

## **Joseph, From Prison to Palace**

### **Genesis 40-41**

#### **Read Genesis 40:1-11**

v. 6-7 - This is a window into the heart of Joseph. People who are consumed with anger and bitterness do not take a concern for the personal problems of others. Being an “others-centered person” is one of the keys to living a Christ-like life.

v. 8 - Joseph had experience with dreams. His two dreams about his future greatness caused friction in his family (37:5-11), and he was mocked as the dreamer (37:19-20).

God may certainly speak through dreams and many passages of Scripture show this (ex. Genesis 20:3, Matthew 1:20). However, not every dream is a revelation from God. We must be careful about putting too much weight on dreams. Dreams can come just because our minds are busy. Look up: Ecclesiastes 5:3, 7

The Bible warns of false prophets using dreams to give credence to their message. Look up: Jeremiah 23:25-28, 27:9

#### **Read Genesis 40:12-23**

Joseph was wronged again. He was forgotten and his release from prison was not to be. God had another purpose. God wants to use everyone greatly; He first prepares greatly. Few are willing to endure the greatness of God’s preparation.

Although the cupbearer was undoubtedly grateful for Joseph’s interpretation, and most likely agreed to Joseph’s request with sincerity of heart, he forgot his promise to Joseph (41:9). How can we apply this to our relationships?

#### **Read Genesis 41:1-16**

v.14 - When it was God’s time to get Joseph out of prison, it all happened quickly. Often, we feel there are long periods of time when God doesn’t do anything, but be prepared, when His timing is right everything can come together in an instant.

v. 16 - Pharaoh gave Joseph a perfect chance to glorify himself, but Joseph would not. He did not use this as an opportunity to glorify himself before Pharaoh, but only to bring glory to God. We should be ever mindful of such moments.

#### **Read Genesis 41:17-40**

v. 17-24 – Many times in scripture we see messages and phrases repeated. When we experience this in our reading, we ought to pause and reflect its meaning (*Selah*). Joseph saw the confirming hand of God in the repetition of the dream. Look up: Deuteronomy 19:15. Can you recall any other biblical examples of repetition of a sign?

v. 38 - This is the first mention in the Bible of the Holy Spirit coming upon a man (Num 27:18, Dan 4:8-9). Pharaoh saw that Joseph was filled with the Spirit of God. This recognition by others of having the Holy Spirit dwelling within ought to be the desire of every believer in Christ Jesus. Look up: Luke 6:44

Even though the Egyptians were idolaters, and believed in sorcery (41:8), they acknowledged the “The Spirit of God” (*ruach Elohim*, the identical words used Genesis 1:2) within Joseph. The knowledge of the one true God was in Egypt long before Joseph’s arrival. Look up: Romans 1:19-20

*To truly appreciate the extent to which Pharaoh was convinced that the Spirit of God dwelt within Joseph, consider this: He decided to stake the future of his throne and his entire kingdom on a foreigner he just dragged out of the dungeon.*

#### **Read Genesis 41:41-57**

v. 50-52 - In his book *The Great Divorce*, C.S. Lewis described hell as a place where no one forgets anything, remembering every slight, every cruel exchange of words, every wrong ever done to them, and everybody is utterly unforgiving; And Heaven as a place where all these things are put away because all things have become new.

#### **Conclusion:**

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

*- Romans 8:28*