

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

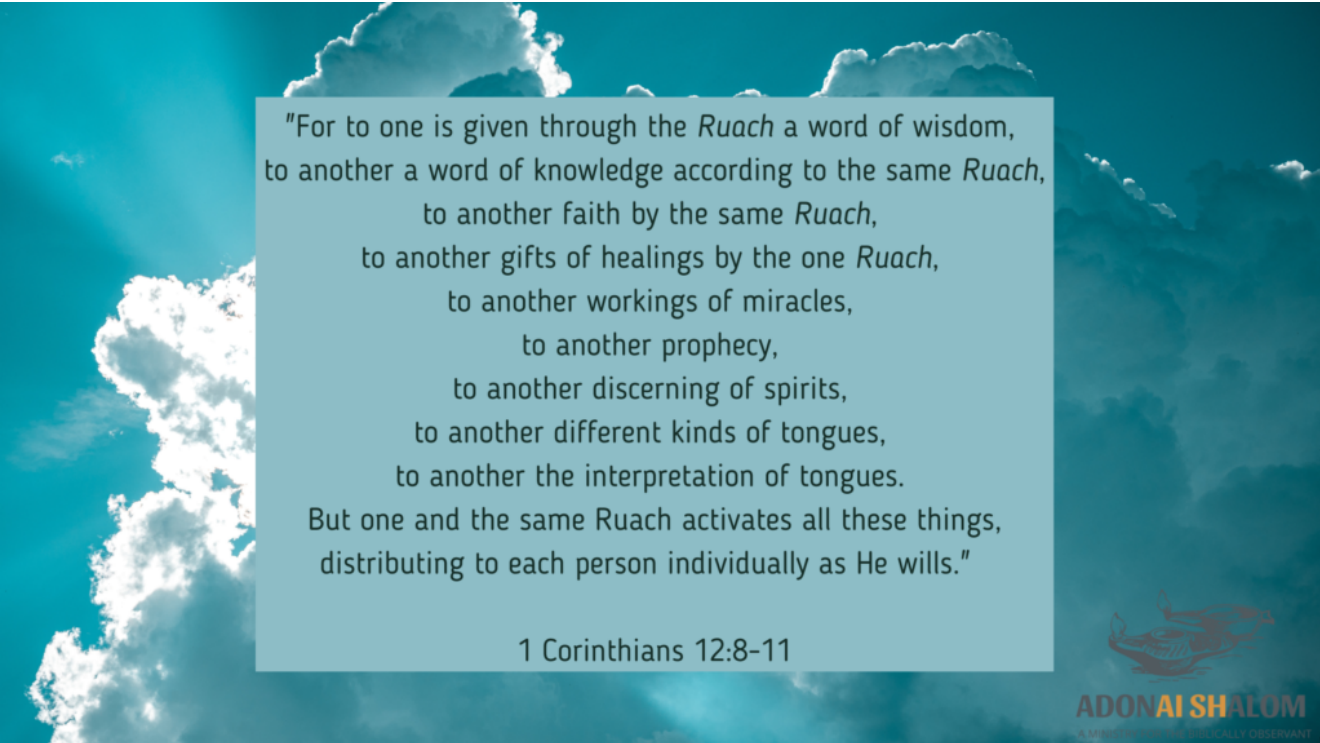
Yosef (Joseph) was blessed with spiritual gifts that helped him overcome adversity and rise to an important position in the Egyptian government.

"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](#)

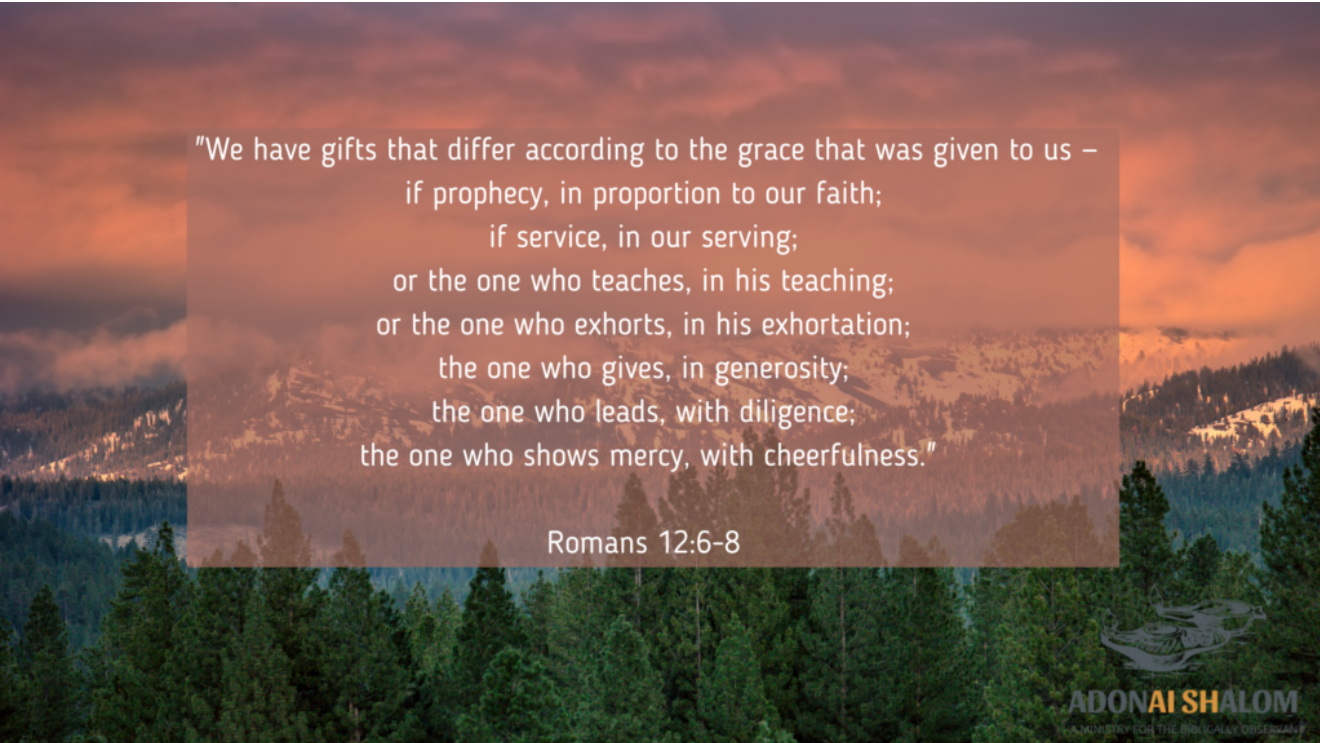
[“Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well; his branches run over the wall.” Genesis 49:22, NKJV](#)



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.”](#)



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Romans 12:6-8

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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.

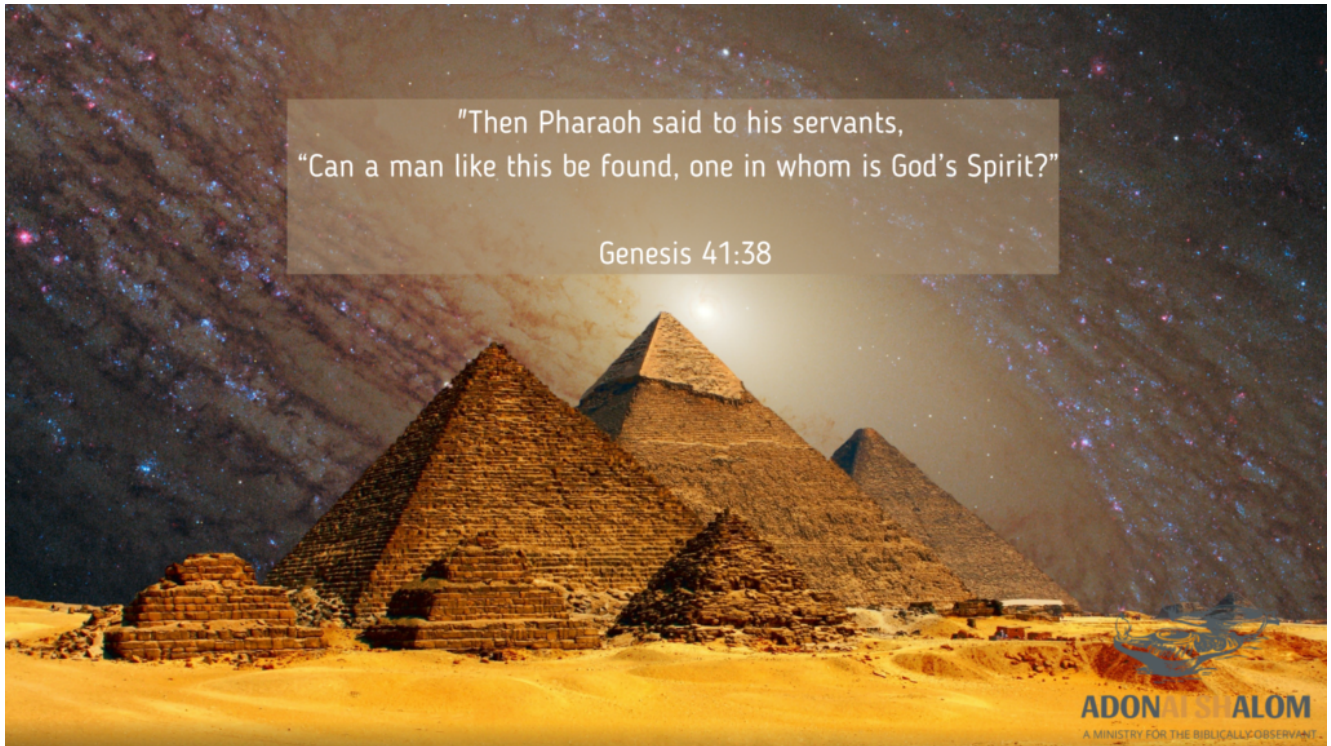
In the book of *B'reishit*/Genesis, as well as the rest of *Tanakh* (the Old Testament), the Spirit of the LORD came upon individuals, for certain tasks, for certain times. One could be filled with the Holy Spirit, but it appears to have been more of a *temporary* anointing.

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](#)

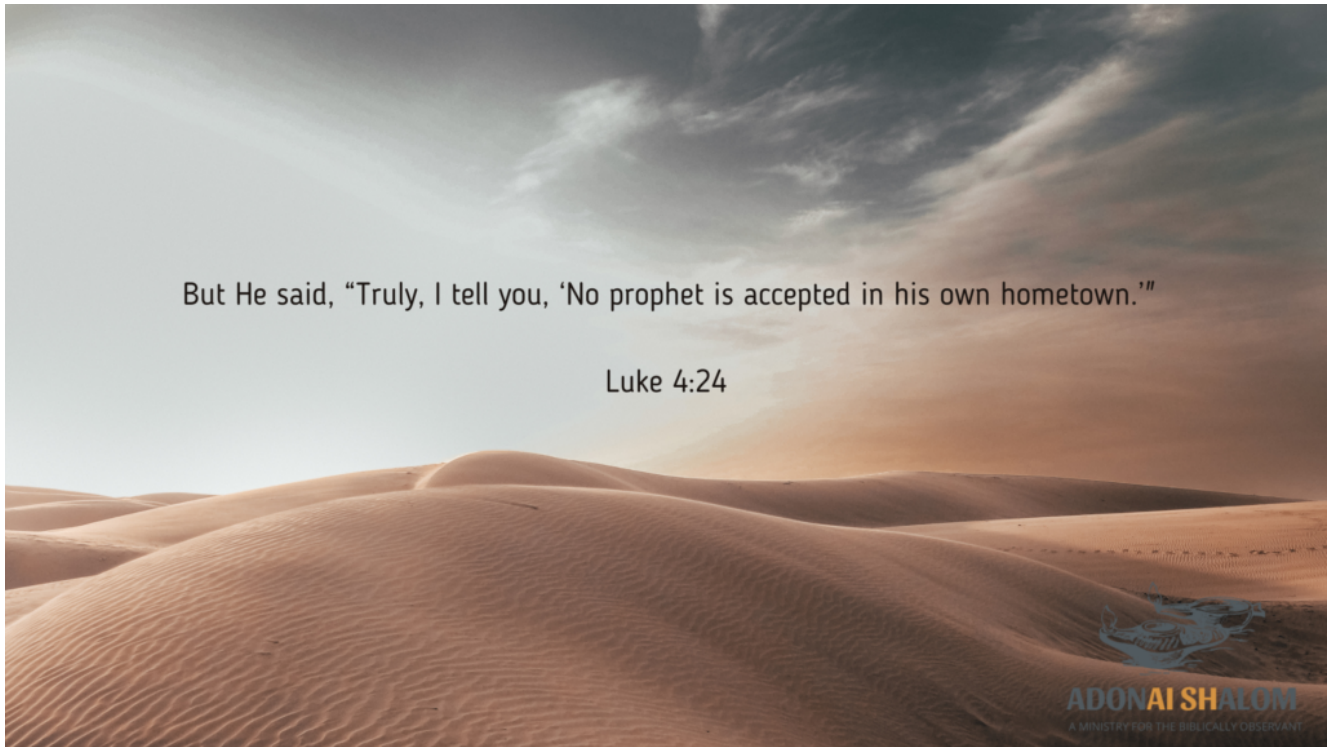


The pharaoh – the king over a wealthy nation steeped in its own complex mythology was able to recognize that the Spirit of God was in Yosef (Joseph).

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](#)

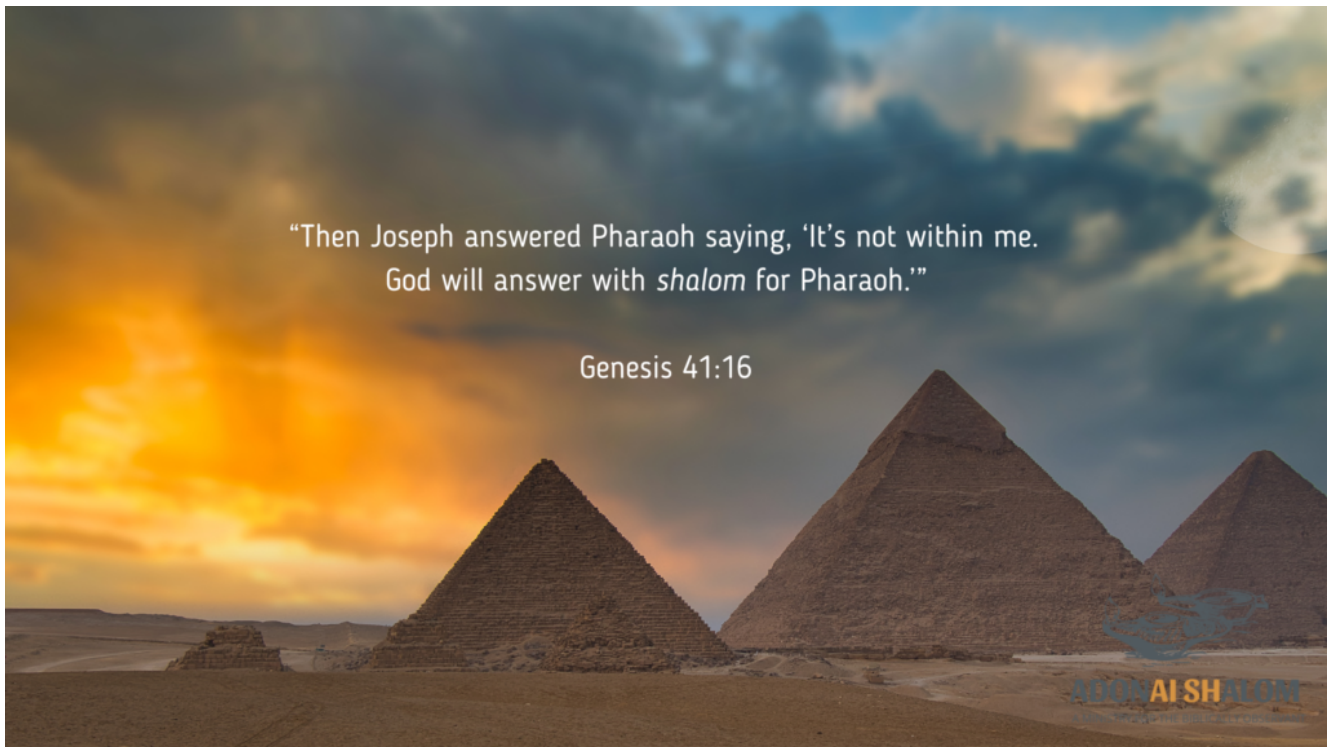
Yosef (Joseph) wisely recognized that the ability to interpret dreams required submission to the God of Israel.

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](#)



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"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.**

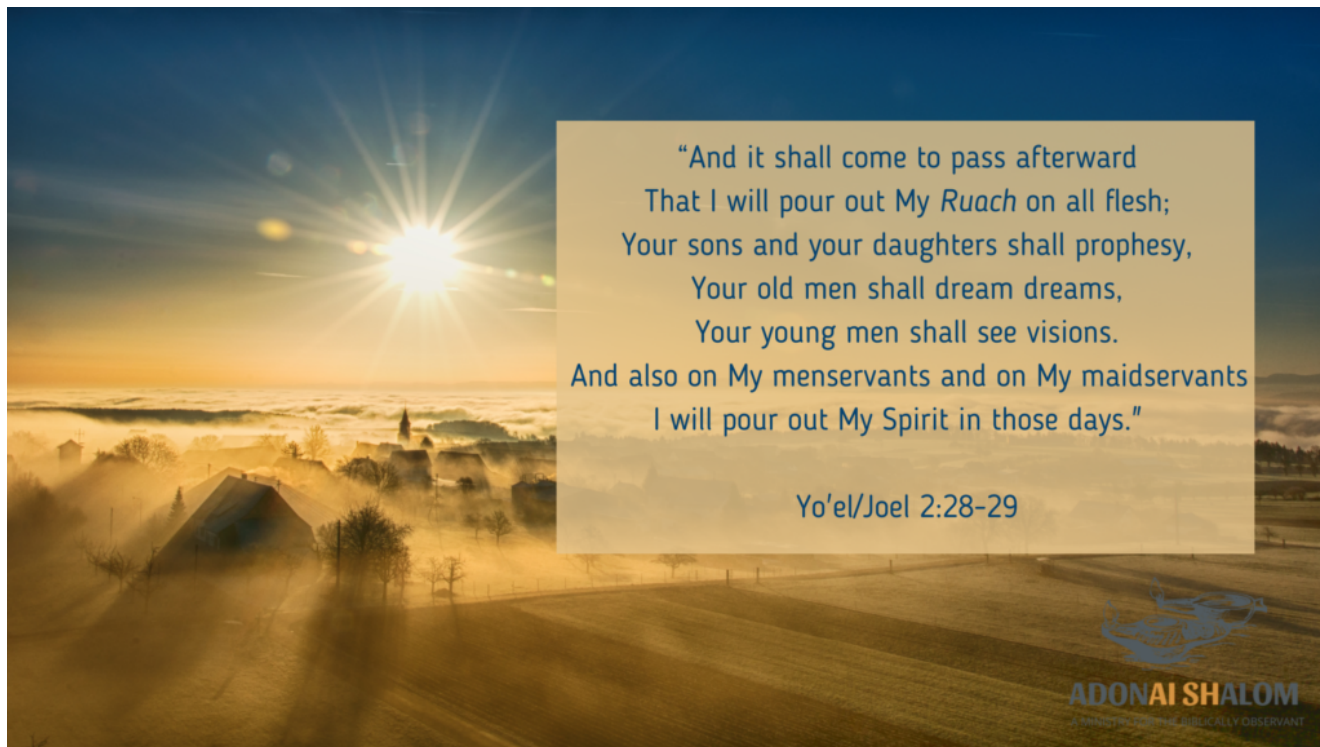
If your spiritual gifting is making the enemy nervous, you are probably doing something right!

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!

Yosef (Joseph) : Favor & Shaḥom

Parashat Vayeshev ([B'reishit/Genesis 37-40](#)) 5783 B"H

Last week in our study of [Timna & Amalek](#), we considered how rejection can fuel anger, bitterness, violence, and absolute hatred. These attributes exist to rob us of peace, of *shalom*, and we do well to learn from the Biblical examples of dysfunction and consequence to protect ourselves from falling into those same traps.

The marked divisions and dysfunction that plagued [Esav \(Esau\) and Yaacov](#) (Jacob)'s relationship would continue to stealthily inject the stains of sin into future generations.

Yaacov (Jacob) [now-Israel] had 12 sons, who would become the first of the tribes of Israel.

But before that would happen, many of the brothers would act as young brothers sometimes do –

selfish,

jealous,

and conniving.

Was there room for grace?

Would there be any *shalom*?

Could this family overcome the temptations brought on by rivalry and habitual distrust?

Yosef (Joseph) had favor, but . . . he, too, had to deal with a complicated family life

He was perceived as a tattletale

The second-to-youngest son in Yaacov's family was Yosef (Joseph), and when he was just a 17-year-old young man, he ["brought back a bad report about \[his brothers\] to their father" \(Genesis 37:2c\).](#)

Well, no one likes a tattletale, and if he was already 17, maybe Yosef (Joseph) had been tattletaling on his older brothers ever since he could walk.

*Now, I am **not** here to defend Yosef's (Joseph's) brothers.*

Scripture does not tell us why Yosef (Joseph) felt he needed to give a **bad report** to Yaacov (Jacob)]; but given how these brothers treated Yosef (Joseph) in significant future events, it is absolutely probable that they *were* truly doing something terrible that was **well-worth the risk of being labeled a tattler.**

Indeed, Yosef (Joseph) "the informant" was well-received by

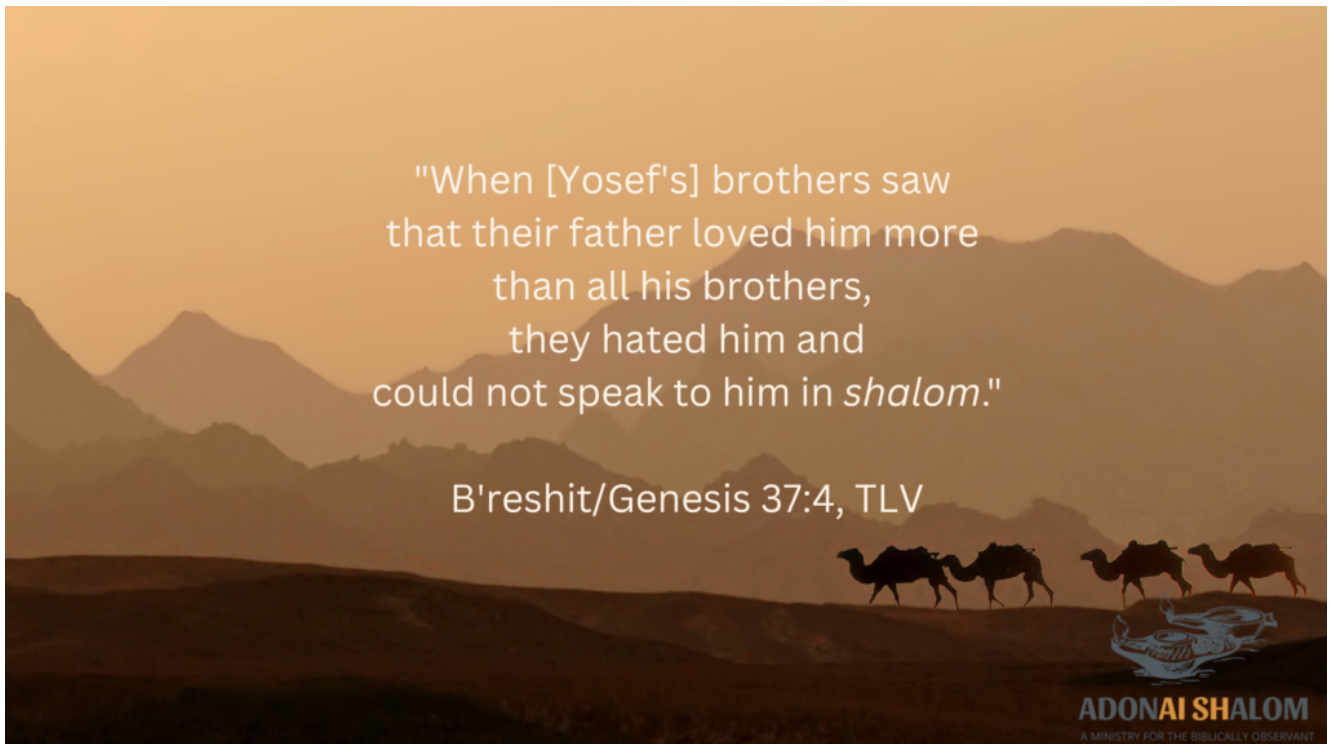
his father, and

[“\[Yaacov\] loved \[Yosef\] more than all his brothers . . .”](#)
[\(Genesis 37:4\).](#)

Yaacov made his son Yosef (Joseph) the famous long-sleeved tunic that is often called the “coat of many colors.” [\(Genesis 37:3\).](#)

His brothers resented him

[“When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak to him in *shalom*.”](#) Genesis 37:4, TLV, *emphasis added*



To me, this is a very appropriate translation.

But, let's look at a few different translations of [Genesis 37:4](#) because there is disagreement among scholars about the very best way to translate *l'shalom* here. (*Any time you find a discrepancy between different translations, this indicates that the translators are having a difficult time expressing Hebrew idiom in modern English.*)

Shalom is more than a simple “peace”

The Hebrew term, “shalom,” is usually translated quite simply as, “peace.”

But the true meaning of “shalom” has a greater depth to it.

“Shalom” refers to an all-encompassing peace, wholeness, completeness, healthfulness, and overarching prosperity.

Here is the original Hebrew:

שָׁלוֹם שָׁלוֹם שָׁלוֹם שָׁלוֹם שָׁלוֹם
שָׁלוֹם שָׁלוֹם שָׁלוֹם שָׁלוֹם שָׁלוֹם
שָׁלוֹם שָׁלוֹם, WLC, *emphasis added*

Translators have wanted to express the fullness of the term, so they describe it in these ways:

“When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they began to hate him and reached the point where they couldn’t even talk with him in a **civil manner.**” Genesis 37:4, Complete Jewish Bible, *emphasis added*

“But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not **speak peaceably to him.**” Genesis 37:4, NKJV, *emphasis added*

“And his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and **could not speak to him on friendly terms.**” Genesis 37:4, NASB, *emphasis added*

Each translation is basically saying the same thing, but their **nuanced differences give us a clue as to the deeper meaning** of “peace” that is intended by the original language.

In English, “peace” has lost a lot of its power in our culture today, but the God of the Bible wants you to experience a

genuinely powerful and wholly total depth of peace – *shalom* – that is found only when you live under the favor of the Almighty!

Maintaining your *shalom* when those around you make that difficult

The term, “grace,” is commonly defined as “*unmerited favor.*”

Yosef (Joseph) walked in this type of favor – and to do so, he would have needed to know how to maintain his inner peace.

He faced so much adversity in life!

How did Yosef (Joseph) overcome being sold into slavery by his own brothers?! [\(Genesis 37:27\)](#)

He learned to walk in grace.

His brothers’ (also unmerited) *evil* actions toward Yosef (Joseph) helped form in him a **perseverance** and **self-confidence** that would lead him to become Egypt’s second-in-command.

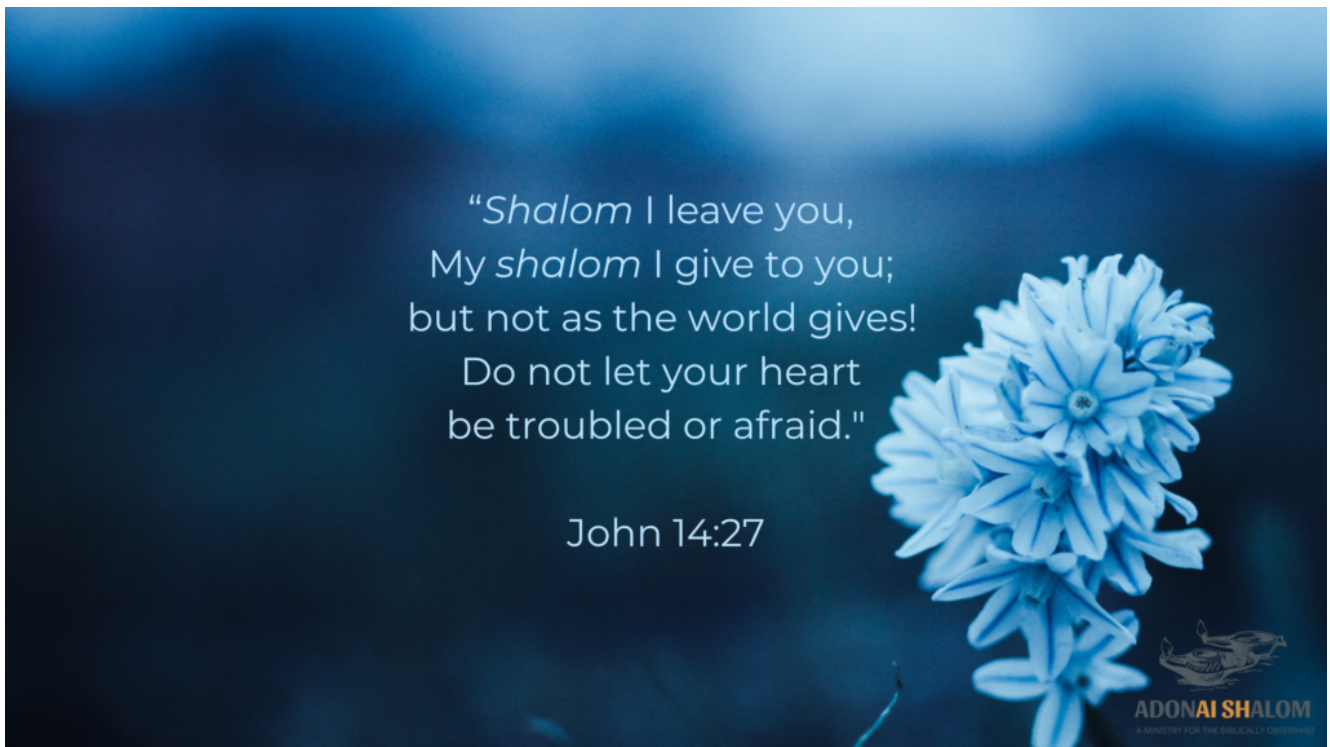
Now, of course, Messiah Yeshua had not yet come to endow full-fledged grace and forgiveness and mercy, but the LORD did choose to use young Yosef (Joseph) to demonstrate and foreshadow the favor that comes when we trust in His Son.

So how can you, like Yosef (Joseph), triumph when those around you conspire for your demise, make false accusations against you, or look for ways to either literally or figuratively incarcerate you?

How can you walk in *shalom*?

1. Know the Word of God: [“*Shalom* I leave you, My *shalom* I give to you; but not as the world gives! Do not let your heart be troubled or afraid.” John 14:27](#)

2. Trust the Word of God
3. Be filled with the Word of God



Our Savior Yeshua (Jesus) is the Word made flesh – the Word Incarnate. ["And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. We looked upon His glory, the glory of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth."](#) John 1:14

When we know His Words – what He said, what He taught, what He proclaimed, and what He lived, we can learn to trust Him at His very Word. Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ) embodied the Word and demonstrated that by His Holy Spirit (Ruach haKodesh) we, too, can live in the peace that surpasses all understanding and find our *shalom* in Him.

As we mature in the faith, we learn that trust becomes synonymous with peace, because He fills us with His Spirit – the Spirit of the LORD – whose power overcomes all our fears and doubts. The enemy may stir up trouble like he did for Yosef (Joseph) or try to cause us all sorts of anguish and anxiety, but if we truly trust in the One who is Mighty to Save, we will maintain true inner *shalom*.

We must be filled with His Word! We need the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Ruach haKodesh)! So seek Him today and [be filled – Be filled with the Holy Spirit! \(Ephesians 5:18\)](#) Learn about the true meaning of *shalom* and pray that the LORD will help you to truly live in the fullness of His *shalom* today!