

Yosef's (Joseph's) spiritual gifts

Parashot Miketz ([B'reishit/Genesis 41-44:17](#)), Vayigash ([B'reishit/Genesis 44:18 – 47:27](#), ([B'reishit/Vayechi Genesis 47:28 – 50](#)) 5783 B"H

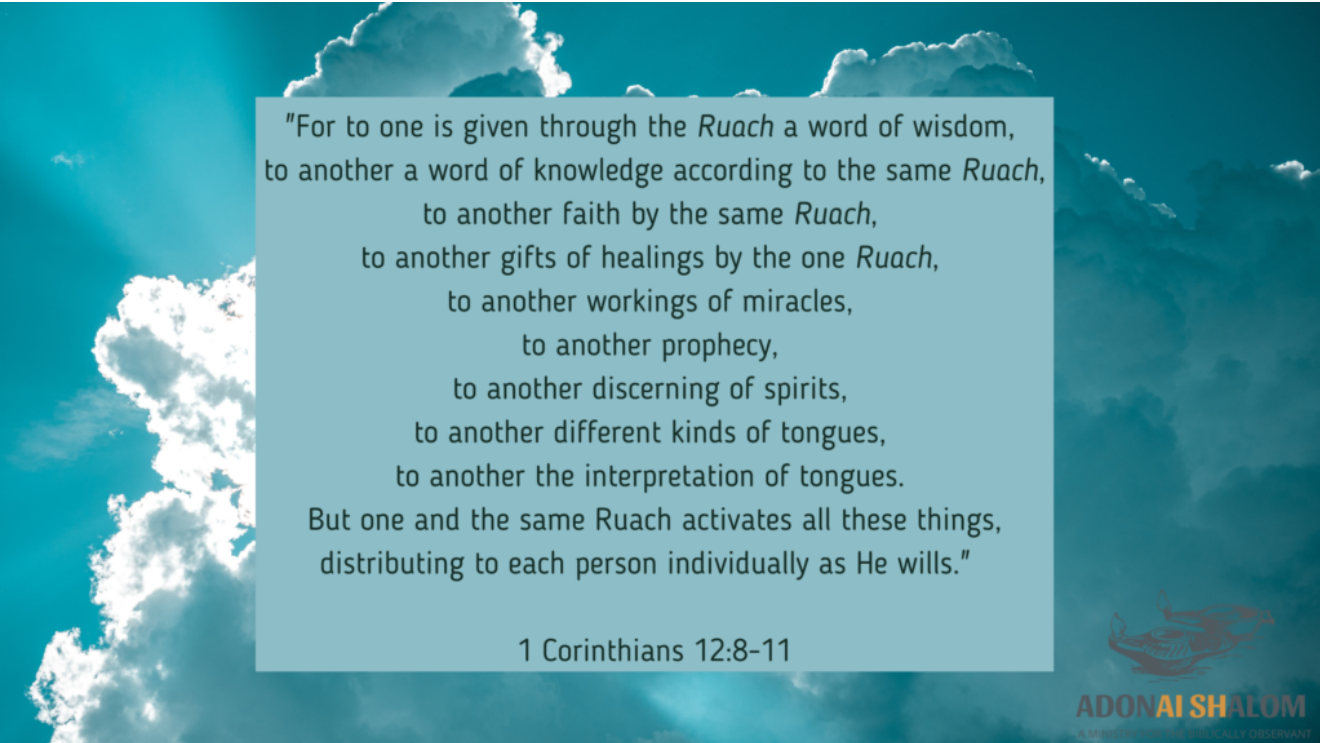
Yosef (Joseph) was blessed with spiritual gifts that helped him overcome adversity and rise to an important position in the Egyptian government.

"Then Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can a man like this be found, one in whom is God's Spirit?" Genesis 41:38

The Spiritual Gifts/Gifts of the Holy Spirit (*Ruach haKodesh*)

When we think about the gifts of the Holy Spirit (*Ruach haKodesh*), we very rightly turn to the *B'rit Hadasha* (New Testament), namely [1 Corinthians 12:8ff](#):

*"For to one is given through the *Ruach* a word of wisdom, to another a word of knowledge according to the same *Ruach*, to another faith by the same *Ruach*, to another gifts of healings by the one *Ruach*, to another workings of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same *Ruach* activates all these things, distributing to each person individually as He wills."*
[1 Corinthians 12:8-11.](#)



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1 Corinthians 12:8-11

We know that **these spiritual gifts continue to operate today** and that the Holy Spirit (*Ruach haKodesh*) provides these supernatural spiritual gifts to empower believers to reach the world with the life-saving and life-changing Good News of our Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ). These gifts have absolutely *not* ceased! They continue to bless the people of God around the world.

The 9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit (*Ruach haKodesh*) include:

1. Word of Wisdom
2. Word of Knowledge
3. Faith
4. Healings
5. Working of Miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of spirits
8. Speaking in tongues
9. Interpretation of tongues

Yosef clearly walked in wisdom and faith. The Bible testifies that he was not only favored, but also productive:

[“A fruitful son is Joseph, a fruitful son beside a spring – daughters walk along a wall.” Genesis 49:22, TLV](#)

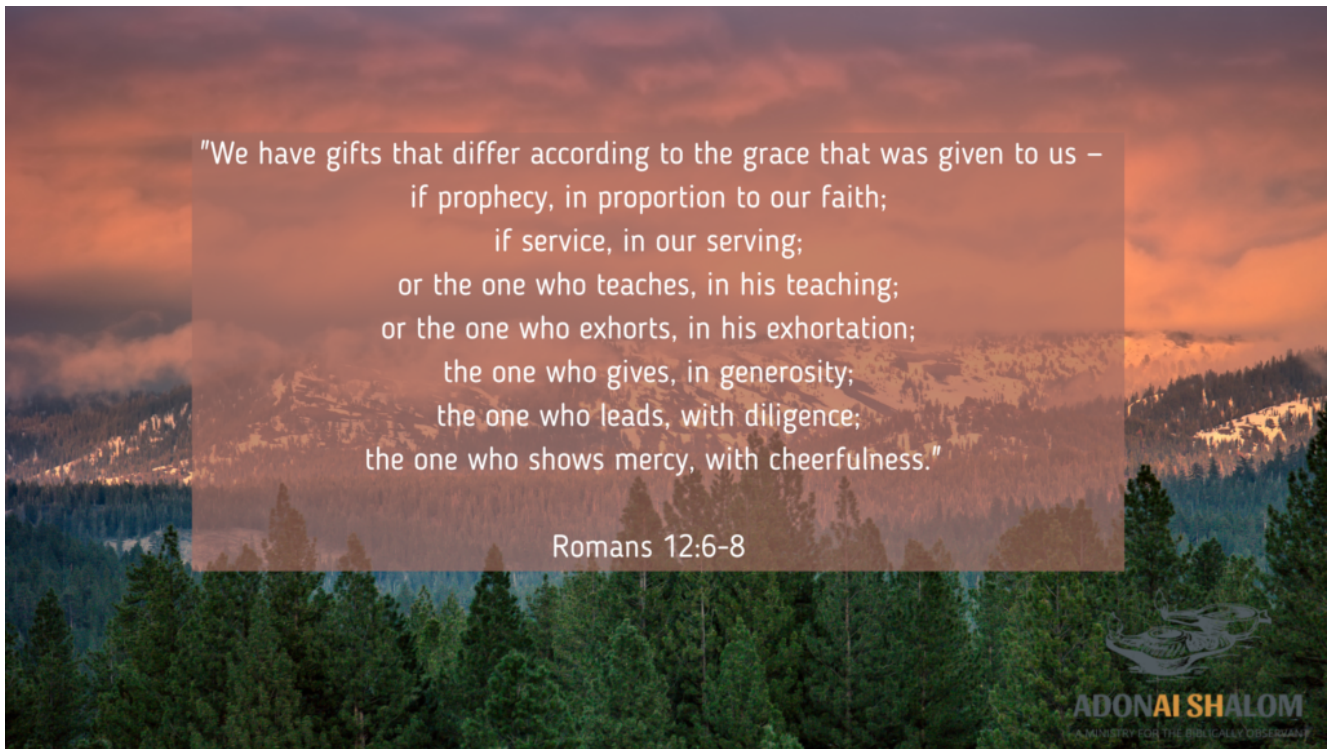
[“Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well; his branches run over the wall.” Genesis 49:22, NKJV](#)



Hebrew is a visual language, painting pictures with words. The same term is used to describe both [“daughters”](#) and [“branches”](#) which is why there are differences in the translations above. In any case, Yosef (Joseph) was revered as an exemplar son.

[Romans 12:6-8](#) also describes spiritual gifts given to believers:

[“We have gifts that differ according to the grace that was given to us – if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; or the one who teaches, in his teaching; or the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who gives, in generosity; the one who leads, with diligence; the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”](#)



The Gifts of the Spirit . . . in the book of Genesis?

The “infilling of the Holy Spirit” (*Ruach haKodesh*), also known as the [“baptism of the Holy Spirit,”](#) occurred following Yeshua’s (Jesus’) ascension into heaven. What made the Pentecostal event so unique is that it had lasting effect: **every single believer present and in prayer received the promise of the Father.** The Comforter would now dwell inside the believers and empower them with the spiritual gifts to reach the world with the Full Gospel.

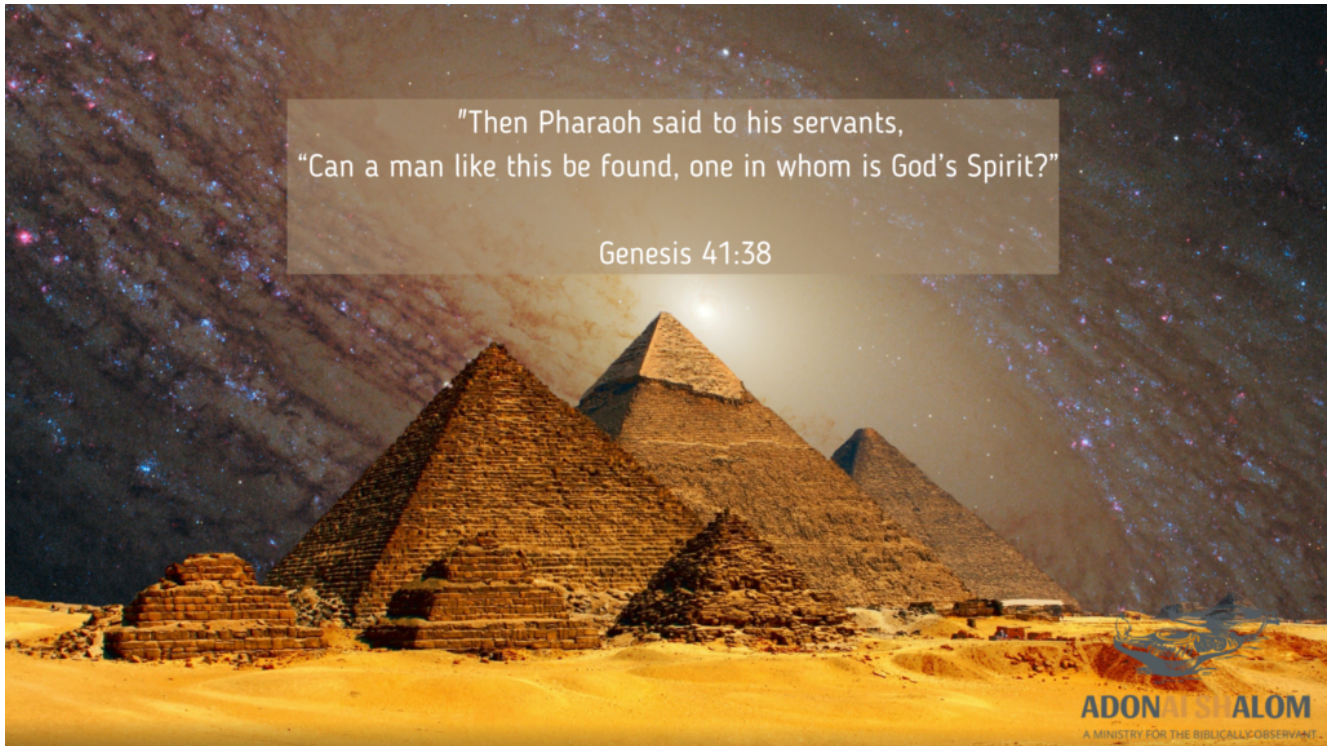
In the book of *B’reishit/Genesis*, as well as the rest of *Tanakh* (the Old Testament), the Spirit of the LORD came upon individuals, for certain tasks, for certain times. One could be filled with the Holy Spirit, but it appears to have been more of a *temporary* anointing.

This is important because Yosef (Joseph) was therefore able to operate under the anointing of the LORD even though this was pre-*Shavu’ot* (pre-Pentecost). Yosef (Joseph) was filled with

custom-tailored spiritual gifts that would manifest as he interacted with those around him.

Even Pharaoh noticed:

[“Then Pharaoh said to his servants, ‘Can a man like this be found, one in whom is God’s Spirit?’” Genesis 41:38](#)

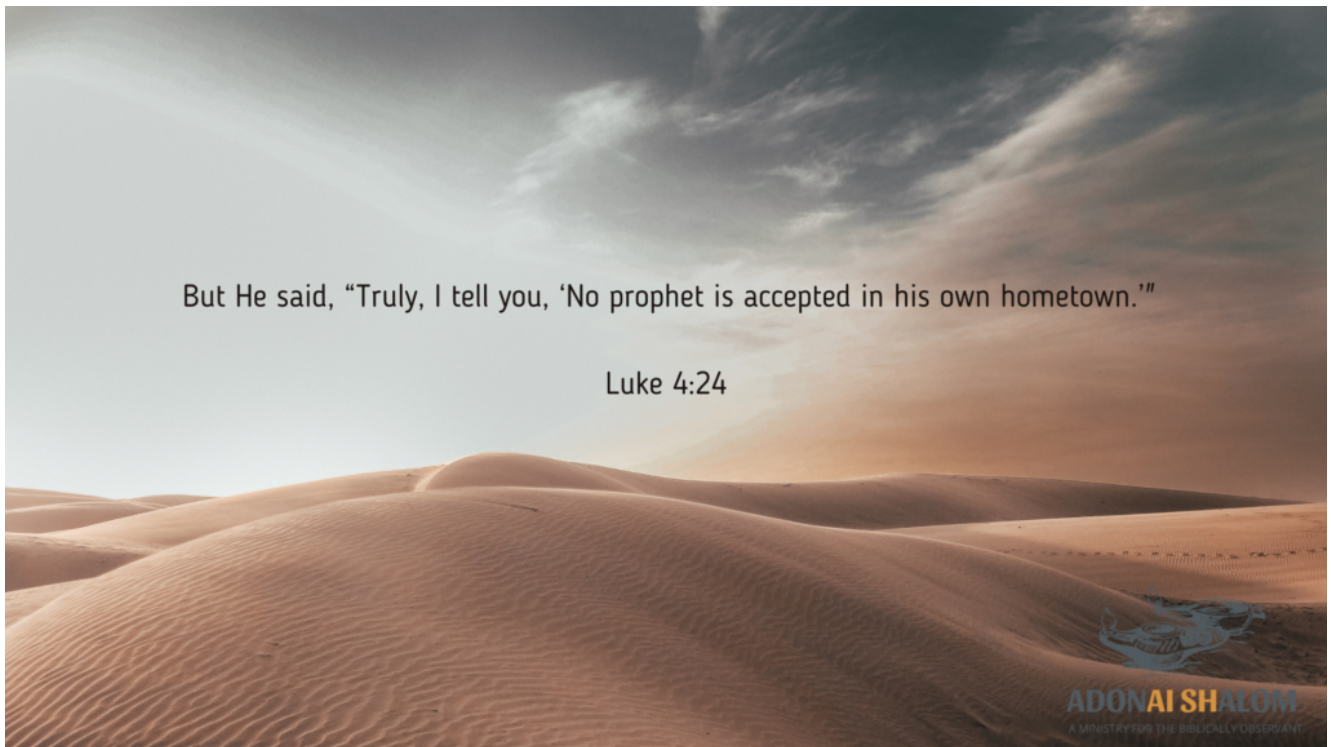


The pharaoh – the king over a wealthy nation steeped in its own complex mythology was able to recognize that the Spirit of God was in Yosef (Joseph).

Yosef’s Prophetic Dreams and Ability to Interpret Dreams

From a young age, Yosef (Joseph) had prophetic dreams.

Rightly does Yeshua (Jesus) teach us: [“Truly, I tell you, ‘No prophet is accepted in his own hometown.’” Luke 4:24](#)



But He said, "Truly, I tell you, 'No prophet is accepted in his own hometown.'"

Luke 4:24

Those early dreams really didn't need interpretation – their meaning was immediately evident to Yosef's (Joseph's) brothers, and they were *infuriated*.

While the means by which Yosef (Joseph) arrived in Egypt was far from pleasant, he was actually better off away from his native land. His prophetic giftings would be perceived differently in Egypt: his spiritual gifts were valuable to Pharaoh and the other Egyptian officials!

The Pharaoh's cupbearer and the baker had dreams that they could not understand:

["Then Joseph said to them, "Don't interpretations belong to God? Please tell me." Genesis 40:8](#)

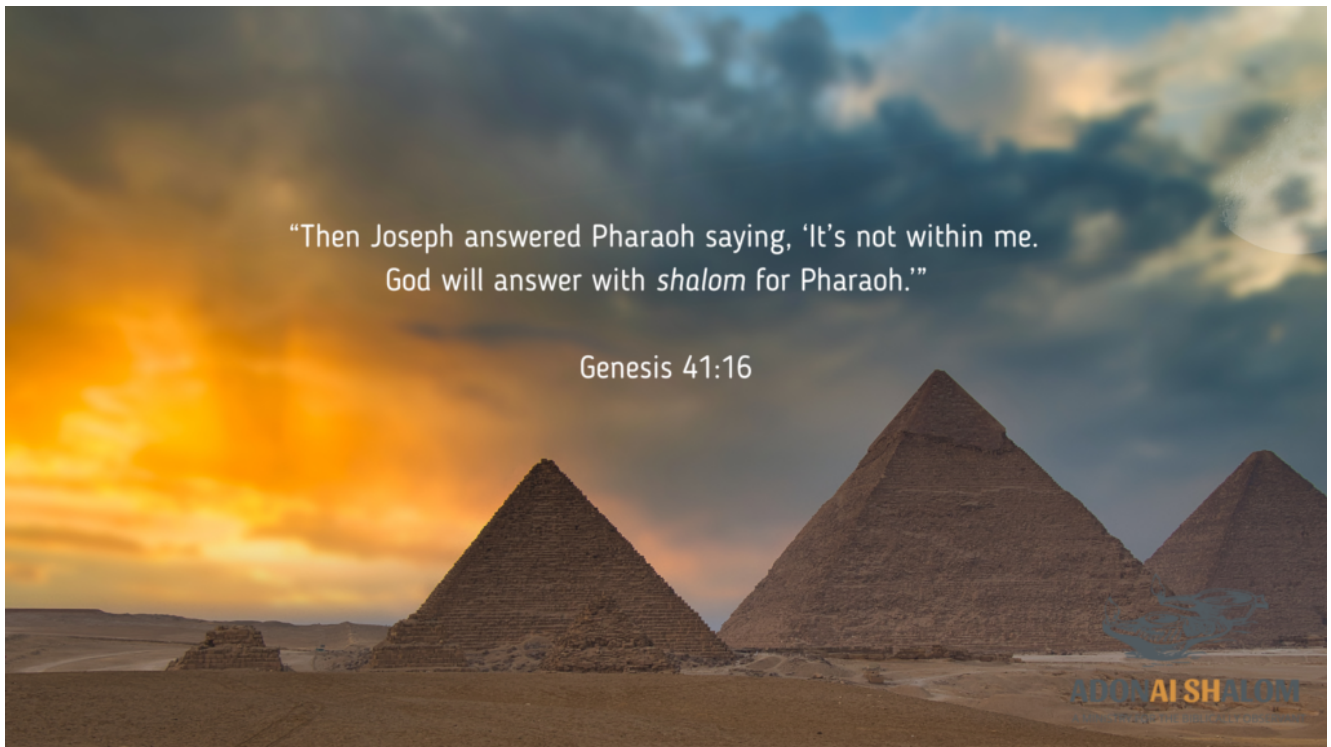
Yosef (Joseph) wisely recognized that the ability to interpret dreams required submission to the God of Israel.

When Pharaoh, too, dreamed, Yosef (Joseph) was also able to interpret those dreams.

***Shalom* for . . . Pharaoh?**

Demonstrating wise leadership skills, Yosef (Joseph) also very astutely helped the Pharaoh to have peace with the process:

[“Then Joseph answered Pharaoh saying, ‘It’s not within me. God will answer with *shalom* for Pharaoh.’” Genesis 41:16](#)



This granted him great favor in the land of Egypt and propelled his successful future forward. It didn’t matter where he was from or the struggles he had had to endure, he was an immigrant to Egypt and would serve as second-in-command to Pharaoh.

When the enemy has planned evil, remember, God plans it for good:

[“Yes, you yourselves planned evil against me. God planned it for good, in order to bring about what it is this day—to preserve the lives of many people.” Genesis 50:20](#)



ADONAI SHALOM
A MINISTRY FOR THE BIBLICALLY OBSERVANT

"Yes, you yourselves planned evil against me. God planned it for good,
in order to bring about what it is this day—
to preserve the lives of many people."

B'reishit/Genesis 50:20



Pharaoh usually represents the enemy, but this pharaoh was actually good to Yosef and his people, so this Pharaoh was blessed with *shalom*.

Prophetic Giftings can make the enemy very nervous

A New Pharaoh

Yosef (Joseph) was like a token Hebrew. He represented the Hebrew/Israelite people (*whether he wanted to or not!*). They were a minority in Egypt, but their numbers were growing.

By [Exodus 1:8-9](#), a new Pharaoh had ascended to the throne and was distressed about the number of God's people who were living in Egypt.

Yosef (Joseph) had died by then, but his life had left a legacy and as spiritual gifts are meant to do – the Israelite people had been empowered in knowing that one of their own had served Pharaoh so closely.

The new Pharaoh didn't know Yosef (Joseph) nor his spiritual

gifts, but perhaps he had heard some stories. He didn't have the *shalom* that was brought about by listening to God's servant as in the days of Yosef (Joseph).

He clearly perceived the Israelites as a threat to the security of his nation.

Why a threat? Maybe he had heard that there lived among the Hebrews . . .

Some who had supernatural abilities . . .

Some who had the ability to interpret dreams without calling upon the gods of the Egyptians . . .

Some who served a God who foretold and controlled prosperity and famine . . .

Only the LORD God of Israel alone could provide true dream interpretation and true spiritual gifts.

That could be **very unsettling to a ruler who had paid seers and magicians to plead with their gods and use works of imitation as part of the national culture.**

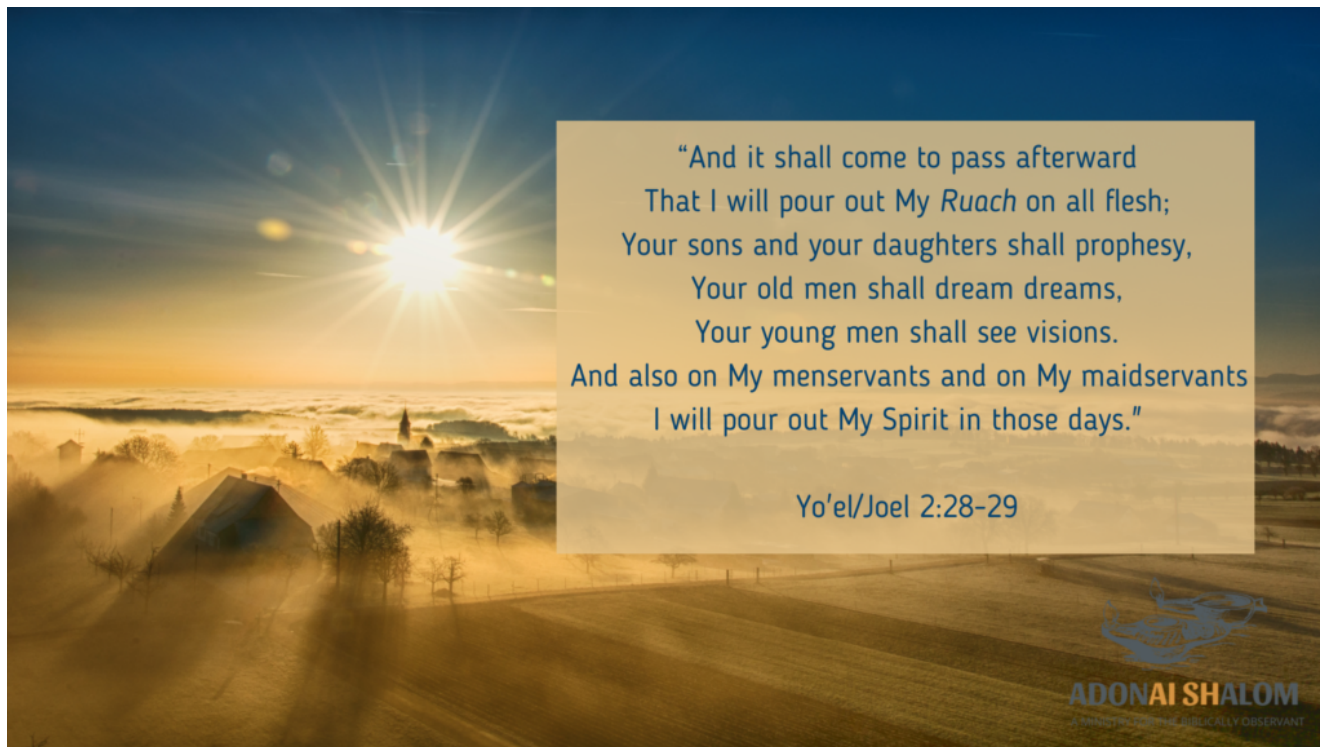
If your spiritual gifting is making the enemy nervous, you are probably doing something right!

The Spirit of God (*Ruach Elohim*) is at work today

Do you realize that today, God has given us amazing spiritual power? It is so abundantly clear that we are living in the last days foretold by the Prophet Yo'el (Joel):

["And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams,](#)

Your young men shall see visions.
And also on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.” Joel 2:28-29



Those who serve the LORD will prophesy and dream dreams and see visions. The outpouring of the Spirit of the Most High has blessed entire nations.

Missionaries report that in Iran today, so many people are receiving dreams and visions of our Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) that they are converting *en masse*! New believers are being baptized in a country that is so hostile to the Gospel. The LORD continues to work! We must pray for the Iranian believers!

There are so many other examples of how the Holy Spirit (Ruach haKodesh) is working in the world today. And YOU have the opportunity to be a part of that!

Pharaoh noticed that the Spirit of God (*Ruach Elohim*) was in Yosef (Joseph):

Has anyone ever said that about you?

Is it that abundantly clear to a nonbeliever that in YOU dwells the very Spirit of the LORD by adoption and mercy?

Is it obvious that God's Holy Spirit works in you and through you to bless others and testify of His power and greatness?

How are you using your spiritual gifts for His glory?

Today, seek the LORD's will for your life. Ask Him to use your spiritual gifts for the purposes of His Kingdom. May you walk in favor, like Yosef!

Escaping Egypt

Parashat B'shalach [Shemot/Exodus 13:17-Exodus 17](#)

“After Pharaoh had let the people go . . . ” Ex.13:17a

These words of Scripture are well-known to the children of the LORD because here the Word of God describes what happened “after Pharaoh had let the people go . . .” ([Ex.13:17a](#)).

We know this book in English as “Exodus” precisely because of this very central event.

Building a new dream

The oppression was over. No longer would the children of Israel (*b'nei Yisra'el*) be forced to build up Pharaoh's dreams of towering monuments and elaborate buildings. Now they could [build up the dream](#) that had nearly been buried within them – a dream to live in freedom under the authority of their King,

the King of kings, the God of Israel.



Adonai brought them out of Egypt and was wise in the way in which He led them to their next destination.

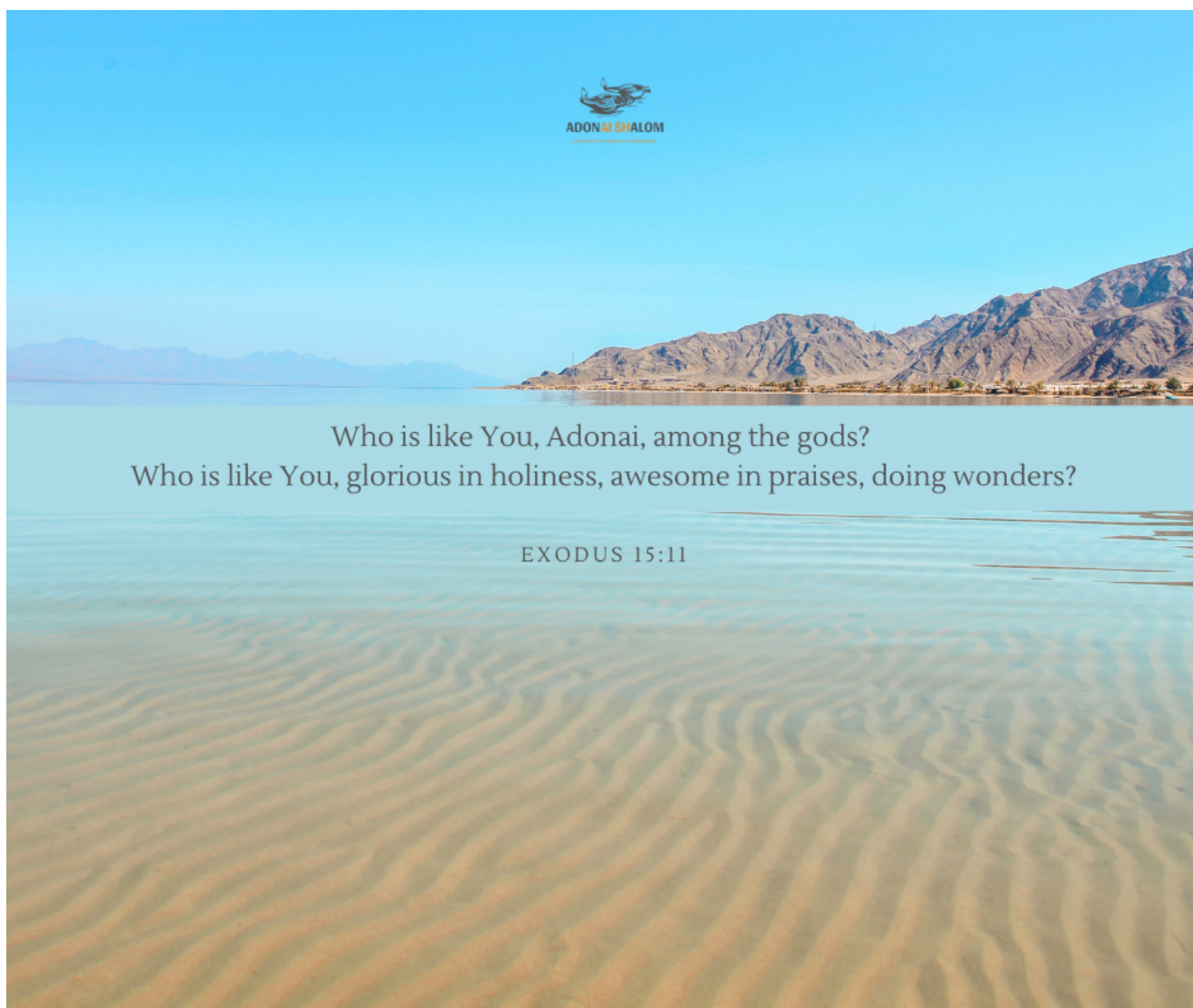
Leaving Egypt in faith or in fear? Probably a little bit of both!

Undoubtedly, some of the people of Israel would have been walking out of Egypt as though on eggshells, fearful that their previous masters would come and round them up to shackle them back into their previous enslavement. Their trepidation was not unfounded.

Surely the young ones would have tried to run ahead to get away as quickly as their youthfulness could carry them.

The elders who had the wisest of faith could walk with their heads held high – confident that the LORD had been with them all along, and would not fail them.

They would have sang their own songs just as Moshe (Moses) and Miryam (Miriam) sang and danced in the desert after the Red Sea Crossing.



The LORD's faithfulness to His people to bring them out of Egypt and through tough times has inspired so many expressions of this truth.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.

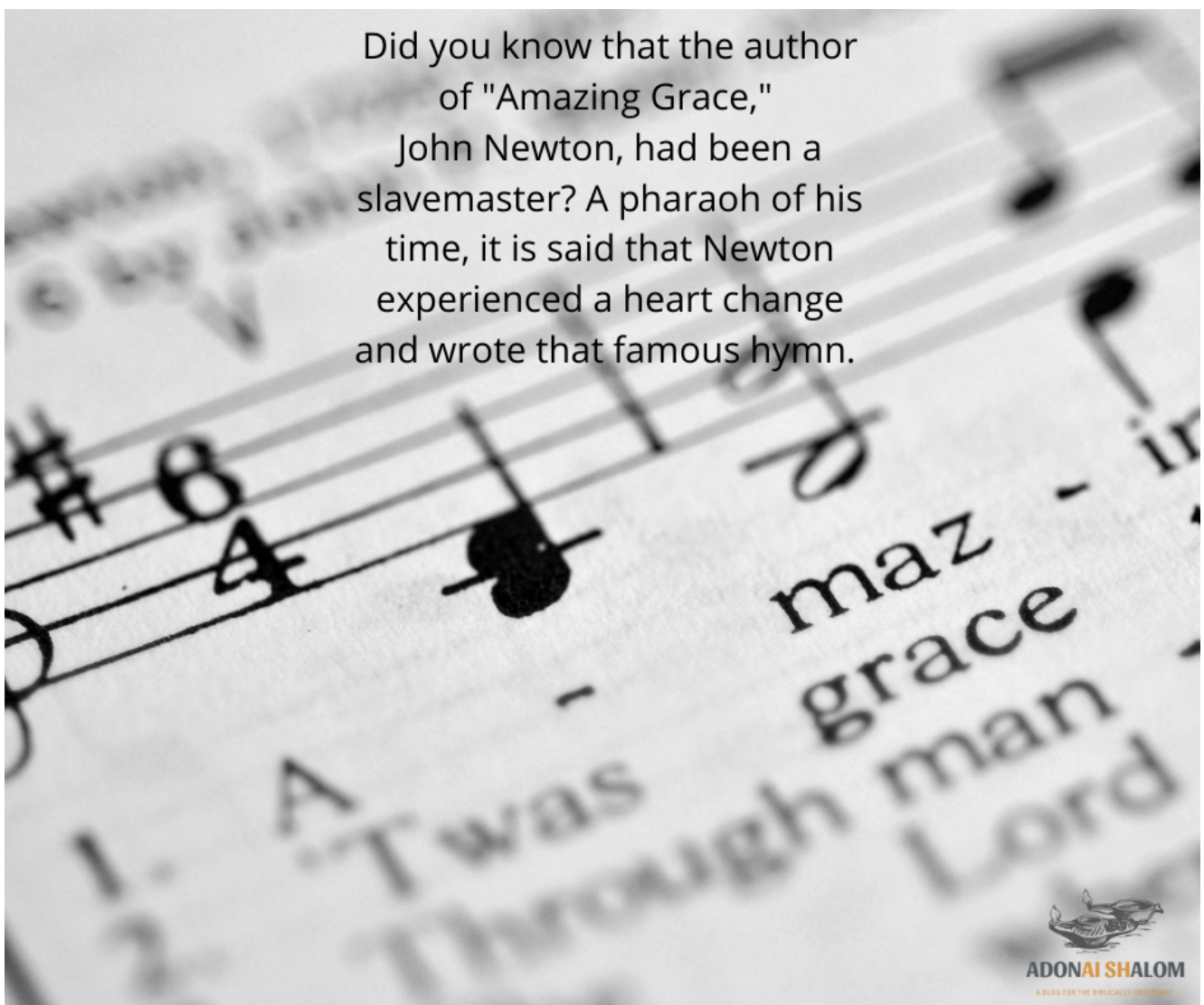
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

Amazing Grace, John Newton, 1779

Did you know that the author of "Amazing Grace," John Newton, had been a slavemaster? A pharaoh of his time, it is said that Newton experienced a heart change and wrote that famous hymn.

How great a salvation that can change hearts so dramatically.

Things could have been different for the Pharaoh of Moses' time, but he refused to repent and found his end at the bottom of the Red Sea.



The LORD has done something wondrous in your life! Be confident therefore that He who promised you is faithful ([Hebrews 10:23](#)). As Rabbi Sha'ul (Paul) wrote to the Philippians: ["He who began a good work in you will carry it on](#)

[to completion until the Day of Messiah Yeshua.”](#)

It is easy to become fearful, especially when you sense the dangers in life.

The enemy wants to paralyze you with fear, but you can fight back.

Allow the Ruach haKodesh (the Holy Spirit) to endue you with His Holy power and help you to walk in the wisdom of faith.



Philippians 1:6

How to handle enemy threats:

remember the LORD alone is Sovereign

One road out of Egypt would have led the Israelites straight into the land of one of their enemies: the Philistines.

This passage begins with the concern from the LORD Himself that [“...The people might change their minds if they see war ...” Exodus 13:17](#)

You may be interested to observe that this parasha also **ends** with talk of war [\(Ex.17:8ff\)](#).

You can be living a very holy life, full of faith, and walking in the freedom granted to you by faith in G-D's Son, Messiah Yeshua (Jesus), but that doesn't mean you will not face difficulties.

The enemy will want to surround you, but the LORD Most High decides when He will allow this. The enemy isn't all-powerful and he must submit to his limitations. Only ADONAI is All-Powerful. Only ADONAI is All-Merciful and All-Knowing, Ever-Present, and Worthy that we put our trust in HIM alone. He will give you the Victory over the enemy!

Are you easily disheartened?

Are you ready for the battles ahead?

The LORD in His Divine Sovereignty knew that many of the people would lose heart and return to their Egyptian taskmasters if they had to face war so soon. [“...The people might change their minds if they see war and return to Egypt.” Exodus 13:17](#)

The people were armed [\(Ex.13:18\)](#) but they would not have to fight the Philistines, not yet. The LORD would help them navigate the Sinai Peninsula at a pace that they could handle (since many of them had a grumbling and quarreling habit).

Surely the wandering in the wilderness would give them a stamina they would need once they did engage in future conflicts.

Israel faced attack by the Amalekites

It wasn't long when the Israelites had to indeed fight. They were attacked at Rephidim by the Amalekites. Amalek was a grandson of Esau, and sadly the Amalekites became known as a defiant and evil people. They were so terrible toward Israel that Jewish tradition today equates Amalek to pure evil and darkness. If you know the story of Hadassah (Esther), [Haman the evildoer](#) was, you guessed it, an Amalekite. The Amalekites took advantage of the seeming weakness of the Israelites in the wilderness, but by the lifting of hands – Moshe's in this case – Yehoshua (Joshua) under Moses' leadership, led the Israelites to victory.

The Amalekites' behavior was so wicked that ADONAI told Moshe, ["Write this for a memorial in the book, and rehearse it in the hearing of Joshua, for I will utterly blot out the memory of the Amalekites from under heaven."](#) Ex.17:14

ADONAI NISSI

It was after this victory that Moshe (Moses) established an altar, naming it "The LORD is my banner:" **"ADONAI NISSI."**

You may enjoy this song that speaks to the victories of the Exodus days. I particularly enjoy this song around Passover, but it is perfect for this parasha, and any time of year of course! His victories never fade, and every day, all year, He is worthy of our exaltation and adoration. He has delivered us and brought us a mighty long way!

Egypt – Bethel Music

If you are looking for another beautiful worship song that relates to this parasha, perhaps you will enjoy this lovely song which uses the words of Revelation 15 describing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb.

The Song of Moses by Paul Wilbur

[And they are singing the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and wonderful are Your deeds, Adonai Elohei-Tzva'ot! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations! Who shall not fear and glorify Your name, O Lord? For You alone are Holy. All the nations shall come and worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed!" Revelation 15:3-4](#)



The LORD promises to deliver you

Perhaps you are going through a [difficult time](#) right now. Many of us are weary from the ongoing pandemic. Some have been affected by the economic uncertainties and the rising inflation. Perhaps someone you know or loved succumbed to Covid-19. You are not alone.

What ever Egypt you find yourself bound up in, the LORD has promised to deliver you. If you have placed your trust in Him, He will help you through this and bring you to a promised land in which you will find rest and comfort, and peace. Do not fear when the enemy tries to attack you from your blindspots.

Do not take a step out of Egypt only to go back into it.

Wait on the LORD and He will guide you safely across the seas of doubt, depression, anguish, illness, or financial ruin.

He will guide you safely across even when the winds of change or storms of fury attempt to sink your lifeboat. Have faith!

You might even graduate from walking through the waters to walking on the water!

Meet your Savior, Messiah Yeshua, Jesus, the One who calls us all to have enough faith to walk on the waters, keeping our eyes fixed on Him!

Shalom!

Has this message encouraged you today? Please leave a comment! We'd love for you to subscribe to our email newsletter and keep in touch with others who can encourage your walk with Messiah Yeshua!

[Hidden on purpose, for a purpose: Yokheved's son, Moses](#)