



Genesis 40-41

"It came to pass after these things, that the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker had offended their lord the king of Egypt." (Gen.40:1). After what things? After Potiphar's wife had falsely accused Joseph of attempting to rape her and Joseph was thrown into prison.

"And Pharaoh was wroth against two of his officers, against the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the bakers." (Gen.40:2). The word for officers in Hebrew is "eunuch." It would seem that all of those who were placed in any position around the Pharaoh were required to be eunuchs. It is interesting that Joseph did not become one.

"And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound." (Gen.40:3). If anybody had a right to question the providential care of God for His children, if any man had a right to question the goodness of God, it was Joseph. Joseph lived an exemplary life. His brothers were rotten, and when Joseph reported to his dad some of the incidents his brothers were doing his brothers began to hate him.

When Joseph was sent by his father to visit his brothers they saw him coming and they decided to kill him. They opted to sell him as a slave to slave traders heading for Egypt. When Joseph arrived in Egypt, he was sold to Potiphar, the captain of the guard, head over Pharaoh's army, where he became a very entrusted servant. In fact Potiphar placed everything he had under Joseph's jurisdiction.

Potiphar's wife desired Joseph, and sought to entice him. When her seduction was not successful, she then tried to force him into bed with her and he fled out of the house.

Seeing that she was scorned, she began to scream rape. The servants came in and she accused Joseph of attempting to rape her and then repeated the lie to her husband when he got home and Joseph was thrown into prison, in Egypt.

Joseph was seventeen years old when his brothers sold him to the slave traders. He, probably, was in Potiphar's house, as a servant, for ten years and then in prison for a year before the butler and the baker got tossed into jail. He was there for two more years after that experience; so, by the time he finally was brought out to the Pharaoh, to interpret the dream, he was thirty years old.

Thirteen valuable years of his life have passed in slavery and in prison. All because of the dastardly deeds of his brothers, the heartless action of selling their brother as a slave. In those thirteen years, Joseph could have, very well, challenged the goodness of God. Where is God in all of these things? If God is so good, then, why, when I have only tried to do what is right; when I am resisting temptation, be put into prison? Why would God allow me to be in prison because of the false accusations of this hussy? Joseph could have said, "I am growing old and I haven't had a chance to live."

But Joseph maintained his integrity and his faith in God in spite of all the obstacles. When this woman sought to seduce him he said, "How can I do this great wickedness by sinning against God?" Joseph was conscious of God even though it would appear that God had forsaken him. God allowed his brothers to sell him as a slave and yet he was still aware and conscious of God and lived in that consciousness of God.

Thrown into prison he is a model prisoner, finally they have more or less placed him in charge over the prison and he is running the prison when the butler and the baker came into disfavor with the Pharaoh. This is only suppositional, but, it could be that they discovered some poison and realized that someone was out to poison the king. The two likely suspects were the butler and the baker. The butler could have put the poison in the king's cup or maybe the baker put it in the pastry. Whatever the cause, these two men were thrown into prison and came under Joseph's scrutiny and supervision because the keeper of the prison had placed everything into Joseph's care.

"And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them; and they continued a season in ward." (Gen.40:4). So they were in custody for awhile, under Joseph's jurisdiction.

"And they dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which were bound in the prison." (Gen.40:5). The butler and the baker both had dreams, in the same night, and each dream with its own interpretation.

"And Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them, and, behold, they were sad." (Gen.40:6). Joseph was a very observant man, he had charge of these men and he saw that they were dejected.

"And he asked Pharaoh's officers that were with him in the ward of his lord's house, saying, Wherefore look ye so sadly today?" (Gen.40:7). He said, "What is wrong with you guys?" "And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you." (Gen.40:8). Still after a year or more in prison, there is that constant awareness of God.

"And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him. In my dream, behold, a vine was before me; And in the vine were three branches; and it was as though it budded, and her blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes. And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand." (Gen.40:9-11).

"And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it; The three branches are three days. Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place; and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler." (Gen.40:12-13).

"But think on me when it shall be well with thee and show kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house." (Gen.40:14).

Tell the Pharaoh about me, tell him the bum rap that I got. This woman accused me and I didn't do anything wrong, remember me to the Pharaoh.

"For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews; and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon." (Gen.40:15). I am innocent. I was kidnapped, I was taken away from my own people, kidnapped and thrown in this dungeon. Tell the Pharaoh about me.

"When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph, I also was in my dream, and, behold, I had three white baskets on my head. and in the uppermost basket there was of all manner of bakemeats for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head." (Gen.40:16-17). "And Joseph answered and said, This is the interpretation thereof: The three baskets are three days. Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee." (Gen.40:18-19).

"And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants. And he restored the chief butler unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand. But he hanged the chief baker; as Joseph had interpreted to them. Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him." (Gen.40:20-23).

I'm sure, at this time, that Joseph had a glimmer of hope, thinking when this guy gets to the Pharaoh and tells him my story; surely, the Pharaoh will pardon me and I will split for home and get back to my father. That is exactly what God didn't want him to do. God didn't want him going home. He had a task for him to do here in Egypt. So God allowed the butler to forget about Joseph. For two years Joseph continued there in the prison, forgotten by the butler. Two years in which the time seemed like an eternity to Joseph.

They say that Einstein discovered relativity or, at least, made the formula for it. According to the

calculations, time is relative. When I am doing something I enjoy, time whizzes by; but, in the wrong circumstance it drags. When I used to practice the violin an hour a day, time dragged. After practice, I'd go out and play ball and before you knew it, it was dark. Imagine Joseph spending two years longer in the prison, time dragging on, days into weeks, weeks into months, and months into years.

Where is God? I believe, that Joseph was praying the whole while that God would free him, that God would plead his case, that God would work on his behalf. He trusted in God, but it seemed like heaven was silent, and that God was deaf. Surely, he had a right to challenge the goodness of God, the love of God; because Joseph couldn't see the end of the story.

It's hard for us to get the full impact of it because we "know" the end of the story. If you would close the book right here at the end of chapter forty, and say, "Boy what a sad thing, the butler has forgotten him." You could easily jump to the conclusion that God is not fair, that God is not good, that God is not loving. When you see the rest of the story unfolding as it begins to unfold in chapter forty-one, you say God is so good and you have a totally different concept of Him. Now that is where the big problem lies, as we are in the midst of our trials we can't see the whole story.

When the boys went home to Jacob, from Egypt, they said, "We have met a fellow down there in Egypt and he is mean. He kept one of our brothers in his jail because we told him we had a younger brother and he said that we were lying and were spies. We said, No! No! we are all brothers and we have one father and a younger brother at home. He said that he didn't believe it and he kept Simeon as a hostage. The only way we can get Simeon out of prison is to take Benjamin back." Jacob said he would not let Benjamin go as he had already lost one son and would not take a chance on losing him too.

When they ran out of the grain that they had bought in Egypt, Jacob said, "Boys, you better go down to Egypt and get some more grain." They said, "Are you kidding? We're not going down to see that guy again, he is mean. He said that we won't even see his face unless we have our younger brother with us." Jacob said, "Well you can't take him." They said, "We've got to take him," and then Jacob said, "All things are against me."

You see he didn't see the full story. He only saw a part of the story and he made his judgment on that. No Jacob, all things aren't against you. You would be amazed what God is doing. Do you know that in a few days you will be hugging Joseph, eating at his table and you will see the glory that God has bestowed upon him in Egypt. But only seeing part of the picture he thought everything was against him.

Whenever you are prone, in your circumstances, to cry, "Everything is against me, God is against me, God doesn't love me. If God loved me, why?" Just know that you haven't seen the whole story yet. You have an incomplete novel here. God is working. God is good. God loves you and is working even in these adverse circumstances. His plan and His will for your life are for when the cycle is complete. When you see the total story, you will say, "God is so good! He is so wise and His works are marvelous." So don't make your judgment until all of the facts are in; because, you might find yourself embarrassed trying to explain to God how sorry you are for those rotten things you said about Him and to Him in the midst of your adversity.

It is a notable thing, to me, that Job in all of the adversity that he faced, the bible states, "He did not curse God, neither did he charge God foolishly."

Now there may be no temptation to curse God. That is a pretty heavy thing when man gets so embroiled in his problems that he actually curses God. I think that is beyond your capacity, but charging God foolishly, that is something else isn't it?

What is it to charge God foolishly? God doesn't love me. If God loved me then why would this happen to me? I don't think that God cares for me at all. I don't think that God is interested in me. I think that God has forgotten all about me. That is charging God foolishly, but, we sometimes do that because we are making our judgments on incomplete data.

Starting now in Genesis forty-one, the story begins to emerge. "And it came to pass at the end of two

full years, that Pharaoh dreamed; and, behold, he stood by the river. And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favoured kine and fat-fleshed; and they fed in a meadow. And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill favoured and lean-fleshed; and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river. And the ill favoured and lean fleshed kine did eat up the seven well favoured and fat kine, So Pharaoh awoke."(Gen.41:1-4). This is the Nile River that the bible is speaking of.

"And he slept and dreamed the second time; and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank and good. And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them." (Gen.41:5-6).

It is really talking about the grain and the wheat here. Seven heads of grain came up on one stalk. They were plump and good. Then behold seven thin heads blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them. "And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream." (Gen.41:7). It was like a nightmare.

"And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof; and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh." (Gen.41:8). Now these men that Pharaoh was calling were pretty sharp fellows.

Later on when Moses demands the release of the children of Israel from Pharaoh, he took his rod and threw it down and the rod turned into a serpent. The Pharaohs magicians, did the same thing. Then Moses serpent ate up all their serpents. These guys had some pretty powerful demonic stuff going for them, but, "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." (IJohn4:4). These magicians of Egypt were really into the magical arts of the occult. They were into Satanism, and the spirit realm and were probably able to interpret dreams that came from the satanic realm; but, this dream came from God and they were unable to cross a spiritual barrier here and so, could not interpret the dream of the Pharaoh.

"Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day. Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker. And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream. And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret." (Gen.41:9-12).

"And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged." (Gen.41:13).

Two years later when the Pharaoh was troubled by this dream and no one being able to interpret it, God brought Joseph into the mind of this butler. God's timing is now perfect. Gods plan is ready now to go into operation. It was for this reason, God put the evil thought of selling him as a slave into the minds of Joseph's brothers. It was for this reason Potiphar's wife set her eyes upon Joseph and cried, "rape," when he refused to seduce her. It was for this reason that Joseph spent time in jail that he might meet the butler and that the butler spent time in jail that he might meet Joseph and the ultimate purpose that Pharaoh might meet Joseph.

God is behind the scene working out His plan all the way along, even as God is behind the scene in your life if you are a child of God. He is working out details and plans of which you know nothing about; but, one day when you see the fruit you will say, "Wow". You'll see how God has been working even when you weren't aware of it. God is controlling the circumstances of our lives.

Remember when Daniel came into the presence of drunken Belshazzar, to interpret the writing on the wall. He gave them a stern lecture concerning the true and the living God, before he began the interpretation of the writing. He said they had never honored the God whose hand held their very breath. God governs over your life so closely that in His hand is your very breath.

When Paul stood amidst the Greek philosophers, the Epicureans there on Mars Hill; he was standing above the forum, and down below was the Agoura, (the market place) where you could see the great temples at either end. Paul said, "You are very religious people. I have been going through your streets, and I have been observing your worship. I have seen all of the altars that you have. As I was walking down a street there in the market place, I saw an altar and it was inscribed to the Unknown God. I would like to tell you about that God. He is the God that created the whole universe and in Him we live and we move and we have our being." God is working out details and circumstances in your life.

Jesus said, "There is not a sparrow that falls to the ground but what your Father isn't aware of it." Now if your Father is that aware of sparrows, how much more is He aware of you and the situations of your life. One thing that Jesus taught us and that is Gods complete concern for man. With the very intricate details of man; such trivia as: how many hairs there are on your head. God knows your life fully and completely and He is bringing about all circumstances of your life.

Now with Joseph we are about to see the plan of God unfolding and we will begin to understand a little better as we move along in our reading some of the hardships and grief, the sorrow, and the problems that he faced earlier in his life.

"Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon; and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh." (Gen.41:14).

It was an abomination not to be shaved, in Egypt in those days, when you appeared before the Pharaoh. Joseph shaved and changed clothes in order that he might appear before Pharaoh. "And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it; and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it. And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me; God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace." (Gen.41:15-16).

We find this so many places through the scriptures. These men that were so used of God were men who were never willing to take credit for the gift of God. Yes, he was anointed of God. God had given him a gift to interpret dreams, but it was by Gods power.

When Daniel was brought before Nebuchadnezzar to interpret his dream, he said to Daniel, I understand you can interpret dreams and Daniel said, "No you got it wrong king, I can't interpret dreams but there is a God in heaven who knows everything and He is able to give you the understanding of your dream. If only we would learn to give God the credit for what He has done.

It is such a shame today that so many people are going around taking bows for what God has done. Well, we have discovered this formula and we will be glad to train you and teach you how you too can be a great success. Put down your money and we will make a success out of you. We have the formula, we have the answer. Man is so willing to take credit for what God has done, to take the glory and stand up and take the bow. It is not in me, Joseph said, God will give Pharaoh the answer of peace.

"And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the river; And, behold, there came out of the river seven kine fat-fleshed and well favoured; and they fed in a meadow. And, behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and very ill favoured and lean-fleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness. And the lean and the ill favoured kine did eat up the first seven fat kine. And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still ill favoured, as at the beginning, So I awoke." (Gen.41:17-21).

"And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up in one stalk, full and good; And, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them. And the thin ears devoured the seven good ears; and I told this unto the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me." (Gen.41:22-24).

"And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one; God hath showed Pharaoh what he is about to do." (Gen.41:25). There is one interpretation for both dreams and God has shown Pharaoh what He is

about to do. God has placed in the heart of kings His mind, His will. Interesting, that God did exactly the same thing to Nebuchadnezzar. Both of these men were pagan kings, yet, God spoke to them in dreams revealing the future and what He was about to do.

"The seven good kine..." (cows) "... are seven years; and the seven good ears..." (wheat) "... are seven years; the dream is one." (Gen.41:26).

"And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine. This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh; What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh." (Gen.41:27-28).

"Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt; And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land. And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous." (Gen.41:29-31).

"And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass." (Gen.41:32).

So Joseph now lays out for the king exactly what is going to happen. God is showing you the future, the next fourteen years God has laid out before you. They will be divided in two, seven years there will be plenty, a bumper crop, years of abundance; but, it will be followed by seven years of drought, seven years of famine and the famine will be so great that all of the abundance of the seven good years will be used up.

"Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years. And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities." (Gen.41:33-35).

Now as a general rule the people were taxed 10% but Joseph is suggesting that during this time of surplus that the government tax them 20%, so that they might gather a large surplus to see them through the lean years that were coming.

"And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine. And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants." (Gen.41:36-37). It sounded like good advice to Pharaoh and his servants.

"And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? They recognized that there was a quality in Joseph that set him above the crowd and that he wasn't an ordinary person.

Joseph had gone through thirteen years of severe testing, trials, hardships and still there was that quality about him. What was it they saw? They recognized the Spirit of God in him. Oh, what a difference the Spirit of God makes in our lives. How we need the Spirit of God in control in our lives. Can we find a man like this in whom is the Spirit of God?

"And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath showed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art. Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled; only in the throne will I be greater than thou." (Gen.41:39-40).

"And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt." (Gen.41:41).

"And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck." (Gen.41:42). The signet ring was the authority of the government and of Pharaoh. It gave great power to Joseph.

"And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee; and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt." (Gen.41:41-43). He clothed him in garments of fine

linen and put a gold chain around his neck. He had him ride in the second chariot which he had and they cried out before him, Bow the knee!

He set him over all the land of Egypt. "And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath-paaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Poti-pherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt." (Gen.41:44-45). The name given to Joseph by the Pharaoh means the "revealer of secrets."

"And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt." (Gen.41:46).

Now there are many similitudes between Joseph and Jesus. If you want to really go into the typology study, you will find that Joseph becomes a very interesting type of Jesus Christ. Joseph was sent by his father to his brothers, even as Jesus was sent by the Father to his people. His brothers despised him and sold him, even as Jesus was rejected by His own, sold by Judas.

The brothers threw him into a pit, even as Jesus was sent into Hades. Joseph was brought up out of this jail, out of the dungeon to stand before Pharaoh, even as Jesus arose from the dead and ascended to the Father. Joseph was then given great authority, even as Jesus has been given great authority. Here Joseph is thirty years old when he began his ministry over Egypt, even as Jesus was thirty years old when He began his public ministry.

Arthur Pink in his book "Gleanings From Genesis" lists sixty or more types. Dr. J. Vernon McGee, in his commentary on Genesis gives you twenty-eight or more types and you can follow it through and see many similarities here.

Joseph went out from the presence of the Pharaoh and he went through out all the land of Egypt, "And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities; the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same." (Gen.41:47-48). In key cities he gathered together the food from the farm areas round about.

"And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number." (Gen.41:49). Just an abundance of grain. Super crops.

It was thirteen years from the time he was sold by his brothers till the time that he was appointed over the land and then we have the seven good years until the famine began.

His brothers probably came down at the end of the first year of famine; so, a time lapse of approximately twenty-one years between Joseph being sold by his brothers and meeting them again. By the time they came down to Egypt to buy grain, Joseph is thirty-seven or thirty-eight years old.

The last time they saw him, he was just a seventeen year old kid. That is why the brothers didn't recognize him. While he was in the seven good years collecting everything, God gave him a couple of sons.

"And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house. And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For god hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction." (Gen.41:51-52). Manasseh means "making forgetful." It is interesting that the bible says when we get to heaven, that the former things will not be brought into mind. The years of toil, the years of struggle, the years of trying and testing won't be brought into mind when you are there. There will be so much glory that we won't even be concerned about the past.

Joseph called his second son Ephraim, which means "fruitfulness." Again a very beautiful phrase, God has caused me to forget all my toil, all my fathers house and He has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

Every time Joseph called his kids he was reminded of Gods goodness and Gods blessings and what

God had done for him.

"And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended. And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said; and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread; and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do. And the famine was over all the face of the earth; And Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt. And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands." (Gen.41:53-57).

God now brings his brothers to him. They are going to do obeisance to him. Even as God is going to ultimately bring Israel around and they will recognize Jesus as their Messiah. They will bow their knee and declare that Jesus is the Lord, to the Glory of God the Father.

Again let me encourage you to wait on the Lord, be of good cheer. Though your path may have led you into the valley and you are going through deep water and at the present time you may not yet see your way out. You are a child of God, His hand will lead you, He will sustain you, He will bring you forth with shouts of joy and victory as you see the full cycle of Gods plan work out in your life. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, don't lean to your own understanding. There is more to the story of your life than you can see; so, don't close the book.

Wait for God to bring you into that next chapter where the solution to the puzzle lies and see the unfolding grace of God in your lives and the goodness of God day after day until you say, "God is so good."