

JOSEPH

God's Plan and Purpose

Lesson 2

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum • Summer 2020

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JOSEPH: The Lord Was With Joseph



Lesson 2

Genesis 39:1-21a

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture is from the New Living Translation of the book of Genesis.

Memory Verse: “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’” (Jeremiah 29:11)

In our last lesson we saw God begin to make His plan known to Joseph. We also saw jealousy and hate grow into something very ugly. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery!

“When Joseph was taken to Egypt...he was purchased by Potiphar...captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.” (39:1) This sounds like a hopeless situation, doesn't it? Joseph was a young man who had been protected by his adoring father and now he seemed all alone in the world, but Scripture tells the story differently. It says, “The Lord was with Joseph.” (39:2a)

You see, Joseph may have been in a different place, under different circumstances, but that didn't change who he trusted in. He may have been stripped of his beautiful coat on the outside, but he still had his character. He was separated from his earthly father, but was still spending time with his heavenly Father. And even though he lived in the house of an idol worshipper, Joseph continued to worship the one true God.*

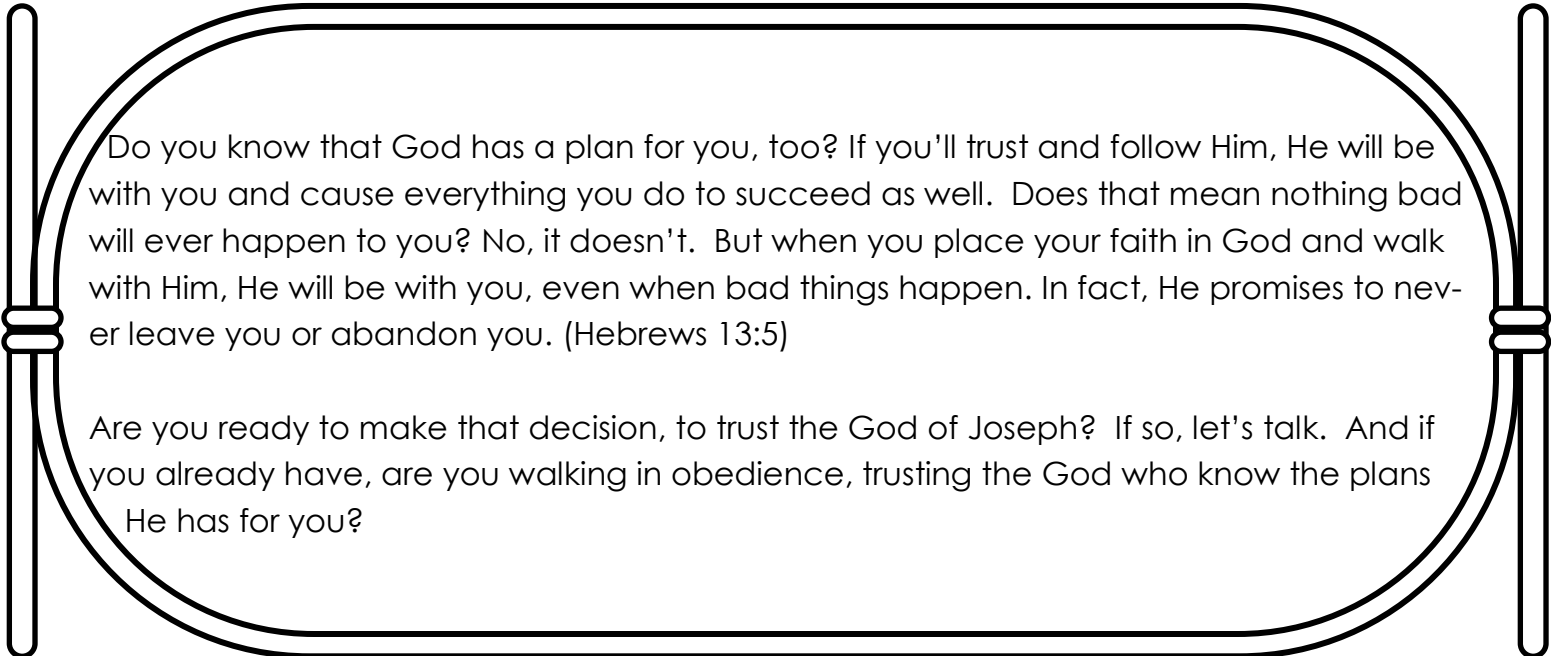
The same God who was with Joseph, made him succeed in everything he did at Potiphar's house. It wasn't long, either, before Potiphar took notice. Potiphar could tell that God was with Joseph and he promoted Joseph to the position of personal attendant. As Potiphar's personal attendant, Joseph was in charge of Potiphar's “entire household and everything he owned.” (39:4b) The only thing Potiphar had to think about was what he would eat! Soon, God began to bless Potiphar, too, all in order to bless Joseph. “All [Potiphar's] household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished.” (39:5b)

Just like in our last lesson, though, there was a problem. Potiphar's wife noticed how handsome Joseph was and she wasn't

content with just her husband. She wanted Joseph, too! Every day Potiphar's wife bothered Joseph and every day Joseph said, "no" and tried to stay away from her. Then, for some reason one day, there were no other servants in the house and Potiphar's wife tried to corner Joseph. Joseph was loyal to Potiphar, but more than that, he was faithful to God. So, Joseph ran! Unfortunately, Potiphar's wife reached out, grabbed his coat, and held on as Joseph ran away. With Joseph's coat in her hands, Potiphar's wife came up with a plan to punish Joseph. She made up a lie and accused Joseph of something he didn't do. It was Joseph's word against the wife's and Joseph was thrown into prison and left there.

This sounds like another hopeless situation, doesn't it? From what you have seen so far, though, do you think it is hopeless? Of course not! God still has a plan for this young man and He reminds us of it when we read this again in the Bible, "but the Lord was with Joseph in prison and showed him His faithful love." (39:21a) You may be thinking, "but if God was with Joseph, why would he be sold as a slave and then jailed?" Well, first of all, God doesn't make us obey Him and he didn't make Joseph's brothers obey Him. Joseph suffered for their wrongdoing. God did allow all of this to happen to Joseph, so I have a question for you. Do you think Joseph knew everything there was to know about life at the age of seventeen? No, he didn't. Have you ever thought that maybe God chose Potiphar even more than Potiphar chose Joseph? Joseph would have gotten some amazing training in the house of someone so close to Pharaoh, training that would prepare him for his future, for the plan God had for him.

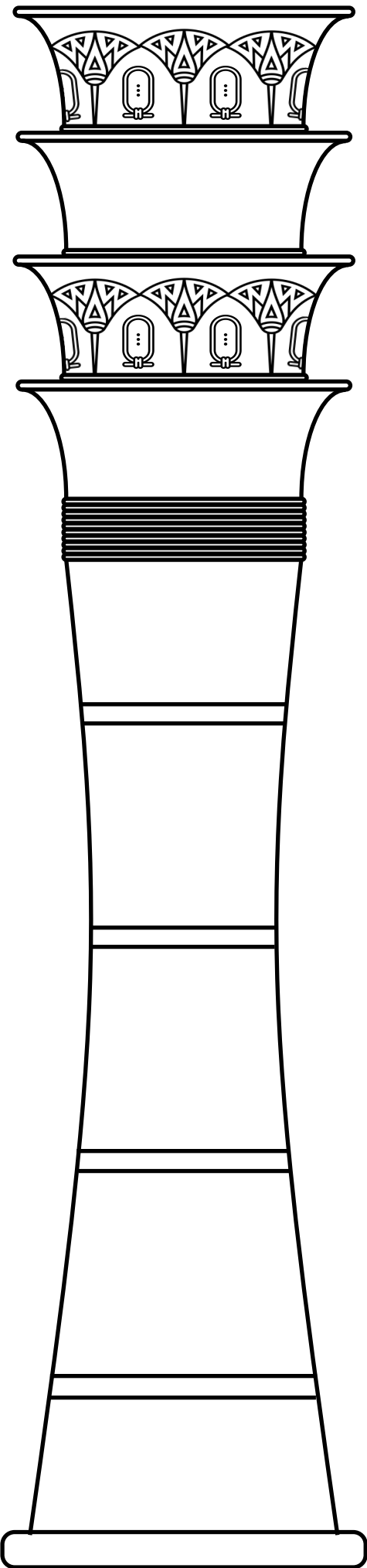
*Jamieson, Fausset, & Brown. Commentary: The First Book of Moses, Called Genesis. Chapter 39. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/jfb/> (entire paragraph paraphrased from text commentary #3 "his master saw that the Lord was with him")



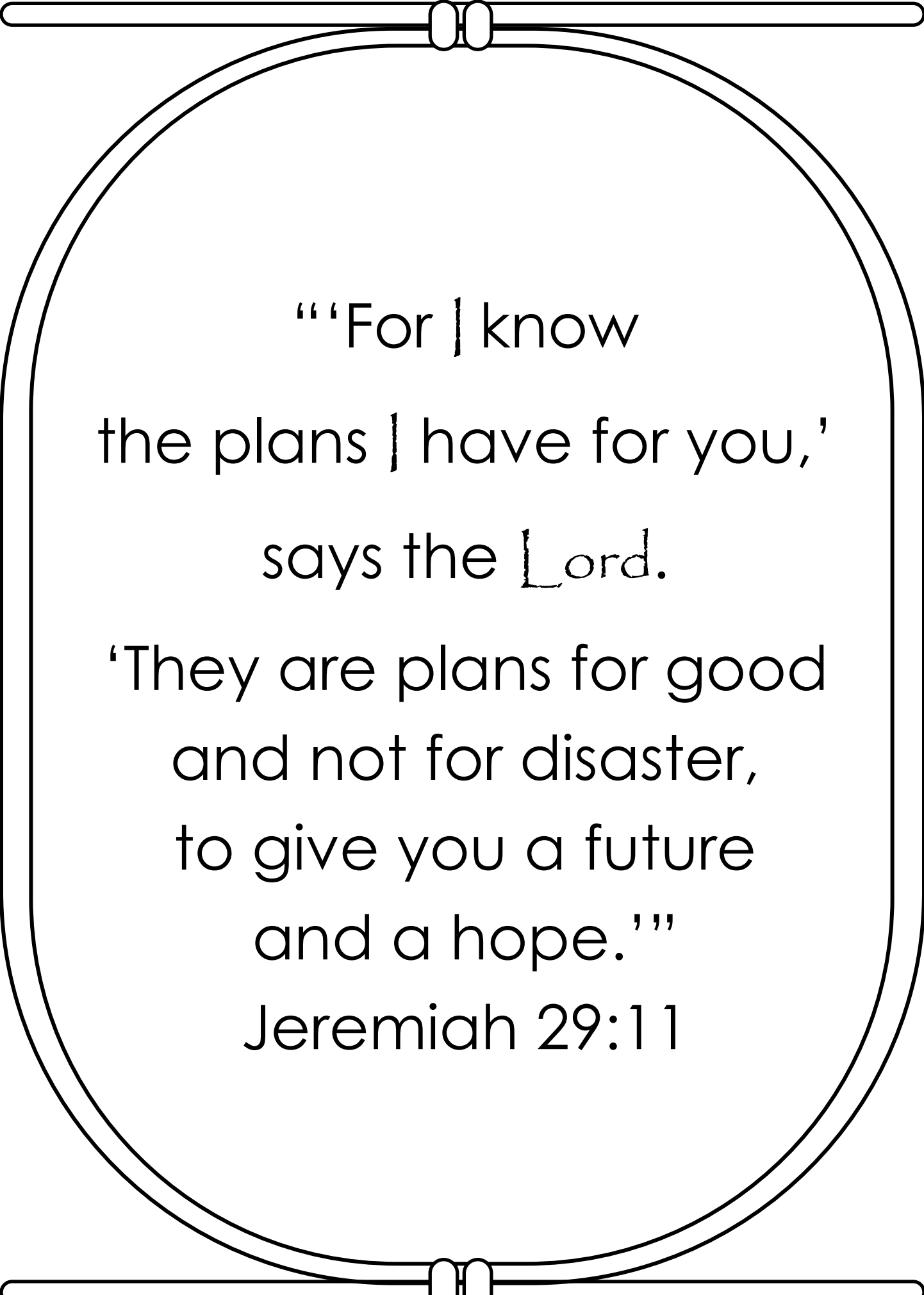
Do you know that God has a plan for you, too? If you'll trust and follow Him, He will be with you and cause everything you do to succeed as well. Does that mean nothing bad will ever happen to you? No, it doesn't. But when you place your faith in God and walk with Him, He will be with you, even when bad things happen. In fact, He promises to never leave you or abandon you. (Hebrews 13:5)

Are you ready to make that decision, to trust the God of Joseph? If so, let's talk. And if you already have, are you walking in obedience, trusting the God who know the plans He has for you?

ACTIVITIES



- ◇ Memory Verse Activity: Write words or phrases from the memory verse on strips of paper. Link the strips together to form a paper chain. Talk about how Joseph may have been placed in chains, but God's plan for him couldn't be stopped.
- ◇ Provide a hieroglyphics chart and help your students write their names in hieroglyphics.
- ◇ Make Egyptian necklaces from paper plates. Cut out the center of each paper plate and a 2 inch section from what will be the back. Paint, color or add glitter to the paper plate to turn it gold.
- ◇ Make origami pyramids.
- ◇ Provide coloring pages of Egypt. Talk about what it must have been like for 17 year old Joseph to be torn away from family and taken to such a different place.
- ◇ Using a hieroglyphics chart and clues in hieroglyphics that you have written, send your students on a scavenger hunt for their snack!



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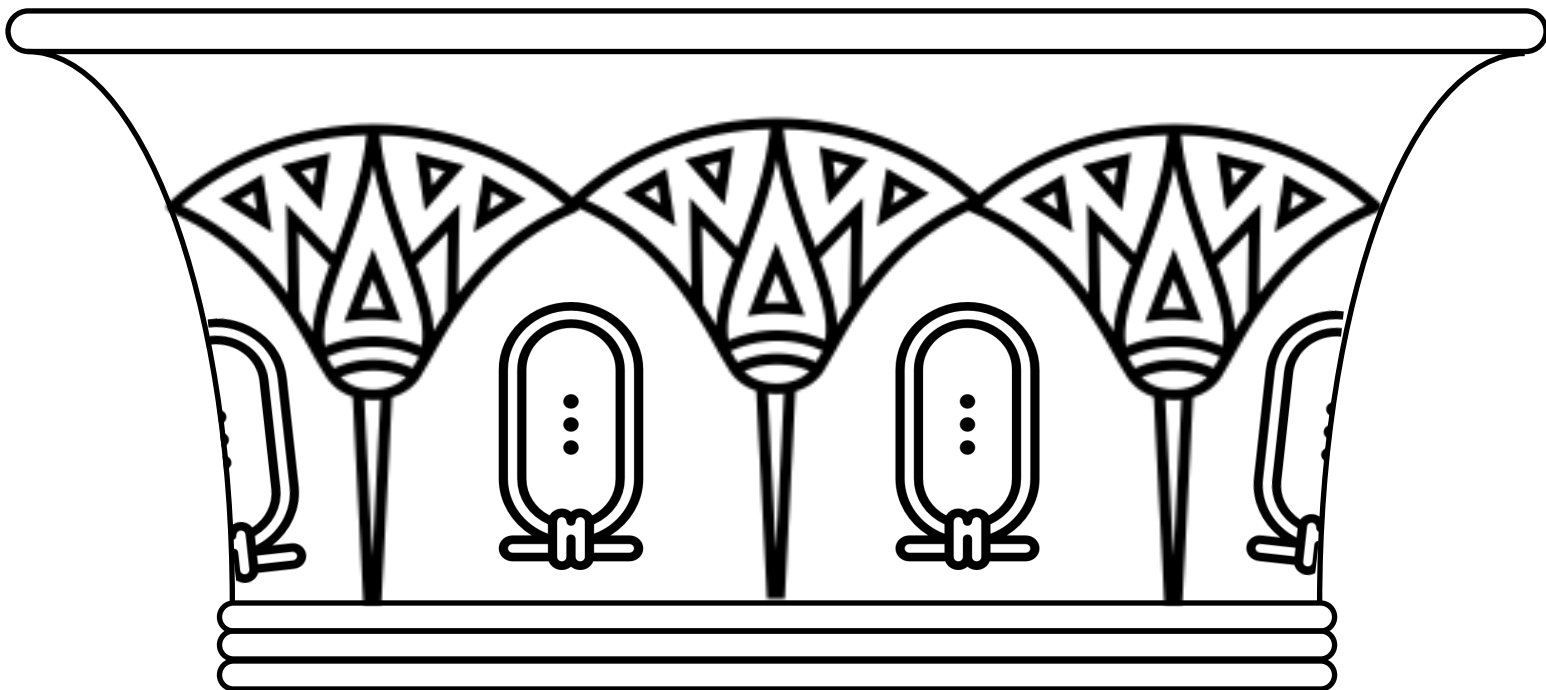
Jeremiah 29:11



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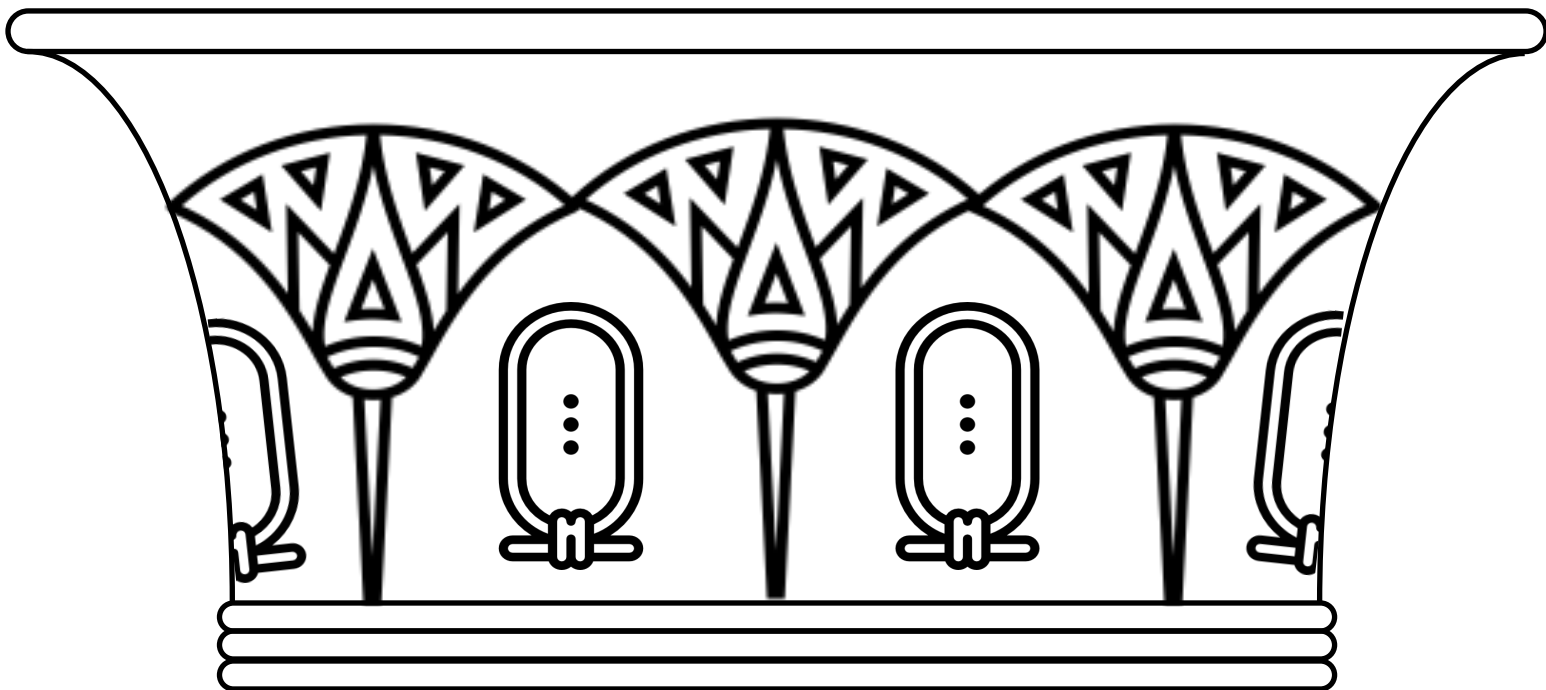
Jeremiah 29:11



WORD SEARCH

j	o	s	s	e	p	h	d	l	o	c	a
i	h	l	t	p	t	e	l	v	e	w	t
e	a	n	a	m	w	e	l	v	e	i	s
s	l	p	o	s	e	p	h	o	l	d	i
b	l	o	r	d	w	i	t	h	h	i	m
m	a	t	r	b	v	l	e	t	p	e	s
e	j	i	d	b	l	e	s	s	e	d	u
c	o	p	d	e	e	c	c	u	s	e	n
e	g	h	o	s	e	j	h	e	o	e	n
p	j	a	i	l	r	r	d	e	j	m	s
n	e	r	a	h	o	e	o	p	d	t	f
p	l	u	k	k	l	d	r	a	n	e	m

Joseph	Potiphar	succeed
Lord with him	blessed	jail



WORD SEARCH

j	o	s	s	e	p	h	d	l	o	c	a
i	h	l	t	p	t	e	l	v	e	w	t
e	a	n	a	m	w	e	l	v	e	i	s
s	l	p	o	s	e	p	h	o	l	d	i
b	l	o	r	d	w	i	t	h	h	i	m
m	a	t	r	b	v	l	e	t	p	e	s
e	j	i	d	b	l	e	s	s	e	d	u
c	o	p	d	e	e	c	c	u	s	e	n
e	g	h	o	s	e	j	h	e	o	e	n
p	j	a	i	l	r	r	d	e	j	m	s
n	e	r	a	h	o	e	o	p	d	t	f
p	l	u	k	k	l	d	r	a	n	e	m

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