

### **INTRODUCTION: GENESIS 41**

- Today is the fulfillment of a dream that I've had since I was 13
- When Jesus revealed Himself to me at a Young Life Meeting in Japan, I dedicated my life to serving Jesus in full time ministry
- Not only serving in ministry, but one day pastoring a church and seeing that church established in it's own building
- Today God made this dream a reality
- And I want to take a moment to thank all those who contributed their time, their skills and supported the work financially
- Where God guides He provides and He uses people like you to provide
- One of the ways that I've known God was in the establishing of Calvary Chapel in it's own building is the way He provided for us... we paid double rent for over 2 years and God provided through His people
- I'm convinced, God brought you for such a time as this and because of your obedience and faithfulness to the Lord, a Calvary Chapel is established in it's own building in San Clemente for the first time

### ***Listen to some words of encouragement from some of my friends...***

- Skip Heitzig from Calvary Albuquerque said... Congratulations, Holland. I'm proud of you
- Bill Stonebraker from Calvary Chapel Honolulu said... Awesome Holland wish I was there. May God bless you and the fellowship super abundantly.
- Bill is part of our story that I will share at our dedication service
- Malcolm Wild from Calvary Chapel Merritt Island said... Glory to God, what a blessing
- Jeff Johnson from Calvary Chapel Downey said... Awesome my brother you are a great example to younger pastors... blessing to you... time to celebrate!
- Don McClure from the Calvary Chapel Association said... You have labored long and hard. May great blessings follow.
- John Milhouse from Calvary Chapel Moreno Valley (who is also part of our story) said God has truly called you as a senior pastor. I am honored to be your friend. Preach with passion, preach with His authority behind you and ENJOY!

### ***These words of encouragement aren't just for me***

- This has truly been a labor of love by so many in our church
- The hand prints of many people are all over this building

- When we have our dedication service... I am going to share about all the miracles that happened to bring us to this moment

***One thing I will share***

- I counted the number of days from when we signed the lease until the day we had our final inspection with the city
- It came to 878 days
- In the Bible... numbers are significant and every verse in the Bible has a numerical value
- So I looked up the number 878 in the Hebrew Gematria and I discovered the verse that has the numerical value 878 is Psalm 78:13
- Psalm 78 is a Psalm written by Asaph
- This Psalm speaks about the marvelous things God did in the land of Egypt where Joseph is in Genesis and the Psalmist writes...

**Psalm 78:13 (NKJV)**

13 He divided the sea and caused them to pass through; And He made the waters stand up like a heap.

- For those who know the behind the scenes story... this verse describes what the Lord has done
- The Psalmist Asaph describes the breakthrough that God gave the nation of Israel when they were stuck at the Red Sea
- On one side, Pharaoh is coming to destroy them
- Pharaoh always represents the world system
- On the other side is the Red Sea
- And when the nation needed a breakthrough, God divided the sea, caused the waters to stand up on both sides like giant walls and the nation of Israel passed through on dry ground

***This verse is significant to me because we needed a breakthrough***

- The world system was giving us the run around
- The weight of paying double rent was heavy for a small church to bear
- We prayed and God gave us a breakthrough
- Build a wall... and we did, but the world system pushed back
- Made it more difficult... said it wasn't enough... we had to do more
- We didn't know what to do... we needed a breakthrough
- We prayed and God gave us another breakthrough

- Put in a fire alarm system... it was installed, but the world system pushed back
- We prayed and God gave us the final breakthrough
- After we pass all our final inspections... it was revealed to us that we had experienced real opposition
- There were those who didn't want to see a Calvary Chapel established in San Clemente and they made it extra difficult for us
- But God prevailed and we are living proof that greater is He that is in us than He that is in the world

***In our text today...***

- Joseph, the son of Jacob and Rachel, rises to power
- He has become the 2<sup>nd</sup> most powerful man in all of Egypt
- In Genesis 37, God gave Joseph dreams about being a person of great power and influence
- This is the difference between the dreams that believers have versus the dreams that unbelievers have
- The dreams that unbelievers have are generally dreams that come from their own ambition to do something or become something
- The dreams that believers have are dreams that come from God and reveal His plans to do something in you or through you
- God reveals His plans to Joseph through a series of 2 dreams
- Why 2 dreams? Because in the witness of 2 or more a matter is established... thus, through 2 dreams God is establishing what He is going to do through Joseph
- But his brothers were jealous and hated Joseph so they sold him as a slave and he ends up in Egypt
- Over 13 years, God works through Joseph to move him from the pit to the palace where he becomes 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of all Egypt
- In Genesis 42, the dream God gave to Joseph 13 years previous is fulfilled right before Joseph's eyes

***Maybe God has given you a dream***

- Like Joseph, you've been waiting for this dream to come to pass
- After 10 years, nothing has happened... Don't give up

***Listen to the words of Habbakuk***

Habakkuk 2:2-4 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> Then the LORD answered me and said: “Write the vision And make *it* plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. <sup>3</sup> For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come It will not tarry. <sup>4</sup> “Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.

- Notice Habbakuk says... the vision is yet for an appointed time
- The word appointed means a particular time and a particular place
- This speaks of Timing and Geography... right time, right place
- I love these words... though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come it will not tarry
- In other words... there is a gap between expectation and reality
- My expectation... I want it to happen today... so it feels delayed
- God’s reality... it will not tarry... it’s not delayed, it’s right on time
- Thus... living by faith is learning to trust in the Lord’s time table

***For 13 years Joseph is waiting for his dream to come true***

- We know it hasn’t been easy for Joseph
- We can infer this based on what Joseph says

**Genesis 41:51–52 (NKJV)**

<sup>51</sup> Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: “For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father’s house.” <sup>52</sup> And the name of the second he called Ephraim: “For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

***God made me forget the pain of my past***

- This pain is felt in 2 areas
- The “toil” or troubles of his life... being sold into slavery, ripped from your family, falsely accused of rape, thrown into prison... that’s a lot of pain for a 17 years old boy to have to go through
- All my father’s house... his brother’s throwing him into a pit, intending to kill him, no food or water... it was so painful Joseph wanted to forget he had a family

***Not only did God heal the pain of Joseph’s past***

- He also made him successful in the land of his affliction (speaking of being a slave)

- This verse is interesting to me in that God did make Joseph successful by worldly standards
- But for Joseph it didn't matter
- It didn't matter that Joseph was 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of all Egypt...
- It didn't matter that Joseph was free to do what he wanted and everyone had to do what he said
- Because it didn't change the fact that He was still a slave, still in captivity and unable to return home
- It speaks to me of the condition of man

***Pascal said there is a god shaped vacuum in the heart of every man***

- It can't be filled with worldly success
- It can't be filled with fame, power or glory
- The Bible says what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and loose your own soul
- You can be the most successful person in the world, but it won't change the fact that you are born in captivity and unable to return to your heavenly home
- You can live in the biggest mansion in the world and every room can feel empty without Jesus
- The only hope in this world is Jesus Christ
- When you are born again, into the family of God, God heals you of past hurts, painful experiences, sad experiences
- He can help you to see how He uses all those experiences to reveal God's goodness in you and through you
- His goodness overshadows the painful memories of the past

***But herein lies a great problem***

- Many people when going through hardships turn against God and become bitter because they don't understand
- They don't see the big picture
- They don't see how God is going to bring them through the suffering

***Job didn't... in the midst of his suffering Job declared***

Job 23:10 (NKJV)

10 But He knows the way that I take; *When* He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

- Job's life is the commentary on Roman's 8:28
- Everything is working together in my life to reveal the gold that is there, the goodness that is there, which is the presence of Jesus... Christ in me the hope of glory

### ***James in looking at Job's life writes this...***

James 5:11 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end *intended* by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

- That is the gold Job discovered through the trials of life
- The Lord is very compassionate and merciful!

### ***Years later when Joseph's brothers asked Joseph for forgiveness***

Genesis 50:19–20 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for *am* I in the place of God?  
<sup>20</sup> 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.

### ***You didn't like the dream I shared with you***

- You were jealous and because you were jealous you wanted to kill me and sold me into slavery
- But what you meant for evil... God meant for good so He could use me to save many people from death
- The dream came to pass... but it was up to Joseph to see things from God's perspective... God meant good
- God used you so many people could be saved

### ***My dream for Calvary Chapel***

- That many people could be saved, disciplined and sent out to lead others to Christ to they could be saved, disciplined and sent out
- That is why we exist as a community of faith... to be the hands and feet of Jesus, to demonstrate God's love in practical ways, to reveal His power as we pray for the needs of others (AFTERGLOW)
- That is why we use media to share the timeless message of God's grace through our radio program, our television program and our services
- That is why we are starting a Bible School

- The goal is that many people will live... eternally and be equipped to teach God's Word and be the representatives of Jesus Christ

### ***I'm praying for you***

- I'm praying that God will inspire you, lead you, direct you to serve Him with all that is within you
- I'm asking God to give us wisdom and insight as to how to help you get to where God wants you to be
- I'm asking God to bring like minded people who will join us because they want to see God do something incredible in this city that only He gets the credit for
- I believe God has brought us together for such a time as this
- We have a cool building... now let's fill it with ministry

### ***TRANSITION TO COMMUNION***

- The greatest example we have of someone who was fully committed to serving others is Jesus

#### Philippians 2:5–8 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

- Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of dying on the cross for your sins, for my sins
- That we might be free to love Him and to love one another
- That we might be free to serve Him unrestrained
- That we might enter into that victorious, abundant, joy filled life of following Jesus
- As we partake, receive God's power to heal, to restore, to empower to serve
- Receive the forgiveness of sins and allow His forgiveness to lift off of you all condemnation and shame
- For whom the Son sets free is free indeed!