

December 31, 2022

Yoseph, The Dreams and the Aleph Tav

I believe what I am about to share with you today revolves around what we call here "Divine Appointments" that is a situation orchestrated by Adonai for the purpose of Him being able to reveal more about Himself to the person we encounter. Adonai uses us, His creation to further the advances and expansion of His Kingdom. Yeshua conveys to us...

Luk 24:44 Yeshua said to them, "This is what I meant when I was still with you and told you that everything written about me in the Torah of Moshe, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled."

Luk 24:45 Then he opened their minds, so that they could understand the Tanakh,

Luk 24:46 telling them, "Here is what it says: the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day;

Luk 24:47 and in his name repentance leading to forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to people from all nations, starting with Yerushalayim.

Luk 24:48 You are witnesses of these things.

In last week's Parsha, Mikeitz we continue on the journey that is Yosef's life having been sold by his brothers and ending up in Mitzraim, Egypt.

Yosef currently resides in prison after the false accusations by Potifar's wife. While in prison he would encounter two of Pharaoh's servants, the chief cup bearer and the baker. Each of them would have dreams that no one would be able to interpret for them.

Gen 40:7 He asked Pharaoh's officers there with him in the prison of his master's house, "Why are you looking so sad today?"

Gen 40:8 They said to him, "We each had a dream, and there's no one around who can interpret it." Yosef said to them, "Don't interpretations belong to God? Tell it to me, please."

Yosef has experience with dreams already if you will recall the two dreams recounted in Bereshit (Genesis) 37...

Gen 37:7 We were tying up bundles of wheat in the field when suddenly my bundle got up by itself and stood upright; then your bundles came, gathered around mine and prostrated themselves before it."

and...

Gen 37:9 He had another dream which he told his brothers: "Here, I had another dream, and there were the sun, the moon and eleven stars prostrating themselves before me."

In both instances those with whom Yosef told the dreams too understood them. His brothers mocking him...

Gen 37:8 His brothers retorted, "Yes, you will certainly be our king. You'll do a great job of bossing us around!" And they hated him still more for his dreams and for what he said.

While his father rebuked him...

Gen 37:10 He told his father too, as well as his brothers, but his father rebuked him: "What is this dream you have had? Do you really expect me, your mother and your brothers to come and prostrate ourselves before you on the ground?"

These past experiences in Yosef's life are preparation for what is to come. Yes the dreams are prophetic in these instances, though not all dreams are prophetic in our lives, these ones specifically are. Yosef's first dream experience convey what will happen to him and his family some 20 years later. While the dreams Yosef interprets for the chief cup bearer and baker will lead to a divine appointment with none other than Pharaoh himself, an appointment with the most powerful man in the world, leader of the most powerful nation in the world at this time.

It would be through the experience of the cup bearer who would be the one to make the connection. Yosef would hear about his dreams and offer an interpretation...

Gen 40:12 Yosef said to him, "Here is its interpretation: the three branches are three days.

Gen 40:13 Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office: you will be giving Pharaoh his cup as you used to when you were his cupbearer.

Gen 40:14 But remember me when it goes well with you; and show me kindness, please; and mention me to Pharaoh, so that he will release me from this prison.

The only request Yosef seeks after providing the cup bearer with an interpretation is to remember him when he is released and restored to his position.

Some time would pass when we read about Pharaoh and his dreams...

Dream 1:

Gen 41:1 At the end of two years, Pharaoh had a dream: he was standing beside the Nile River;

Gen 41:2 and there came up out of the river seven cows, sleek and fat; and they began feeding in swamp grass.

Gen 41:3 After them, there came up out of the river seven more cows, miserable-looking and lean; and they stood by the other cows at the edge of the river.

Gen 41:4 Then the miserable-looking and lean cows ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. At this point Pharaoh woke up.

Dream 2:

Gen 41:5 But he went to sleep again and dreamt a second time: seven full, ripe ears of grain grew out of a single stalk.

Gen 41:6 After them, seven ears, thin and blasted by the east wind, sprang up.

Gen 41:7 And the thin ears swallowed up the seven full, ripe ears. Then Pharaoh woke up and realized it had been a dream.

What is interesting about these two dreams as compared to the others in Yosef's experience is the presence of the standalone Alef Tav in both of these dreams with Pharaoh. The King of Kings is communicating with the King of Israel through his dreams.

Yeshua has unlocked the mystery of the standalone Alef Tav found in the Hebrew Bible. Two letters together, making a sound yet not translated into any other language, represent a Divine marker whereby Adonai has infused His fingerprint of His son within Scripture.

Rev 22:12 "Pay attention!" [*says Yeshua,*] "I am coming soon, and my rewards are with me to give to each person according to what he has done.

Rev 22:13 I am the 'Alef Tav', the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

Hence there is more to glean from the verses as they appear. Adonai has embedded a divine marker that points to Messiah. We know that Yosef is related to Yeshua as the suffering servant, Mashiach ben Yosef, Messiah son of Yosef, not by direct blood line but relationally. Is Yeshua not the one who reveals the mysteries of the Kingdom to His talmidim?

In the first dream here is where the Alef Tav appears...

Gen 41:4 Then the miserable-looking and lean cows ate up (Alef Tav) the seven sleek, fat cows. At this point Pharaoh woke up.

וְתֹאכְלֵנָה הַפָּרוֹת רְעוֹת הַמְרֻאָה וְדָקֹת הַבְּשָׂרִים אֵת שִׁבְעַת
הַפָּרוֹת יֶפֶת הַמְרֻאָה וְהַבְּרִיאֹת וַיִּקַּץ פַּרְעֹ

This indicates to me that the famine that is to occur is at the hands of Adonai for His purpose. Just as we read that those who will not come up to Jerusalem to worship King Messiah will not receive water...

Zec 14:16 Finally, everyone remaining from all the nations that came to attack Yerushalayim will go up every year to worship the king, Adonai-Tzva'ot, and to keep the festival of Sukkot.

Zec 14:17 If any of the families of the earth does not go up to Yerushalayim to worship the king, Adonai-Tzva'ot, no rain will fall on them.

We have seen such profound experiences occur, yet they are not random, but with specific purpose.

1Ki 17:1 Eliyahu from Tishbe, an inhabitant of Gil`ad, said to Ach'av, "As Adonai the God of Isra'el lives, before whom I stand, there will be neither rain nor dew in the years ahead unless I say so."

For Ya'akov (James) conveys this about Eliyahu...

Jas 5:17 Eliyahu was only a human being like us; yet he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and no rain fell on the Land for three years and six months.

Jas 5:18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the Land produced its crops.

Amo 4:7 "I withheld the rain from you three months before the harvest. I made it rain on one city and not on another—one field had rain, while another with no rain dried up;

Amo 4:8 from two or three cities they would stagger to one city for water to drink, but there wasn't enough; still you haven't returned to me," says Adonai.

In association with the curses Adonai has revealed should the nation not follow

His ways...

Deu 28:23 "The sky over your head will be brass and the earth under you iron.

Deu 28:24 Adonai will turn the rain your land needs into powder and dust that will fall on you from the sky until you are destroyed.

Each example for which there are many more are intended for Adonai's purpose. Thus He is not random in His action nor is His intent whimsical.

The occurrence of the Alef Tav in the second dream affirms Adonai's intent that there will be seven good years followed by seven lean years.

Gen 41:7 And the thin ears swallowed up the seven full, ripe ears. Then Pharaoh woke up and realized it had been a dream.

וּתְבַלְעֵנָה הַשְּׂבָלִים הַדְּקוֹת אֶת שֶׁבַע הַשְּׂבָלִים
הַבְּרִיאוֹת וְהַמְּלֹאוֹת וַיִּקַּץ פַּרְעֹה וַהֲגִיה עָלָיו

The dreams associated with Yosef were prophetic in that they came from Adonai and would come to reality for the test of a prophet being truly from Adonai is found in accuracy.

Deu 18:20 " 'But if a prophet presumptuously speaks a word in my name which I didn't order him to say, or if he speaks in the name of other gods, then that prophet must die.'

Deu 18:21 You may be wondering, 'How are we to know if a word has not been spoken by Adonai?'

Deu 18:22 When a prophet speaks in the name of Adonai, and the prediction does not come true—that is, the word is not fulfilled—then Adonai did not speak that word. The prophet who said it spoke presumptuously; you have nothing to fear from him.

What is Adonai's intent here?

Ultimately it will be to fulfill the prophecies that had already been revealed earlier in Yosef's life while at the same time reuniting and restoring the family of Ya'akov. For it is because of the famine that is to occur and the elevated position of Yosef in Egypt that sets the stage for this reunion.

Does this not amplify the words of Sha'ul...

Rom 8:25 But if we continue hoping for something we don't see, then we still wait eagerly for it, with perseverance.

Rom 8:26 Similarly, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we don't know how to pray the way we should. But the Spirit himself pleads on our behalf with groanings too deep for words;

Rom 8:27 and the one who searches hearts knows exactly what the Spirit is thinking, because his pleadings for God's people accord with God's will.

Rom 8:28 Furthermore, we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called in accordance with his purpose;

Rom 8:29 because those whom he knew in advance, he also determined in advance would be conformed to the pattern of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers;

Rom 8:30 and those whom he thus determined in advance, he also called; and those whom he called, he also caused to be considered righteous; and those whom he caused to be considered righteous he also glorified!

Is this not a summation of Yosef's life. Yosef was actually a pattern by which the Son of God would emulate, one who would suffer on behalf of His own brethren not to mention the rest of the world.

The dreams are reiterated when Pharaoh tells them to Yosef...

Gen 41:17 Pharaoh said to Yosef, "In my dream, I stood at the edge of the river;

Gen 41:18 and there came up out of the river seven cows, fat and sleek; and they began feeding in the swamp grass.

Gen 41:19 After them, there came up out of the river seven more cows, poor, miserable-looking and lean—I've never seen such bad-looking cows in all the land of Egypt!

Gen 41:20 Then the lean and miserable-looking cows ate up (Alef Tav) the first seven fat cows.

וְתֹאכְלֵנָה הַפָּרוֹת הַרְקוֹת וְהָרְעוֹת אֶת שִׁבְעַת
הַפָּרוֹת הָרְאשֹׁנוֹת הַבְּרִיא

Gen 41:21 But after they had eaten them up, one couldn't tell that they had eaten them; because they were as miserable-looking as before. At this point I woke up.

Gen 41:22 But I dreamed again and saw seven full, ripe ears of grain growing out of a single stalk.

Gen 41:23 After them, seven ears, thin and blasted by the east wind, sprang up.

Gen 41:24 And the thin ears swallowed up (Alef Tav) the seven ripe ears. I told this to the magicians, but none of them could explain it to me."

וּתְבַלְעֵנָה הַשְּׂפֵלִים הַדַּקִּת אֶת שֶׁבַע
הַשְּׂפֵלִים הַטּוֹבוֹת וְאָמַר אֶל־ הַחֲרֻטָּמִים וְאִין

The standalone Alef Tav is also seen in the reiteration of Pharaoh's dreams offering a second witness that the dreams pertaining to the famine are from Adonai. For it is by faith that we trust in Adonai and the One who is sent.

Adonai did not leave Yosef unprepared or without His wisdom to prepare. For it was through Yosef and his faithfulness to Adonai that Egypt would prosper and His family restored.

For Yosef conveys to his brothers...

Gen 45:4 Yosef said to his brothers, "Please! Come closer." And they came closer. He said, "I am Yosef, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.

Gen 45:5 But don't be sad that you sold me into slavery here or angry at yourselves, because it was God who sent me ahead of you to preserve life.

Gen 45:6 The famine has been over the land for the last two years, and for yet another five years there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

Gen 45:7 God sent me ahead of you to ensure that you will have descendants on earth and to save your lives in a great deliverance.

Gen 45:8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God; and he has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of all his household and ruler over the whole land of Egypt.

Gen 45:9 Hurry, go up to my father, and tell him, 'Here is what your son Yosef says: "God has made me lord of all Egypt! Come down to me, don't delay!

Gen 45:10 You will live in the land of Goshen and be near me—you, your

children, your grandchildren, flocks, herds, everything you own.

Gen 45:11 I will provide for you there, so that you won't become poverty-stricken, you, your household and all that you have; because five years of famine are yet to come." ' "

Upon the death of Ya'akov, Yosef's brothers became concerned that with their father's passing Yosef would seek revenge, yet these are the words of Yosef...

Gen 50:15 Realizing that their father was dead, Yosef's brothers said, "Yosef may hate us now and pay us back in full for all the suffering we caused him."

Gen 50:16 So they sent a message to Yosef which said, "Your father gave this order before he died:

Gen 50:17 'Say to Yosef, "I beg you now, please forgive your brothers' crime and wickedness in doing you harm." ' So now, we beg of you, forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Yosef wept when they spoke to him;

Gen 50:18 and his brothers too came, prostrated themselves before him and said, "Here, we are your slaves."

Gen 50:19 But Yosef said to them, "Don't be afraid! Am I in the place of God?

Gen 50:20 You meant to do me harm, but God meant it for good—so that it would come about as it is today, with many people's lives being saved.

Gen 50:21 So don't be afraid—I will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he comforted them, speaking kindly to them.

Yosef's love of Adonai did not wane under his circumstances yet remained faithful to the one who would garner him the wisdom to interpret dreams. He would experience the lowest of lows yet as Iyov did not curse the name of Adonai because of his experiences.

It is through such excruciating tests that we are to rely on Adonai more. Yeshua in the wilderness for 40 days, fasting, being tested by Adonai and tempted by the Adversary withstood all the challenges before Him. In light of the famine and thus Yeshua's hunger the Adversary tempted Him to turn a stone in to bread and eat...

Luk 4:1 Then Yeshua, filled with the Ruach HaKodesh, returned from the Yarden and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness

Luk 4:2 for forty days of testing by the Adversary. During that time he ate nothing, and afterwards he was hungry.

Luk 4:3 The Adversary said to him, "If you are the Son of God, order this stone to become bread."

Luk 4:4 Yeshua answered him, "The Tanakh says, 'Man does not live on bread alone.' "

Quoting D'varim (Deuteronomy) 8:3 which reads...

Deu 8:3 He humbled you, allowing you to become hungry, and then fed you with man, which neither you nor your ancestors had ever known, to make you understand that a person does not live on food alone but on everything that comes from the mouth of Adonai.

Adonai fed the people and thus sustained them through the seven year famine.

He sustains us through our wilderness experiences and brings us out of them so long as we remain faithful to Him, just as Yosef did.