoring Saul's bad example! If we are guilty of ignoring Saul's bad example then we will likewise be rejected from becoming a king!

So what exactly does God's individual plan for each of us entail? How can we discover our God-given destiny? In order to discover our God-given destiny we must: (1) observe Biblical examples of individuals who discovered their own destiny; and (2) we must also learn how to apply the Biblical destiny related rules that we learn to our own life.

There are many individuals that we can look to, but perhaps Joseph is the best example of a person who discovered his own personal destiny! Joseph is so special because his story of discovery is so clearly detailed and recorded for us. Joseph's story is spread over twenty chapters in the Book of Genesis. Obviously we cannot include Joseph's entire story in the remainder of our Bible Study; nevertheless, we can observe the important portions of his story that relate to personal destiny.

As we begin to study Joseph we learn that he was born at the end of twenty-two long years during the testing period that Jacob served his devious father-in-law Laban. (*We must remember that Jacob had beguiled his own father and thereby acquired his brother's birthright through an act of fraud!*) However, throughout those twenty-two years of trial Jacob learned many important lessons at the hand of his father-in-law. At the very end of that time of testing Joseph came into the picture after his father had grown spiritually in the LORD. By this time Jacob was fully serving the Almighty and he was ready for the blessings of heaven to pour out upon him, "And God remembered Rachel, (*Rachel was the wife that Jacob immediately fell in love with when he first arrived in that new land. However, Rachel remained barren of children throughout that entire period.*) and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. 23 And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, ***God hath taken away my reproach***: 24 And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall ***add to*** (*the name Joseph means "add to"*) me another son. (*Those of faith should immediately understand by her spoken words of prophecy concerning a second son that Rachel too is serving the LORD at this time!*) 25 And it came to pass, when Rachel had born Joseph, that Jacob said unto Laban, Send me away, that I may go unto mine own place, and to my country" (Gen 30:22-25). This means then that the birth of Jacob's barren wife became a sign to him that it was time to return to his own country as the LORD had long ago told him. Jacob remembered that the LORD had visited him twenty-two years



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earlier in a dream and said, "I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, **and will bring thee again into this land**; for I will not leave thee, until I have

done that which I have spoken to thee of" (Gen 28:15). Jacob remembered the vow that he made with the LORD that next morning after his marvelous dream, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, **21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God**" (Gen 28:20-21). The point is that Joseph's birth reconnected Jacob to a dream that the LORD had long ago given to him.

Next we observe Joseph having been placed in the most protected location of Jacob's entourage. Upon his approach to the land of Canaan Jacob met Esau, the brother that he had taken advantage of long ago, "Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men. (*This was obviously a fearful sight to Jacob so he split-up his family in four separate groups incase Esau's intentions were evil.*) And he divided the children unto Leah, and unto Rachel, and unto the two handmaids. **2** And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and **Joseph hindermost**" (Gen 33:1-2). Obviously, Joseph was Jacob's favorite son!

The plot of Joseph's story begins to thicken when he was only a teen, "Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report. **3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children**, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours" (Gen 37:2-3). Naturally, envy began to set in on Jacob's family, "And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, **they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him**" (Gen 37:4).

Now that Joseph's brothers were well stirred-up in their spirit against him, he shared a dream which only made things worse, "And Joseph **dreamed a dream**, and he told it his brethren: and **they hated him yet the more**. **6** And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: **7** For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. **8** And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words" (Gen 37:5-8).

With regard to destiny, we just read over the first and perhaps the most important aspect of Joseph's story. Did you catch it? Joseph's original dream gives us an important hint concerning things of which our personal dreams should include, "For, behold, **we were binding sheaves in the field**, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf" (Gen 37:7). Joseph's ultimate destiny was certainly to rule over his brothers; however that is not the most important aspect of his dream. The most important feature of Joseph's dream is that his destiny was tied to gathering in the harvest! When our personal dreams are tied to gathering in the harvest, then we too will begin to recognize our own destiny, "I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and **look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest**" (John 4:35).



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Now get ready for a surprise, do you remember that Paul wrote, "Now all these things happened unto them **for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon**

whom the ends of the world are come" (1 Cor 10:11)? Remember that you said that you believe that we are approaching the end of the age? With both of those things in mind notice what Jesus said, "the harvest is **the end of the world**; (in other words "the end of the age") and the reapers are the angels" (Matt 13:39). Since we recognize that we are living at the end of the age then like Joseph we must get our minds on the harvest of God that is getting ready to take place in our time!

There are many powerful aspects of Joseph's story that for lack of space and time we simply must skip over. However as we turn our attention back to destiny we simply must focus on some events that transpired during the end of Joseph's imprisonment. There are critical keys that we need with regard to our own personal destiny. We should think of our destiny as our personal dreams; these dreams can be literal nighttime dreams or the dreams in our heart. Do you remember that Jacob had a dream and the fulfillment of his dream was tied to Joseph's birth? Do you remember how Joseph's dream led to the beginning of his trouble? Dreams are secrets from the LORD that reveal destiny! Notice this very aspect in Joseph's story while he was in prison, "Pharaoh was wroth against two of his officers, **against the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the bakers.** 3 And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound. 4 And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them: and they continued a season in ward. 5 **And they dreamed a dream both of them,** each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which were bound in the prison. 6 And Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them, and, behold, they were sad" (Gen 40:2-6). Once again we find a man of God caught up in dreams associated with destiny. Joseph noticed the sad countenance on the faces of the butler and the baker. Joseph asked them, "Wherefore look ye so sadly to day? 8 And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, "**Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you**" (Gen 40:7-8). You may not realize it at first exactly how powerful Joseph's statement is to the butler and to the baker. Let's review what he said, "**Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you;**" in other words, by Joseph saying, "**tell me them, I pray you**" it means that Joseph had grown spiritually and he realized his destiny by this point and he knew that he was a representative of the Most High God, "**interpretations belong to God;**" and "**tell me them, I pray you.**" You may recall that Israel likewise had grown spiritually by the time of the birth of Joseph; during this episode he surely remembered a dream and began to piece together his own destiny!

Next we find yet another dream in the story of Joseph, "Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day: 10 Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker: 11 And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream. 12 And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and **he interpreted to us our dreams;** to each man according to his dream he did interpret. 13 And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged. 14 Then



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Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh. 15 And

Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it. 16 And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, ***It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace***" (Gen 41:9-16). Notice Joseph's parallel to the Christian conversion, "yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God" (Gal 2:20). After this event Joseph was raised to the "Prime Minister" level in Egypt! As a result Israel's family came to Joseph for food, "And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and ***Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth***" (Gen 42:6). Joseph finally achieved his destiny and realized his dream!

As we advance toward our dreams we must remember that the Lord said, "***I will never leave thee***, nor forsake thee" (Heb 13:5). Other parts of Joseph's story that we did not review tonight teach us that, "***the LORD was with Joseph***, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian" (Gen 39:2); and "***the LORD was with Joseph***, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison" (Gen 39:21). Whatever we go through on the path of our destiny, God will always be with us!

The next lesson that we must understand is that in order for us to reach and achieve our destiny and dreams we will need to supernaturally come across three separate individuals:

- (1) A butler: the butler's job is to open a door for you and welcome you into the entryway of some new and important setting;
- (2) A baker: the baker takes various raw ingredients that you have and combines them to make bread. God has given you various raw ingredients; however, you need a baker who acts in the capacity of a mentor and teaches you how to combine those ingredients so that you can make bread;
- (3) A pharaoh: only the pharaoh has the necessary influence, resources, and authority. In order for you to achieve your full destiny God will need to supernaturally move in the heart of some person for you who will intervene on your behalf using his influence, resources, or authority!

God's best plan for each of us does not just automatically come to pass in our lives! Each of us is ultimately responsible to discover the plan that God has predetermined for us and we are then responsible to work with God to bring that plan into fruition. Surely by now you must realize that while God has known all along what our choices in life would be; nevertheless, He has never forced any of us to make any decision! However, for those of us who are willing to "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God" (1 Peter 5:6); we can expect His direction in our lives, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov 3:6).

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