

JOSEPH

God's Plan and Purpose

Lesson 4

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum • Summer 2020

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JOSEPH: From Prison to Power

Lesson 4

Genesis 41:1-52

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

Memory Verse: God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us. (Ephesians 3:20 NIV)

So, we seem to have left Joseph in another tight spot last week. Joseph was still in jail and it seemed like he had been completely forgotten, but wait! Let's see what the Bible tells us next.

"Two full years later" Pharaoh had a dream. (41:1) He dreamed of seven fat cows at the bank of the Nile River. Then, seven skinny cows came up and ate the fat cows, but looked just as scrawny as they did before. Pharaoh woke up, but went right back to sleep. He dreamed again but this time he dreamed about grain. He saw seven full heads of beautiful grain. Then, just as before, he saw seven more heads of grain, but they were shriveled up. They swallowed up the full heads of grain and looked just as shriveled as before. "Pharaoh woke up again and realized it was a dream." (41:7b)

These dreams upset Pharaoh. He wanted to know what they meant, but none of his wise men or magicians could tell him. That is when the king's cup-bearer remembered Joseph. He reminded Pharaoh of his time in prison and about Joseph interpreting his dream. The cup-bearer told Pharaoh that "everything happened just as [Joseph] had predicted." (41:13a)

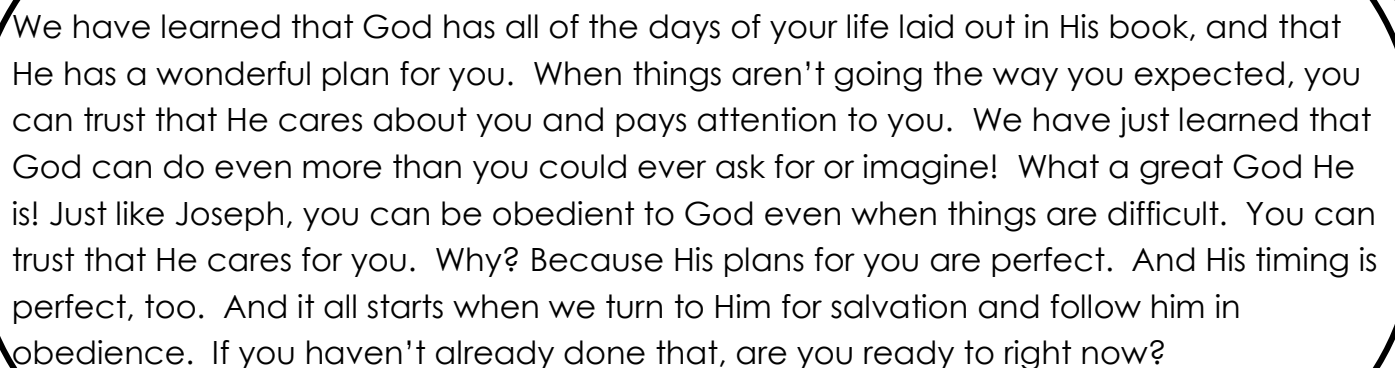
What do you think Pharaoh did? He called for Joseph right away! "[Joseph] was quickly brought from the prison. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh." (41:14) Pharaoh told Joseph that he had dreamed two dreams that no one could explain, but that he had heard Joseph could interpret them. "'It is beyond my power to do this,' Joseph replied. 'But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease.'" (41:16) So, Pharaoh told Joseph the two dreams.

Joseph explained to Pharaoh that the two dreams meant the same thing. He also told Pharaoh that the dreams were from the One True God to tell Pharaoh what was about to happen.

The fact that Pharaoh had two dreams so much alike meant that these things would definitely happen and they would happen soon. Then Joseph revealed the meaning of the dreams. He explained that the fat cows and the healthy heads of grain meant that the next seven years would be a time of plenty and abundance all through the country of Egypt. The scrawny cows and shriveled heads of grain that ate up the healthy ones meant that after the abundant years there would be seven years of famine so bad that they wouldn't even remember the seven good years. Then, Joseph suggested that Pharaoh find someone intelligent and wise to put in charge of all the preparations needed, someone who would collect food, store it, and put it under guard. This should be done for the next seven years in order to have enough for the coming famine.

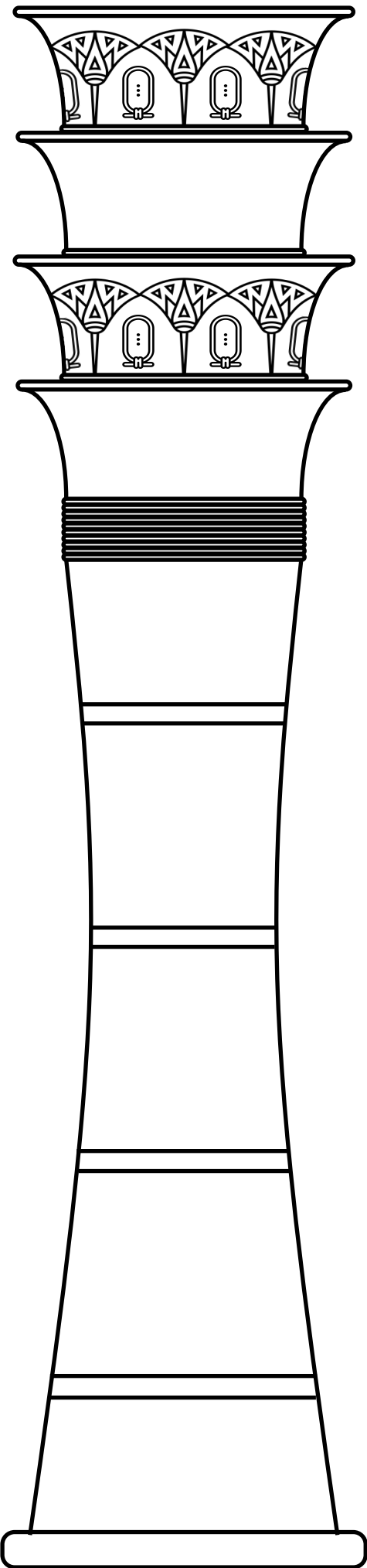
Pharaoh liked what Joseph had to say. He realized Joseph was the wise, intelligent man he needed. Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of the entire land of Egypt. Wherever he went, people were commanded to kneel down! Only Pharaoh was above Joseph in importance. Pharaoh gave Joseph a wife and a new name, an Egyptian name, Zaphenath-paneah. Joseph got to work immediately. He surveyed the entire country and began taking one-fifth of all the crops produced. During this time of plenty, God gave Joseph two children. Joseph chose meaningful names for his children; he chose Manasseh saying, "God has made me forget my troubles" and Ephraim noting, "God had made me fruitful in this land of my grief." (41:51-52)

Can you imagine? Joseph had been sold into slavery. He had been falsely accused and thrown into prison. He even seemed to have been forgotten while in prison. God hadn't forgotten Joseph, though. Joseph had been in Egypt thirteen years by now and God had kept him safe, serving Potiphar and taking care of the other prisoners, until just the right time! And then, God did even more than Joseph could have imagined!

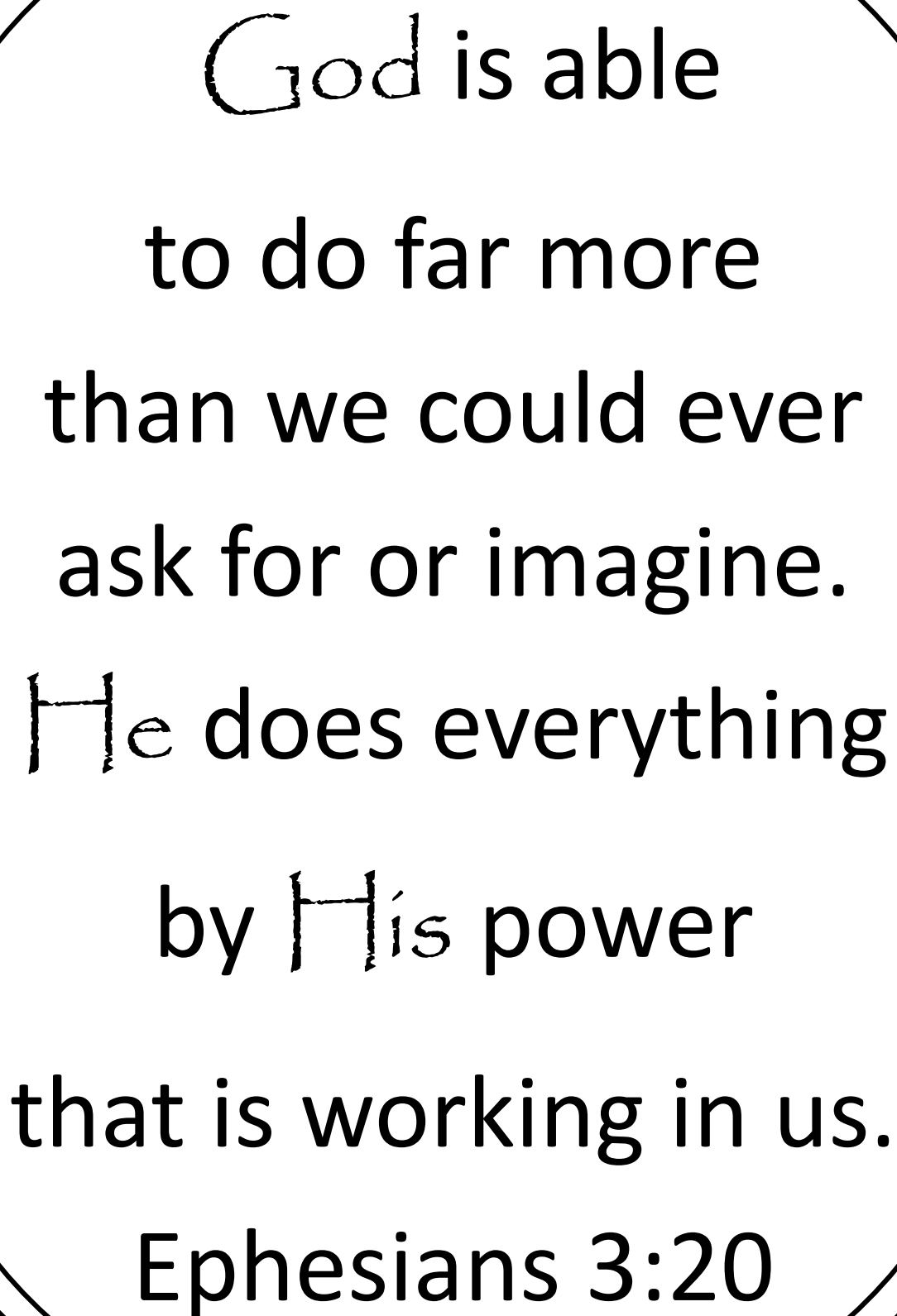


We have learned that God has all of the days of your life laid out in His book, and that He has a wonderful plan for you. When things aren't going the way you expected, you can trust that He cares about you and pays attention to you. We have just learned that God can do even more than you could ever ask for or imagine! What a great God He is! Just like Joseph, you can be obedient to God even when things are difficult. You can trust that He cares for you. Why? Because His plans for you are perfect. And His timing is perfect, too. And it all starts when we turn to Him for salvation and follow him in obedience. If you haven't already done that, are you ready to right now?

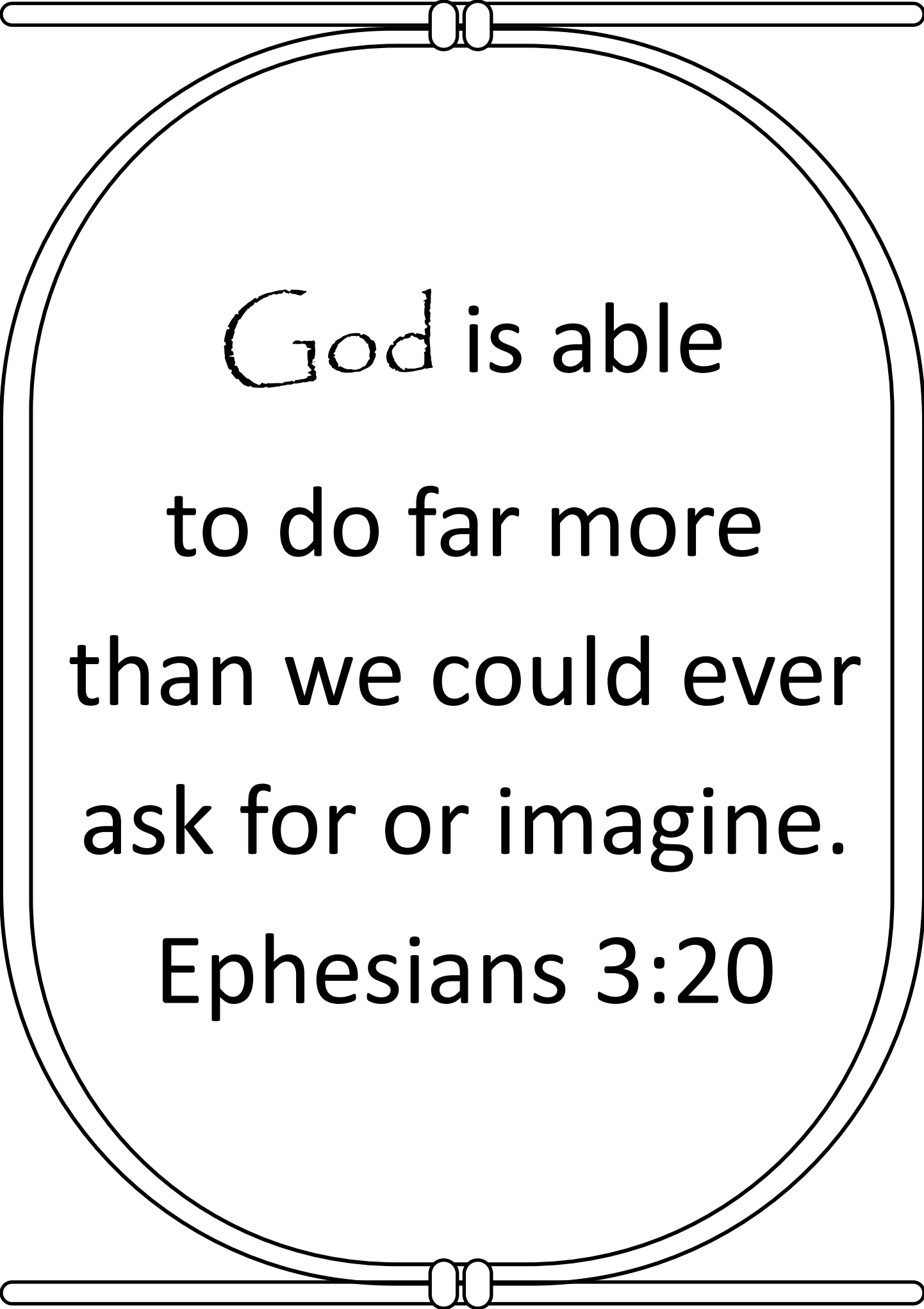
ACTIVITIES



- ◇ Memory Verse Activity: Make blooming flowers. Provide your students with coloring pages of a flower pot and the face of a flower. Also provide them a strip of green construction paper that will serve as a stem. Print the memory verse on the flower, the stem, and the flower pot. Fold the stem back and forth and glue to the flower and flower pot.
- ◇ Egypt was known for its chariots. Run a Chariot Race Relay, formerly known as a wheelbarrow race. Each team is made up of a pair of students. One student stretches out on the floor or ground, ready to walk on his hands. The other team member grabs the first by his ankles and the race through the appointed course. (Be sure the course is a safe one for hands to walk through.)
- ◇ Make a Pharaoh headdress. Use the Egyptian necklaces you made a couple of weeks ago and re-enact the story.
- ◇ Make paper plate cows and review the lesson. Make a healthy cow and a skinny one.
- ◇ Make serpent bracelets from toilet paper tubes.
- ◇ Provide coloring pages of Joseph and Pharaoh as well as the country of Egypt.



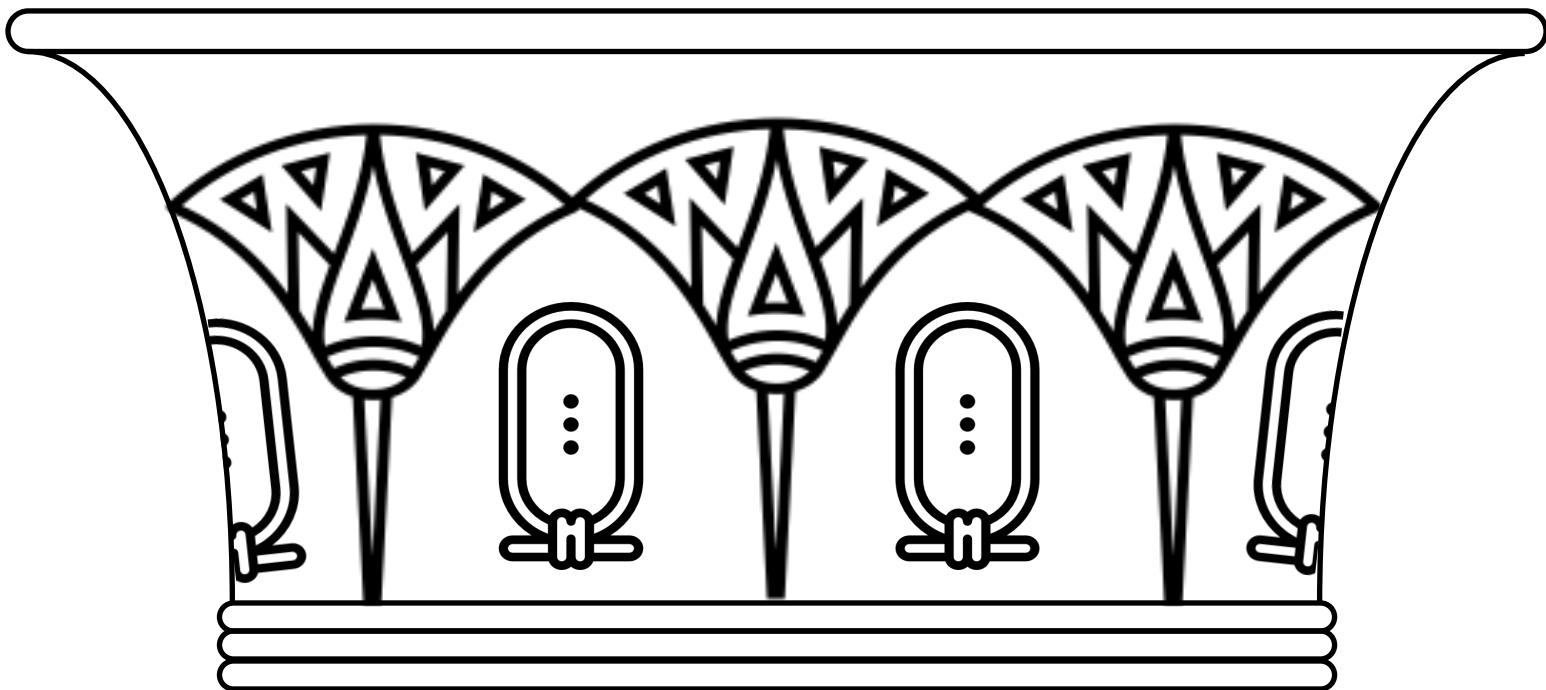
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Ephesians 3:20



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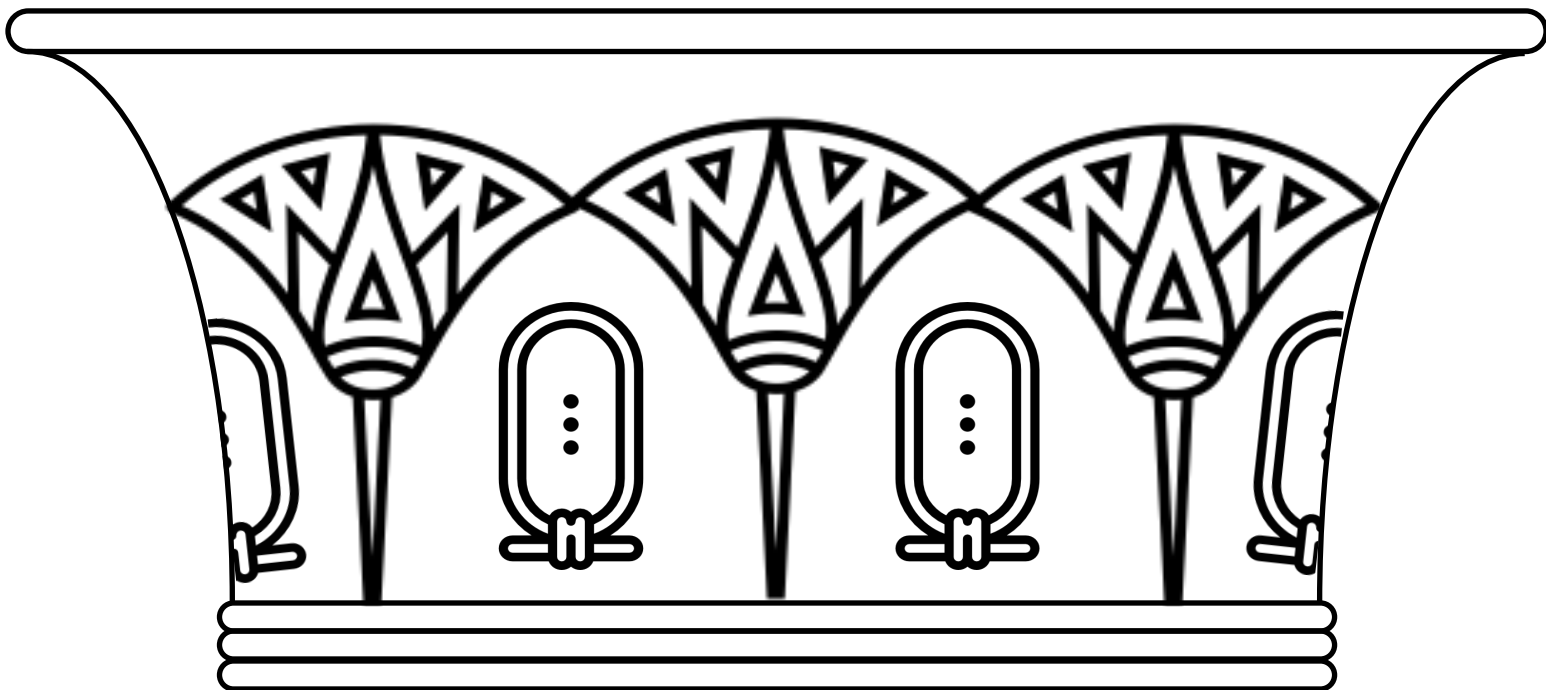
Ephesians 3:20



WORD SEARCH

j	o	c	n	e	p	h	d	l	o	c	a
i	h	u	i	n	c	h	a	r	g	e	t
e	h	o	a	r	a	h	p	a	e	i	s
s	l	b	r	k	e	i	h	i	l	d	i
b	n	e	g	d	w	n	t	t	h	i	m
m	p	a	d	b	v	t	e	t	p	e	s
e	e	r	n	h	p	e	s	o	j	d	u
c	s	e	a	e	e	r	c	u	a	e	n
l	o	r	s	w	i	p	h	h	i	m	n
p	j	a	w	l	r	r	d	e	l	m	s
n	t	w	o	d	r	e	a	m	s	t	f
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Pharaoh	two dreams	cows and grain
Joseph	interpret	in charge



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

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