

## WHEN OTHERS KEEP SETTING YOU BACK

How God Turns Setbacks into Comebacks  
Rick Warren

Genesis 37-50

Much of Joseph's life included a series of painful setbacks from his dream to do great things with his life. But God used them to position Joseph for a spectacular comeback that saved 2 entire nations: Israel & Egypt

### 1st SETBACK: GROWING UP IN A HOME WHERE HE WAS

*"Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So, one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him. One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever."*

Genesis 37:3-5 (NLT)

### 2nd SETBACK:

*"When Joseph's saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. 'Here comes the dreamer!' they said. Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!"*

Genesis 37:18-20 (NLT)

*"Reuben heard them and tried to save Joseph. 'Let's not kill him,' he said. 'Just throw him into this well in the wilderness, but don't hurt him.' He said this, planning to save him from them and send him back to his father. When Joseph came up to his brothers, they ripped off his long robe with full sleeves. Then they took him and threw him into the well, which was dry." Genesis 37:21-24 (GNT)*

### 3rd SETBACK:

*"Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.' And his brothers listened to him. Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt." Genesis 37:26-28 (ESV)*

### 4th SETBACK:

*"Then the brothers killed a goat and spattered its blood on Joseph's coat, and took the coat to their father and asked him to identify it. 'We found this in the field,' they told him. 'Is it Joseph's coat or not?' Their father recognized it at once. 'Yes,' he sobbed, 'it is my son's coat. A wild animal has eaten him. Joseph is without doubt torn in pieces.' Then Israel tore his garments and put on sackcloth and mourned for his son in deepest mourning for many weeks. His family all tried to comfort him, but it was no use. 'I will die in mourning for my son,' he would say, and then break down and cry."*

Genesis 37:31-35 (TLB)

### 5th SETBACK:

*"Meanwhile, in Egypt, the traders sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of the Pharaoh—the king of Egypt." Genesis 37:36 (TLB)*

### 6th SETBACK:

*"Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, 'Come to bed with me!' But he refused. 'With me in charge,' he told her, '... How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?' And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her. One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, 'Come to bed with me!' But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, she called her household servants. 'Look,' she said to them, 'this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.' She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. . . . When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, 'This is how your slave treated me,' he burned with anger. Joseph's master took him and put him in prison." Genesis 39:6-20*

### 7th SETBACK:

Story of Pharaoh's Wine Steward & Baker; Genesis 40:1-23:

*"Then Joseph said to him, '... Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house. For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit.' . . . Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him." Genesis 40:12-15, 23 (ESV)*

## WHAT MADE JOSEPH SO RESILIENT?

### 1.

#### IN THE PIT

*"Jacob's sons became jealous of Joseph and sold him to be a slave in Egypt. But God was with him and saved him from all his troubles." Acts 7:9-10 (NCV)*

“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. An Egyptian named Potiphar was an officer to the king of Egypt and the captain of the palace guard. He bought Joseph from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man. He lived in the house of his master.”

Genesis 39:1-2 (NCV)

### AT POTIPHAR'S

“Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the Lord began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake.”

Genesis 39:3-5 (NLT)

### IN PRISON

“So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison.” Genesis 39:20-22 (NLT)

“The jailer did not worry about anything, because the Lord was with Joseph and made him successful in all that he did.” Genesis 39:23 (CEV)

2.

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“Joseph said to them, ‘Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result—the survival of many people.’” Genesis 50:19-20 (CSB)

3.

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“The king said to him, ‘I have had a dream, and no one can explain it. I have been told that you can interpret dreams.’ Joseph answered, ‘I cannot, Your Majesty, but God will give a favorable interpretation.’” Genesis 41:15-16 (GNT)

“And the king asked them, ‘Can we find a better man than Joseph to take this job? God's spirit is truly in him!’ So the king said to Joseph, ‘God has shown you all this. There is no one as wise and understanding as you are, so I will put you in charge of my palace. All the people will obey your orders, and only I will be greater than you.’ Then the king said to Joseph, ‘Look! I have put you in charge of all the land of Egypt.’ Then the king took off from his own finger his ring with the royal seal on it, and he put it on Joseph's finger. He gave Joseph fine linen clothes to wear, and he put a gold chain around Joseph's neck . . . The king said to him, ‘I am the king, and I say that no one in all the land of Egypt may lift a hand or a foot without your permission.’” Genesis 41:38-44 (NCV)

## Next Steps

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