

Sunday 5th  
March 2017



## Joseph - more than just a dreamer...

The following are reflections and notes made from a talk by Huw Osgood. The material is not my own but has certainly offered me much food for thought and will hopefully be helpful to you also...

People often describe Joseph as a dreamer but as far as the Bible tells us, he only had two dreams of any significance in his life, recorded in Genesis 37. Interestingly, when Joseph describes these dreams to his brothers and his father, he doesn't offer an interpretation but his family interpret them as meaning that Joseph would rule over them, but there was far more to these dreams than that. These dreams spoke of a far greater destiny and calling for Joseph. He was more than just a dreamer. In our lives, God may give us a vision for the future through a scripture, a prophetic word, a dream or something else, which may be confirmed more than once as it was in Joseph's case. This vision may take many years to be fulfilled as it was in Joseph's case - it may take us on an unexpected journey, one we may have never chosen for ourselves, but God knows what he is doing and he can accomplish his plans and purposes in our lives. When the going gets tough, we don't need to change the vision, we don't need to chase after fresh dreams - we need to trust God and be more than dreamers.

In their jealousy, Joseph's brothers took his coat - as the NIV puts it 'they stripped him of his robe - the ornate robe he was wearing' and threw him into a cistern. They were going to kill him but then decided to sell him as a slave to the Ishmaelites as he was their brother after all! However, being stripped of this coat was possibly the best thing that could happen to him; it meant this sheltered and spoilt boy could become the man of God he was destined to be. In order to fulfil our destiny in Christ and step into the garments he has prepared for us, we need other things to be stripped away. Although there was nothing intrinsically wrong with this symbol of Jacob's affection for Joseph, God's plans for Joseph went beyond the protective sphere in which he had been living up to this point, and so there is a sense in which, painful as it was, the coat had to go!

It was probably through the Ishmaelite traders that Joseph gained knowledge in business and how to run a household, in preparation for all God had in store. Even Joseph's subsequent imprisonment after accusations made by Potiphar's wife was the path to further promotion. During this time, Joseph interpreted the dreams of others - God granted to Joseph the wisdom and vision that he needed, he found favour wherever he was, and ultimately this took him to Pharaoh's household where he was put in charge of the whole land of Egypt.

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**Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond**

*continued . . .*

God used Joseph - his leadership skills, his prophetic vision, his business experience (all of which had been gained since the incident with his brothers) - in order to bless not only Egypt but all the surrounding nations, including his own family. People were saved from starvation, nations were saved from ruin, because of how God used Joseph. And so ultimately, when Joseph's brothers came humbly before him (unaware of his identity), Joseph did not feel vindicated, he did not think 'aha, my dream has been fulfilled' - he was simply overjoyed to be reunited with them. God had not just given him gifts and talents, but his character had been shaped through his continued trust in God.

And think about the dream in Genesis 37 - it was about far more than his brothers bowing down to him... Whilst the wheat in all the surrounding countries was wilting (bowing down), the wheat in Egypt which Joseph had stored up stood firm and was a source of nourishment for surrounding nations. Joseph was destined for a great purpose. Similarly, God's plan for our lives and the vision he may give us may take us on unexpected and unchosen journeys, it may involve struggle and loss, but ultimately, in the light of God's coming Kingdom through Jesus Christ, it will be more significant and more fulfilling than we could have ever expected.

Your servant in Christ

*Mark Hirst*

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## News, notes and prayer-opportunities

- Everyone is welcome to the **church prayer and praise evening** tomorrow from 7.30pm in the chapel.
- **House groups** continue as normal this week.
- Please note **Friday morning coffee** has moved to the later time of 11am while Alpha is running.
- If you notice any **church maintenance issues** with the building or equipment please email them to [zionpremisesteam@gmail.com](mailto:zionpremisesteam@gmail.com) so that they can be efficiently dealt with by the maintenance team.
- Can you help behind the scenes on the **Teaching Weekend 10th & 11th March**? We need help with the PA, song projection (Friday evening and two sessions on Saturday morning), refreshments (drinks Friday evening, Saturday morning bacon rolls & Saturday mid-morning drinks), and helping run the children's work (Saturday morning (one or two sessions)). Please let the office know if you can help with any of these time slots over the weekend.
- There is **no 5pm** service next Sunday due to the teaching weekend.
- The first **Lent Lunch** is this Wednesday 12-2pm at the Emmanuel Centre in Battle.
- Please pray for **Melvyn** who is preaching at Sedlescombe church this morning.

# What's on this week...

Caterpillar Preschool (Monday to Friday) and Caterpillar Crew (Monday to Friday) plus:

**Sunday, March 5th.** ● 8am Breakfast in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 8.45am Chapel Gathering plus Youth Group. ● 10am Refreshments in the Manna House. ● 10.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 10.45am Chapel Gathering and communion plus Creche & Sunday Club. ● 5pm Informal Worship in the Chapel with Creche, Sunday Club and Youth Group. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.

**Monday, March 6th.** ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group. ● 7.30pm: Church Prayer and Praise.

**Tuesday, February March 7th.** ● 9.15am: Prayer-for-Healing Group (prayer room). At 10.45am there will be prayer for all who come. ● 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship. Speaker: Tim Spring from London City Mission ● 6.30pm OpenDoors Lent Course.

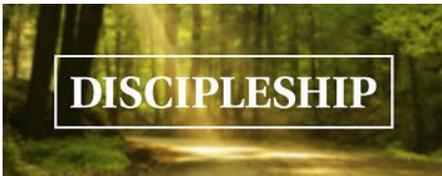
**Wednesday, March 8th.** ● 10-3pm Art and Craft Group in the Manna House. Bring a packed lunch, refreshments provided. £1.50. ● 12-2pm: Lent Lunch at the Emmanuel Centre. ● 5-6pm: BBFC Youth training. 6pm: BBFC training at Claverham 3g. ● 7pm: Battle Baptist Runners meet at the church.

**Thursday, March 9th.** ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group. ● 7pm: Alpha.

**Friday, March 10th.** ● 7.30am: Early Morning Prayer in the Youth Room followed by a 'do it yourself' breakfast. ● 9.15am Chatterbox for mums, dads and carers (upstairs). ● 9:15am: Alpha. ● 11am: Coffee Club (upstairs). ● 12.30pm: Friday Lunch Club for retired people. (Advance booking *essential* on 772192, weekdays between 6pm and 7pm.) ● 3.30-5pm: After School Club. ● 7-9pm: Teaching Weekend

**Saturday, March 11th.** ● 9am-1pm: Teaching Weekend.

**Sunday, March 12th.** ● 8am Breakfast in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 8.45am Chapel Gathering and communion plus Youth Group. ● 10am Refreshments in the Manna House. ● 10.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 10.45am Chapel Gathering plus Creche & Sunday Club.



## Church Teaching Weekend

10th—12th March at Battle Baptist Church.  
Pick up a booking form and book today.

Please pray for our students:

David Lewis - Theology @ Durham  
Cherise Hearne - Leicester Church Internship  
Callum Hearne - Psychology @ Nottingham  
Ben Gould - Primary Education @ Canterbury Christ Church  
Thom King - History @ Colchester  
Katie Walsh - Maths @ York  
Lara McNeill - Medicine @ Kings College London  
Rio Walsh - Philosophy, Ethics & Religion @ Leeds Trinity  
Jo Owst - Fine Art @ Falmouth  
Abi Jones - Psychology @ Kent  
Becky Abel - Psychology & Music @ Canterbury Christ Church

It is a massive encouragement to our students to receive contact from folk at Battle. If you would like to email or write to our students please contact the office for address details.

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## This week's prayer pointers

- ◆ Pray that the teaching weekend would be a time of growth and relationship building in the church.
- ◆ Pray for Andy and the Sports Reach team as they deliver Sports Reach Assemblies at local schools this week.

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## Dates for your diary

- ◆ Monday Night: 7.30pm Church Prayer and Praise
- ◆ Next Weekend: Church Teaching Weekend
- ◆ 1st April Men's breakfast.
- ◆ 7.30-9pm: 2nd May Church AGM

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Battle Baptist Church is part of Life with Hope Trust; registered charity 1134288, Mount Street, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0EG. • Website: [www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk) • Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: [office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk) • Caterpillar Preschool direct telephone line: (01424) 774997.



Ed Jones (Pastor) Francis Willoughby and Mark Hirst (Associate Pastors).  
Our other elders: John Southam (Church Manager); Rob Duffill (Treasurer); Andy and Jo Garlick; Ben Garlick.

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