

**Q1: Thinking About The Firstborn:** *Something that seemed prevalent to me throughout Genesis were different issues with firstborn sons: Cain killing Abel; Isaac being favored over Ishmael; Esau selling his birthright and then Jacob stealing the firstborn blessing of Isaac; Jacob favoring Joseph over Reuben and brothers; and, jumping ahead, Jacob giving Joseph's younger son Ephraim the greater blessing over Manasseh before he died. Even though we know everything is part of God's plan, I am curious as to what your thoughts are regarding these "firstborn" issues.*

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**Q2: God and Evolution:** *Do you think that God literally created all life on Earth out of nothing, or did He maybe just guide the process of evolution?*

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (Gen. 1:2)

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**Q3: The second appearance of the giants:** *In Genesis 6 we read that there were giants in those days before the flood and even after. Does that mean that angels continued to have relations with earthly women ever after the flood?*

There were giants [Hebrew = “nephilim”] on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown... (Gen. 6:4)

There we saw the [nephilim] giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.” (Numbers 13:33)

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**Q4: About the asherah pole:** *From our soon to be reading in Kings: are the asherah poles discussed the same as the obelisk?*

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**Q5: Wondering About Dothan:** *I've been wondering about the place Dothan, as it first appears in Genesis 37:17 and then again in 2 Kings 6:13. I happen to think that the two instances cited of this specific place are very important as in the first mention it set the whole course of Joseph's life into the destiny that the Lord had in mind for him and specifically about the "certain man" who found Joseph, who directed him where he could find his brothers. In the 2 Kings account it is the place where the Assyrian army found Elisha and where we get a glimpse of the fact that the angelic armies who are with us are greater than the armies of the enemy that may come against us. Can you expound further into these two passages. I looked up the definition for "Dothan" in the Strong's and it states that it means "help" and also a place of two wells.*

Passages:

15 Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?" 16 So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks." 17 And the man said, "They have departed from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan. (Gen. 37:15-17)

8 Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place." 9 And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there." 10 Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.

11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?" 12 And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom." 13 So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him." And it was told him, saying, "Surely he is in Dothan."

14 Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. 15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?”

16 So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. (2 Kings 6:8-17)

- Dothan / Dothayin = dual plural: “two wells”
- one of the words in Hebrew for a well is also the word for “eye”
- applying this to the stories of Joseph and Elisha

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**Q6: What about God’s work in Joseph?** *God allowed Joseph to go through a very difficult journey. What do you think was the one thing that God wanted to teach Joseph in preparation for what He had in store for him?*

14 He permitted no one to do them wrong;  
Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes,

15 Saying, “Do not touch My anointed ones,  
And do My prophets no harm.”  
16 Moreover He called for a famine in the land;  
He destroyed all the provision of bread.  
17 He sent a man before them—  
Joseph—who was sold as a slave.  
18 They hurt his feet with fetters,  
He was laid in irons.  
19 Until the time that his word came to pass,  
The word of the LORD tested him.  
20 The king sent and released him,  
The ruler of the people let him go free.  
21 He made him lord of his house,  
And ruler of all his possessions,  
22 To bind his princes at his pleasure,  
And teach his elders wisdom.  
(Psalm 105:14-22)

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