

# Divinely Blessed & Restored

## Setback Setup®

Your "**setback**" is a "**setup**" for a blessing!

by: Minister Doris B. Ryans

*And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. Genesis 45:4-5 KJV*

The story of Joseph is one of the most well known stories of the bible. Joseph was the youngest of 10 brothers and said to be the favorite of his father, Jacob. This favoritism was obvious to his brothers and others because of the coat Joseph had. You see Joseph's coat was different, it wasn't the typical style everyone else had. Joseph's coat was similar to the kind worn by royalty- it was a coat of "many colors". The coat alone created discord between him and his brothers. But to make matters worse, Joseph also had dreams – dreams which when interpreted showed him reigning over his brothers and his parents and in his youth and immaturity, he shared these dreams, which only made his brothers dislike him more.

So, one-day Joseph's brothers plotted to kill him. One brother, Rueben urged them to not kill him, so his blood wouldn't be on their hands. They agreed and threw him in a pit. But before Joseph's brothers left him, a group of Ishmaelite traders came by that was on their way to Egypt and they decided to sell him as a slave. Knowing they would have to explain Joseph's absence upon returning home, they killed a goat and dipped his coat in the blood and presented it to their father who immediately assumed Joseph was attacked and killed by a wild animal.

I can only imagine what Joseph must have been thinking. Can you imagine, thrown into a pit by your own brothers, the same brothers who in your dream were bowing down to you? This certainly didn't seem to coincide with his dream. What Joseph didn't realize was his dream showed God's plan for his life but it didn't show the process he had to go thru for God's plan to be fulfilled. I would imagine in his youth he never stopped to think much about how he was going to get from point A (being a teenage boy) to point B (an individual of such stature that not only would his brothers bow before him, his parents would also). Looking at his situation in the natural, it appears that Joseph had encountered a setback!

*Continued on page 2*

*What is a setback?* A setback occurs when the opposite of what's expected happens. For the average person a "setback" of this magnitude would be enough to throw your hands up in defeat. It would be enough to send you into depression or spiraling in drama wondering, "what am I going to do" and "why me"? Not Joseph! Nowhere in the word, does it say he questioned God and nowhere in the word does it say he rejected God. Joseph maintained his equilibrium not letting his circumstances overshadow what his dreams told him God had destined in his life! After being sold into slavery, he ended up in Egypt and a servant of Potiphar, an officer in Pharaoh's service. Although only a slave, Joseph prospered in Egypt. He was placed in charge of Potiphar's entire household – a "setup" for a blessing! But Joseph's story doesn't end here. His favored position didn't last. Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph and when he rejected her advances, she plotted and convinced her husband that he was trying to seduce her and Joseph ended up in the King's jail – Joseph finds himself with another "setback"!

Although imprisoned he was shown favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison and made the administrator of the prison. How many people you know go to prison and end up in charge? Another "setup" for a blessing! While in prison he interpreted the dreams of the Kings' butler and baker who were imprisoned. The dream showed the butler would be restored to his position and the baker would die. When he interpreted the butler's dream he asked the butler to remember him when he gets restored to his position in the King's palace (you know - put a word in for me). But, he left and he forgot all about him and Joseph finds himself with another "setback"!

Two years past and Pharaoh had a dream and could find no one to interpret his dream. The butler remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about how he had interpreted his dream accurately and Pharaoh immediately summoned for Joseph. Joseph was able to interpret Pharaoh's dream, cautioning him about seven years of famine, which was to come upon the land seven prosperous years – a "setup" for a blessing! What Joseph didn't know, the things that had happened in his life were all apart of the master plan. "*Setback*" after "*setback*" had been a "*set-up*" positioning him closer and closer to his blessing! Joseph, a man once a slave, once a prisoner, became the second most powerful person in all of Egypt appointed by Pharaoh Overseer of all of Egypt with the responsibility of preparing the land for the coming famine!!!

I'm sure in his wildest dreams he never imaged the path he would travel as God prepared him for his position. His experiences changed him from an immature, self-absorbed, somewhat prideful 17-year-old teenager into a man of wisdom and humility, a vessel used by God to save his people.

Have you been experiencing setback after setback? Are you ready to quit trying? Are you telling yourself it's too hard, I'm tired? Or, have you already given up.....decided, the pit I'm in, is just where I'm meant to be? **NO! No! No!** I want to encourage you to keep the faith - submit yourself to the master's hand.

*What is a setback?* A setback occurs when the opposite of what's expected happens. For the average person a "setback" of this magnitude would be enough to throw your hands up in defeat.

Yes, God is chiseling some things away (pride, impatience) but He's also adding some things (humility, patience, wisdom). Your "setbacks" are molding and shaping you into a usable vessel. So no matter how hard the course, keep your eye stayed on Jesus.

He might not have given you a dream like he gave Joseph, but he's given you the Word..... His Word..... full of stories of saints like Joseph, Job, Sarah, and Ruth. They all had their "setbacks" but they all had the Lord on their side and their "setbacks" were all a "set-up" for their blessing! Joseph became ruler over Egypt, Sara gave birth to a child in her old age, Job was restored double what he lost and Ruth found her Boaz! We all have had "setbacks" in life! We've all had times when the opposite of what we had planned, of what we expected, happened. But, if you look back over your life- you made it thru! Brothers and Sisters, "setbacks" will come but have a "Joseph Attitude". Despite being betrayed and deserted by his family, exposed to sexual temptation, lied on, punished and imprisoned for doing right, and then forgotten by those he helped - Joseph maintained a positive attitude. Matthew 5:38-39 Jesus tells us: *Ye have heard that it hath been said, an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: but I say unto you, that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right check, turn to him the other also.* KJV Joseph remained full of Christ-like love, did not seek revenge against any of those who wronged him, and did not allow bitterness, hate and meanness to take root in his heart. So, no matter what your "setback" is, be like Joseph. Remember, God has a plan for your life, He tells us in Jeremiah 29:11 "I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." No matter how things look in the natural, keep your "Joseph Attitude" remembering Jesus is with you in the "setback", thru the "setback" until you've overcome the "setback" and are walking in your blessing!!!

**What Joseph didn't know, the things that had happened in his life were all apart of the master plan. "Setback" after "setback" had been a "set-up" positioning him closer and closer to his blessing!**

---

## **HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST?**

Our purpose in this article and daily scriptures is to encourage a heart-to-heart relationship with God. If you do not know God in a personal way, we invite you to make the first step today to receive God's love and the salvation that only Jesus Christ can give. Here are five steps you can take to receive salvation:

1. Recognize you are a sinner and need salvation. The Bible tells us "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
2. Repent of your sins. Sin separates us from God. By confessing your sins and turning from them you are forgiven. The Bible says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

3. Believe in Jesus. God sent His Son to die so that He could pay for all our sins. The Bible says: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life: (John 3:16).
4. Receive His Salvation. Jesus Christ is a gift you must receive and welcome to live in your heart. He promises: “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God: (John 1:12).
5. Confess your belief verbally. The Bible assures “If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved: (Rom. 10:9).

You now have been born again! Tell some else your good news and connect yourself with a church home as soon as possible. God Bless and Keep You!

### **Divinely Blessed & Restored**

P.O. Box 31-1405  
 Detroit, MI 48231  
 Ph: 313-566-0944  
 Fx: 313-566-0945

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Doris B. Ryans – President  
 (Executive Director)

Joyce D. Williams – Vice President  
 Asst. Executive Director

Zenell B. Brown – Secretary  
 Legal & Grants

Colleen V. Ealy- Treasurer  
 Site & Program Coordination

Internet Website:  
[www.divinelyblessedandrestored.org](http://www.divinelyblessedandrestored.org)

Jason Coleman – Graphic  
 Designer/Webmaster



## September

### **COFFEE, TEA & THEE® CHRISTAN BOOK CLUB**

Meet and Discuss. Left To Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwanda Holocaust!  
 by: **Immaculee Ilibaqiza**

**September 4, 2008 – Meet to pick-up books**  
**September 11, 2008 – Commence Discussion**  
 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. @ Panera Breads

### **Rev. Doris B. Ryans' Preaching Engagements**

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ecorse, Michigan

**Sunday, September 17, 2008**

## 2009

### **Save the Date – 3<sup>rd</sup> Women's Retreat**

"A Call to Finish Well"

Place: TBA

**February 6-7, 2009**

**Make sure that you check our website for updates and upcoming events!!**