

Preparation for Godly Marriage
Part 9
The Right Time For Marriage

“41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.” 42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph’s finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. 43 He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, “Make way !” Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. 44 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt.” 45 Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt. 46 Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh’s presence and traveled throughout Egypt. 47 During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. 48 Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. 49 Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure. 50 Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On. 51 Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, “It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household.” 52 The second son he named Ephraim and said, “It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.” (Genesis 41:41-52)

In this message we will be going to discuss the marriage of Joseph the son of Jacob in Egypt and the marriage of David while he was under Saul leadership. As you know that Joseph was sold by his brothers to the Ishmaelite who took him down to Egypt and sold him to an Egyptian, as you read, ***“I Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.” (Genesis 39:1)*** The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered. The Lord also blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph’s care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. In spite of all this honor the Lord bestowed on Joseph, he was still a slave and under a master that is accountable to.

Speaking about the proper time of marriage, at this stage of Joseph’s life, although God was with him but he is still slave and not yet stable and settled, and it would not be a proper time for him to get married. The word of God telling us the following: ***“2 The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.” (Genesis 39:2)*** ***The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered,*** but at that time God did not give Joseph a wife. Why? Because Joseph was not ready and settled for marriage; many people while they are under certain pressure and restrain they will go forward and bound themselves with marriage while they are still slave and bond with many restrictions of work pressure, financial constrains, debts, parents responsibilities, unstable political situations, fear of wars, actual wars, hectic national economic conditions, and all these will add more pressure and troubles on their marriages.

At this stage Joseph was young and was handsome, he was also threatened by his master’s wife who took notice of him, ***“7 and after a while his master’s wife took notice of Joseph and said, “Come to bed with me!” 8 But he refused. “With me in charge,” he told her, “my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. 9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” 10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her. 11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. 12 She caught him by his cloak and said, “Come to bed with me!” But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.” (Genesis 39:9-12)*** Joseph in spite of all this pressure and temptation he did not fall into sin because his mind was clear and that what contributed to his stability toward temptation:

- A- Sex only for married people.
- B- No marriage unless well stable and settled.

Many people they marry early because of temptation or driven by lust, but not yet the proper time for them to marry. Marriage would become ultimately the escape goat of their temptations and lust. They marry in wrong timing and with wrong partner just as result of temptation or sin.

Joseph in Potiphar house was promoted but yet he was still servant and he is not yet settled or in stable condition or position for marriage. Most of the temptation and trial to marry early in age is in this period of time. It is a false safe period to think about marriage. Some person other than Joseph might be tempted to think about marriage but that was not the right time for him. Many when they will marry they will say I want to settle. But true settlement should happen at the right time and when things are well prepared and in God’s will. Settlement is first before marriage, because no marriage will bring settlement. If there is no settlement then there is no platform for marriage. If you will read further in ***Genesis 39*** then you will conclude that the position of Joseph in that house was not stable, ***“11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. 12 She caught him by his cloak and said, “Come to bed with me!” But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. 13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, 14 she called her household servants. “Look,” she said to them, “this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. 15 When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.” 16 She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. 17 Then she told him this story: “That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. 18 But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.” 19 When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is how your slave treated me,” he burned with anger. 20 Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison.” (Genesis 39:11-20)*** Therefore although God was with Joseph and he prosper, yet was not the right time for him to marry, have wife and settled as family.

Those who marry in wrong timing, earlier than what God had ordained, when they are not yet settled or stable, their marriages and families will go into turmoil. That is why you find many who are married in wrong timing their marriages and families are suffering. Joseph if would marry while he was in Potiphar house and later on would he be put in jail, then his marriage

and family would suffer much and what will happen to the wife and the children. Therefore there is a perfect time and stable condition for you to get married, and you need to wait till that time come.

King David married while he was not yet settled and stable while he was under the leadership of Saul who was tracking him to harm him. His first marriage failed and he end up with multiple marriages. *“17 Saul said to David, “Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage; only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the LORD.” For Saul said to himself, “I will not raise a hand against him. Let the Philistines do that!” 18 But David said to Saul, “Who am I, and what is my family or my clan in Israel, that I should become the king’s son-in-law?” 19 So when the time came for Merab, Saul’s daughter, to be given to David, she was given in marriage to Adriel of Meholah. 20 Now Saul’s daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Saul about it, he was pleased. 21 “I will give her to him,” he thought, “so that she may be a snare to him and so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.” So Saul said to David, “Now you have a second opportunity to become my son-in-law.” 22 Then Saul ordered his attendants: “Speak to David privately and say, ‘Look, the king likes you, and his attendants all love you; now become his son-in-law.’” 23 They repeated these words to David. But David said, “Do you think it is a small matter to become the king’s son-in-law? I’m only a poor man and little known.” 24 When Saul’s servants told him what David had said, 25 Saul replied, “Say to David, ‘The king wants no other price for the bride than a hundred Philistine foreskins, to take revenge on his enemies.’” Saul’s plan was to have David fall by the hands of the Philistines. 26 When the attendants told David these things, he was pleased to become the king’s son-in-law. So before the allotted time elapsed, 27 David took his men with him and went out and killed two hundred Philistines and brought back their foreskins. They counted out the full number to the king so that David might become the king’s son-in-law. Then Saul gave him his daughter Michal in marriage. 28 When Saul realized that the LORD was with David and that his daughter Michal loved David, 29 Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy the rest of his days. 30 The Philistine commanders continued to go out to battle, and as often as they did, David met with more success than the rest of Saul’s officers, and his name became well known.” (1Samuel 18:17-30) “44 But Saul had given his daughter Michal, David’s wife, to Paltiel son of Laish, who was from Gallim.” (1Samuel 25:44) So David first marriage failed and that is the most likely reason that David had his second marriage and later on multiple marriages. “42 Abigail quickly got on a donkey and, attended by her five female servants, went with David’s messengers and became his wife. 43 David had also married Ahinoam of Jezreel, and they both were his wives.” (1Samuel 25:42-43) So when David first marriage failed he was tempted to go into another marriage, and one sin brought into another sin and further marriages. David was more liable to do that and rush into such a sin, especially when Samuel, the person who anointed him to be a king was dead, “Now Samuel died, and all Israel assembled and mourned for him; and they buried him at his home in Ramah. Then David moved down into the Desert of Paran.” (1Samuel 25:1) So the leaders of the church have a big part to do in the life of the people whom God placed under their care.*

David settled at the age of 30 when he became and anointed officially as a King over Judah. That was the perfect time for him to get marry, and if he would marry on that time then his marriage will endure and he will not be tempted to fall into the trap of adultery in the form of second and multiple marriage.

Marrying in non God perfect time that will bring troubles to the marriage and the family will end up with many sinful outcomes; like divorce, separation, failure to meet the children physical and spiritual needs, second marriage, and multiple marriages, these all are sin and contribute to the raising up of ungodly offspring. Marriage should take place in well settled circumstances; the man and the woman are well prepared, mature and are settled well; only in such situation marriage is possible.

Paul in linked to that said the following: *“25 Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord’s mercy is trustworthy. 26 Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. 27 Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. 28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.” (1Corinthians 7:25-28)* What he means Paul with the statement, *“But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this,” (1Corinthians 7:28b)* is that if they will marry in wrong timing where tribulation is ordained for them then that same tribulation will affect their marriage that will make them end up with divorce, separation, second marriage, and multiple marriages, etc. Paul said, *“But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned;” (1Corinthians 7:28a)* marriage is not sin, but to end up with divorce, separation, failure to meet the children physical and spiritual needs, second marriage, and multiple marriages, these all are sin and contribute to the raising up of ungodly offspring.

If we take Joseph the son of Jacob in comparing him to David, Joseph in the age of thirty, in that same age of David when he became King, Joseph was taken out of jail, and got appointed and put in charge into the whole land of Egypt. *“46 Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh’s presence and traveled throughout Egypt.” (Genesis 41:46)* Therefore that was the right time for him to get marry for the following reason.

1- He was in a position of authority: “41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.” 42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph’s finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. 43 He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, “Make way !” Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. 44 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt.” (Genesis 41:41-44)

2- The circumstances that he was living in were stable and settled economically and politically: “47 During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. 48 Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. 49 Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure.” (Genesis 41:47-49) The whole country that he was living in was stable and prosperous so Joseph was also blessed with all that and his marriage happened in a prosperous time. Marriage occurred in God’s perfect time are stable and fruitful as it happened in prosperous time.

3- Joseph had already passed through all trials and overcome: Joseph was trained through the trials that he was passing through and he overcome. He proved his maturity and his character trails was proved and nurture during all these trials. If you are passing through continuous hardships and trials in your life then that is not the time for you to get marry and add more troubles.

4- There is a person for you to marry: *“45 Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt.” (Genesis 41:45)* This woman was a non believer, and I am not approving you to marry non believer, but what I am saying is this: When you are in the right place and in the settled circumstance God had a suitable person for you to marry.

5- Plenty is needed to raise up godly children: *“49 Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure. 50 Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On.” (Genesis 41:49-50)* Joseph got his children at the time of plenty. You need resources and finances to spend on your family and children. People who marry in unsettled economic conditions will bring troubles to their offspring.

6- God wanted Joseph to forget his suffering and his family household: *“51 Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, “It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household.” (Genesis 41:51)* Marriage is a reward from God if a person had overcome. Joseph overcame, therefore he was rewarded and God caused him to forget all his suffering. Marriage also become due when you finish your responsibility or accountability to your parents and family. If you are still burden with your parents and your family are still depending on you then that is not yet the time for you to get marry. If you are still in trouble because you are caring for your family then your marriage will add more troubles to what you have.

7- God wanted Joseph to be fruitful: *“52 The second son he named Ephraim and said, “It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.” (Genesis 41:52)* Marriage will bring the fruit in the form of new disciples for Jesus. That process of discipleship need resources and needs you to be stable, mature and resourceful to meet that need.

My dear and beloved: The Lord has always a good plan, and this plan will be unfold and come true only when those whom He call show their willingness to leave their own plan, surrender their lives to Him, and follow HIS plan. Meditate on the message and commit your life to apply His word in your life as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your clear word to me. I humble myself before you and before your command. Lord I repent of doing my own. I commit myself to abide with the principle of this message, to do my part and to wait for you to come and reward me with a suitable family in your perfect plan and will. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

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