

Joseph's Glory Through Trial

A children's bible story with Ethiopian Christian Art

የዮሴፍ የፈተናና የበረከት ሕይወት



In English and Amharic

By Yonas Assefa

Illustrated by Eglá Belatchew

The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man.

Genesis 39: 2

እግዚአብሔር ከዮሴፍ ጋር ነበረ፣ ሥራውም የተከናወነለት ሰው ሆነ።

አሪት ዘፍጥረት 39:2

Dedication

This e-book is dedicated to my wife, Ayu Guadie and my three beautiful children Abigail, Jadon and Annabel.

Above all, I thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (መድኃኔዓለም ክርስቶስ) for granting me a chance to present this little effort to all Sunday school students. It is my prayer that the Lord will make it a blessing for all who read it.

May His Holy name be praised!!!

January 2013

Yonas Assefa

But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 19:14

Foreword

This e-book is based on the bible story from Genesis chapter 37 – 47. The aim of the book is to tell the story of Joseph in a very interesting way with Ethiopian art illustrations. This will allow children to develop further interest to read the Holy Bible. As our Lord Jesus Christ said 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'. It is essential to learn the word of God at an early age.

Joseph led a very difficult life. But he chose not be bitter, avoided resentment and trusted his God until the end. Those that are close to us are the ones who will hurt us most. Let us not choose bitterness and learn to forgive our families and friends like our father Joseph. Joseph was the only person in the entire Bible to be called successful. The secret of his success is forgiveness and trusting God in all the difficult situations. We also can unite with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ if we learn to love and forgive.

Jacob had twelve sons. Joseph was his favorite because he was the son of his old age. Jacob made Joseph a colorful coat.



ያዕቆብ አሥራ ሁለት ልጆች ነበሩት። ያዕቆብም የሴፍን በሽምግልናው ጊዜ የወለደው ስለነበር ከልጆቹ ሁሉ ይልቅ በጣም ይወደው ነበር። እርሱም በብዙ ቀለም ያጌጠ ኮት አደረገለት ።

His brothers saw this and they got very jealous. They did not like Joseph because he sometimes told his father about the bad things they do. So they could not speak kindly to him.



ወንድሞቹም አባታቸው ከእነርሱ ሁሉ ይልቅ እንደወደደው ባዩ ጊዜ ጠሉት። ዮሴፍ ስለ ወንድሞቹ የከፋታቸውን ወሬ ለአባቱ ይነግረው ስለነበረ አልወደዱትም። በሰላም ያናግሩትም ዘንድ አልቻሉም።

Joseph had a dream. He told it to his brothers, “We were tying up bunches of grain from the field when suddenly your bundles of grain bowed down to mine.” His brothers did not like what he told them.



ዮሴፍም ሕልምን አለመ። እርሱም አላቸው እኔ ያለምሁትን ሕልም ሰሙ። እነሆ እኛ በእርሻ መካከል ነዶ ስናስር ነበር። የእናንተም ነዶች እነሆ ለእኔ ነዶ ሰገዱ። እንደ ገናም ስለ ሕልሙ ለወንድሞቹ በነገራቸው ጊዜ ይበልጥ ጠሉት።

Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun, moon and eleven stars bowed down to me.”



ደግሞም ሌላ ሕልምን አለመ። ለወንድሞቹም እንዲህ ብሎ ነገራቸው። እነሆ ደግሞ ሌላ ሕልምን አለምሁ። እነሆ ፀሐይና ጨረቃ አሥራ አንድ ከዋክብትም ሲሰግዱልኝ አየሁ።

When his father heard it, he was angry at him and said, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to you someday?” His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.



ያዕቆብም ሕልሙን በሰማ ጊዜ ተቆጣው። እንዲህም አለው። ይህ ያየኸው ሕልም ምንድር ነው? በውኑ እኔና እናትህ ወንድሞችህም መጥተን ላንተ በምድር ላይ እንሰግድልህ ይሆን? ወንድሞቹ ቀኑበት። አባቱ ግን ነገሩን በልቡ ይጠብቀው ነበር።

One day Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers and bring word back to him. But when his brothers saw him coming, they made plans to hurt him. Joseph did not know the danger before him.



ያዕቆብም ዮሴፍን ሄደህ ወንድሞችህና በጎቹ ደገና እንደ ሆኑ አይተህ ወሬአቸውንም አምጣልኝ አለው።
ወንድሞቹም ዮሴፍን በሩቅ ሳለ አዩት። ወደ እነርሱም ገና ሳይቀርብ እርሱን ለማጥፋት ተማከሩ።
ዮሴፍም ከፊቱ ያለውን አደጋ አላወቀም ነበር።

So when Joseph got there, his brothers grabbed him without warning. They took off his beautiful coat that had made them so jealous.



እንዲህም ሆነ። የሴፍም ወደ ወንድሞቹ በቀረበ ጊዜ የለበሰውን በብዙ ቀለም ያጌጠውንና ብዙ ያስቀናቸውን ኮቱን ገፈፉት። ሊያጠፉትም ይዘጋጁ ጀመር።

Just then Reuben, one of the older ones, saw a deep hole nearby and had an idea. They agreed to throw him into a dry empty well.



ሮቤልም ይህንን በሰማ ጊዜ እንዲህ አለ። በዚህ ምድረ በዳ ባለው ጉድጓድ ጣሉት። ነገር ግን አታጥፉት። ሕይወቱ በእጃችን አትለፍ። ወስደውም ወደ ጉድጓድ ጣሉት። ጉድጓዱም ውኃ የሌለበት ደረቅ ነበረ።

Along came some traders on their way to Egypt. The brothers decided that here was an even better way to get rid of Joseph! They sold him as a slave for twenty pieces of silver to the traders, who then took him to Egypt.



ነጋዴዎችም በጉድጓዱ አጠገብ መጡ። ወንድሞቹም እንዲህ አሉ ወንድማችንን አጥፍተን ምን እንጠቀማለን? ኑ ለእስማኤላውያን እንሸጠው። እነርሱም የሴፍን አንሥተው ከጉድጓድ አወጡት። ለእስማኤላውያንም የሴፍን በሀያ ብር ሸጡት። እነርሱም የሴፍን ወደ ግብፅ ወሰዱት።

Then they dipped his coat in goat's blood and took it to their father. They lied to Jacob and said Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. Jacob cried for his son many days. But God was with Joseph.



የዮሴፍንም ኮት ወስደው በፍየል ደም ነከሩት። ወደ አባታቸውም ሄደው እንዲህ ብለው ዋሹት ይህንን አገኘን ዮሴፍ በክፉ አውሬ ተበልቶአል። ያዕቆብም ለልጁ ብዙ ቀን አለቀሰ። ነገር ግን እግዚአብሔር ከዮሴፍ ጋር ነበር።

The traders took Joseph to Egypt. Joseph became a servant at the house of Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's assistants. Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his house because he always worked hard and could be trusted. The Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake.



እነዚያ ነጋዴዎች የሴፍን ወደ ግብፅ ወስደዉ ለፈርዖን ጃንደረባ ለዘበኞቹ አለቃ ለጲጥፋራ ሸጡት። እግዚአብሔር ከየሴፍ ጋር ነበረ። የሴፍም ታማኝ አገልጋይ ስለነበረ አለቃዉ የሴፍን በቤቱም ላይ ሁሉ ሸመው። እግዚአብሔርም ስለ የሴፍ ሲል የግብፃዊዉን ቤት ባረከዉ።

Joseph trusted and served God faithfully. But trouble came to Joseph. Potipher's wife was not a good woman. She asked Joseph to take the place of her husband. Joseph refused saying, “How could I sin against God by wronging Potipher?”



ዮሴፍም እግዚአብሔርን በፍፁም እምነት ያገለግል ነበር። ነገር ግን አንድ ትልቅ ችግር ገጠመው። የኢፕፋራ ሚስት መጥፎ ሴት ነበረች። እርሷም ዮሴፍን የባልዋን ቦታ እንዲተካ ጠየቀችው። ዮሴፍም በአለቃዬ ላይ ክፉ ሥራ አልሠራም። በእግዚአብሔርም ፊት እንዴት ኃጢአትን እሠራለሁ? ብሎ እንቢ አለ።

Because Joseph refused, she went to Joseph's master and told a lie about Joseph. When he heard it from his wife, Potipher was very angry.



ዮሴፍ እንቢ በማለቱ ምክንያት የአለቃው ሚስት በዮሴፍ ላይ የውሸት ወሬ አስወራችበት። ጲጥፋራ የሚሰቱን የውሸት ቃል በሰማ ጊዜ እዉነት መስሎት እጅግ ተቆጣ።

Potipher put Joseph in jail for something he did not do. It is a place where the king's prisoners were confined. But even in prison, he obeyed God. The Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy.



ጌታውም ዮሴፍን ወስዶ የንጉሡ እስረኞች ወደ ሚታሰሩበት ስፍራ ወደ እስር ቤት አገባው። በእስር ቤትም ቢሆን ዮሴፍ በእግዚአብሔር ላይ ፅኑ እምነት ነበረው። እግዚአብሔርም ከዮሴፍ ጋር ነበረ ቸርነቱንም አበዛለት።

The Lord was with Joseph in jail. The chief jailer put Joseph in charge of all prisoners because the Lord was with him and made whatever he did prosper. Because God was with Joseph, prison life became a better place for everybody.



እግዚአብሔርም በእስር ቤት ከዮሴፍ ጋር ነበር። እግዚአብሔርም በእስር ቤቱም አለቃ ፊት ሞገስን ሰጠው። አለቃውም በእስር ያሉትን እስረኞች ሁሉ በዮሴፍ እጅ አሳልፎ ሰጣቸው። እግዚአብሔር ከእርሱ ጋር ስለነበር ዮሴፍ የሚሠራው ሁሉ የተባረከ ነበር። የእስረኞቹም ሕይወት ሁሉ የተሻለ ሆነ።

While in prison, both the king's cup bearer and baker saw a dream. They told their dreams to Joseph. Joseph told the cup bearer he would be out of jail and become Pharaoh's cup bearer again and asked him not to forget about him once he is free. But the cup bearer forgot Joseph once he was free.



በእስር ቤት የነበሩት የግብፅ ንጉሥ ጠጅ አሳላፊና ዳቦ ጋጋሪ ሕልምን አለሙ። ሕልማቸውንም ለዮሴፍ ነገሩት። ዮሴፍም ለጠጅ አሳላፊው ፈርዖን ወደ ቀደመው ክብርህ ይመልስሃል። ነገር ግን በተደረገልህ ጊዜ እኔን አስቦኝ። የእኔንም ነገር ለፈርዖን ነግረህ ከዚህ ቤት አውጣኝ። ነገር ግን የጠጅ አሳላፊው ከእስር እንደወጣ ዮሴፍን ረሳው።

When Joseph was in prison, Pharaoh had two strange dreams. In the first dream, he saw seven fat cows and seven skinny cows coming out of the river. The skinny cows ate all the fat cows.



ዮሴፍ በእስር ቤት በነበረበት ወቅት ፈርዖንም ሁለት አስገራሚ ህሕልምን አየ። ሥጋቸውም የወፈረ ሰባት ላሞች ከወንዙ ሲወጡ አየ። ከእነርሱም በኋላ ሥጋቸውም የከሳ ሌሎች ሰባት ላሞች ከወንዝ ወጡ። ሥጋቸውም የከሳው ላሞች ሥጋቸው የወፈረውን ሰባቱን ላሞች ዋጡአቸው።

In his second dream, Pharaoh saw seven healthy grains on one stalk. Then he saw seven dried grains. The dried grains swallowed the seven good grains. Pharaoh was puzzled.



ሁለተኛም ጊዜ ሕልምን አየ። በአንድ አገዳ ላይ የነበሩ ያማሩና መልካም የሆኑ ሰባት እሸቶች ወጡ። ከእነርሱ በኋላ የደረቁ ሰባት እሸቶች ወጡ። የደረቁትም እሸቶች ሰባቱን ያማሩ እሸቶች ዋጡአቸው። ፈርዖንም ነቃ። በነጋም ጊዜ ነፍሱ ተጨነቀችበት።

The cup bearer remembered what Joseph did for him. He told Pharaoh that Joseph could explain his dreams as he interpreted it for him while he was in prison.



የዚያን ጊዜ የጠጅ አሳላፊዎቹ አለቃ ዮሴፍን አስታወሰዉ። እንዲህ ብሎ ለፈርዖን ተናገረ። በእስር ቤት በነበርኩበት ጊዜ በአንዲት ሌሊት ሕልምን አለምኩ። ሕልሜንም ተረጎመልኝ። የአንተንም ሕልም ሊተረጎምልህ ይችላል።

Then Joseph was brought before Pharaoh. Joseph said to the king, "God is warning you. For the next seven years, plenty of crops will grow. Then there will be seven years of bad crops." Joseph advised Pharaoh to find a wise person to store food for the bad years.



ፈርዖንም ልኮ የሴፍን አስጠራ። ሕልምን እንደ ተረጎምህም ስለ አንተ ሰማሁ አለው። የሴፍም ለፈርዖን እንዲህ ብሎ መለሰ። ሕልሙ ከእግዚአብሔር ነው። እነሆ በግብፅ ምድር ሁሉ እጅግ ጥጋብ የሚሆንባቸው ሰባት ዓመታት ይመጣሉ። ደግሞ ከዚህ በኋላ ሰባት ዓመት ራብ ይመጣል። የሴፍም እህል የሚያከማቸው አዋቂ ሰው ፈልግ ብሎ መከረወ።

Pharaoh thought that Joseph was a wise man. And because of Joseph's God-given wisdom and ability Pharaoh made Joseph ruler over all the land of Egypt, second only to the king himself.



ፈርዖንም ዮሴፍን አለው። እንደ አንተ ያለ ብልህ አዋቂም ሰው የለም። እግዚአብሔር ይህን ሁሉ ገልጦልሃልና። ሕዝቤም ሁሉ ለቃልህ ይታዘዝ። እኔ በዙፋኔ ብቻ ከአንተ እበልጣለሁ። ፈርዖንም ዮሴፍን በግብፅ ምድር ሁሉ ላይ ሾመው።

For the first seven good years, Joseph gathered all the food in the land of Egypt and put it in storehouses. Joseph worked hard to carry out the plans that God showed him.



ዮሴፍም በሰባቱም የጥጋብ ዓመታት በግብፅ ምድር ሁሉ ያለውን እህል ሁሉ ሰበሰበ። በየከተማይቱ ዙሪያ ያለውን የእርሻውን እህል ሁሉ በጎተራዉ ከተተ። ዮሴፍም እግዚአብሔር የገለጠለትን በመጠቀም በትጋት ይሠራ ነበር።

Then the seven years of famine started. There was no food all over the world except in Egypt. Joseph's father Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy food.



ሰባቱ የጥጋብም አመት አልቆ የረኃቡ ዘመን ጀመረ። ከግብፅ በስተቀር በመላው አለም እህል አልነበረም። ያዕቆብም በግብፅ እህል እንዳለ ሰማ። ያዕቆብም ልጆቹን እርስ በርሳቸው ከምትተያዩ ወደ ግብፅ ውረዱና እህል ግዙ አላቸዉ።

The 10 brothers bowed before Joseph, the great prince of Egypt. He knew who they were, but they did not know him. Then Joseph remembered his dreams. The dreams that had made them so angry had actually come true.



የዮሴፍም አሥር ወንድሞች በመጡ ጊዜ በምድር ላይ በግምባራቸው ሰገዱለት። ዮሴፍም ወንድሞቹን አወቃቸው። እነርሱ ግን አላወቁትም። ዮሴፍ የልጅነቱ ሕልም ትዝ አለው። ዮሴፍም ስለ እነርሱ አይቶት የነበረውን ሕልም ተፈፀመ።

He sold them some food. He kept his brother Simeon with him, and told them that when they come again, they would have to bring their youngest brother Benjamin.



እናንተ የታመናችሁ ከሆናችሁ ከእናንተ አንዱ ወንድማችሁ ስምዕን እኔ ጋር ይቆይ። እናንተ እህሉንም ለቤታችሁ ውሰዱ። ተመልሳችሁም ስትመጡ ታናሹን ወንድማችሁን ወደ እኔ ይዛችሁ ኑ።

When they had eaten up the food, they brought from Egypt, their father asked them to go back to buy more food. Jacob was afraid to send Benjamin. But soon all the food was used up. The brothers had to go back to Egypt with Benjamin, since Joseph warned them.



ራብም በምድር ጸና። ከግብፅም ያመጡትን እህል በልተው ሲጨርሱ አባታቸው እንደ ገና ሂዱና ጥቂት እህል ግዙፍን አላቸው። ያቆብም ብንያምን ለመላክ ቢፈራም ዮሴፍ አስጠንቅቆዋቸው ስለ ነበር ከወንድሞቹ ጋር መሄድ የግድ ነበረበት።

When the brothers returned, Joseph told them who he was. His brothers could not answer him because they were afraid. Joseph forgave them and told them not to be sad for selling him because God meant it for good. He told them to go back and bring their father to Egypt.



ተነሥተውም ወደ ግብፅ ወረዱ። የሴፍም ለወንድሞቹ እኔ የሴፍ ነኝ አላቸዉ። ወንድሞቹም ይመልሱለት ዘንድ አልቻሉም ደንግጠው ነበርና። የሴፍም ስለሸጣቸሁኝ አትዘኑ። እግዚአብሔር ሕይወትን ለማዳን ለበጎ አደረገዉ አላቸው። ተመልሰውም አባታቸውን ወደ ግብፅ እንዲያመጡ ነገራቸው።

Joseph's brothers went home and told their father. Jacob was so happy to hear that Joseph was alive. Jacob and all the family moved to Egypt with their livestock and goods.



ከግብፅ አገርም ወጡ። ለአባታቸው ያዕቆብም ነገሩት። ያቆብም በዮሴፍ በሕይወት መኖር ደስ አለው። ያዕቆብም መላው ቤተሰቡንና ከብቶቹን ሁሉ ይዞ ወደ ግብፅ ምድር ሄደ።

Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to meet his father Israel. He threw his arms around his father and wept for a long time. Then Jacob thanked and praised God.



ዮሴፍም ሰረገላውን አዘጋጀ። አባቱንም ያቆብን ሊገናኘው ወጣ። ባየውም ጊዜ በአንገቱ ላይ ወደቀ። አቅፎትም ረጅም ጊዜ አለቀሰ። እስራኤልም ዮሴፍን በሕይወቱ ሰላገኘው እግዚአብሔርን አመሰገነ።

Joseph went and told Pharaoh that his family has come from the land of Canaan. Then Joseph brought his father Jacob in and presented him before Pharaoh. Jacob blessed Pharaoh.



የሴፍም ለፈርዖን መላው ቤተሰቡ ከከንዓን ምድር እንደመጡ ነገረው። የሴፍም ያዕቆብን አባቱን አስገብቶ በፈርዖን ፊት አቆመው። ያዕቆብም ፈርዖንን ባረከው።

Pharaoh told them to live in the best land of Egypt. Joseph had loved and obeyed his father. Because of his faith in God, Joseph received honor for the rest of his life. And if we meet any trial with the same trust and obedience to God, we can look forward to our reward on earth and in heaven.



ፈርዖንም የግብፅ ምድርን መልካሙን ቦታ ሁሉ ሰጣቸው። ዮሴፍም አባቱን ይወድና ያከብር ስለነበር በእግዚአብሔርም የፀና እምነት ስላለዉ በሕይወት ዘመኑ ሁሉ በከብር ኖረ። እኛም የሚመጣብንን ፈተና በእምነትና ለእግዚአብሔር በመገዛት ዋጋችንን በምድርም በሰማይም እናገኛለን።

Author's Note

This e-book is designed to help children learn and retain the story in an educational way. It has been proven learning is enhanced through the use of several senses. Study shows that we retain 20 percent of what we hear and 10 percent of what we see. But we retain 50 percent of what we see and hear. The reading of the story will hopefully help your children to grow closer to God.

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Age: Preschool and up