



Trapped In the Wrong Place (Staying Too Long)

January 1, 2023

Series Summary

1. Trapped In the **Wrong Place** (Have you ever stayed some place too long?)
2. Trapped In **Fear** (Have you ever allowed your fears to block your potential?)
3. Trapped In a **Relationship** (Are you suffering because your friends made bad decisions?)
4. Trapped In the **Wilderness** (How do you manage a long-term bondage; a 40-year issue)

Annual Question: Why people don't do what they say they are going to do?

Side Question: What have you promised to do that you have not done?

Today's Question: Have you ever stayed some place too long?

Text: Genesis 41:28-32 (NIV):

- 28 "It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. **29 Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, 30 but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land.**

- 31 The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe. 32 The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.

Note: Joseph reminded them that Egypt was not their Promised Land. He encouraged them, "to take his bones back home". However, they ended up staying in Egypt for 430 years.

Text: Genesis 50:24-25 (NIV):

- 24 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But **God will surely come to your aid** and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. 25 And Joseph made the Israelites swear an oath and said, "**God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place.**"

Four Traps Israel Could Not See

2nd Text: Exodus 1:1-22



1. They Were Trapped in a Good Season (Egypt became too good to leave)

- 3 These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; 3 Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; 4 Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. 5 The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt. 6 Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, 7 but **the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful**; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

2. They Were Trapped in an Insecure Environment (Pharaoh was dangerously insecure)

- 8 Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. 9 “Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. 10 Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”

3. They Were Trapped and Enslaved by Insecure People (Israel stayed too long, c.p. Gen. 41)

- 11 So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites 13 and worked them ruthlessly. 14 They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

4. They Were Trapped but Fought Back (Sometimes you must refuse)

- 15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, 16 “When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” 17 **The midwives, however, feared God and did not do** what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. 18 Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?” 19 The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.”

Note: The Midwives Were Rewarded for Their Faithfulness (The midwives became fruitful)

- 20 So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. 21 **And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.** 22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

Conclusion: How this can be applied to us?

1. We must never be so impressed with our prosperity that we can't **change our approach**



2. We must **not allow** our insecurities to blind us and convince us to be **extreme**
3. We must **admit when** we are trapped and enslaved in various areas of our lives
4. We must have the courage to **resist traps** people offer us
5. We must **believe** there is a reward for avoiding the traps

Next Time: Trapped by Fear

Read Ahead: Numbers 13:17-33