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TO PALACE

Finally Remembered

GENESIS 41:1-44

Two Statements

1. Much of our pain and suffering is not God's fault.

- Our sin
- The sin of others
- The curse of the fall
- Satan
- Sometimes God does allow hardship for our testing. "Those who God loves he disciplines."

(Heb 12:6)

Two Statements

1. Much of our pain and suffering is not God's fault.
2. **There are many benefits that can only come through our struggles and hardships—even struggles that are not caused by God.**

A.W. Tozer

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“It is doubtful whether God can bless any man greatly until He has hurt him deeply.”

Genesis 40:14

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“Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house.” (ESV)

Genesis 41:1

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“After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed ...”
(ESV)



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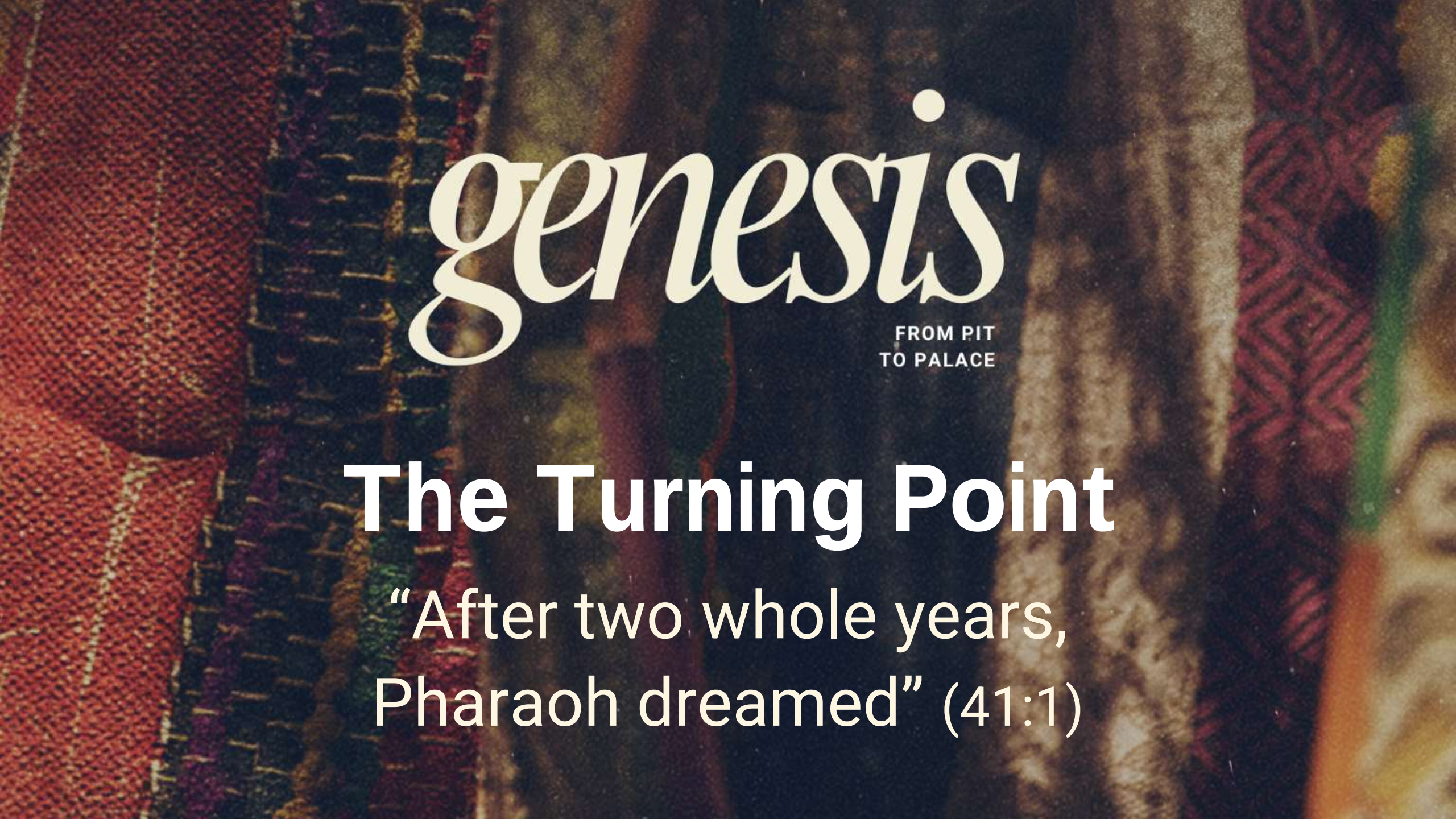
The Training

“After two whole years ...” (41:1)

Periods of Waiting

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- God waited until Moses was 80 before he began the Exodus.
- Abraham is nearly 100 before receiving the promised child.
- Elijah waited by a brook before God used him.
- Noah waited 120 years for a drop of rain.
- David waits over 2 decades to become king.
- Paul spent 3 years waiting in Arabia.



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The Turning Point

“After two whole years,
Pharaoh dreamed” (41:1)

Unexpected

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- Moses and the burning bush (Ex 3)
- David anointed by Samuel (1 Sam 16)
- Saul encountered Jesus on the Road to Damascus (Acts 9)

Genesis 41:1-4

“After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, and behold, there came up out of the Nile seven cows, attractive and plump, and they fed in the reed grass. And behold, seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile. And the ugly, thin cows ate up the seven attractive, plump cows. And ...”

Genesis 41:4-7

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“Pharaoh awoke. And he fell asleep and dreamed a second time. And behold, seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk. And behold, after them sprouted seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind. And the thin ears swallowed up the seven plump, full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream.” (ESV)

Genesis 41:8

“So in the morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men ... but there was none who could interpret them to Pharaoh.” (ESV)

- **Magician**—*hartom* (הֲרֹטָם)
 - An Egyptian “priest,” well-versed, educated.
- **Wise**—*hākām* (חֲכָמִים)
 - Wise, experienced, experts.

Genesis 41:9-14

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“Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, ‘I remember ... when Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody ... we dreamed ... A young Hebrew was there ... When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each man according to his dream ... Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit.’ (ESV)

Genesis 41:16

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“Joseph answered Pharaoh, ‘It is not in me;
God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.’”

(ESV)

Favorable answer (שלום), Shalom: peace.

“God will give Pharaoh—peace.”

James 1:2-4

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“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (ESV)

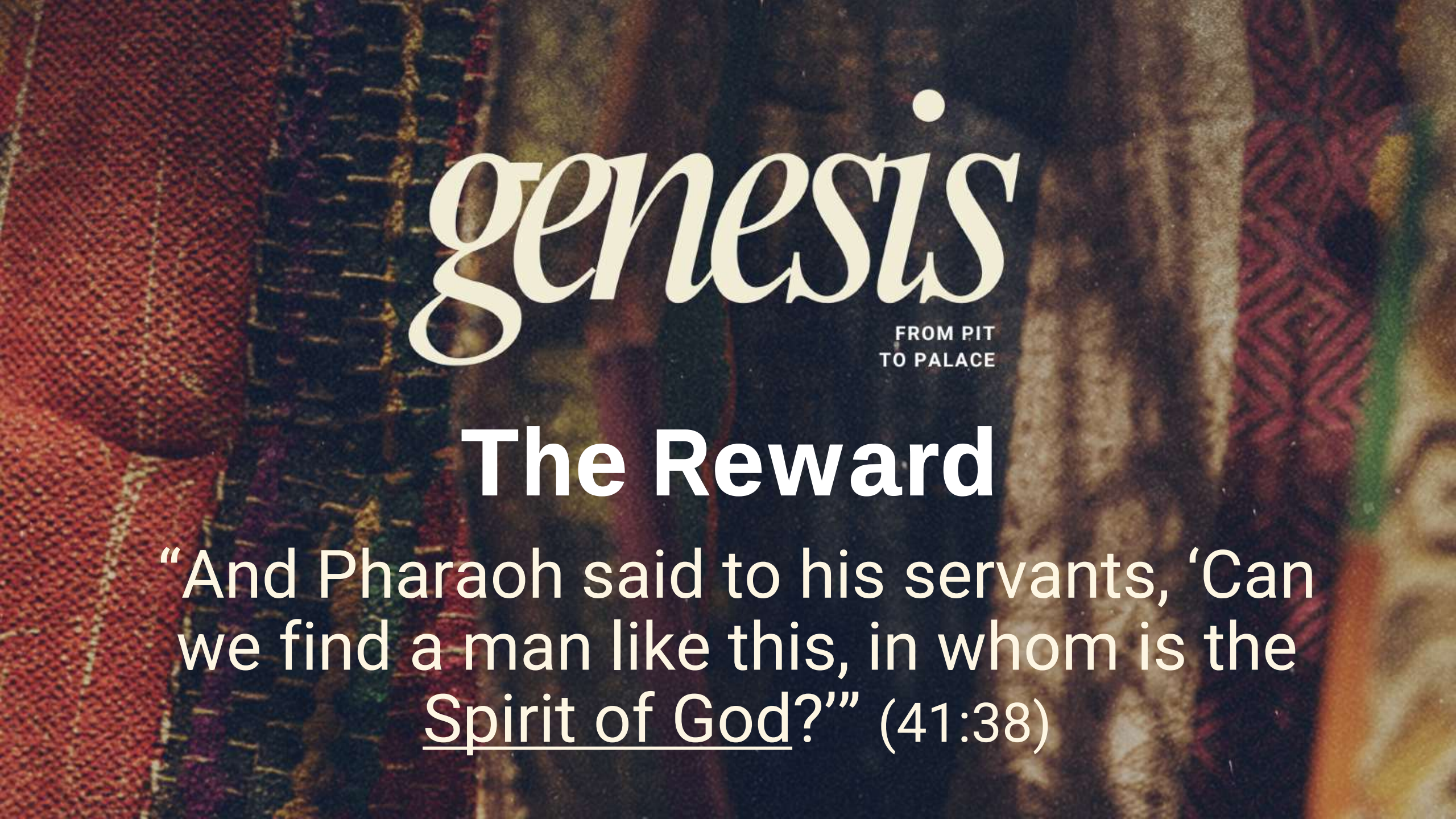
God mentioned

- “God will give ... a favorable answer” (16)
- “God has revealed to Pharaoh” (25)
- “God has shown to Pharaoh (28)
- “The thing is fixed by God” (32)
- “God will shortly bring it about” (32)
- “A man in whom is the Spirit of God” (38)
- “God has shown you all this” (39)

Genesis 41:33

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“Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt.” (ESV)



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The Reward

“And Pharaoh said to his servants, ‘Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?’” (41:38)

Genesis 41:39

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“Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are.’” (ESV)

- **Discernment** (בִּיָּן): the ability to have shrewd insight and to act constructively in times of need.
- **Wisdom** (חָכָם): the ability to apply knowledge.

Application

- We often cannot see from our limited perspective what God is doing.
- But we do know from what we see in Scripture, that God has been working out his purposes throughout history.

We can conclude that ...

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- God will stay beside us during the dungeon days. He will not abandon, forsake, or forget us.



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Finally Remembered

God's grace is still at work. His tender mercies are still available. God promises to reward those who trust in him.

Next steps

- I will trust God's timing during seasons of waiting
- I will seek Christ-like community to lean on during difficult times
- I am willing to be used by God and will trust him to help me overcome my fear
- I will talk to someone this week about the peace of God