

## ***Forgotten!***

***“Hatishkach ishah ulah merachem ben-bitnah gam-elah tishkachnah ve'anochi lo eshkachech.  
Hen al-kapayim chakotich chomotayich negedi tamid.”***

*“Can a woman forget her nursing child, Or fail to have compassion upon him? She may forget, but know it or not, Israel you are always before Me... Behold I have engraved my people, on the palms of My hands. Your walls are always before me, Israel. How can I forget?” (Hatishkach, Joel Chernoff, based on Isaiah 49:15-16)*

*“For G-d is not so unfair as to forget your work and the love you showed for him in your past service to his people - and in your present service too.” (Heb. 6:10, CJB)*

### **My Companion Forgot!**

*“Wherever you are, be there!”* I remember the first time I heard those words from my friend Bishop John A. Looper nearly 20 years ago. There is a ring of truth to those simple words. Like when I heard Nick Saban say *“it is what it is.”* Another Yogi Berra-ism, don't you think? Yosef was involved with all of his heart in his not-so-great situation—a jail. He must have read the Book of Proverbs when it states: *“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.”* (Prov. 22:29, KJV) But being in jail was not *Yosef's* business, it was the warden's business. Yet, even when it isn't his business but his misfortune, *Yosef* adheres to *“Whatever work you do, put yourself into it, as those who are serving not merely other people, but the L-rd.”* (Col. 3:23, CJB) While companions, friends, family, and even brethren may forget, the L-rd does not forget. He is there. If we operate with and within His principles, he gives us success: *“But ADONAI was with Yosef, showing him grace and giving him favor in the sight of the prison warden. The prison warden made Yosef supervisor of all the prisoners in the prison; so that whatever they did there, he was in charge of it. The prison warden paid no attention to anything Yosef did, because ADONAI was with him; and whatever he did, ADONAI prospered.”* (Gen. 39: 21-23)

*“Nevertheless, the chief cupbearer didn't remember Yosef, but forgot him.”* (Gen. 40:23) *Yosef* is almost 30 years old, *Ya'akov* is 120 and *Yitzchak* is 180. From seventeen to thirty—how quickly do the years pass? No freedom, no wife, no children, no bank account, no property, no fun. These had to be the most difficult two years in *Yosef's* life—*“I am getting old, and nothing is happening.”* What would you (and I) do? Give up, get bitter, become selfish, curse G-d, maybe? Not *Yosef*—he kept on keeping on. These trials are not insignificant nor are they trivial. I can only imagine. With every day's routine, boredom, misery and no future in sight, would some be tempted to give up. I can also imagine *Yosef* reviewing the events of 13 years ago, with his brothers, with his dad, when the world was ahead and he was invincible. Then 3 years ago, when he was in charge of the affairs of one of the most important men in all of Egypt. Was it worth it? Maybe if he had given into the woman, he'd still be in charge and with prestige. Does it pay to serve G-d? Yes G-d is with me, but I am in this hole, in these conditions, in this miserable situation, in this endless spiral to never-land. If only I had not shared my dreams. If only I had not screamed. If only I had not worn my coat of many colors, if only I had not told my father what my brothers were doing. If only I had negotiated with Potiphar's wife. If only I were dead...

Two years to the day after the release of the Chamberlain of the Cupbearers, on the anniversary of the hope lost, the last time he got excited about something happening, on this, another miserable day at the jail, at night, Scripture tell us that Pharaoh had a dream. Who can you trust? Answer: “not my brothers, not my employer, not the people I serve, not my comrades and fellow companions in misery, no one! That is, no one except יהוה. Evidently, *Yosef* had trust (faith) in יהוה throughout his life. Thirteen years have passed since *Yosef* was first sold and became a slave. Can you imagine trusting יהוה that much? *Yosef* trusts, but he never forgets and evidently, he never doubts either.

### **The Death of a Vision**

*G-d's ways are not our ways* (Isaiah 55:8, 9). Scripture tells us that: *“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the Torah.”* Or in the more familiar version: *“Where there is no vision,*

*the people perish: but he that keepeth Torah, happy is he.*”(Proverbs 29:18) We need a vision, a revelation from G-d. That is what Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Rabbi Sha’ul got. We must have more than goals and dreams, we must have His strategy, His plan, His knowledge, His goals for us. In short, we must have a personal revelation to guide our paths and give us direction. This is our “Garmin” for life’s paths.

However, when G-d is really interested in bringing forth something great, He often causes the death—even double & triple deaths of vision. These deaths are all related to the potential (gifting) He has given unto us. After the dreams and interpretations which clearly came from G-d as a gifting unto *Yosef*, there he is in this situation. In trouble (one more time) for exercising his G-d-given gifts. How often do we despair in the gifting G-d has given us when they seem to bring nothing but troubles! Is G-d causing multiple deaths of vision in your life? Perhaps the release from prison and the palace are just around the corner...

### ***The Vision Includes Believing and Leaving***

What vision should we have? It starts with the word trust (believing). To have vision is to believe and to trust completely in the L-rd. From this also spring the following points which have to do with the word leave.

1. *Leaving life to gain it* – to die to our own nature (cf Rev. 12:11). We must leave our comfort zone in order to bring forth the vision from G-d.
2. *Leaving room for the Ruach HaKodesh to guide us* – We should not fill up the space with our own spirit to serve the L-rd but leave room for His guidance and grace (the desire and the power to do His Will).
3. *Leaving the secular and searching for holiness* – We need to do this every day, reminding ourselves to leave the secular because it creeps into us every day, every moment. Like we say when close Shabbat: “The L-rd who makes a distinction between the sacred and the secular.”
4. *Leaving the emotional and impulsive soul zone and entering the zone of body, soul and spirit worship* – We differentiate between that which is natural to the psychological man and engage ourselves in total worship of the Creator of the universe. We make this a way of live and our second nature.
5. *Leaving certain things in the world in order to do ministry*—G-d may require us to make difficult choices.
6. *Leaving the ministry if Adonai directs you* – A willingness to change direction and let the L-rd take us through the death of a vision.
7. *Leaving your family and maybe your children in order for them to grow into independence* – Many of us are facing these issues in the very near future.
8. *Leaving G-d’s fragrance behind to impart His presence in others* – Outreach.
9. *Leaving an inheritance*—We need to have a long term vision to raise the foundations of many G-dly generations.
10. *Leaving things up to Adonai* – Surrendering yourself.

Vision is what we receive, it is what we see, it is what we lose, and it is how we get discouraged when we notice the difference between what we know (envision) and what actually is (reality). In spite of success in our endeavors, we have also experienced failures. Failures prompt us to ask ‘what am I doing’ or ‘Am I in the right place’ or ‘Is this G-d’s Will?’ I believe it is important to be honest about ourselves and honest about our motives or we might not be able to make it to where G-d wants us to go ultimately because hardship and opposition will surely come our way. We need a vision to start, and to know the what, where and when to say and how to do things. A vision to keep you going, regardless of circumstances, because often circumstances are against you. If we can catch a fresh vision in these days, we’ll be able to continue in the path He has laid for us. If we are able to renew what G-d gave us, we’ll be able to serve Him in a happy and successful way. On the anniversary of *Yosef*’s forgotten day, the cupbearer remembered *Yosef* and the rest my friends, is history...