

# Bible Seeds Podcast

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## Intro Music – “My Father Is So Good To Me”

[written and performed by Carl Vasta]

Hi, my name is Carl Vasta and I would like to welcome you to the Bible Seeds section here, at Understanding God’s Word. This is where I get to comment on biblical readings and stories that brings the bible into what’s happening to us in our daily lives.

I’ll touch on such topics as Family Prayer or Why I Believe There Is A God. I’ll talk about what was predicted that makes these the Terrible Times In The Last Days or how to Have A Daily Meaningful Relationship With God.

Today's topic: **And God Only Knows**

A while ago, **Paul Simon**, the songwriter-singer wrote a song titled ‘*Slip-Slidin’ Away.*’ One of the verses start out,

*‘And God only knows,  
And God makes his plan.  
The information is unavailable  
for the mortal man’*

The apostle Paul says, **in the bible at 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, Chapter 2: verses 11-12,** *“that no one knows what is in another person’s mind except the spirit of that person that lives in them. Even so, no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.”*

*And Paul tells us that if we have put our faith in Jesus who has sent us the Spirit of God, then we may know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

As we look at the stories about the relationships between God and His creation, we see that God has a way of letting us know what is going to happen without telling us how He is going to accomplish it! God likes to surprise us.

I think that anyone who has been helped by God has often been surprised by the way He helped them. They may have expected that God would help them in a certain way, but were totally surprised how God accomplished helping them by twist and turns that often made His believers think that God might be working against them. A good example of what I'm talking about is this story from the bible!

## THE STORY OF JOSEPH AND THE PHARAOH

Found in Genesis, Chapters 37-49

*There was a man named Jacob, who had twelve sons and one daughter, by four different women. These twelve sons were the twelve tribes of ISRAEL. That was the name God replaced Jacob's name with. This is a story of the 11<sup>th</sup> child of Israel named **Joseph**. God blessed Joseph with His Spirit and gave him dreams that often made the rest of his family mad! But he was a favorite of his father because his mother who had died was his father's first love. His father even brought him a coat of all colors and his brothers were all jealous of him!*

*One night Joseph had a dream and promptly reported the details to his brothers, causing even deeper hatred.*

*Listen to this," he proudly announced. "We were out in the field binding sheaves, ( bundles of cut grain stalks tied together after harvest ) and my sheaf stood up, and your sheaves all gathered around it and bowed low before it!"*

*"So you want to be our king, do you?" his brothers derided. And they hated him both for the dream and for his cocky attitude. All of his brothers were so jealous of him that, one day they sold Joseph to a caravan of Ishmaelite*

*merchants traveling to Egypt ( instead of killing him ). Then they told Jacob a a lie, that a wild animal killed Joseph and they gave him Joseph's bloody coat!*

*In Egypt, they sold Joseph as a slave to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials and captain of the guard. But Potiphar saw that the LORD was with Joseph, and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had, he put under his Joseph's authority.*

*[ Just as you would think everything is going well, ] Potiphar's wife tries to seduce Joseph, but he rejects her and leaves quickly out of the house and she holds on to his coat. Then she claims that Joseph tried to rape her! After Potiphar hears this, Joseph is sent to prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined.*

*But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. Now, the keeper of the prison eventually put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison because whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.*

*One day, two of the Kings subjects; the chief cup-bearer and the chief baker, were brought to the prison; both being accused of offending their royal master. They were in prison for a while and the keeper assigned them to Joseph, who looked after them. One night, both of them had a dream and in the morning they were upset. Joseph noticed that they were worried and asked them what was wrong. They told Joseph that each one had a dream that night, but they didn't know what it meant.*

*"Interpreting dreams is God's business," Joseph replied. "Go ahead and tell me your dreams." They told Joseph their dreams and the outcome was in three days, the chief cup-bearer would be restored to his job, but the baker would put to death. It happened as Joseph told them, but the chief cup-bearer forgot to tell the Pharaoh about the Joseph's innocence, and never gave him another thought.*

Two full years later, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing on the bank of the Nile River. In his dream he saw seven fat, healthy cows come up out of the river and begin grazing in the marsh grass. Then he saw seven more cows come up behind them from the Nile, but these were scrawny and thin. These cows stood beside the fat cows on the riverbank. Then the scrawny, thin cows ate the seven healthy, fat cows! At this point in the dream, Pharaoh woke up.

But he fell asleep again and had a second dream. Instead of cows, he saw seven heads of grain, plump and beautiful, growing on a single stalk. Then seven more heads of grain appeared, but these were shriveled and withered by the east wind. And these thin heads swallowed up the seven plump, well-formed heads! The next morning Pharaoh was very disturbed by the dreams.

So he called for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. When Pharaoh told them his dreams, not one of them could tell him what they meant.

Finally, the king's chief cup-bearer spoke up. "Today I have been reminded of my failure," he told Pharaoh. "Some time ago, you were angry with the chief baker and me, and you imprisoned us in the palace of the captain of the guard. One night the chief baker and I each had a dream, and each dream had its own meaning. There was a young Hebrew man with us in the prison who was a slave of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he told us what each of our dreams meant. And everything happened just as he had predicted. I was restored to my position as cup-bearer, and the chief baker was executed and impaled on a pole."

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh.

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

"I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."

*So Pharaoh told Joseph his dreams. Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream. The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine." "It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do.*

*Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, but seven years of famine will follow them."*

*"And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine."*

*The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you."*

*So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. He had him ride in a chariot as his second in-command, and people shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt." Pharaoh gave*

*Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife.*

*So Joseph took charge of the entire land of Egypt. He was thirty years old when he began serving in the court of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. And when Joseph left Pharaoh's presence, he inspected the entire land of Egypt.*

*As predicted, for seven years the land produced bumper crops. During those years, Joseph gathered all the crops grown in Egypt and stored the grain from the surrounding fields in the cities. He piled up huge amounts of grain like sand on the seashore. Finally, he stopped keeping records because there was too much to measure.*

*During this time, before the first of the famine years, two sons were born to Joseph and his wife, Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On. Joseph named his older son Manasseh, for he said, "God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father's family." Joseph named his second son Ephraim, for he said, "God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief."*

*At last the seven years of bumper crops throughout the land of Egypt came to an end. Then the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had predicted. The famine also struck all the surrounding countries, but throughout Egypt there was plenty of food. Eventually, however, the famine spread throughout the land of Egypt as well.*

*And when the people cried out to Pharaoh for food, he told them, "Go to Joseph, and do whatever he tells you." So with severe famine everywhere, Joseph opened up the storehouses and distributed grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout the land of Egypt. And people from all around came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph because the famine was severe throughout the world.*

*When Jacob heard that grain was available in Egypt, he said to his sons,*

*“Why are you standing around looking at one another? I have heard there is grain in Egypt. Go down there, and buy enough grain to keep us alive. Otherwise we’ll die.”*

*Since Joseph was governor of all Egypt and in charge of selling grain to all the people, it was to him that his brothers came. When they arrived, they bowed before him with their faces to the ground. Joseph recognized his brothers instantly, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. “Where are you from?” he demanded. “From the land of Canaan,” they replied. “We have come to buy food.”*

*They didn’t recognize Joseph, but Joseph accused them of being spies! Joseph said, “You have come to see how vulnerable our land has become.”*

*“No, my lord!” they exclaimed. “Your servants have simply come to buy food. We are all brothers—members of the same family. We are honest men, sir! We are not spies!”*

*Joseph still insisted they were spies, “Sir,” they said, “there are actually twelve of us. We, your servants, are all brothers, sons of a man living in the land of Canaan. Our youngest brother is back there with our father right now, and one of our brothers is no longer with us.”*

*Joseph said, “I will test you. I will send one brother to get your youngest brother and bring him here and the rest of you will stay in prison.”*

*Now Jacob ( Israel ) told his sons there was no way they were going to take Benjamin, Joseph’s younger brother from the same mother, to Egypt with them. So Jacob did not send Benjamin, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him.*

*So Joseph put them all in prison for three days.*

*On the third day Joseph said to them, "I am a God-fearing man. If you do as I say, you will live. If you really are honest men, choose one of your brothers to remain in prison. The rest of you may go home with grain for your starving families. But you must bring your youngest brother back to me. This will prove that you are telling the truth, and you will not die." To this they agreed.*

*The brothers were speaking among themselves about how they got into this and they said, "Clearly we are being punished because of what we did to Joseph long ago. We saw his anguish when he pleaded for his life, but we wouldn't listen. That's why we're in this trouble."*

*"Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy?" Reuben asked. "But you wouldn't listen. And now we have to answer for his blood!"*

*Of course, they didn't know that Joseph understood them, for he had been speaking to them through an interpreter.*

*Now he turned away from them and began to weep. When he regained his composure, he spoke to them again. Then he chose Simeon from among them and had him tied up right before their eyes.*

*Joseph then ordered his servants to fill the men's sacks with grain, but he also gave secret instructions to return each brother's payment at the top of his sack. He also gave them supplies for their journey home. So the brothers loaded their donkeys with the grain and headed for home. As they emptied out their sacks, there in each man's sack was the bag of money he had paid for the grain! The brothers and their father were terrified when they saw the bags of money.*



*Jacob exclaimed, "You are robbing me of my children! Joseph is gone! Simeon is gone! And now you want to take Benjamin, too. Everything is going against me!"*

*Then Reuben said to his father, "You may kill my two sons if I don't bring Benjamin back to you. I'll be responsible for him, and I promise to bring him back."*

*But Jacob replied, "My son will not go down with you. His brother Joseph is dead, and he is all I have left. If anything should happen to him on your journey, you would send this grieving, white-haired man to his grave."*

*Now the famine was still severe in the land. So when they had eaten all the grain they had brought from Egypt their father said to them, "Go back and buy us a little more food."*

*But his sons said to him that the man told us we would not see his face unless we had our younger brother and you said he would not go, so we are not going!*

*Israel was upset and asked why they even told them about their younger brother. They replied, "The man questioned us closely about ourselves and our family. 'Is your father still living?' he asked us. 'Do you have another brother?' We simply answered his questions. How were we to know he would say, 'Bring your brother down here'?"*

*Judah promised he would take care of Benjamin and take responsibility for whatever happened. And he added, "As it is, if we had not delayed, we could have gone and returned twice." Then their father Israel said to them, "If it must be, then do this: Put some of the best products of the land in your bags and take them down to the man as a gift—a little balm and a little honey, some spices and myrrh, some pistachio nuts and almonds. Take*

*double the amount of silver with you, for you must return the silver that was put back into the mouths of your sacks. Perhaps it was a mistake. Take your brother also and go back to the man at once. And may God Almighty grant you mercy before the man so that he will let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you. As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved."*

*So the sons of Israel did as they had planned and when Joseph saw Benjamin, he told his servants to take all of them to his house and prepare a wonderful meal and he would eat with them at noon.*

*They were afraid when they first got there and they went up to Joseph's steward and spoke to him at the entrance to the house. They explained that how the first time they came and bought food and then when they opened their sacks, each of them found his silver in the mouth of his sack. So we have brought it back with us. We have also brought additional silver with us to buy food. We don't know who put our silver in our sacks.*

*It's all right," he said. **"Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks; I received your silver."** Then he brought Simeon out to them.*

*The steward took the men into Joseph's house, gave them water to wash their feet and provided fodder for their donkeys. They prepared their gifts for Joseph's arrival at noon, because they had heard that they were to eat there.*

*When Joseph came home, they gave him the gifts they had brought him, then bowed low to the ground before him.*

*After greeting them, he asked, "How is your father, the old man you spoke about? Is he still alive?"*

*“Yes,” they replied. “Our father, your servant, is alive and well.” And they bowed low again. Then Joseph looked at his brother Benjamin, the son of his own mother. “Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?” Joseph asked. “May God be gracious to you, my son.”*

*Then Joseph hurried from the room because he was overcome with emotion for his brother. He went into his private room, where he broke down and wept.*

*( I think Joseph knew that at some point, he was going to reveal who he was to his brothers. Not an easy task for all he had been through and this probably was heavy on his heart. )*

*After washing his face, he came back out, keeping himself under control. Then he ordered, “Bring out the food!”*

*Joseph sat at his own table.*

*The Egyptians who ate with Joseph sat at their own table.*

*Joseph told each of his brothers where to sit, and to their amazement, he seated them according to age, from oldest to youngest. And Joseph filled their plates with food from his own table, giving Benjamin five times as much as he gave the others. So they feasted and drank freely with him.*

*When his brothers were ready to leave, Joseph instructed his palace manager to fill their sacks with as much as they would hold and put their money back in each one's sack.*

*Then he told his manager to place his silver cup in the youngest one's sack.*

*Early in the morning, they started for home and they got just outside the city, and Joseph said to his palace manager, “Chase after them and stop them. When you catch up with them, ask them, ‘Why have you repaid my master's kindness by stealing his silver cup, which he uses to predict the future? Why have you done such a wicked thing?’”*

*The brothers denied that they would ever do such a thing and even reminded the palace manager they returned the money the first time! “Why would we steal silver or gold from your master’s house? If you find his cup with any one of us, let that man die. And all the rest of us, my lord, will be your slaves.”*

*The palace manager said, “I agree, but only the one who has taken the cup will be my slave and the rest of you can go free.” They all quickly took their sacks from the backs of their donkeys and opened them. The palace manager searched the brothers’ sacks, from the oldest to the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack.*

*When the brothers saw this, they tore their clothing in despair. Then they loaded their donkeys again and returned to the city.*

*Joseph was there when the brothers were brought to his house and they said “We know we were found guilty and we are all your slaves.” They said this because they didn’t want to leave Benjamin there and go face Israel.*

*But Joseph said, “Far be it from me to do such a thing! Only the man who was found to have the cup will become my slave. The rest of you, go back to your father in peace.”*

*Then Judah went up to him and said: “Pardon your servant, my lord, let me speak a word to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, though you are equal to Pharaoh himself.*

*My lord asked his servants, ‘Do you have a father or a brother?’ And we answered, ‘We have an aged father, and there is a young son born to him in his old age. His brother is dead, and he is the only one of his mother’s sons left, and his father loves him.’*

*“Your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore me two sons. One of them went away from me, and I said, “He has surely been torn to pieces.” And I have not seen him since.*

*If you take this one from me too and harm comes to him, you will bring my gray head down to the grave in misery.'*

*"So now, if the boy is not with us when I go back to your servant my father, and if my father, whose life is closely bound up with the boy's life, sees that the boy isn't there, he will die. Your servants will bring the gray head of our father down to the grave in sorrow. Your servant guaranteed the boy's safety to my father.*

*I said, 'If I do not bring him back to you, I will bear the blame before you, my father, all my life!'*

*"Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord's slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come on my father."*

*Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers.*

*And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.*

*Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.*

*Then Joseph said to them, "Please come closer." They did, and he said, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. **Now do not be upset or blame yourselves because you sold me here. It was really God who sent me ahead of you to save people's lives.** This is only the second year of famine in the land; there will be five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor reaping. **God sent me ahead of you to rescue you in***

***this amazing way and to make sure that you and your descendants survive.***

*So it was not really you who sent me here, but God. He has made me the king's highest official. I am in charge of his whole country; I am the ruler of all Egypt.*

*“Now hurry back to my father and tell him that this is what his son Joseph says: ‘God has made me ruler of all Egypt; come to me without delay. You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me—you, your children, your grandchildren, your sheep, your goats, your cattle, and everything else that you have. If you are in Goshen, I can take care of you. There will still be five years of famine; and I do not want you, your family, and your livestock to starve.’”*

*Joseph continued, “Now all of you, and you too, Benjamin, can see that I am really Joseph. Tell my father how powerful I am here in Egypt and tell him about everything that you have seen. Then hurry and bring him here.”*

*He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and began to cry; Benjamin also cried as he hugged him. Then, still weeping, he embraced each of his brothers and kissed them. After that, his brothers began to talk with him.*

*When the news reached the palace that Joseph's brothers had come, the king and his officials were pleased. He said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers to load their animals and to return to the land of Canaan. Let them get their father and their families and come back here. I will give them the best land in Egypt, and they will have more than enough to live on. Tell them also to take wagons with them from Egypt for their wives and small children and to bring their father with them. They are not to worry about leaving their possessions behind; the best in the whole land of Egypt will be theirs.”*

*Jacob's sons did as they were told. Joseph gave them wagons, as the king had ordered, and food for the trip. He also gave each of them a change of*

*clothes, but he gave Benjamin three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of clothes. He sent his father ten donkeys loaded with the best Egyptian goods and ten donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and other food for the trip. He sent his brothers off and as they left, he said to them, "Don't quarrel on the way."*

*They left Egypt and went back home to their father Jacob in Canaan. "Joseph is still alive!" they told him. "He is the ruler of all Egypt!" Jacob was stunned and could not believe them.*

*But when they told him all that Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to take him to Egypt, he recovered from the shock. "My son Joseph is still alive!" he said. "This is all I could ask for! I must go and see him before I die."*

*Jacob ( Israel ) offered sacrifices in Beersheba to the God of his father Isaac. God spoke to him in a vision at night and called, "Jacob, Jacob!"*

*"Yes, here I am," he answered. "I am God, the God of your father," he said. "Do not be afraid to go to Egypt; I will make your descendants a great nation there. I will go with you to Egypt, and I will bring your descendants back to this land. Joseph will be with you when you die."*

*Jacob set out from Beersheba. His sons put him, their small children, and their wives in the wagons which the king of Egypt had sent. They took their livestock and the possessions they had acquired in Canaan and went to Egypt. Jacob took all his descendants with him: his sons, his grandsons, his daughters, and his granddaughters.*

*The total number of the direct descendants of Jacob who went to Egypt was sixty-six, not including his sons' wives. Two sons were born to Joseph in Egypt, bringing to seventy the total number of Jacob's family who went there.*

*Jacob sent Judah ahead to ask Joseph to meet them in Goshen. When they arrived, Joseph got in his chariot and went to Goshen to meet his father. When they met, Joseph threw his arms around his father's neck and cried for a long time. Jacob said to Joseph, "I am ready to die, now that I have seen you and know that you are still alive." Jacob lived another 17 years in Egypt.*

*Joseph went and told the king that his brothers and all his father's family, who were living in Canaan, have come to me. He told the king that all his brothers are shepherds and take care of livestock and that they have brought their flocks and herds and everything else that belongs to them.*

*The king told Joseph they could live in the region of Goshen, the best in the whole land of Egypt. Joseph told his family the Egyptians prefer they live here because they really will have nothing to do with shepherds.*

*They remained in Egypt four hundred years until Moses lead them out to the Promise Land!*

**This story found in Genesis, Chapters 37-49**

As you can see, sometimes there are many twists and turns to God's help. The brothers intended to harm Joseph by killing him, but they ended up selling him to be a slave in Egypt to get rid of him.

What they didn't realize was that he was sent to Egypt ahead of his family, to rescue God's own remnant; the twelve tribes of Jacob, who would become the Nation of Israel in the Promise Land. This was the amazing way God made sure that His people would grow and survive.

### **Ending The Program**

***Back Ground Music Starts and .....***



I would like you to know how much GOD loves you. He is ready and waiting to help you. You just need to believe that He exists and has created all things and has given ***His Son Jesus, the good shepherd*** to bring you back to him.

This is why I put together these pod casts, starting with **The Storyline Of The Bible**, 19 easy understandable pod casts that take you from Genesis, the first book of the bible- to Revelation, the last book of the bible.

And beyond that, there are **The Stories And Quotes From Jesus**, which will help you to strengthen your faith in God. And now I have just added these **Bible Seeds: Understanding God's Word** my commentary on some of these readings.

You can find all of this and print out the **PDFs** for **Storyline Of The Bible** and **Quotes and Stories from Jesus**. You can download the MP3s, Videos, and my original music from my website: [www.carlvasta.com](http://www.carlvasta.com) Everything is free and there are no sign ups. Enjoy!

### **Ending The Program**

This is your host Carl Vasta and I thank you for tuning in to Bible Seeds at Understanding God's Word.

***God bless you and your loved ones and remember. . .***