

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

PREDESTINATION

RLJ-1211

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PART 4: GOD IS IN TOTAL CONTROL

In this sermon I want to show you the fantastic planning that was done by God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit before the creation. In RLJ-1207, we learned about the mystery of the Gospel. **1 Corinthians 2:6-8; Ephesians 3:1-11**

There are three cornerstones in God's creation plan:

The birth, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus

The creation of Adam and Eve

The Great White Throne Judgment

There had to be preparations in order to get to the point in time that Jesus would enter the world as man/God. The calling of Terah was the beginning of the foundation for the children of Israel. Terah begat Abraham, who begat Isaac, who begat Jacob, who begat 12 sons, who became the twelve tribes of Israel.

When we set the timeline beginning with the creation of Adam and Eve to year zero, we find that Jacob was born in 2096, which is just a little over two days according to God. *"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."* (2 Peter 3:8)

- ❖ One hour with God is 41.67 human years
- ❖ One minute with God is 8 months and 8 days for man
- ❖ One second for God is 3 days and 22 hours for man

Abraham lived in the land of Canaan for 100 years, and Isaac spent 180 years in the land of Canaan but let's look at from God's perspective.

	Abraham	Isaac
Time for Man	100 years	180 years
Time for God	2 hours, 24 minutes	4 hours, 19 minutes and 48 seconds

The people in the land of Canaan were very corrupt and the nation of Israel had to be built in another place. Here is how God had planned it:

Egypt would be the cradle that God would use for a period of 430 years (Exodus 12:41), but they were just as corrupted as the Canaanites. Therefore, God had Egypt invaded by the Hyksos, who ruled Egypt until shortly before the birth of Moses. Here is a description of the Hyksos from Encyclopedia Britannica:



“Hyksos, a group of mixed Semitic-Asiatics who settled in northern Egypt during the 18th century BC. In about 1630 they seized power, and Hyksos kings ruled Egypt as the 15th dynasty (c. 1630-1521 BC). The name Hyksos was used by the Egyptian historian Manetho (fl. 300 BC), who, according to the Jewish historian Josephus (fl. 1st century AD), translated the word as “king-shepherds” or “captive shepherds.” Josephus wished to demonstrate the great antiquity of the Jews and thus identified the Hyksos with the Hebrews of the Old Testament. This view is not now supported by most scholars, though it is possible that Hebrews came into Egypt during the Hyksos period or that some Hyksos were the ancestors of some Hebrews. “Hyksos” was probably an Egyptian term for “rulers of foreign lands” (heqa-khase), and it almost certainly designated the foreign dynasts rather than a whole nation. Although traditionally they also formed the 16th dynasty, those rulers were probably only vassals of the 15th-dynasty kings. They seem to have been connected with the general migratory movements elsewhere in the Middle East at the time. Although most of the Hyksos names seem to have been Semitic, there may also have been a Hurrian element among them.”

Jacob brought 69 persons plus the wives of his sons when he moved to Egypt.
Genesis 46:26-27

In order to get this plan to work, God had to use people and create events that would make it happen. None of the people involved had a clue of what the final outcome would be since God had hidden it from men. God's will was done.

MOVING JACOB AND HIS FAMILY TO EGYPT

God had to prepare Jacob spiritually, so that he could give spiritual leadership to his children. In one of these encounters, God changed Jacob's name and it is important to know that it was not God the Father who wrestled with Jacob but Jesus. **Genesis 32:22-32**

Jesus took Jacob step by step and finally it was time to give up the idols they had been carrying with them. **Genesis 35:1-7**

This was followed by a blessing from God. **verses 9-15**

PERSONAL TRAGEDIES

Even though God was using Jacob in His master plan, Jacob still had to reap what he had sown. Rachael died in childbirth after his last great meeting with God. As she lay dying, she named her son Ben-oni, which means “Son of my sorrow,” but Jacob changed the name to Benjamin, which means “Son of the Right Hand.” **Genesis 35:16-20**

Then Jacob's oldest son Reuben committed incest by having sex with Bilhah, his father's concubine. **verse 22**

Jacob had a chance to meet his father one more time before he died. **verses 27-29**

STRIFE IN THE FAMILY

The curse of partiality followed Jacob and he favored Joseph over the rest of his sons. It created great anger and bitterness among Joseph's older brothers. **Genesis 37:1-4**

Was this God's will? Absolutely not. But God works out all things for them that love Him. **Romans 8:28-31**

PREPARING JOSEPH

Joseph was only seventeen years old when his father used him to spy on his step-brothers. It is interesting to note that the first report we have on Joseph's activities is that he checked out Dan, Naphtali, Gad and Asher from the concubines. **Genesis 37:2**

God gave Joseph dreams, which were in reality revelations of his future life that would sustain him during the coming hard times. He unwisely shared these dreams and caused more hate to develop toward him. **verses 5-11**

Joseph did not hate his brothers and tried to have fellowship with them but was repeatedly rejected and did not understand why they didn't like him. Nevertheless, there was no anger or bitterness and this shows the quality of character that God built into Joseph.

When his father sent him out to check on his brothers, he went gladly and without fear that he would be harmed. **verses 12-17**

THE HATE LEADS TO ACTION

Did God create the hate in the step-brothers of Joseph? No, their own sins did that but God knew in advance that they would hate him and used their hate as a catalyst to send Joseph to Egypt.

God is sovereign and used Reuben to save Joseph's life; he was not part of the plot to sell Joseph into slavery. God can work in evil people and they're not even aware of it. **verses 18-30**

They took the hated coat of many colors and dipped it in blood and sent it back to their father to make sure that he would not send out a search party for Joseph.

Again we can see Jacob was reaping what he had sown as the grief he experienced must have torn his heart apart. **verses 31-35**

LIFE IS NOT FAIR

The next 13 years life would be hard for Joseph. He must have prayed and asked God why he was a slave, why life was hard, and when it would end. God didn't give him any answers because He was building faith and character in Joseph. Even though he was a slave, God's hand was on Joseph and he prospered greatly. The suffering and the prospering were necessary so that

Joseph could one day could be the leader of his family and not take revenge on his brothers.

Joseph was not treated fairly at Potiphar's household by his wife who offered him free sex, but he refused the temptation and fled, she falsely accused him and he was thrown in prison. **Genesis 39:1-20**

The Devil must have worked hard on Joseph and attacked him by saying, "You are now in prison because the God you are trying to serve is not with you; He does not love you and you are wasting your time."

But God was with Joseph and put him in another training program where he floated to the top and became the manager of the prison. **verses 21-23**

PREPARING FOR THE MOVE TO THE PALACE

God used Pharaoh and his temper to set the stage for Joseph to be brought to the palace, by sending the baker and butler to prison. Each man was given a dream and Joseph had the gift from God to interpret dreams. After Joseph interpreted the dreams, he made a petition for help to get him out of prison. Most likely Joseph dreamed of being set free, so that he could go back home to his father, but this was not in God's plan. **Genesis 40:1-23**

GOD GIVES A DREAM TO PHARAOH

The chief butler was restored but forgot the request of Joseph and stayed in the prison for two more years. This was slightly more than three minutes for God while He built faith and strength in Joseph and knew exactly how much time was needed to finish building Joseph's character.

Then the time came to bring Joseph to the palace to interpret Pharaoh's dream and become the prime minister of Egypt. Joseph had been in training for thirteen long years but for God the training had only taken eighteen minutes and one second. God had prepared the chief butler and Pharaoh and the time had come to bring Joseph out of prison to become the second most powerful person in Egypt. **Genesis 41:1-15**

JOSEPH GAVE GOD THE GLORY

By this time Joseph had learned that he was nothing without God and was not about to brag about himself and try to get a position so he spoke boldly to Pharaoh and told him it was God working in him. **verse 16**

After Joseph had given the interpretation, he did not suggest the problem could be taken care of if Pharaoh hired him; instead, he gave the message and then humbly waited for God to take care of it. **verses 25-36**

God moved upon Pharaoh to elevate Joseph to the high position of being the second most powerful person in Egypt. **verses 37-46**

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS?

1. God has a master plan for mankind. You have been designed and intricately put in place to be a part of this master plan.
2. Each person is part of God's master plan but we are also rewarded with a private life that can be used for good or evil. In Joseph's case, life started out good, turned very bad and then changed to be very good.

God will prosper his people in good and bad times. It is up to each person to develop a close relationship with God and have the attitude that regardless of circumstances, praise and worship of God will continue as integrity is a must in everyday life.

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?