

Joseph and the Prophetic Futures Triangle

From Promise to Convergence

School of Apostles and Prophets | Dr. Rob Covell

Primary Text: Genesis 37–50

Central Text: Genesis 50:20

Prophetic Principle: *God does not just give us a prophetic future; He forms us into people capable of carrying it.*

I. Introduction: Prophecy Is an Invitation Into a Process

Joseph's story begins with a prophetic revelation, but it does not move directly from **dream to fulfillment**.

Between **Genesis 37 and Genesis 50**, Joseph experiences betrayal, slavery, temptation, false accusation, imprisonment, promotion, famine, reconciliation, and ultimately generational purpose.

The prophetic word revealed **where Joseph was going**, but it did not reveal everything God would use to prepare him to get there.

The Prophetic Futures Triangle

The Futures Triangle can be adapted as a helpful framework for understanding the interaction of three forces:

- **Pull of the Future** — the preferred or promised future drawing us forward.
- **Push of the Present** — present circumstances, pressures, opportunities, decisions, and forces pushing change.
- **Weight of the Past** — history, wounds, assumptions, relationships, traditions, disappointments, and unresolved experiences that can restrain movement toward the future.

For Joseph:

Pull of the Future: *The Dream*

Push of the Present: *Potiphar, Prison, Pharaoh*

Weight of the Past: *Betrayal, family wounds, and forgiveness*

And at the center is **convergence**.

Prophetic convergence occurs when God's promise, God's process, and our maturity begin to meet.

Joseph had to become the man who could carry what the boy had seen.

II. THE PULL OF THE FUTURE

The Dream — Genesis 37:1–11

1. God reveals a future Joseph cannot yet understand.

Joseph is approximately seventeen years old when he receives his dreams.

Genesis 37:5–7 describes the sheaves bowing before Joseph's sheaf.

Then comes a second dream:

Genesis 37:9 (ESV):

"Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

Joseph receives **revelation before formation**.

He sees something about his future, but he does not yet understand its purpose.

2. Prophecy creates a pull toward a possible future.

God's revelation establishes a horizon.

Joseph now knows something exists in his future that does not exist in his present.

This is one of the functions of prophetic revelation:

Prophecy allows us to see tomorrow while we are still standing in today.

The prophetic future begins pulling Joseph forward.

But there is a danger.

Joseph could interpret the dream as being primarily about **Joseph's greatness**.

God understands that the dream is actually about **Joseph's service**.

The sheaves bow because Joseph will eventually possess the grain necessary to keep them alive.

The brothers will bow before him, but Joseph's authority will ultimately exist **for their preservation**.

3. Revelation frequently precedes understanding.

Joseph receives the dream in Genesis 37.

He does not understand its meaning until much later.

This teaches an important prophetic principle:

Receiving revelation does not mean we have received its full interpretation or application.

Prophetic maturity requires patience.

Teaching Point

Don't confuse seeing your future with being ready for your future.

Joseph received the promise at seventeen.

God would spend years preparing him to steward it.

III. BETWEEN PROMISE AND FULFILLMENT

The Pit — Genesis 37:18–36

Joseph's brothers see him approaching and say:

Genesis 37:19–20:

"Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him... Then we will see what will become of his dreams."

This becomes one of the great tensions of Joseph's story.

Can human opposition cancel divine purpose?

The brothers attempt to destroy the dream by destroying the dreamer.

Joseph moves:

Dream → Pit → Slavery

Nothing about Joseph's circumstances appears to confirm God's promise.

Yet the promise remains.

Prophetic Principle

Contradiction does not necessarily mean cancellation.

There will be seasons when your circumstances appear to contradict what God has spoken.

Joseph teaches us not to evaluate the faithfulness of God solely by the circumstances of the present.

IV. THE PUSH OF THE PRESENT

Potiphar — Genesis 39:1–20

Joseph arrives in Egypt as a slave.

But Genesis repeatedly emphasizes something extraordinary:

Genesis 39:2:

"The LORD was with Joseph."

God's presence did not disappear because Joseph's circumstances changed.

1. Joseph learns stewardship before authority.

Joseph becomes successful in Potiphar's household.

Potiphar eventually entrusts everything to him.

Joseph is learning:

- Administration
- Stewardship
- Leadership
- Responsibility
- Integrity
- Household economics
- Management

These skills will become essential later.

Potiphar's house is preparing Joseph for Pharaoh's house.

Joseph may believe he is merely surviving slavery.

God is developing an administrator.

2. Joseph's character is tested.

Potiphar's wife attempts to seduce him.

Joseph responds:

Genesis 39:9:

"How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

Joseph chooses integrity even though obedience costs him.

His reward for righteousness appears to be prison.

This introduces another prophetic principle:

Sometimes obedience temporarily makes your circumstances worse while making your character stronger.

Joseph refuses to compromise his character to accelerate his destiny.

Teaching Point

Never sacrifice the character necessary to sustain the future God has promised you.

V. THE PUSH OF THE PRESENT

Prison — Genesis 39:20–40:23

Joseph moves from Potiphar's house to prison.

Again Scripture says:

Genesis 39:21:

"But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love."

Joseph's location changed.

God's presence did not.

1. Joseph continues serving.

This is critical.

Joseph does not allow disappointment to stop his development.

In prison he continues:

- Serving
- Leading

- Administrating
- Interpreting dreams
- Caring about people
- Exercising his gift

Joseph's gift continues operating even when his own prophecy appears unfulfilled.

That is maturity.

Can you help someone else fulfill their dream while you are still waiting for yours?

Joseph interprets the dreams of the cupbearer and baker.

2. Joseph experiences another disappointment.

The cupbearer is restored.

Joseph asks him to remember him.

But:

Genesis 40:23:

"Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him."

Joseph must survive another painful season:

being forgotten.

Prophetic Formation

The prison is developing something the palace will require.

Joseph is learning to exercise authority without needing recognition.

The prison is not merely where Joseph waits for his future.

The prison is where Joseph is prepared for his future.

VI. CONVERGENCE

Pharaoh's Dream — Genesis 41

Suddenly, everything changes.

Pharaoh has a dream no one can interpret.

The cupbearer remembers Joseph.

Joseph is summoned.

Genesis 41:16

Joseph says:

"It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

Compare this Joseph with Genesis 37.

The young Joseph emphasized:

"I have dreamed a dream."

The mature Joseph says:

"It is not in me; God..."

Something has changed.

The gift remained, but the man matured.

Joseph moves from revelation to strategy.

Joseph does not merely interpret Pharaoh's dream.

He develops a plan.

Genesis 41:33–36 shows Joseph proposing a national strategy for preparing Egypt for famine.

This is a crucial principle for apostles and prophets:

Prophetic revelation should produce wise action.

Joseph moves through:

Revelation → Interpretation → Strategy → Administration → Transformation

Pharaoh recognizes Joseph's wisdom and appoints him over Egypt.

Genesis 41:39–40

"Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are."

Now the pieces begin converging.

Dream.

Character.

Leadership.

Administration.

Prophetic gifting.

Wisdom.

Timing.

This is **convergence**.

VII. THE WEIGHT OF THE PAST

Joseph Faces His Brothers — Genesis 42–45

Joseph has reached the palace.

But there is still one thing standing between Joseph and the full meaning of his destiny:

his past.

His brothers arrive in Egypt.

They bow before him.

Genesis 42:6:

"Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground."

The dream of Genesis 37 is happening.

But fulfillment creates a new test.

Joseph now possesses the power to punish the people who wounded him.

The question is no longer:

Will Joseph survive his brothers?

The question becomes:

What will Joseph do when he has power over his brothers?

This is the **weight of the past**.

Joseph carries legitimate wounds:

- Rejection
- Betrayal

- Family dysfunction
- Abandonment
- Slavery
- Injustice
- Lost years

The past could determine how Joseph uses his future.

Forgiveness releases Joseph from the weight of the past.

Genesis 45 records Joseph revealing himself.

Genesis 45:4–5:

"I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life."

Joseph does not deny what happened.

"You sold me."

But he sees something greater.

"God sent me."

Forgiveness does not rewrite history.

Forgiveness changes our relationship to history.

Joseph can acknowledge human evil without allowing human evil to become the controlling narrative of his life.

VIII. MATURITY

Genesis 50:20

The entire story reaches its theological climax in Joseph's statement to his brothers:

Genesis 50:20:

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

Notice Joseph's maturity.

He does not call evil good.

"You meant evil."

But evil does not receive the final word.

"God meant it for good."

Joseph has developed the spiritual maturity to interpret his past through the purposes of God.

The Futures Triangle has converged.

Pull of the Future — Dream

God showed Joseph what could be.

Push of the Present — Potiphar, Prison, Pharaoh

Circumstances formed Joseph into someone capable of carrying the promise.

Weight of the Past — Betrayal and Family Wounds

Joseph chose forgiveness rather than allowing yesterday's wounds to govern tomorrow's authority.

At convergence:

Promise + Process + Maturity = Purpose

IX. FROM JOSEPH TO JESUS

The Generational Consequence of Obedience

Joseph's prophetic journey was much larger than Joseph.

This is where the story becomes generational.

The famine threatened Jacob's entire family.

Joseph's position in Egypt preserved them.

Genesis 45:7:

"And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors."

Joseph's obedience preserved the covenant family.

Jacob becomes Israel.

Israel's sons become the tribes of Israel.

From Judah eventually comes David.

And from the line of David comes **Jesus Christ, the Messiah.**

Joseph is therefore participating in a redemptive story he cannot possibly see in its entirety.

This gives us one final prophetic principle:

Your obedience may be preparing a future you will never personally see.

Joseph thought the dream concerned sheaves and stars bowing.

God saw:

A family preserved.

A covenant continued.

A nation formed.

A Messiah coming.

The ultimate significance of Joseph's obedience was not Joseph's throne.

It was God's redemptive purpose across generations.

X. Conclusion: Becoming the Person Who Can Carry the Promise

Joseph's journey gives us three prophetic questions.

1. What is pulling you from the future?

What has God shown you?

Do not abandon the promise simply because your present circumstances contradict it.

2. What is pushing you in the present?

Ask:

What is God developing in me right now?

Potiphar's house may be training you.

The prison may be forming you.

The difficult assignment may be preparing capacities your future will require.

Do not despise development because it does not look like destiny.

3. What weight from the past must you release?

Some people reach their promised opportunity carrying unresolved pain from previous seasons.

Joseph teaches us:

Do not allow yesterday's wounds to determine how you steward tomorrow's authority.

Forgiveness frees us to carry the future without being governed by the past.

Final Prophetic Futures Triangle

PULL OF THE FUTURE

Genesis 37 — The Dream

Promise

↓

PUSH OF THE PRESENT

Genesis 39–41 — Potiphar, Prison, Pharaoh

Formation

↓

WEIGHT OF THE PAST

Genesis 42–45 — Joseph and His Brothers

Forgiveness

↓

CONVERGENCE

Genesis 50:20

Promise → Process → Maturity → Purpose

And ultimately:

**Joseph's Dream → Joseph's Formation → Joseph's Forgiveness → Joseph's Authority →
Israel's Preservation → Generational Blessing → Messiah**

Conclusion

God gave Joseph a dream when he was young, but the fulfillment of that dream required a journey. The future pulled him forward, the pressures of the present formed him, and the wounds of the past had to be redeemed through forgiveness. When promise, preparation,

character, and God's timing finally converged, Joseph discovered that the dream had never only been about his promotion—it was about preservation, generations, and God's redemptive purposes. The prophetic future God shows us is often bigger than us. Our responsibility is to faithfully become the people who can carry it.