



genesis

FROM PIT
TO PALACE

Finally Rewarded

GENESIS 41:37-57



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Receiving a Promotion

“You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as your command” (41:40)

Joseph is Given Authority

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- **Positional authority**

“You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command ... Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you.”

(41:40, ESV)

Romans 12:17-19

“Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’” (ESV)

Joseph is Given Authority

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- Positional authority
- **Territorial authority**
 - “And Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.’” (41:41, ESV)
 - “Egypt could be compared to no other land in ancient history, except perhaps, Babylon for its wealth and influence—a vast, limitless area of influence” —F.B. Meyer

Joseph is Given Authority

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- Positional authority
- Territorial authority
- **Financial authority**
 - “Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand ...” (41:42a, ESV)
 - **Signet ring** (*tabbaat*, טבעת)—to sink, leave an impression in.

Joseph is Given Authority

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- Positional authority
- Territorial authority
- Financial authority
- **Professional authority**
 - “Then Pharaoh ... clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. And he made him ride in his second chariot.”
(41:42-43, ESV)

Joseph is Given Authority

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- Positional authority
- Territorial authority
- Financial authority
- Professional authority
- **Legitimized authority**
 - “And Pharaoh called Joseph’s name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him in marriage Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On.”

(41:45, ESV)

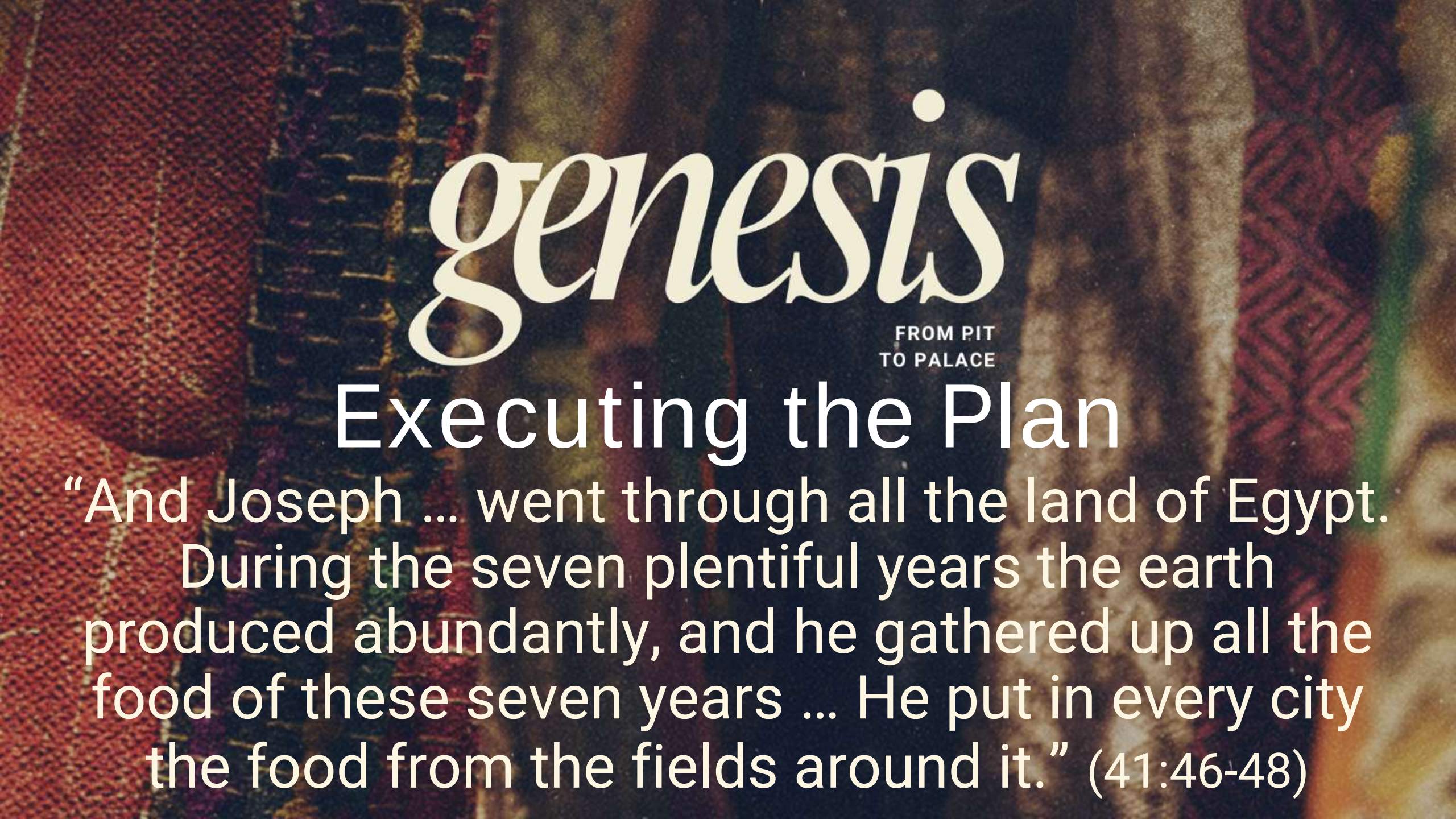
Matthew 25:23

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“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’” (ESV)

Delayed Rewards

- “The Son of Man is going to come ... he will repay each person according to what he has done.”
(Mt 16:27)
- “Rejoice ... your reward is great in heaven.” (Lk 6:23)
- “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.”
(Rev 22:12)
- “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.”
(1 Cor 2:9)



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Executing the Plan

“And Joseph ... went through all the land of Egypt.
During the seven plentiful years the earth
produced abundantly, and he gathered up all the
food of these seven years ... He put in every city
the food from the fields around it.” (41:46-48)

Two Projects

- **Joseph started a grain-collection program.**

“And Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured.”

(41:49, ESV)

Two Projects

- Joseph started a grain-collection program.
- **Joseph started a family.**

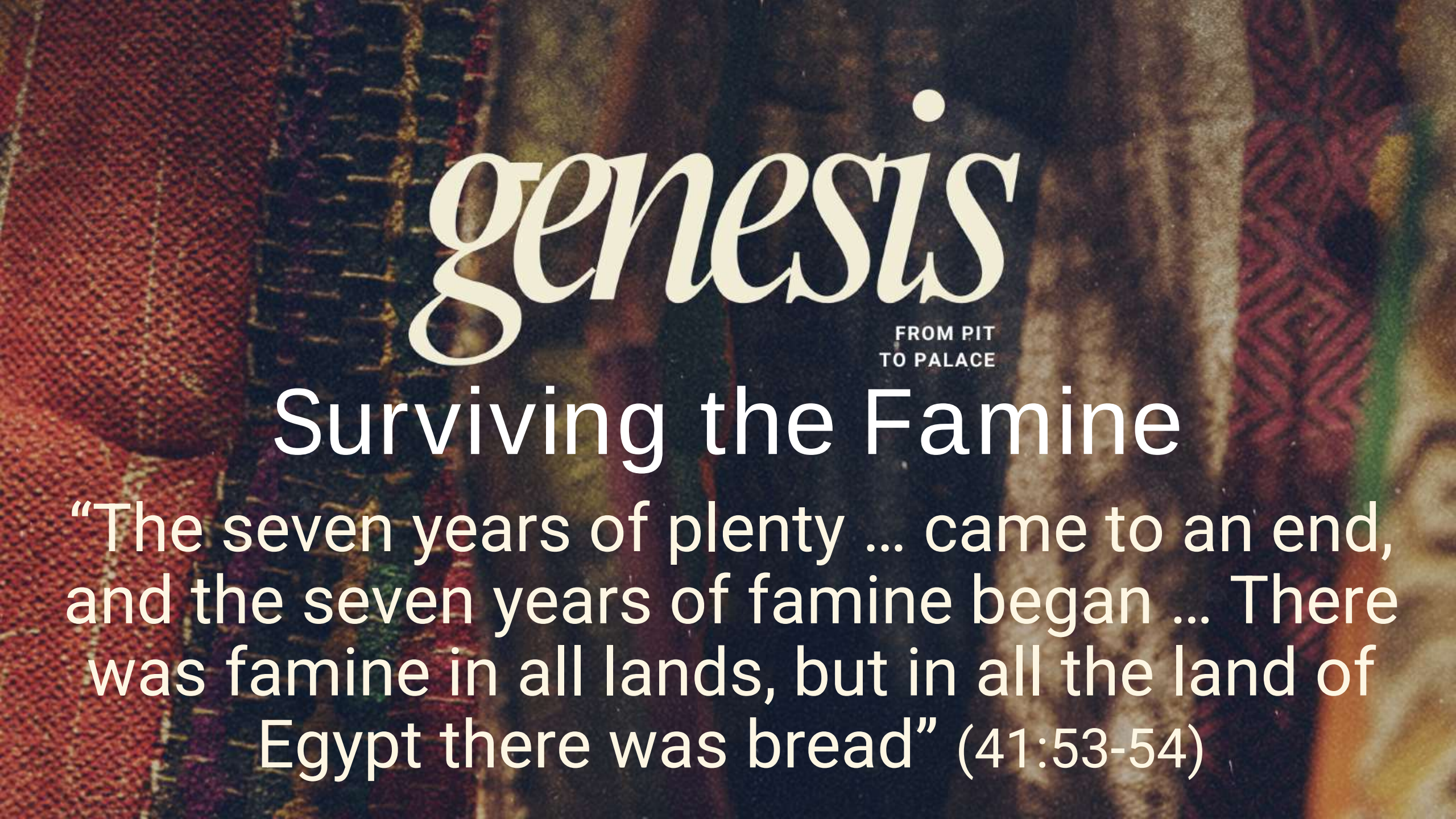
“Two sons were born to Joseph ... Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. ‘For,’ he said, ‘God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father’s house.’ The name of the second he called Ephraim, ‘For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.’”

(41:50-52, ESV)

Key Lessons

If you are hanging on to bitterness,

- God can help you forget the sting (Manasseh)
and,
- God can help you to prosper post-affliction
(Ephraim)



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Surviving the Famine

“The seven years of plenty ... came to an end,
and the seven years of famine began ... There
was famine in all lands, but in all the land of
Egypt there was bread” (41:53-54)

Genesis 41:56-57

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“So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses ... all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.” (ESV)

Application

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- **Bad memories need not defeat us.**

Application

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- Bad memories need not defeat us.
- **Great blessings need not disqualify us.**

Application

- Bad memories need not defeat us.
- Great blessings need not disqualify us.
- **Lengthy afflictions need not discourage us.**

Romans 8:18

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (ESV)

2 Corinthians 4:17

“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” (ESV)



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“We are not home, yet!”

Next steps

- I will commit to righteousness now so that I can honor God in trials.
- I will release my bitterness to God and allow him to help me forget.
- I will honor God for any success I experience.
- I will wait with hope for God to accomplish his purposes in my life.