



Watchman's

Prayer Letter

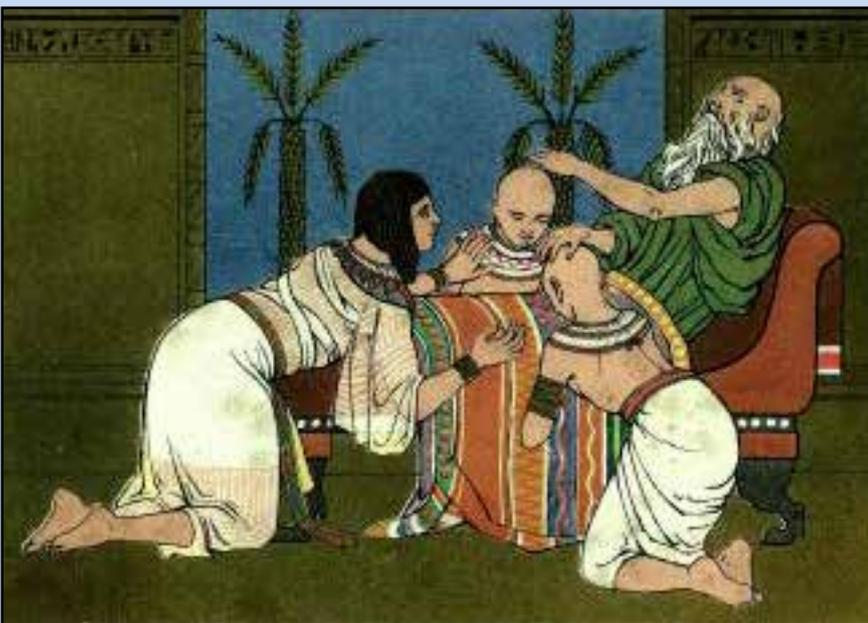
Christian Friends of Israel

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May you be Like Ephraim and Manasseh



Jacob with Ephraim and Manasseh (Illustration by Owen Jones from "The History of Joseph and His Brethren" - Wikimedia)

The Genesis account of the life of Joseph is both inspiring and encouraging. The favored son of Jacob by his beloved wife Rachel, Joseph soon finds he is the object of great contention with his ten older brothers. The contention quickly escalates to outright hatred as a plot to take Joseph's life ensues. From the pit, to the slavery caravan, to being sold in Egypt, the Word of God continues to remind us that through it all, "... *the Lord was with him.*" Finally arriving as a slave in Potiphar's house, we read in Genesis 39 verses 2-3... "*The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did...*"

Later at the hand of Potiphar's wife and her worldly desires and lies, he is imprisoned for a crime he did not commit. Yet, as before, verses 20-21 of Genesis 39 remind us, "...*But while Joseph was there in the prison, 21 the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.*"

Using the gift of interpretation of dreams that the Lord has given him, Joseph finally becomes the second in command of all of Egypt, subject to Pharaoh alone. This great story of triumph and inspiration is in itself, a great motivation for us as intercessors to stay the course, and know that in the darkest and most difficult of times, we must remain true to our Lord and our calling to be able to fulfill that which the Lord has placed before us.

While Joseph rose to power in Egypt just as the Lord had purposed, he was married to an Egyptian wife. He lived in a land whose religion was pagan, and idolatrous, completely opposite of that of the One True God of Israel. Yet in the midst of a foreign nation with a foreign god and all of the sinful nature around him, he is able to raise his children in the admonition of the Lord. His sons stayed true to the God of Israel and in the time of Moses, we see that Ephraim and Manasseh replace their father in the names of the 12 tribes of Israel and that remains through the rest of the Bible. Even today throughout the Jewish world, fathers bless their sons to be as Ephraim and Manasseh each Shabbat, a reminder I always keep close to my own heart. They pray that their sons will be like Ephraim and Manasseh, who were surrounded by a world of sin, idolatry, and wickedness, yet all the while remained strong and set apart, faithful to the God of Israel.

As true intercessors for Israel, you are certainly the same. People set apart from this world, seeking the face and perfect will of the God of Israel. We are living in a world full of anti-Semitic, anti-Jewish, and anti-Israel rhetoric that so comes against the Word of God. As you pray, consider that in using the gifts God has given you, you too will likely find this world full of sin, corruption, and wickedness having contention and even hatred against you, just as Joseph did. However, through every moment spent with our Lord, know that just like Joseph, the Lord is with you and granting you success in all you do. Remembering always to be as Ephraim and Manasseh, and remain set apart and true to the God of Israel in the midst of all things.

Let's lay our prayers at the foot of the Throne

For the nation of Israel

- **Please continue praying for** the ongoing protection of those near Gaza, even to Beersheba, as the rockets of Hamas continue to be fired from the Gaza region.
- **Seek the Lord's will in praying for** those in the north of Israel as Hezbollah continues to fortify their rocket arsenal in Lebanon, and even in Syria.
- **Ask the Lord** to bestow wisdom upon the people of the nation of Israel as Jerusalem goes forward with a new Mayor and the future of city planning continues.
- **Pray regularly for** the abundance of rain in the land of Israel in the winter months ahead, as the need for water and the filling of the Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee) is a great need for the lands.
- **Continue to pray** protection and safety for the defenders of Israel in the IDF, the Israeli Air Force, and Border Police.

For CFI in Jerusalem

- **Please continue to pray for** Sharon Sanders' ongoing healing, as well as for Ray as he continues to help her through her recovery.
- **Continue praying** that the enemy will be defeated in the attempt to come against the staff in Jerusalem as well as the CFI representatives in the nations.
- **Remember to pray for** the leading and work of the Holy Spirit as the Father continues to lay Jerusalem on the hearts and minds of those in the nations for the first time as they consider supporting Israel and her people.

In His service always,
Kevin Howard

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