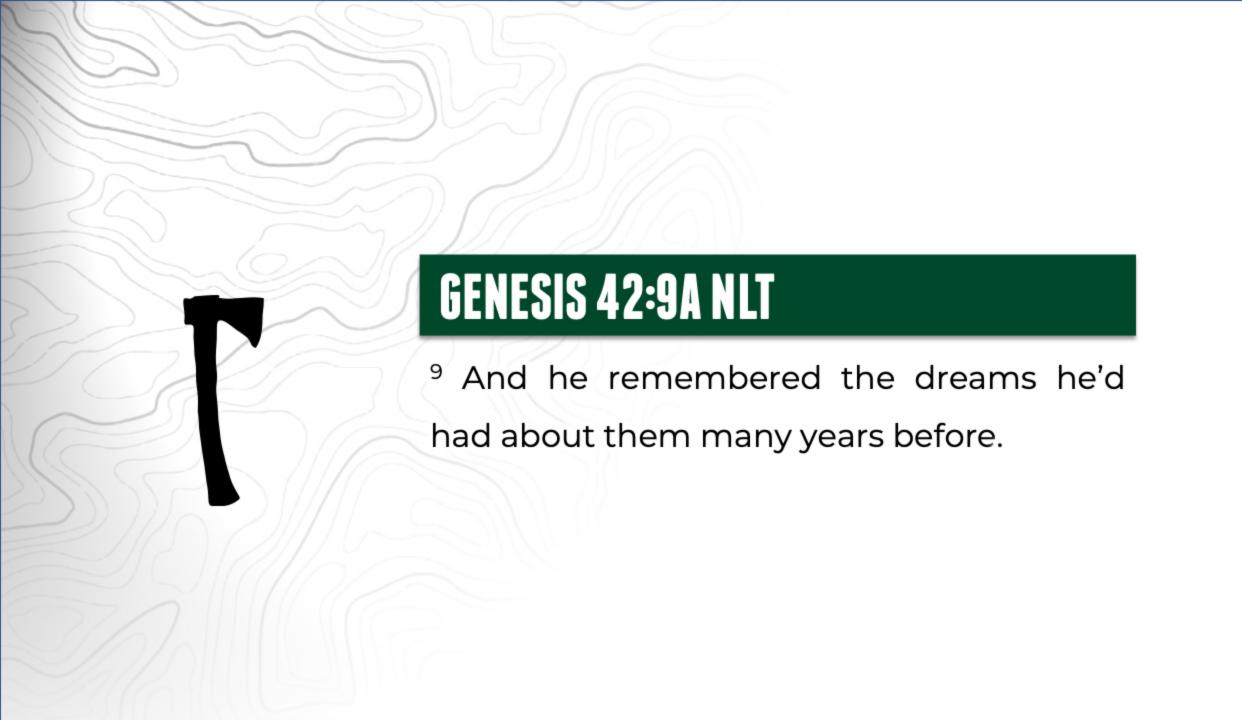




WHEN THE AXE IS SHARP IN OUR LIFE, WE ARE MORE EFFECTIVE. WHEN THE AXE HEAD GETS DULL, WE GET LESS DONE WITH TWICE THE EFFORT.







# WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE YOUR DREAMS HAVE BEEN SHATTERED?

<sup>18</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. 19 "Here comes the dreamer!" they said. 20 "Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!"



<sup>21</sup> But when Reuben heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue. "Let's not kill him," he said. 22 "Why should we shed any blood? Let's just throw him into this empty cistern here in the wilderness. Then he'll die without our laying a hand on him." Reuben was secretly planning to rescue Joseph and return him to his father.



<sup>23</sup> So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. 24 Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. <sup>25</sup> Then, just as they were sitting down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of camels in the distance coming toward them. It was a group of Ishmaelite traders taking a load of gum, balm, and aromatic resin from Gilead down to Egypt.



<sup>26</sup> Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain by killing our brother? We'd have to cover up the crime. 27 Instead of hurting him, let's sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh and blood!" And his brothers agreed. <sup>28</sup> So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph's brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt.





<sup>6</sup> When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

#### GENESIS 39:1-6A NLT



<sup>2</sup> The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup> Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. 4 This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He

#### GENESIS 39:1-6A NLT



put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. <sup>5</sup> From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the Lord began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock



flourished. <sup>6</sup> So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat!



#### GENESIS 39:6B-9 NLT

Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, <sup>7</sup> and Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "Come and sleep with me," she demanded.

#### GENESIS 39:6B-9 NLT

<sup>8</sup> But Joseph refused. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. <sup>9</sup> No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God."

#### **GENESIS 39:10-12 NLT**

<sup>10</sup> She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible. 11 One day, however, no one else was around when he went in to do his work. 12 She came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, "Come on, sleep with me!" Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house.



<sup>16</sup> She kept the cloak with her until her husband came home. <sup>17</sup> Then she told him her story. "That Hebrew slave you've brought into our house tried to come in and fool around with me," she said. <sup>18</sup> "But when I screamed, he ran



outside, leaving his cloak with me!" 19 Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about how Joseph had treated her. 20 So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. 21 But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful



love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. 22 Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. 23 The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.



## HOW YOU RESPOND WHEN IN LIFE IT FEELS LIKE YOUR DREAMS HAVE BEEN SHATTERED WILL DETERMINE YOUR DESTINY.



<sup>14</sup> Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from the prison. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh. 15 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream last night, and no one here can tell me what it means. But I have heard that when you hear about a dream you can interpret it."

#### GENESIS 41:14-16 NLT

<sup>16</sup> "It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied.

"But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease."



Joseph's suggestions were well received by Pharaoh and his officials. <sup>38</sup> So Pharaoh asked his officials, "Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?" <sup>39</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the



#### **GENESIS 41:37-41 NLT**

meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. <sup>40</sup> You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours."

<sup>41</sup> Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt."



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IT IS TIME TO START DREAMING AGAIN.