

## **Sunday December 28, 2025**

### **First after Christmas**

Once there was a man whose name was Joseph, which means “God will add/increase.” Joseph had dreams, by which I do not mean that Joseph had hopes and aspirations. I mean that when Joseph slept, he had dreams. In one of his dreams there were twelve sheaves of wheat, and his sheaf was raised up above the other eleven, and the other eleven bowed down to the one that was raised up. Now I have to tell you, Joseph was the youngest of twelve brothers, and when his brothers heard about the dream they were incensed. Joseph was already their father’s favourite and they were envious of him, but the dream suggested that they would bow down to their younger brother which infuriated them. Then Joseph had another dream. The sun, moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to him. This dream suggested that not only would his eleven brothers bow down to him, but also his father and mother. The brothers could bear no more, and sold him as a slave, and he wound up in the land of Egypt.

Once there was a man whose name was Joseph, which means “God will add/increase.” Joseph had dreams, by which I do not mean that Joseph had hopes and aspirations. I mean that when Joseph slept, he had dreams. In one of his dreams an angel spoke to him and told him to marry the girl to whom he was betrothed, despite the fact that she was with child by another. And he was to name the child Jesus (Greek/Latin, or Joshua in Hebrew) which means “God saves.” And Joseph did as the angel instructed. Then Joseph had another dream. Again an angel spoke to him and told him to take the infant and his mother and flee for their very lives to the land of Egypt.

In Egypt, Joseph found favour with his master and rose to be appointed the overseer of his master’s household and all that the master owned. But his master’s wife was wicked, and because he did not do as she wished, she made sure that he was cast in prison for attempting to rape her. Now Joseph not only

had dreams, but he was able to interpret dreams. In the prison were two members of Pharaoh's household – his cupbearer and his baker. Those two had dreams of their own, but did not understand their meaning. Joseph, however, was able to correctly interpret the dreams.

In the fullness of time, Pharaoh had dreams of his own, but did not understand their meaning. The cupbearer, who had been restored to Pharaoh's household, told Pharaoh about Joseph, the interpreter of dreams. Pharaoh summoned Joseph, who interpreted the dreams. Pharaoh, like Joseph's first Egyptian master, was impressed with Joseph and made him his number two.

In the fullness of time, Joseph had yet a third dream. Again an angel appeared and spoke to him. The tyrant, Herod the Great, who had sought to kill the child Jesus, and who had killed many children in his attempt, was dead. The threat had passed and it was time to return to the promised land.

Again, in the fullness of time, a drought fell on the land. Joseph had prepared Egypt for the drought and food had been stored in anticipation of the drought. The Egyptians had food. Joseph's father and brothers, however, did not. Their father, Jacob (which means "he will follow," or "supplanter," or "heel-catcher") who was renamed Israel after wrestling throughout the night with an unknown man (which means "he who struggles with God," or "God contends," or "God perseveres") sent his sons to the land of Egypt to buy food. In the end, Joseph and all of his brothers and their parents were reunited and the family was saved from starvation by Joseph.

After four hundred and thirty years in Egypt, the descendants of Joseph and his eleven brothers, who numbered six hundred thousand men, plus children, left Egypt to return to the land that God has promised to Abraham and his descendants.

Joseph and his wife and their family did as the angel instructed and returned to the land that God had promised to Abraham and his descendants. And this time, instead of Joseph, it was Joseph's step-son who saved his family, the family of humankind, the family of God.

When God speaks to you in a dream, do not ignore it, for you never know who you will wind up saving.