

JOSEPH

God's Plan and Purpose

Lesson 3

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum • Summer 2020

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JOSEPH: He Continues to Be Faithful

Lesson 3

Genesis 39:21b-40:23

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

Memory Verse: "I care about you, and I will pay attention to you." (Ezekiel 36:9a)

In our last lesson, we saw God place Joseph in a situation he would never have chosen for himself, but God was working through the bad circumstances and causing something amazing to happen in Joseph's life.

As we left Joseph last week, he had been thrown into prison. Had Joseph done anything wrong? No! he had done everything right. It looked like he was all alone again, right? But what do we really know? (Wait for students to respond.) God was with Joseph! Not only was God with Joseph, but He also showed him His faithful love." (39:21) He did this by making Joseph a favorite of the prison guard. And just like God had done for Joseph in the house of Potiphar, God did for Joseph in jail. "Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison." (39:22) The prison guard didn't worry about a thing with Joseph in charge! We are reminded again that, "the Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed." (39:23)

Sometime after Joseph was put in prison, Pharaoh the king of Egypt, jailed two of his own officials, his cup-bearer and his baker. They were put in the same prison as Joseph and the jailer put them under Joseph's command. They were in prison for quite a while. One night during their time in prison, both the cupbearer and baker had dreams and they were both upset by them. Joseph knew the prisoners under his care and he noticed that these two were worried. When he asked what was wrong, the cup-bearer and baker shared that no one could tell them the meaning of their dreams. "'Interpreting dreams is God's business,' Joseph replied, 'Go ahead and tell me your dreams.''" (40:8b)

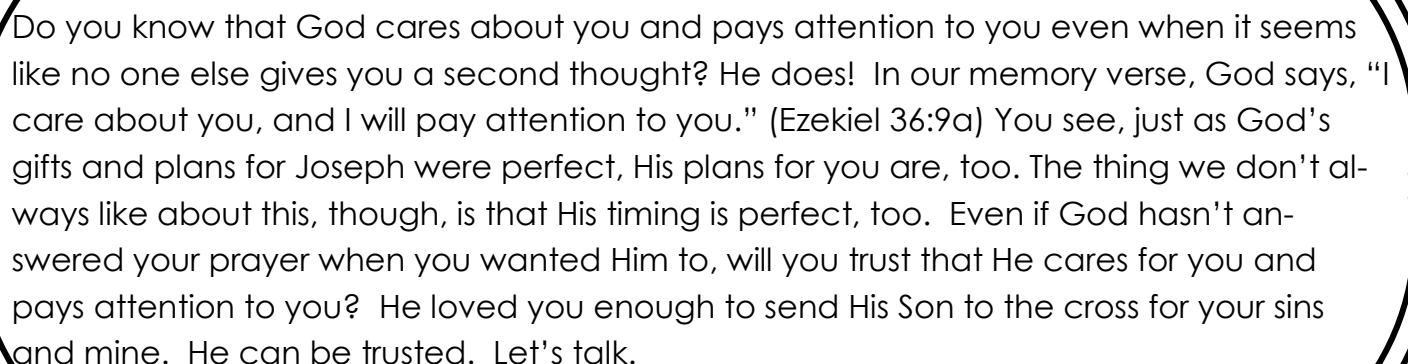
The cup-bearer shared first. He dreamed about a grapevine with three branches and grapes that he squeezed into Pharaoh's cup. He even dreamed that he gave the cup to Phar-

Joseph, like he used to do. Joseph listened to the dream and with God's help was able to interpret it. The cupbearer's dream meant that he would return to his position in the palace in three days! How exciting! Knowing this, Joseph asked a favor. He explained that he had been wrongly accused and he asked the cup-bearer to remember him to Pharaoh.

With such good news for the cup-bearer, the baker was now ready to share his dream, too. He dreamed of three baskets of sweets stacked on his head. The sweets in the top basket were for Pharaoh, but birds came and ate the sweets. The baker's dream didn't have a happy ending like the cup-bearer's dream. In three days, Pharaoh would sentence the baker to death!

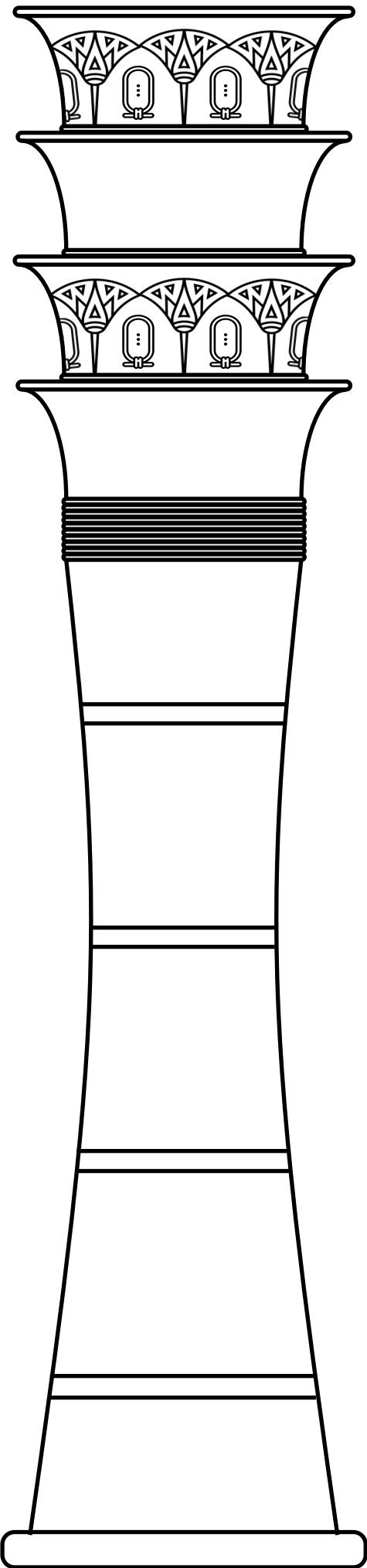
Three days later there was a party for Pharaoh's birthday. Pharaoh invited all his officials and staff. He even invited the cup-bearer and baker where he returned the cup-bearer to his previous job, but sentenced the baker to death, "just as Joseph had predicted when he interpreted his dream." (40:22) When the cup-bearer returned to his position with Pharaoh, he had the perfect opportunity to tell him about Joseph being falsely accused, but he "forgot all about Joseph, never giving him another thought." (40:23)

The cup-bearer may not have given Joseph another thought, but God cared about Joseph and paid attention to him. (Ezekiel 36:9) You see, God had a plan for Joseph. It seems to be taking a long time for that plan to actually happen, doesn't it? Did you know that God's gifts and plans are perfect? And as much as God's gifts and plans are perfect, His timing is also perfect! And right now, in the story of Joseph's life, it's not time for him to be released from jail.

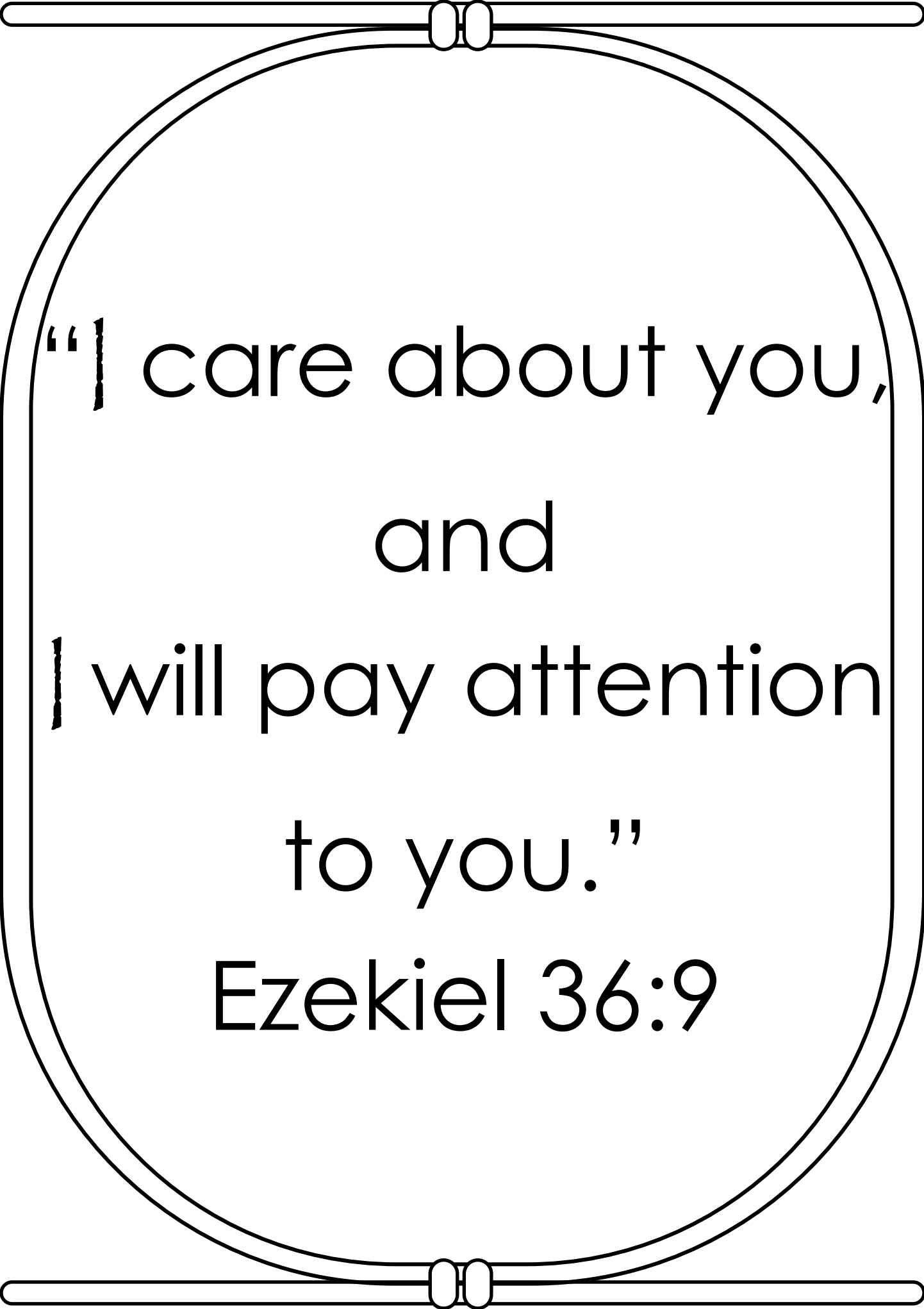


Do you know that God cares about you and pays attention to you even when it seems like no one else gives you a second thought? He does! In our memory verse, God says, "I care about you, and I will pay attention to you." (Ezekiel 36:9a) You see, just as God's gifts and plans for Joseph were perfect, His plans for you are, too. The thing we don't always like about this, though, is that His timing is perfect, too. Even if God hasn't answered your prayer when you wanted Him to, will you trust that He cares for you and pays attention to you? He loved you enough to send His Son to the cross for your sins and mine. He can be trusted. Let's talk.

ACTIVITIES



- ◇ Memory Verse Activity: Make a Memory Verse Magnifier. Using the upper part of a 2-liter bottle, cut a convex circle. Set the plastic in thick cardboard and glue or tape to secure. Print the memory verse on the magnifying glass or use it to read the verse from a pre-printed card.
- ◇ Make chef's hats. Fold an 8 1/2x14 piece of paper long side together, but don't crease the paper. Cut 4 slits, equidistance apart through the folded edge, but not through to the other side. Bring the short ends around to meet each other and tape or staple to secure.
- ◇ Make a cup fit for an Egyptian king. Draw an Egyptian pattern into a Styrofoam cup. Then apply gold foil, pressing into the pattern to transfer it into the foil.
- ◇ Provide coloring pages of Joseph in jail as well as the cup-bearer and baker's dreams.
- ◇ Using one of the pictures your students have colored, glue it large craft sticks laid side-by-side. Trim the picture, if necessary. Cut along the connection between craft sticks and use the pieces as a puzzle.



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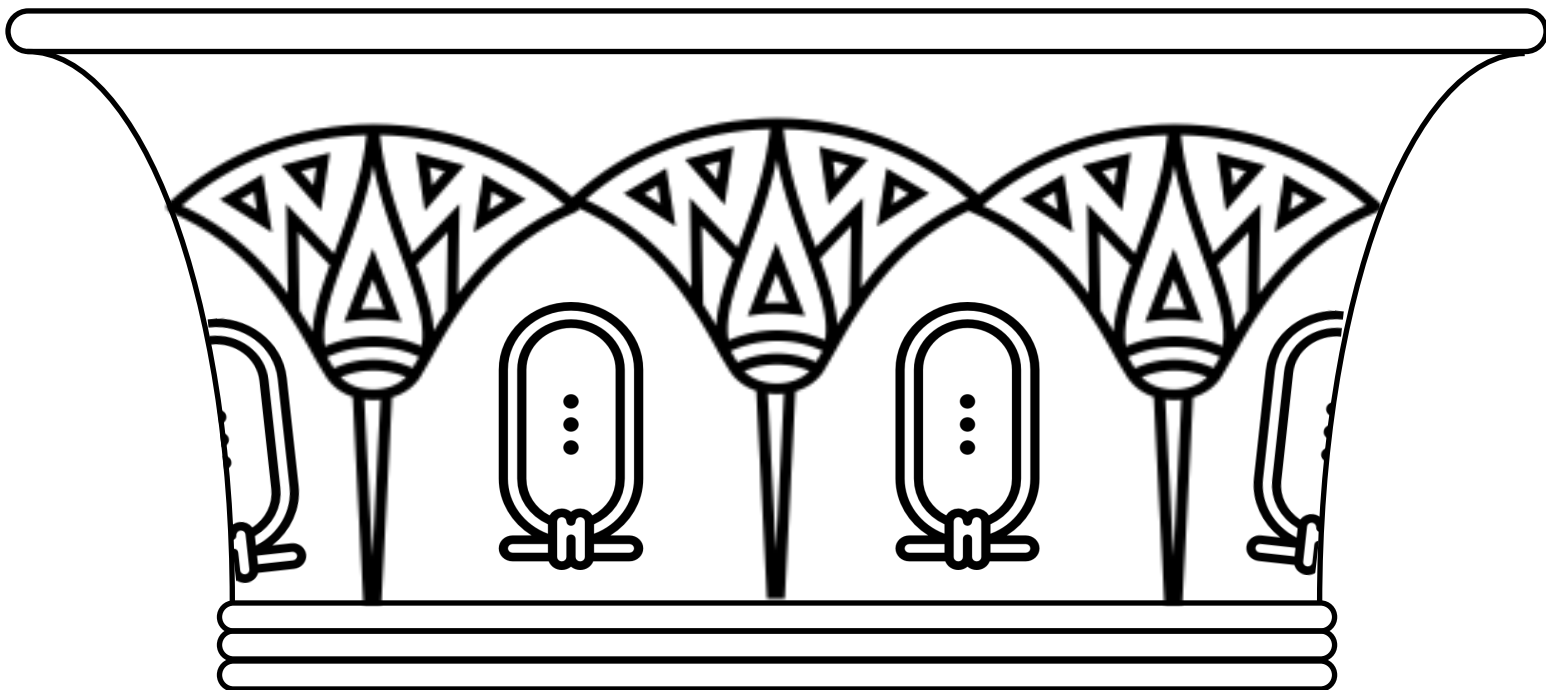
Ezekiel 36:9



“I

care about
you.”

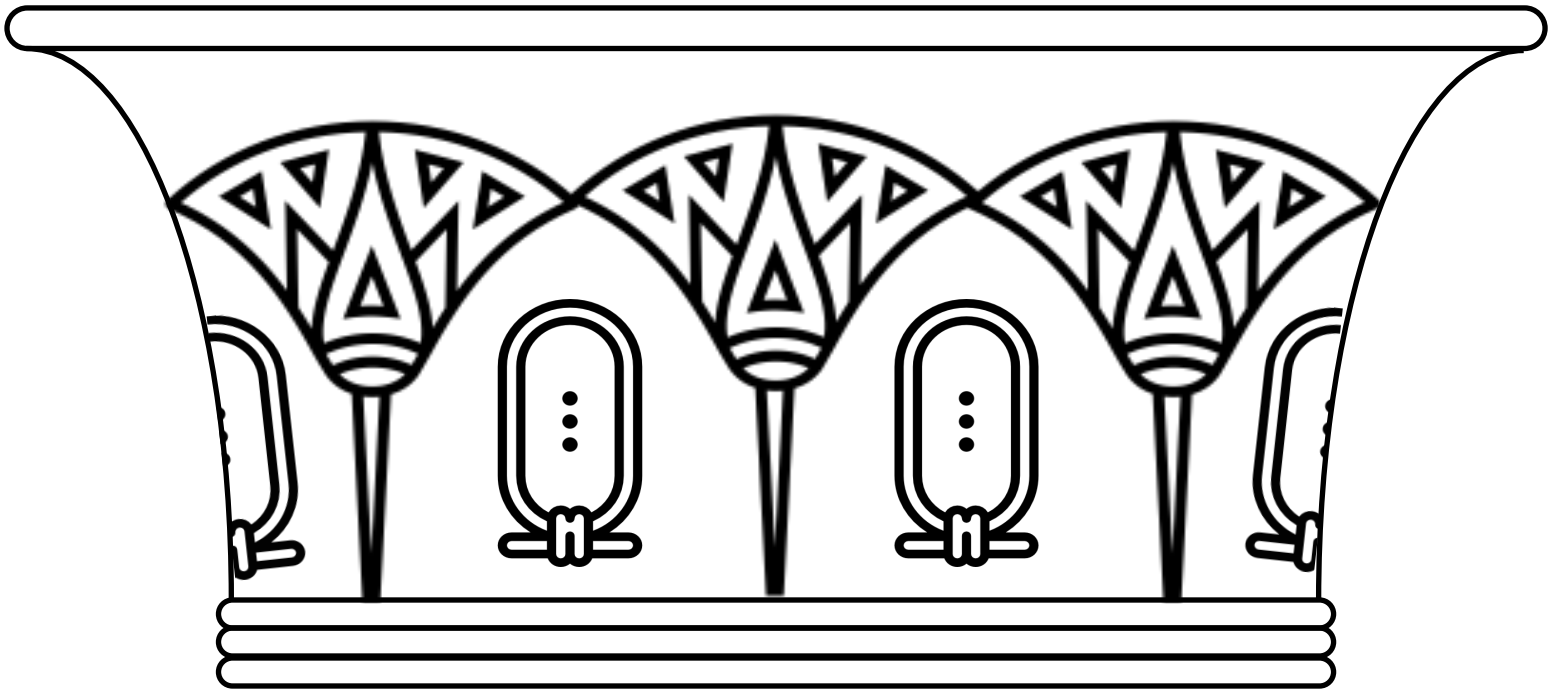
Ezekiel 36:9



WORD SEARCH

j	o	c	s	e	p	h	d	l	o	c	a
i	h	u	t	p	t	e	l	w	e	w	t
e	a	p	a	m	w	e	l	a	e	i	s
s	l	b	a	k	e	r	h	i	l	d	i
b	h	e	r	d	w	i	t	t	h	i	m
m	p	a	r	b	v	l	e	t	p	e	s
e	e	r	d	b	l	e	s	s	j	d	u
c	s	e	d	e	e	c	c	u	a	e	n
l	o	r	d	w	i	t	h	h	i	m	n
p	j	a	i	l	r	r	d	e	l	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	jail	Lord with him
cup-bearer	baker	wait



WORD SEARCH

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