

ULTRAREFINED IMMERSION IN THE PROPHETIC
WORD

Series: Genesis – Transformed to Reign

Message 46

When Joseph was Seventeen Years Old,
He Was Tending His Father's Flocks.

Bible Reading: Genesis 37:1-2

GENESIS
transformed
to *Reign*

This material is intended to help you practice immersion in the prophetic word in your daily living and church meetings. We highlight some points from the notes of the message given by brother Pedro Dong for you to ruminare, understand, and apply. Read each day's passage prayerfully and highlight its key words. Speak, repeat, emphasize, and proclaim the key words. The refined immersion of the word aims to make us enter the depths of the feeling of God by speaking the word to us and making us feel in our spirit what His feeling was at the moment He spoke it. Quieting ourselves, we seek what is the direction received in the immersion text and what is its admonition to us, that is, in what aspects we are at fault with the Lord. After understanding the Lord's feeling and seeking light as to what He really wants to talk to us, we must transform this feeling into our prayer, with the purpose of putting it into execution.

MONDAY

1. God transformed Jacob into Israel. He was a usurper (supplanter), but the Lord tested him through difficulties, tribulations, and suffering in two stages: the first when he lived in the house of his uncle Laban. The second, in three situations in which he could have lost his own life: when he was pursued by Laban, in the reunion with his brother Esau, and in Shechem after his sons massacred the men of the city, putting the whole family at risk before the surrounding peoples (Genesis 32:28; 35:10).
2. The account of Jacob's journey is very similar to our life story. God had not called him to stay in Shechem. His calling was for him to go up to Bethel and fulfill the desire of God's heart. Similarly, we were not called to seek personal gain, but to participate in God's glory, even in the midst of tribulations (Genesis 31:13; 35:1).
3. God desires to transform us, for His purpose is the building up of His house—Bethel. To this end, the Lord uses trials. Through the washing of the water by the word, our earthly nature is transformed into a holy nature, useful for edification (Ephesians 5:26).
4. “The colporteurs are going throughout the whole Earth. And we also, as troops, captains and senior stewards (TCS), together with the colporteurs, will go through and conquer the whole Earth for the Lord” (Genesis 13:14-17) (Daily Food, book 7, week 1, Monday, p. 7).

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TUESDAY

1. After he died and rose again, Jesus became the Spirit. This Spirit is like rivers of living water flowing through all who receive Him and believe in His words (John 7:37-39).
2. The more we believe in the words of the Lord Jesus, the more they will flow from us like rivers of living water. Otherwise, we will block the flow of the river and, consequently, block the work of the Lord (John 7:38).
3. We cannot take the Lord's words as mere doctrinal teaching. To do so is like drinking from a stagnant puddle. God desires that His words continue to flow from us like rivers of living water (Psalm 42:1-2).
4. "Do not anchor your soul in money, riches, or philosophy, for none of these things are trustworthy. Only the Holy of Holies, where our High Priest is, is a safe harbor for the refuge of our soul. Through the word let us take refuge there" (Hebrews 6:18-20) (Daily Food, book 7, week 1, Wednesday, p. 10).

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WEDNESDAY

1. The word transforms us inwardly, and the trials test us, to reveal whether what is constituted within us is of the divine nature or, of the earthly nature, which still tends to deceive us. Our faith needs to go through tribulations so that it becomes ever more precious (1 Peter 1:6-7).
2. The trials we go through produce perseverance. Perseverance is continual service in God's house. The Lord needs servants determined to carry out His will on Earth (Romans 5:3; Ephesians 6:13).
3. When we go through situations that generate perseverance, the Almighty God manifests Himself to us. And, with perseverance established within us, we reach maturity, so that our only desire is to long for the return of the Lord Jesus (2 Peter 1:5-11).
4. "Like the church in Philadelphia, we have little strength, but we rely on the Most High God, the High Priest, who intercedes for us, and so things happen. This is not our merit. We only listen attentively to the word and believe; the Lord does the rest" (Rev 3:7-13) (Daily Food, book 7, week 1, Wednesday, p. 12).

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THURSDAY

1. Jacob was forced to leave Shechem due to the events recorded in Genesis 34. God called him to go up to Bethel and dwell there, building an altar to the God who appeared to him when he was fleeing from Esau (Genesis 35:1, 6-7).
2. The first time God appeared to him, in Bethel, Jacob made a vow: if God would be with him, protecting him on the journey, and bringing him home safely, then the Lord would be his God. On the way back, he called the place El-Bethel, that is, the God of Bethel. Jacob recognized that the Lord does not desire to transform us merely to be our God, but to build up His house. He is the God of Bethel—the God of God's House (Genesis 28:20-21).
3. When Jacob was returning home, God appeared to him again, blessed him, and told him that his name would no longer be Jacob, but Israel. And He said to him, "I am God Almighty." The appearance of El-Shaddai to Jacob also indicates the end of the second stage of his transformation and the beginning of his maturity to do His will: the building up of the House of God (Genesis 35:9-15).
4. "Do not think that you have nothing to do with the promise made to Abraham, for if you are in Christ, you are also part of Abraham's descendants: 'And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise' (Galatians 3:29). You too are an heir according to the promise" (Daily Food, book 7, week 1, Thursday, p. 14).

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FRIDAY

1. "This is the story of Jacob. Joseph was seventeen years old...". The stories of Jacob and Joseph begin to intertwine, indicating that Joseph is the continuation of Jacob. Joseph represents Jacob in his maturity, used by God to reign in life. Just as with Joseph, God prepares each of us to be co-heirs with Christ (Genesis 37:1-2; Romans 8:17).
2. Joseph was young, but he was not influenced by the bad conduct of his older brothers. This already indicates that he was sensible and responsible from a young age. The righteous church life helps young people to have proper conduct, which pleases God and contributes to the building up of God's house (Genesis 37:2; 1 Timothy 4:12).
3. As a shepherd, Joseph was trained to take responsibility for the lives under his care. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." This life of shepherding sheep is within us; we must lay down our lives for them and know each one under our care (John 10:11, 15).
4. "Every time God spoke to Abraham, He gave him the ability to believe, and this was credited to him as righteousness (Romans 4:1-5). Thus, faith comes by hearing (10:17). I do not have faith until I hear the word of God. Therefore, we should not take hasty actions using faith as an excuse. Without God's speaking, there is no faith" (Daily Food, book 7, week 1, Thursday, p. 15).

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SATURDAY

1. The Lord's blessing is to make us fruitful and multiply us. Therefore, we need to care for each of the Lord's sheep, knowing their characteristics and personal limitations, in order to shepherd them with the word of the Lord (Jeremiah 23:1-4).
2. We cannot be "shepherds" who only feed themselves. We need to care for one another with the love that comes from the word of the Lord and look at people as Jesus saw them, that is, as sheep without a shepherd (Ezekiel 34:2-12; Matthew 9:36).
3. When we care for people and shepherd them through the various tools the Lord has given us (TCS, House of Teens, etc.), we are like channels of the river of the water of life, bringing living water to all so that they may drink of the word (Ezekiel 34:13-15).
4. "At every moment, Satan tries to hinder, to take away the work that Christ is doing in us. We cannot let this happen. Let us stand firm, knowing that Christ is our life, and our living is by faith in the word of God" (2 Cor 2:11; Gal 2:19-20) (Daily Food, book 7, week 1, Saturday, p. 18).

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SUNDAY

1. We do not deal with people in an impersonal way. God has entrusted us with caring for people's lives. Nor do we manage families as if they were artificial flowers; rather, we live with everyone, giving them due importance, for they are the greatest good that God has entrusted to us (Acts 20:20, 31).
2. The true role of an elder in the church is to shepherd the Lord's sheep. Those who care for the sheep share in the sufferings of Christ (1 Peter 5:1).
3. We cannot dominate the sheep as if they were our flock, for the Lord is the Supreme Shepherd and we are only His servants. Just as He cares for each one, we need to care for one another, serving one another in love. If we do this, at His coming, the Lord will reward us with the unfading crown of glory (1 Peter 5:2-4).
4. "Teenagers should not relax; rather, they must always be participating in some church activity. Likewise, the other brothers and sisters should not relax, but engage themselves more and more in the Lord's work, preaching the gospel and helping smaller churches to become independent. The more we work, the more the Lord will bless us!" (Psalm 110:1-3; Romans 12:11) (Daily Food, book 7, week 1, Sunday, p. 21).

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