Three Brothers CFM

Come Follow Me March 7-13

**Genesis 37-41**

**“The Lord Was With Joseph”**

Hello/welcome members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, our names are Ammon, Topher, and Micah and we are “Three Brothers”, welcome to this week’s CFM discussion where we will give you our three favorite insights in under three minutes and then talk about them.  
  
As always we provide all papers for free, follow the links provided to get both our “three insights” papers as well as our “weekly readings” papers totally for free. The three insights paper is what we will be going over in this video, whereas the “weekly readings” is a paper in which we combine this weeks “Come Follow Me” scriptures (which are the words in gold) with the church’s student manuals (which are the words in purple) with obviously the church’s Come Follow Me family program (which are the words in black) into one easy to read document.

# Topher’s Insight #1

### “The Lord was with him” - The qualities of Joseph

The story of Joseph in Egypt is one of my most favourite scriptural stories of all time. It’s a real rags to riches story. It’s a story where the underdog comes out on top and we all love a good underdog story. It’s also got a little bit of sweet revenge in there but due to the qualities of Joseph he handles it in a Godly way and gets revenge whilst also blessing those who wronged him. It’s a story that really goes to show that you can turn the worst situation into something amazing with the Lords help, if you never give up and blame the Lord. Joseph is honestly one of the ultimate role models from the scriptures. He was a perfect example of humility, service, selflessness, courage, integrity, morality, forgiveness and wisdom. In just a few chapters we see him portray all of these qualities and more. In these chapters it says multiple times “The Lord was with him” and then records the rollercoaster of Josephs early life and although he has all these ups and downs, he can see that the Lord is with him through it all. Why was the Lord with him? Because of all the qualities of Joseph.

* Sold into Egypt as a slave – courage
* Prospers in Potiphar’s house because of his integrity. Talked last week about the blessings of integrity for you and your employer and the noticeable and tangible blessings it brings.
* Refused Potiphar’s wife’s advances – morality
* Thrown in prison due to Potiphar’s wife – humility
* Interprets the Baker and the Butlers dreams, and then the Pharaoh’s dreams – service, selflessness
* Creates a plan for the famine - wisdom
* More examples in future chapters of his forgiveness and wisdom

This same Joseph prophesied of Joseph Smith Junior about 4000 years before he was born – now that is a seer seeing a seer! Because Joseph in Egypt found it important enough to mention Joseph Smith Junior I thought it a good time to compare the two. In 2 Nephi 3 Verse 13 Lehi is telling HIS son Joseph about JS Junior and says – “And out of weakness he shall be made strong, in that day when my work shall commence among all my people, unto the restoring thee, O house of Israel, saith the Lord.” This is the perfect way to describe Joseph Smith – “out of weakness he shall be made strong”. Both Joseph’s were young, simple and humble (amongst a long list of the other attributes mentioned previously) and look what the Lord did with them!

It’s easy to live righteously when times are easy. It’s also easy to appear righteous when people are watching. Do we have the integrity to live righteously when everything is going wrong and to act righteously when we are **alone** in the deepest darkest dungeon?

Both Joseph’s also were falsely imprisoned. This made me think particularly of Joseph Smith Jr in Liberty Jail. Hopefully we are all familiar with the conditions they were in, in that prison. Again, think of the characteristics and qualities shared by both Joseph’s.

“O God, where art thou?” Joseph asked. The answer came by revelation: “My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment; and then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high.” (Church History Topics – Liberty Jail) We know Joseph endured it well until the end.

Joseph in Egypt saved the people from a famine. JS Junior saved the world from a famine of the Word of God.

Both Joseph’s are the type of Men that we should all emulate after the Saviour himself. Surely the phrase “The Lord was with him” applies to both Joseph’s.

<https://bookofmormonevidence.org/joseph-sold-into-egypt-and-joseph-smith/#Similarities_between_Joseph_sold_into_Egypt_and_Joseph_Smith>

Micah’s Insight #1  
(CFM)  
Sometimes bad things happen to good people. Life teaches us that lesson clearly, and so does the life of Joseph, the son of Jacob. He was heir to the covenant God had made with his fathers, but he was hated by his brothers and sold into slavery. He refused to compromise his integrity... so was cast into prison. It seemed that the more faithful he was, the more hardship he faced. But all this adversity was not a sign of God’s disapproval. In fact, through it all, “the Lord was with him” ([Genesis 39:3](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/39.3?lang=eng#p3)). Joseph’s life was a manifestation of this important truth.  
  
*“I am like a huge, rough stone rolling down from a high mountain; and the only polishing I get is when some corner gets rubbed off by coming in contact with something else, striking with accelerated force against religious bigotry, … Thus I will become a smooth and polished shaft in the quiver of the Almighty”* (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, *p. 304*).  
  
On November 1, 1857, Elder George A. Smith delivered a memorable discourse, which included this old Chinese fable:

“A man travelling through the country came to a large city, very rich and splendid; he looked at it and said to his guide, ‘This must be a very righteous people, for I can only see but one little devil in this great city.’

“The guide replied, ‘You do not understand, sir. This city is so perfectly given up to wickedness … that it requires but one devil to keep them all in subjection.’

“Travelling on a little farther, he came to a rugged path and saw an old man trying to get up the hill side, surrounded by seven great, big, coarse-looking devils.

“‘Why,’ says the traveller, ‘this must be a tremendously wicked old man! See how many devils there are around him!’

“‘This,’ replied the guide, ‘is the only righteous man in the country; and there are seven of the biggest devils trying to turn him out of his path, and they all cannot do it.’” (*Journal of Discourses,* 5:363–64.)

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1981/10/opposition-to-the-work-of-god?lang=eng>“And when the spirit of persecution, the spirit of hatred, of wrath, and malice ceases in the world against this people, it will be the time that this people have apostatized and join hands with the wicked, and never until then; which I pray may never come.” (Discourses of Brigham Young compiled by John A. Widtsoe p.112)  
  
To say “look at all those people who hate Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Micah, Ammon, Topher, you name it, ergo they must be the evil ones!” is a false notion that needs to be put down in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints... If you are a follower of Christ expect hard times, expect to be “polished”, etc. But also know that the Lord is coming for you with healing in His wings for you are the polished gems that he will make his crown with- “his blessings come with Him”.

# Ammon’s Insight #1

**The Lord is with us in our trials – forever and ever**

There are several times the scriptures make reference to the Lord blessing Joseph:

“But the LORD was with Joseph”

“the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper”

“the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake”

Often when we are reminded the Lord was with Joseph, it was in response to a catastrophic event happening to him. IE Being cast into a pit and then sold into slavery, being thrown into prison etc. One might look at Joseph and say the Lord had forgotten him and that his trials were a sign that he was a wicked man. However the exact opposite is true:

**Alma 36:3**

And now, O my son Helaman, behold, thou art in thy youth, and therefore, I beseech of thee that thou wilt hear my words and learn of me; for **I do know that whosoever shall put their trust in God shall be supported in their trials, and their troubles, and their afflictions, and shall be lifted up at the last day.**

Just like the two of you (Topher and Micah) I can’t help but see the similarities in the Life of Joseph in Egypt and our Prophet Joseph Smith. He experienced similar trials and received the following promise from the Lord:

**D&C 122:7-9**

7 And if thou shouldst be cast into the pit, or into the hands of murderers, and the sentence of death passed upon thee; if thou be cast into the deep; if the billowing surge conspire against thee; if fierce winds become thine enemy; if the heavens gather blackness, and all the elements combine to hedge up the way; and above all, if the very jaws of hell shall gape open the mouth wide after thee, know thou, my son, that all these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good.

# 8 The Son of Man hath descended below them all. **Art thou greater than he?**

# 9 Therefore, hold on thy way, and the priesthood shall remain with thee; for their bounds are set, they cannot pass. Thy days are known, and thy years shall not be numbered less; therefore, **fear not what man can do, for God shall be with you forever and ever.**

**(8-11)**[**Genesis 39:21–23**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/39.21-23?lang=eng#p21)**;**[**40:1–23**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/40.1-23?lang=eng#p1)

The spiritual greatness of Joseph is a remarkable thing. How many people have become bitter over some real or imagined slight, or blamed the Lord for some personal tragedy? In the very midst of being faithful and holding true to that which is right, Joseph was falsely accused and thrown into prison. How easy it would have been for him to give up, to say, “What’s the use of trying to serve God? All He does is punish me.” But there was not a trace of bitterness, no blaming the Lord. Joseph just continued being righteous and faithful. Unselfishly he offered to interpret the dreams of his two fellow prisoners, telling them that the knowledge came from God (see [Genesis 40:8](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/40.8?lang=eng#p8)). He still trusted in the Lord, although he must have felt doomed to spend his life in prison. If any person had cause for discouragement and bitterness, it was Joseph, but he never faltered in his faith. Truly, Joseph is a model to be emulated.

# Topher’s Insight #2

### Attitude in Adversity

(CFM Manual)

Sometimes bad things happen to good people. Life teaches us that lesson clearly, and so does the life of Joseph, the son of Jacob. He was heir to the covenant God had made with his fathers, but he was hated by his brothers and sold into slavery. He refused to compromise his integrity when approached by Potiphar’s wife and so was cast into prison. It seemed that the more faithful he was, the more hardship he faced. But all this adversity was not a sign of God’s disapproval. In fact, through it all, “the Lord was with him” ([Genesis 39:3](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/39.3?lang=eng#p3)). Joseph’s life was a manifestation of this important truth: God will not forsake us. “Following the Savior will not remove all of your trials,” President Dieter F. Uchtdorf taught. “However, it will remove the barriers between you and the help your Heavenly Father wants to give you. God will be with you” (“[A Yearning for Home](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2017/10/a-yearning-for-home?lang=eng&para=26#p26),” *Ensign* or *Liahona,* Nov. 2017, 22).

The Lord requires us to “take up our cross” and follow him. He never said, “sit back and relax, I’ve done it all for you”. This implies that we will have burdens to bear, and work is required. Having to deal with adversity doesn’t mean you have sinned or offended God and therefore are being punished. In fact, it’s quite the opposite. The Lord will make up his crown with the jewels he has polished through adversity. How can he know the quality of a person if they have not been tested to prove it? Everyone can talk the talk, but it isn’t until they actually walk the walk that their character has been proven. Until we take the leap etc…

Our goal is to become like God and Jesus Christ. Do we do that by having a sweet and sunny cruise through life or instead to we endure the buffetings of the storms of life and prove our resilience, patience, endurance, and faith? Do we pray for an easy and stress-free life or for the ability and fortitude to make it through the tribulations or the hard times and to accomplish the things the Lord has asked of us? If we look at the scriptures to the examples of the great men, we are given to emulate, we have dozens of examples with Joseph here being one of them. Just going backwards from here we have Jacob, Isaac, Abraham and countless others elsewhere. Did any of these men ever give up, curse God and die? No, they never complained even in situations that will likely dwarf anything we will ever experience and they called on God and beat their trials and achieved their exaltation because of it.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks said in his talk ‘The Challenge to Become; in 2000 - “The Final Judgment is not just an evaluation of a sum total of good and evil acts—what we have done. It is an acknowledgment of the final effect of our acts and thoughts—what we have become. It is not enough for anyone just to go through the motions. The commandments, ordinances, and covenants of the gospel are not a list of deposits required to be made in some heavenly account. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a plan that shows us how to become what our Heavenly Father desires us to become.”

Everything, no matter how dire, becomes a victory to the Lord. Joseph, although a slave and wholly undeserving of this fate, nevertheless remained faithful to the Lord and continued to live the commandments and made something very good of his degrading circumstances. People like this cannot be defeated, because they will not give up. They have the correct, positive attitude, and Dale Carnegie’s expression seems to apply: If you feel you have a lemon, you can either complain about how sour it is, or you can make a lemonade. It is all up to you.” (Hartman Rector, Jr., [“Live above the Law to Be Free,”](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1973/01/live-above-the-law-to-be-free?lang=eng) Ensign, Jan. 1973, p. 130.)

[**Genesis 37:1–28**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/37.1-28?lang=eng#p1)**;**[**39**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/39?lang=eng)**;**[**41:9–45**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/41.9-45?lang=eng#p9)

**“The Lord was with Joseph” in his adversity.**

What evidence have you seen that the Lord has not forsaken you in your times of trial? Consider how you can share your experiences with family members and future generations (see [1 Nephi 5:14](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/1-ne/5.14?lang=eng#p14)). Write them down.

What can you do now to prepare yourself to remain faithful when you face trials in the future?

Remember to write down your experiences and refer to them when you have your own trying times or trials of faith. Like Elder Neil L. Anderson said in his talk ‘Spiritually Defining Memories’ in 2011 - “When personal difficulties or world conditions beyond our control darken our path, the spiritually defining memories from our book of life are like luminous stones that help brighten the road ahead.” One day we will be able to look back and know “the Lord was with” us.

# Micah’s Insight #2

[**Genesis 37**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/37?lang=eng) **(CFM)**

If you had been one of Joseph’s brothers, what could you have done to keep jealousy from weakening your relationship with him? How would it help us to “speak peaceably” to each other? ([verse 4](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/37.4?lang=eng#p4)).

**Aspiring Men** (TPJS Section Four 1839-42, p.225)

President Smith continued by speaking of the difficulties he had to surmount ever since the commencement of the work, in consequence of aspiring men. "Great big Elders," as he called them, who caused him much trouble; to whom he had taught the things of the kingdom in private councils, they would then go forth into the world and proclaim the things he had taught them, ***as their own revelations***; said the same aspiring disposition will be in this Society, and must be guarded against; that every person should stand, and act in the place appointed, and thus sanctify the Society and get it pure. He said he had been trampled under foot by aspiring Elders, for all were infected with that spirit; [those that aspire can] not be exalted, but must run away as though the care and authority of the Church were vested with them. He said he had a subtle devil to deal with, and could only curb him by being humble.

**Beware of Pride** (TPJS Section Four 1839-42, p.155)

Ever keep in exercise the principles of mercy, and be ready to forgive our brother on the first intimations of repentance, and asking forgiveness; and should we even forgive our brother, or even our enemy, before he repent or ask forgiveness, our heavenly Father would be equally as merciful unto us.

Again, let the Twelve and all Saints be willing to confess all their sins, and not keep back a part; and let the Twelve be humble, and not be exalted, and beware of pride, and not seek to excel one above another, but act for each other's good, and pray for one another, and honor our brother or make honorable mention of his name, and not backbite and devour our brother. ***Why will not man learn wisdom by precept at this late age of the world, when we have such a cloud of witnesses and examples before us, and not be obliged to learn by sad experience everything we know?*** Must the new ones that are chosen to fill the places of those that are fallen, of the quorum of the Twelve, begin to exalt themselves, until they exalt themselves so high that they will soon tumble over and have a great fall, and go wallowing through the mud and mire and darkness, Judas-like, to the buffetings of Satan, as several of the quorum have done, or will they learn wisdom and be wise? O God! give them wisdom, and keep them humble, I pray.

When the Twelve or any other witnesses stand before the congregations of the earth, and they preach in the power and demonstration of the Spirit of God, and the people are astonished and confounded at the doctrine, and say, "That man has preached a powerful discourse, a great sermon," then let that man or those men take care that they do not ascribe the glory unto themselves, but be careful that they are humble, and ascribe the praise and glory to God and the Lamb; for it is by the power of the Holy Priesthood and the Holy Ghost that they have power thus to speak. What art thou, O man, but dust? And from whom receivest thou thy power and blessings, but from God?

President Benson in his famous “Beware of Pride” talk (named after this TPJS, I believe) said that “pride is withholding praise that could lift another”... So we need to be willing to forgive even our “enemies” before they even ask for forgiveness, we need to lift up and give praise, and if we are the ones receiving the praise we need to bring all glory/attention/etc. Back to the Lord himself and acknowledge we are nothing without him!

# Ammon’s Insight #2

**Remain unspotted from the world as the Salt of the Earth**

**Genesis 39:5**

**5**And it came to pass from the time *that* he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that **the Lord blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s *[a](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/39?lang=eng" \l "note5a)*[sake](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/39?lang=eng" \l "note5a)**; and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

**Matthew 5: 13**

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Something I learnt from Micah – The Lord is asking us to REMAIN as pure salt. Salt cannot lose it’s savour by subtraction. You can only cause salt to lose it’s savour by addition. By accepting and participating in the sins and distractions of the world, we begin to lose our purity. It is our decision alone whether we choose to add worldly desires and lose our savour.

**James 1:27**

**Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this**, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction**, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**

**Pure Religion – Marvin J Ashton Oct 1982 Gen Conf**

“To be unspotted from the world, one must avoid all of Satan’s evil plans for the inhabitants of the world. Retaliation, fault-finding, deceit, pettiness, hypocrisy, judging, and destroying one another do not belong in the definition of pure religion.”

Did Joseph start following the Egyptian traditions? Worship their God? Break the commandments in order to feel ‘included’ or ‘fit in’? Is that why he was favoured by the Lord and therefore able to bring the blessings of the Lord to the entire house and field of Potiphar? NO!

He was the salt that did not lose its savour. He did not give in to Potiphars wife. No matter how hard it would have been to worship the God of the Hebrews and keep the commandments he had been given, he did so at all costs.

**2 Nephi 3:5**

Wherefore, Joseph truly saw our day. And he obtained a promise of the Lord, that out of the fruit of his loins the Lord God would raise up a righteous branch unto the house of Israel;…

It is because Joseph remained unspotted from the world in Egypt that he obtained incredible blessings from the Lord. Through his son Ephraim, I can personally gain an inheritance in the house of Israel and partake in the blessings of covenant Israel. I am a witness thousands of years on of the blessings brought to pass by Joseph keeping his covenants. We should strive to do the same in order to be partakers of these blessings for those around us and for generations to come.

# Topher’s Insight #3

Jacob is commanded by the Lord to go back to Beth-el.

**Genesis 35**

2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:

3 And let us arise, and go up to Beth-el; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.

4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.

**(7-27)** [**Genesis 35:1–6**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/35.1-6?lang=eng#p1)

Before returning to Bethel, which was the equivalent of a modern temple (which we mentioned in last weeks CFM video) (see Reading 7-12), Jacob had his family and servants, his household, prepare themselves for the experience much as modern Saints prepare themselves. The earrings probably were more than mere jewelry, possibly amulets with inscriptions to false gods (see Keil and Delitzsch, Commentary, 1:1:316).

I find it surprising and interesting how quickly these people can defer back to “strange Gods” and deal with things that aren’t “clean”

**Genesis 35**

10 And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but [aIsrael](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/35?lang=eng#note10a) shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.

11 And God said unto him, I am [aGod Almighty](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/35?lang=eng#note11a): be [bfruitful](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/35?lang=eng#note11b) and multiply; a nation and a company of [cnations](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/35?lang=eng#note11c) shall be of thee, and [dkings](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/35?lang=eng#note11d) shall come out of thy loins;

12 And the [aland](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/35?lang=eng#note12a) which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land.

This is the second time the Lord has re-issued this covenant with the heir (meaning third time including Abraham where it started). This pattern shows that God doesn’t just let the descendants assume they are partakers of the Covenant. He takes it upon himself to renew it individually with them as he did with Isaac and now Jacob.

As it is with us. We make choices to take this same covenant upon us but it becomes a personal covenant that requires a personal knowledge and relationship with the Lord. The beautiful part about the covenant is that it comes with, and requires an eternal perspective rather than a short sighted mortal and temporary perspective. As part of this personal covenant, we receive these same blessings of Priesthood, family and posterity and a land inheritance. We will almost certainly receive and use the Priesthood in this life but the priesthood, posterity and inheritance blessings for us have an eternal significance more than a temporal one (somewhat). This is what Joseph Smith referred to as “Eternal Lives” which refers to the right and power to beget children after the resurrection which is granted to those who are exalted in the highest degree of the Celestial Kingdom. With this comes the eternal inheritance of “land” also. This is why we need to make these covenants and work toward having our Calling and Election made sure.

We go in this direction and make the covenants required for these blessings in the Temple. How often are we distracted by strange Gods that distract us from going to the Temple just like Jacob and his family?

# Micah’s Insight #3

(8-1) Introduction (Student Manual)

“The story of Joseph, the son of Jacob who was called Israel, is a vivid representation of the great truth that ‘all things work together for good to [those] who loved God.’ (See [Rom. 8:28](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/nt/rom/8.28?lang=eng#p28).) Joseph always seemed to do the right thing; but still, more importantly, ***he did it for the right reason***. And how very, very significant that is! (emphasis added)  
  
“My heart has been set in me to do the will of God, to build up his Kingdom on the earth, to establish Zion and its laws, and to save the people; and I can say, truly and honestly, that the thought never came into my mind, in all my labors, what my reward will be, or whether my crown would be large or small, or any crown at all, a small possession, a large possession, or no possession. I have never had any thoughts or reflections upon this, or cared the first thing about it. All that I have had in my mind has been that it was my duty to do the will of God, and to labor to establish his Kingdom on the earth … because the principles which God has revealed for the salvation of the inhabitants of the earth are pure, holy and exalting in their nature. In them there is honor and eternal increase, they lead on from light to light, strength to strength, glory to glory, knowledge to knowledge, and power to power”

-Brigham Young (DBY, 452)

“Building Zion requires sacrifice and great effort.

We want all the Latter-day Saints to understand how to build up Zion. The City of Zion, in beauty and magnificence, will outstrip anything that is now known upon the earth. The curse will be taken from the earth and sin and corruption will be swept from its face. Who will do this great work? Is the Lord going to convince the people that he will redeem the center Stake of Zion, beautify it and then place them there without an exertion on their part? No. He will not come here to build a Temple, a Tabernacle, a Bowery, or to set out fruit trees, make aprons of fig leaves or coats of skins, or work in brass and iron, for we already know how to do these things. …

We have to build up Zion, if we do our duty”

-Brigham Young (Teachings of the Presidents BY, p. 114; DBY, 120)

# Ammon’s Insight #3

**The Lords Sheep Hear His Voice and Obey – Whether by his Own Voice or the Voice of His Servants**

Pahraoh is desperate for someone to interpret his dream. Joseph does so and then provides instruction to Pharaoh on how to avoid the coming famine:

**Genesis 41:36-40**

36 And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.

37 ¶ And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants.

38 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?

39 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

40 Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

Pharaoh believed BEFORE the famine came. He believed in the times of PLENTY. He heard the word of the Lord through Joseph and knew it was true, even if it made no sense to anyone else whatsoever.

And what happened?

**Genesis 41:53-54**

53 And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended.

54 And the seven years of [dearth](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/41?lang=eng#note54a) began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

The famine came. The instruction given by Joseph saved the land of Egypt in great part. The promised blessings were realised – No matter how crazy they sounded!

Do we see any similar situations in our lives? Do we ‘hear him’? Do we hear the Lord through his servants? Do we act in times of plenty even if it makes no sense at all to anyone else? Do we truly… honestly believe in the Lords promised blessings?

One of the most significant promises made to us that we have yet to fully see fulfilled was the establishment of Zion the New Jerusalem:

**Doctrine and Covenants 101:17–21. Zion and her stakes will be established**

Despite the Saints’ expulsion from Jackson County, Missouri, the Lord reaffirmed that “Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered” (D&C 101:17). Although the stakes of Zion have spread over the face of the earth, “the center place,” Jackson County, continues to be designated by the Lord as the location for the city of New Jerusalem (see D&C 57:1–3; 101:17, 20–21).

Elder Bruce R. McConkie (1915–1985) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught: “There is no occasion for uncertainty or anxiety about the building up of Zion—meaning the New Jerusalem—in the last days. The Lord once offered his people the chance to build that Zion from which the law shall go forth to all the world. They failed. Why? Because they were unprepared and unworthy, as is yet the case with those of us who now comprise the kingdom. When we as a people are prepared and worthy, the Lord will again command us and the work will go forward—on schedule, before the Second Coming, and at the direction of the President of the Church. Until then, none of us need take any personal steps toward gathering to Missouri or preparing for a landed-inheritance there. Let us, rather, learn the great concepts involved and make ourselves worthy for any work the Lord may lay upon us in our day and time. Some things must yet precede the building up of Jackson County” (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith [1985], 586).

Saints in times past were promised they would build up Zion if they followed principles of righteousness and failed to do so. This was now awaiting a generation who are prepared and worthy… When you hear this promise, do you hear the word, voice and will of the Lord to you? Will you be as willing as Pharaoh to act NOW to bring forth Zion whilst in times of plenty? Or will you wait until the famine or dark of night comes wherein you have lost your time prepare oil for your lamps?

Thank you for taking the time to listen to this today, we just feel so blessed to be alive in this day, the days in which the Lord will perform His most wonderful works, the days directly before the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior. We are “Zion or Bust!”, or as President Taylor said “the Kingdom of God or nothing! We know The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord’s church and we are doing everything we can to prepare the world for the Savior’s second coming! If you are interested in learning more, you can check us out on Discord or on Facebook, links always provided below.