



UNSHAKABLE DESTINY

Jealousy and dissension existed within the family of Israel (Jacob). Israel had a favorite son, Joseph, and he didn't even try to hide it from his other sons. Joseph was born to Israel late in age and was the first born of the wife he had worked fourteen long years for. Israel favored Joseph and if that wasn't obvious enough, he gave him an ornate, colorful coat. Talk about fueling sibling rivalry!

To complicate things even further, Joseph had a series of dreams which foretold of a time when his siblings and their father would bow down to him. Why he chose to tell everyone, the Bible doesn't specify. But in doing so, he made family tensions even worse. Finally, enough resentment and bitterness rose up, that his brothers conspired against him. They sold Joseph into slavery and told their father that he was killed by an animal. So much for the special relationship with his father and his dreams!

BUT God. . . two of my favorite words. When everything seems to go from bad to worse, from difficult to impossible, from hopeful to hopeless, enter God, stage left. For out of left field, comes the One who sees all and is able to work all things together for good. He specializes in the impossible. He loves to show Himself strong and faithful, a trustworthy Father who keeps His promises. He knows the end from the beginning, and He always gets the last laugh! He's got your unshakable destiny!

How dark things must have looked for Joseph! He went from freedom to slavery, from favoritism to insignificance, and it only got worse from there. He was falsely accused, thrown into prison, and forgotten for years. Where was his family? What about his dreams? Despite how impossible his situation looked, or even how unfair and unjust it was, his dreams and circumstances were the tools God used to prepare him for their eventual fulfillment (Psalms 105:19). God will secure your unshakable destiny.

When a severe famine hit, his brothers came to Egypt looking for food, not knowing that their lives would be held in the very hands of the brother they had betrayed and sold. Bowing before him, just as his dreams foretold, here was Joseph's chance for revenge. What would he do? What would you do?

Genesis 42-50 tell the story of their reunion and what unfolded. Instead of getting angry and bitter, Joseph kept his heart clean. Instead of exacting revenge on his brothers, he embraced, forgave and even took care of them. As a result, his family was saved, not just from famine, but from the evil meant to destroy them. As only one member of his family, Joseph stood on the character of God and His promises, making his family unshakable. What the devil meant for harm, God used it for good. Not only was his family saved, but many other lives as well. Your family also has an unshakable destiny!

Just as God did for Joseph and his family, He can do for you and yours. He is able to turn what the devil meant for harm into good, for the saving of many lives! Will you stand upon the character of God and His promises for you like Joseph did? Ask Holy Spirit to help you keep your heart clean from all bitterness and rage. Choose to embrace and forgive. Go the extra mile. Trust God. Even in the darkest of times, do not give up. Persevere. Submit. Love. Your unshakable destiny has begun and is in the works!

"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them."

Genesis 50:20-21 NKJV

Additional reading: Romans 12:9-21, Hebrews 12:3-17, Colossians 3:12-25, Ephesians 6:1-4

- Dawn Beard