

# 119

## MINISTRIES

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### **Parashah Points: Vayigash – Trusting in God’s Plan**

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Vayigash, which is Hebrew for “he drew near,” and it goes from Genesis 44:18 to Genesis 47:27.

This parashah tells the story of Judah pleading on behalf of his brother Benjamin, whom Joseph took captive (Genesis 44:18-34).

Joseph then reveals his true identity to his brothers (Genesis 45).

Jacob then brings his whole family down to Egypt and reunites with his son, Joseph (Genesis 46).

The parashah concludes with telling of Joseph’s administration in Egypt during the famine and Israel setting in the land of Goshen (Genesis 47:1-27).

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to present a thought on God’s sovereignty.

#### **Genesis 45:4-8**

So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. **So it was not you who sent me here, but God.** He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Do you ever struggle with the fact that God’s timing and methods for accomplishing His purposes don’t always work out when and how we would like or expect? Joseph could relate to those struggles!

As we near the conclusion of Joseph's story, we learn that God used Joseph in amazing ways—not only with regard to saving his family, but the entire region, from a great famine. That was God's plan for Joseph all along. And yet, it took many years and a lot of crazy and difficult things had to happen for God's purposes, through Joseph, to be accomplished.

At the beginning of Joseph's story, we see that God gave Joseph all of these amazing dreams. One day he was going to become a powerful ruler! Pretty cool dreams, right?!

However, Joseph likely didn't expect that those dreams coming to fruition would take him being betrayed by his own family, thrown into a pit, sold into slavery, and then later thrown into prison falsely accused. As he sat in prison for years, Joseph likely didn't think that it would actually bring him any closer to fulfilling God's plan for his life. But here we are!

Joseph's story teaches us that God is in control. His blessings and wisdom can be found in what appear to be even the most terrible circumstances. No matter what you or someone else does, God is still on His throne. He is still sovereign. His plans will succeed in His time. We can take comfort in that.

And perhaps this understanding can also give us the strength to forgive. God certainly doesn't approve of any evil or sin that people commit. Nevertheless, He has the ability to bring good out of it, as the Scriptures clearly teach through this story. He uses the events in your life—even the painful and difficult events—to help you grow and bring you where you need to be. Maybe, in the light of the bigger picture, we can forgive the people in our lives that might've hurt us just like Joseph was able to forgive his brothers.

Just something to think about.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point.

*We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at [www.testeverything.net](http://www.testeverything.net)*

**Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.**

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