



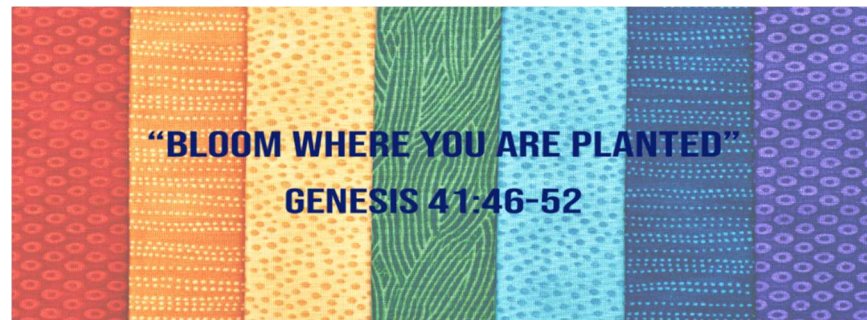
Stepping Stones

Genesis 41:46-52 New Revised Standard Version

⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt. ⁴⁷ During the seven plenteous years the earth produced abundantly. ⁴⁸ He gathered up all the food of the seven years when there was plenty in the land of Egypt and stored up food in the cities; he stored up in every city the food from the fields around it. ⁴⁹ So Joseph stored up grain in such abundance—like the sand of the sea—that he stopped measuring it; it was beyond measure.

⁵⁰ Before the years of famine came, Joseph had two sons, whom Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore to him. ⁵¹ Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, “For,” he said, “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father’s house.” ⁵² The second he named Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my misfortunes.”

Notes



“The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.” –Dolly Parton

If they say “A watched pot never boils,” I can’t help but wonder what might be said about a “watched clock.” Perhaps, “A watched clock never turns.”? There are moments in life which can leave us feeling this way. From time to time, our daughter will ask us, “How much longer until...?”. For those of you who have been hospitalized and informed you will be discharged, you hurry up and wait. Even when sitting in a drive-thru line we wonder, “What’s the hold-up?”. Let’s face it! We are an impatient people and the fact that our world has become a so-called “rat race” hasn’t helped matters.

Now, imagine Joseph. He was thirteen years removed from his home and family. His experience in Egypt had been one filled with highs and lows. As a teenager he had shared of unusual dreams concerning stalks of grain and the celestial bodies, but, since then, his life had been more of a nightmare. Had he been tempted at any point to give up on his dreams? When things began to look upward, did he wonder what trouble might fall his way next? We can’t answer these questions with any certainty, but we can say that over time Joseph’s patience paid off.

1. **We cannot wait for an “ideal situation” before we start serving God.**
2. **Wherever life takes us, we must be willing to make a situation better.**
3. **Our perspective on matters will always have an impact upon our outcome.**

Prayer Pebble: Lord, enable me to make the most of the difficult moments by looking for ways to make you known in those places.