

ABATT
Danger Ahead
Christian Life Assembly
Jim Hoffman

1

Danger Ahead


What does this verse mean to you?

Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. NASB

2

Danger Ahead

•Danger Ahead, Stop #1



3

Danger Ahead

- The first stop on our danger tour is at that place where we are exposed to the sinfulness of mankind in general.



4

4

Danger Ahead

- Genesis 37:5 Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. 6 So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: 7 There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf." NKJV
- Probably not a great idea for the father's favorite son to flaunt his dreams of superiority to the very brothers who were under-valued by their father.

5

5

Danger Ahead

- Genesis 37:3 ***Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children***, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. 4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. NKJV
- Jacob would never win a Father of the Year award – his overt and obvious favoritism of Joseph was shameful.
- In the natural we can all understand why his brothers hated him – Jacob referred to Joseph and Benjamin as his only sons.

6

6

Danger Ahead

- Genesis 42:38 But Jacob said, "My son (Benjamin) will not go down there with you; **his brother is dead and he is the only one left**. If harm comes to him on the journey you are taking, you will bring my gray head down to the grave in sorrow." NIV
- So we can see what was going on inside the family of Jacob – Jacob had other children, he just didn't value them as he should have.
- Imagine how you would feel if you were Simeon, Reuben, or Gad and your father acted as though you were nothing?

7

7

Danger Ahead

- When Joseph's brothers saw a chance to safely and discretely do away with him, they seized the opportunity.
- You will recall that most of his brothers wanted to kill him, but Reuben intervened and convinced the group to merely sell him into slavery.
- They put him in a pit awaiting a buyer – at this point Joseph is no longer in danger from his brothers, but he is in great danger from the slave buyers.

8

8

Danger Ahead

- On this stop, the danger is easy to see – we understand, as Joseph did, that our life could be snuffed out at any moment.
- Or at least we should – at this stop we will pray and seek God because we are fully aware that life is very short to begin with and could end at any moment.
- Joseph is in danger, even more than usual, and he will be "on his toes" so to speak so as to do nothing that would cause him to lose God's favor.

9

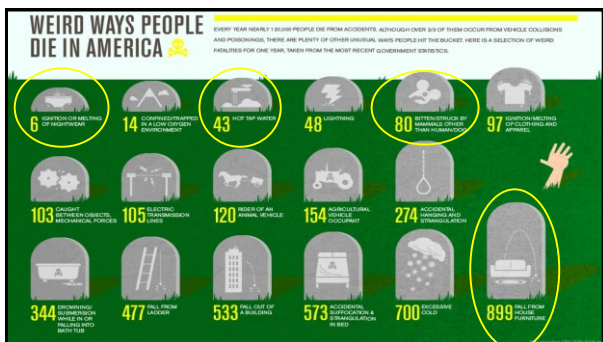
9

Danger Ahead

- We are daily in just as much danger as Joseph was when his brothers were holding him in a pit – It’s just not as obvious to us as it was to Joseph in the pit.
- There are thousands of ways to die – natural disasters, disease, accidents, poisonous critters, and wild animals.
- When roughly 2.7 million Americans die annually you would think we would all be cognizant of our mortality.

10

10



11

Danger Ahead

- **Danger Ahead, Stop #2**



12

12

Danger Ahead

• Genesis 39:19 So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, "Your servant did to me after this manner," that his anger was aroused. 20 Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison. NKJV

• Joseph was doing a great job for Potiphar, but his master's wife had designs on Joseph and while Joseph held fast to his integrity, it did not go well for him.

13

13

Danger Ahead

• So now Joseph is in a different kind of danger – the danger now is that he will become bitter and lose trust in God because he is now an innocent inmate.

• God could have stopped it, but he didn't – the skeptics would say that a good God would not let bad things happen to good people.

• But Joseph, for committing the "crime" of resisting sexual sin was thrown in prison based on a lie.

14

14

Danger Ahead

• **Stop #2** is that place where we are inclined to feel sorry for ourselves and lose trust in God because we've been mistreated.



15

15

Danger Ahead

- First his brothers betray him out of jealousy, but God provided a great station for Joseph in a pagan land called Egypt.
- Gen 39:2 The Lord was with Joseph, (in Potiphar's house) and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. NKJV
- And just about the time the slave Joseph gets his bearings, he is falsely accused of rape and imprisoned.

16

16

Danger Ahead

- If you are Joseph, you have to be thinking, "God gave me a dream where I am a leader of men – was I just hallucinating, or was it real and from God?"
- And if it was real, "why is God punishing me for doing the right thing in Potiphar's house"?
- At this point he can either continue to be faithful and trust God, or decide to turn away from God because he doesn't like what God is allowing.

17

17

Danger Ahead

- Because Joseph is living in Genesis 39 and we live at time when we know Genesis has 50 chapters, we just might have some good advice for Joseph. ☺
- We could tell him, "look, everything is going to turn out just fine" – honest Joseph, it's just a matter of time.
- Joseph may answer, "but you don't understand I am in prison for something I didn't do and I may never get out."

18

18

Danger Ahead

- We live a little like Joseph everyday – our lives are imperfect, we are at times mistreated, and sometimes our circumstances are dire.
- We have the same promises Joseph did with a lot more evidence of their fulfillment – but the “happy ending” to our lives is still “out there” somewhere in time and cannot actually be seen.
- We believe while crying out, “help my unbelief”.

19

19

Danger Ahead

- 2nd Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
- Like Joseph, our lives also have a sure and certain Genesis 50 out in front of us..... sometime, somewhere.

20

20

Danger Ahead

- Danger Ahead, Stop #3



21

21

Danger Ahead

- Genesis 41:39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. 40 You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you." 41 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." 42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. NKJV

22

22

Danger Ahead

- Genesis 41:43 And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, "**Bow the knee!**" So he set him over all the land of Egypt. 44 Pharaoh also said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." 45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath-Paaneah. And he gave him as a wife Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On. So Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt. NKJV

23

23

Danger Ahead

- For most Christians, when we read this we think, "at last, Joseph is getting the treatment from God that he deserves".
- His father set him up, his brothers took him down, Potiphar's wife accused him falsely, and still he stayed true to his trust in God.
- So we tend to see Genesis 41 as the "payoff" moment for Joseph – but is it?

24

24

Danger Ahead

- To be sure, God’s hand is all over this sequence of events in Joseph’s life – from the pit, to the prison, to the palace.
- We are not so sure about the pit and the prison, but this palace thing really looks sweet!
- Joseph is free, Joseph is exalted, and life could not be better for him – or could it?

25

25

Danger Ahead

- **Stop #3 is that place where we barely recognize the danger lurking nearby in the afterglow of what looks like success.**



26

26

Danger Ahead

- Joseph is rich, out of prison, powerful, and highly regarded throughout Egypt.
- But think about this – Joseph is also serving a pagan king, in a pagan land, under pagan rules, with a pagan’s ring, in pagan clothes, with a pagan wife.
- He may be in the more danger now that he had ever been in if you believe that the allures of success and power can ruin a life and an eternity.

27

27

Danger Ahead

- Joseph, an old testament believer, is now being lauded and influenced by a pagan king who indeed thinks himself to be God.
- He will be expected to play by the rules of Egypt – he is powerful and well connected to all the wrong people and all the wrong values.
- This is a story that repeats itself in our day among us and us and our children – we get into the world and the world gets into us.

28

28

Danger Ahead

- Joseph was in a place of great temptation – when his chariot arrives in villages the word goes out, “bow the knee”.
- He had an exalted position – he is #2 in all of Egypt and he had all of the trappings that come with the position.
- Young men and women raised in Christian homes are sometimes corrupted by what the world calls “success”.

29

29

Danger Ahead

- The rich young ruler Jesus encountered seemed to have a deep desire to know and obey God – until that is, that he understood the cost.
- The cost was all that he had in terms of wealth, which was probably the catalyst for his social standing.
- The rich young ruler went away sad, because he knew that as much as he may have wanted to be in the kingdom, he wanted the things of the world more.

30

30

Danger Ahead

- Remember God’s covenant with Abraham?
- There is a promised seed who will deliver from sin, there is a promised land where God will bless His people, and there is a promise of blessing to the world through His people.
- Joseph is being used by God to preserve His people, Joseph has been roughly and unjustly treated – and Joseph recognizes Egypt for what it is.

31

31

Danger Ahead

- Praise God that Joseph regards Egypt as, “**the land of my affliction**”, but he is a rare man.
- 1st John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—***the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life***—is not of the Father but is of the world.
- Joseph, like Moses, had it all, but it (the world) did not have him.

32

32

Danger Ahead

Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. NASB

33

33

Danger Ahead

Questions?

34

34
