**THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD**

**(GEN.41-42)**

1. **THE GREAT REVERSAL (Gen.41)**
2. In Prison (v.1)
3. The Pathway through Pharoah (v.2-40)
4. The Promotion to Prime Minister (v.41-57)
5. **THE GENUINE REPENTANCE (Gen.42)**

A. Pinch of Want (Gen.42:1-5)

B. Pain of Harsh Treatment (Gen.42:6-16)

C: Press of Solitude (Gen.42:17-23)

D. Proof of God’s Presence (Gen.42:24-35)

E. Pattern of Necessity (Gen.42:36-43:14)

(From Gen.41:50-52) LOOKING CLOSELY AT THE TWO NAMES OF JOESPH’S SONS:

**FROM MANASSEH’S NAME:** When we think about what we are to forget, we must think first about what we are to remember.

**WHAT ARE BELIEVERS TO ALWAYS REMEMBER?**

We are always to remember the Lord! A chief complaint against Israel in the Old Testament is that the people have forgotten God. In the great “Song of Moses” (Deut.32), Moses declared:

 “You deserted the Rock, Who fathered you;

 You forgot the God Who gave you faith” (v.18)

Isaiah said:

 “You have forgotten God your Savior;

 You have not remembered the Rock, your Fortress.” (Isa.17:10)

A strong theme throughout Jeremiah:

 “A city is heard on the barren heights,

 The weeping and pleading of the people of Israel,

 Because they have perverted their ways

 And have forgotten the Lord their God.” (Jer.3:21)

**WHAT AS BELIEVERS ARE WE TO FORGET?** There is a proper place for forgetting**.**

1.A believer is to forget any sin that has been confessed to God and has therefore been forgiven by Him. 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (This assurance is based on the character of God being faithful and just. God is faithful to carry out His promises and He is just (providing His own Son to die, which is the only basis for sin to justly be forgiven.)

Jeremiah 31:33-34

2. When there are disappointments, let the past be the past and go on with God! This is what Joseph did. Paul put this principle in his description of living the Christian life: “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: FORGETTING what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Phil.3:12-14)

**FROM EPHRAIM’S NAME**: “Ephraim” literally means “doubly fruitful”

 There must have been many times in Joseph’s life when he was tempted to think he would never be fruitful! (i.e. when he tried to work hard for Potiphar (all seemingly for naught when he was placed back in prison; even his faithfulness in prison seemingly amounting to nothing; thinking he would never have an honorable position, home, wife, children, etc.All the while, God was training him for very great things in these circumstances!. Perhaps tempted to think “Fruitless and unfruitful” described this period of his life. BUT GOD WAS NOT FINISHED! God transformed his circumstances and made him so fruitful that Jacob on his deathbed marvelled at Joseph’s fruitfulness (See Gen.49:22-25.)

“Ephraim” is a Hebrew plural of emphasis…not just meaning fruitful, but “doubly fruitful”

Lord Jesus in John 15…taught His disciples that they were to bear fruit (John 15:4-5), specifically “much fruit (John 15:8).

MIGHT WE ASK THE LORD TO HELP US….REMEMBER HIM, FORGET OUR FORGIVEN SINS AND PAST DISAPPOINTMENTS AND GO FORTH AND BE “DOUBLY FRUITFUL”!