***G.I. Joe***

***aka***

***God’s Interpreter, Joseph***

***Episode 2***

Who’s on your Top 20 world-changers list? Here’s mine.

Noah 3900 B.C. – 2950 B.C. Reset the entire planet

Abraham 1813 - 1638 BCE Father of Jews

Moses 1393 BCE - 1273 BCE Given 10 Commandments

Jesus Christ 6-4 B.C. to 30-36 A.D. Creator/Savior of all

Apostle Paul 5 A.D. - 67 A.D. Spread Gospel of Grace

John Wycliffe 1331 – 1384 Translated Bible into English

Johannes Gutenberg 1398 – 1468 Invented printing press

Christopher Columbus 1451 – 1506 Discovered the New World

Martin Luther 1483 – 1546 Salvation by faith alone

Benjamin Franklin 1706 – 1790 Discovered electricity

William Wilberforce 1759 – 1833 Led England to end slavery

Charles Babbage 1791 – 1871 First computer (The “Difference Engine”)

Alexander Graham Bell 1847 – 1892 Telephone

Thomas Edison 1847 - 1931 Light bulb, phonograph

Henry Ford 1863 – 1947 Moving assembly line

Guglielmo Marconi 1874 – 1937 Radio, wireless telegraph

J. Robert Oppenheimer 1904 – 1967 Atomic bomb

Billy Graham 1918 - Global evangelist

Leonard Kleinrock 1934 - Packet switching, Arpanet, early Internet

Steve Wozniak 1950 - Personal computer

Like Paul, Joseph, Abraham’s great-grandson, was a world-changer. Without his leadership the entire Egyptian and Jewish populations would have starved to death, severing the lineage into which Jesus would be born. However, since He’s always true to His word, God would never allow that.

In c. 49 A.D. Paul, God’s emissary to the Gentiles, shows up at a synagogue in Greece. When he tells Jewish worshippers that their Messiah is Jesus Christ, a mob begins shouting, “(Paul and Silas) have caused trouble all over the world, touting another king called Jesus” (Acts 17:1-9).

May Joseph’s example inspire you and me to be one of God’s world-changers. The times in which we now live cry out for us to man up.

***Daydream Believer***

***Let’s read Genesis 37:1-11 (p. 39 NIV)***.

Joseph’s brothers envy him for being his dad’s favorite son to whom he’d given an amazing, technicolor dreamcoat. Further irritating the guys, God shows Joe in two dreams that one day he’ll rule over them.

In Dream A a sheaf of grain stands while others bow to it. In Dream B

the sun, moon and 11 stars (11 brothers) bow to Joe. The boys

crazy-hate him and plot his ruin.

**DISCUSS: How has being treated unfairly touched your life?**

***From Pit to Pyramids***

***Let’s read Genesis 37:12-36 (p. 39)***.

Jacob sends Joe, age 17, to check on his brothers who’d taken their flock 65 miles north to better grazing. When these rascals see Joe coming, they murmur, “Let’s kill the kid, soak his robe in goat’s blood and tell Dad an animal got him.” But Reuben, the oldest, talks them out of fratricide, planning to rescue Joe later.

Here comes a desert caravan of Ishmaelites with spices from Arabia and India to sell in Egypt. The brothers sell the lad to them for 20 shekels. Later, when Jacob sees his beloved boy’s bloody cloak, he sobs, fearing the worst. The traders sell the teen as a slave to **Potiphar** (*“one devoted to the sun”*), captain of Pharaoh’s secret service. Joseph no longer answers to a dad who serves God but to a sun worshipper. Can he put God first in this cultural and spiritual whirlpool? Can God turn jealousy and a screwed-up family into something positive to preserve His infant, Jewish nation?

**DISCUSS: Describe a time when you felt betrayed or enslaved.**

***The Price and Payoff of Purity***

***Let’s read Genesis 39:1-23 (p. 41); Psalms 105:12-22 (p. 600).***

Noting Joseph’s integrity, his leadership potential and the prosperity that accrues to him and those near him, Potiphar promotes him to oversee his household (**Ephesians 6:5-9 {p. 1177}**; **Colossians 3:22-25 {p. 1184}**).

Life’s improving for Joe, but there’s this workplace issue. Slipping into something revealing, Potiphar’s wife hits on our young stud. He runs the palace, as Adam did in the Garden, yet he knew that nibbling this off-limits fruit would be a sin against God and his boss. So Joe scrams.

Mrs. P lies to Mr. P, saying Joe had eyes for her, plays the race card (blaming “that Hebrew”), waving the cloak he’d left as he fled. To defend her honor and keep this quiet, Potiphar jails innocent Joseph.

Incarceration preps our man to be Egypt’s #2 in command, enabling the world’s most powerful monarch, Pharaoh, to see Joe’s faith up close. World-changers often face the crucible before getting a crown.

**DISCUSS: Describe your experience of being falsely accused.**

***Let’s read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (p. 1163); Ephesians 6:10-20 (p. 1177).***

When bad things attack us, it’s easy to blame people. Wrong! Satan is the *real* culprit, intent on wreaking havoc in a believer. Feeling helpless, how do you respond? Paul cites weapons at our disposal:

1. Truth, like light, exposes reality (Roman 13:12).

2. Love, God’s essence, is shown in our speech (Ephesians 4:15).

3. “Right with God” is *who* we *are* and *how* we *live* (2 Corinthians 6:7).

4. Trusting God is our way of life **(Ephesians 4:17-24 [p. 1175]).**

Abandoned and forgotten, yet Joseph (1) humbly serves God, (2) rejects

self-pity and (3) does what’s right; no compromising. He’s learning that

allegiance to God, even in pain, brings peace. Watching Joe’s pure character,

the jailer puts him in charge.

**DISCUSS: Describe how an adversity became your advantage.**

***Joseph, the Trailer; Jesus, the Coming Attraction***

Both Jesus and Joseph are beloved sons, were mistreated, and came to save their people. Joseph, thrown into a cistern; Jesus, died on a cross to pay for your sin and give you total forgiveness and unending life with Him. Have you accepted His free gift? We’ll dedicate this next quiet moment for you to close the deal. ………………………. Amen.

**His Deal**

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