

# From the Prison to the Palace in One Day

## Genesis Chapter 41

Psalm 105:16 a Man was sent By God

### Gen 41:1 **1) Pharaoh Dreams** vs 1-8

Now it happened at the end of two full years that Pharaoh had a dream, and behold, he was standing by the Nile.

- *Two full years go by. Joseph has been forgotten for 2 years. Either simply forgotten by the Cupbearer due the exciting activity of being restored by Pharaoh, or it could easily been that the Cupbearer, being newly restored, did not want to take the risk in asking Pharaoh for anything.*
- *The reality is that God had a purpose. The forgetting of Joseph was part of God's plan. God's timing for His purpose to be accomplished in us seems, at times, inconvenient to us.*
- *Joseph is in a school of sorts. Joseph is being prepared to be 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of all Egypt. We would think that he should have been prepped at the finest universities in Egypt. But God's school is more thorough. It doesn't just teach theory but His school prepares the heart.*
- *But God has not forgotten Joseph. Pharaoh has a dream.*

Gen 41:2 And lo, from the Nile there came up seven cows, sleek and fat; and they grazed in the marsh grass.

Gen 41:3 Then behold, seven other cows came up after them from the Nile, ugly and gaunt, and they stood by the {other} cows on the bank of the Nile.

Gen 41:4 The ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven sleek and fat cows. Then Pharaoh awoke

Gen 41:5 He fell asleep and dreamed a second time; and behold, seven ears of grain came up on a single stalk, plump and good.

- *2<sup>nd</sup> dream of Pharaoh*

Gen 41:6 Then behold, seven ears, thin and scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them.

Gen 41:7 The thin ears swallowed up the seven plump and full ears. Then Pharaoh awoke, and behold, {it was} a dream.

Gen 41:8 Now in the morning his spirit was troubled, so he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

- *The two dreams are similar. 7 items appeared before Pharaoh. Each of these were normal, pleasant and the way thing ought to be. But in both dreams 7 items of the same kind appeared but these were sickly, ugly and bazaar.*
- *Vs 3 Ugly and Gaunt in KJV, I like the description "illfavored and leanfleshed".*

### Gen 41:9 **2) The Cupbearer Remembers** vs 9-13

Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, "I would make mention today of my {own} offenses.

Gen 41:10 "Pharaoh was furious with his servants, and he put me in confinement in the house of the captain of the bodyguard, {both} me and the chief baker.

Gen 41:11 "We had a dream on the same night, he and I; each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his {own} dream.

Gen 41:12 "Now a Hebrew youth {was} with us there, a servant of the captain of the bodyguard, and we related {them} to him, and he interpreted our dreams for us. To each one he interpreted according to his {own} dream.

Gen 41:13 "And just as he interpreted for us, so it happened; he restored me in my office, but he hanged him."

- *Notice the "he restored me" In Egypt, it was believed the interpreter was also the empowerer of circumstances to make these thing happen.*

Gen 41:14 **3) Joseph Hears the Dreams** vs 14-24

Then Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph, and they hurriedly brought him out of the dungeon; and when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came to Pharaoh.

- *Our perception is that God isn't doing anything for sometime, then, all of a sudden, everything comes together at once. Actually, God is doing incredible work in those "non-active" times.*
- *The work being done is a shaping of character. To shape character there need to be a testing with difficulty. Character is not molded by blessings and prosperity but by trials and tragedy*

**Character that is schooled out in the believer through trials are:**

*Boldness, Humility, Faithfulness, Holiness, Justice, Hungering for Righteousness, Meekness, Obedience, Purity, Sincerity, Steadfastness, Watchfulness, Zeal.*

Gen 41:15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; and I have heard it said about you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

Gen 41:16 Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

- *"It is not in me" What a contrast to chapter 37 where Joseph enjoyed mentioning that his brothers sheaves and the sun and moon would, he said, "bow down to me." Something happened to him through this journey. He no longer needed the focus on himself but had the eyes of others directed to God.*
- *What a bold statement. In Egypt Pharaoh was God. This Hebrew slave prisoner is telling the ruler of the most powerful nation in the world that he isn't all that. That he isn't God.*
- *Deep in the heart of man, even the most rebellious, he knows there is a God and that he has need of His grace. Pharaoh was such a man.*
- *Joseph had confidence in God that God is good and that a "favorable" or "peaceable" answer is in store.*

Gen 41:17 So Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, "In my dream, behold, I was standing on the bank of the Nile;  
Gen 41:18 and behold, seven cows, fat and sleek came up out of the Nile, and they grazed in the marsh grass.

Gen 41:19 "Lo, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and gaunt, such as I had never seen for ugliness in all the land of Egypt;  
• *If you listen carefully you can hear the things that troubled Pharaoh. "I never seen for ugliness in all the land..."*

Gen 41:20 and the lean and ugly cows ate up the first seven fat cows.

Gen 41:21 "Yet when they had devoured them, it could not be detected that they had devoured them, for they were just as ugly as before. Then I awoke.

- *Another troubling image, the ugly cows didn't get fat or better but still remained ugly.*
- *I have seen, ugly sickly people devour people with gossip, or criticism and yet they ugly and sickly do not get better. This troubles me.*

Gen 41:22 "I saw also in my dream, and behold, seven ears, full and good, came up on a single stalk;  
Gen 41:23 and lo, seven ears, withered, thin, {and} scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them;  
Gen 41:24 and the thin ears swallowed the seven good ears. Then I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me."

- *This too is troubling when those we have counted on will let us down. There are those in the live of the unbeliever who enable/encourage a life of unbelief. We all had friends like this. But in the course of life we all have visited the place where these people we counted on let us down.*
  - *When Drugs turn on you from a buzz to paranoia*
  - *When our lifestyle ruins family*
  - *When our so called friends are not there to help us when we decide to start doing the right things.*

Gen 41:25 **4) Joseph Interprets the Dreams** vs 25-36

Now Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Pharaoh's dreams are one {and the same;} God has told to Pharaoh what He is about to do.

- "God has told Pharaoh what HE is about to do" God is in charge!

Gen 41:26 "The seven good cows are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one {and the same.}

Gen 41:27 "The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven thin ears scorched by the east wind will be seven years of famine.

Gen 41:28 "It is as I have spoken to Pharaoh: God has shown to Pharaoh what He is about to do.

- "God has shown to Pharaoh what HE is about to do" God is in charge!

Gen 41:29 "Behold, seven years of great abundance are coming in all the land of Egypt;

Gen 41:30 and after them seven years of famine will come, and all the abundance will be forgotten in the land of Egypt, and the famine will ravage the land.

Gen 41:31 "So the abundance will be unknown in the land because of that subsequent famine; for it {will be} very severe.

Gen 41:32 "Now as for the repeating of the dream to Pharaoh twice, {it means} that the matter is determined by God, and God will quickly bring it about.

- *The repetition of the concepts in the 2 dreams was to show that God has established what will happen. Is isn't up for debate, He isn't asking for advise. This will happen and Happen soon*
- *Deuteronomy 19:15 "by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established"*
- *Joseph had received 2 dreams. They are one in the same, and they are established by God. But what about the quickly in Joseph's life?*

Gen 41:33 "Now let Pharaoh look for a man discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

- *Joseph speaks beyond the interpreting dreams by now advising Pharaoh what to do.*

Gen 41:34 "Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him exact a fifth {of the produce} of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance.

- *1/5 of all produce to be taken and stored. That is 20%. More than a tithe.*
- *Where did Joseph learn to administrate during years of abundance? Potiphers House*

Gen 41:35 "Then let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and store up the grain for food in the cities under Pharaoh's authority, and let them guard {it.}

Gen 41:36 "Let the food become as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which will occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish during the famine."

- *Where did Joseph learn to administrate during years of famine? In Prison*

Gen 41:37 **5) Pharaoh Accepts Josephs Proposal** vs 37-45

Now the proposal seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his servants.

- *I can't help but think that when Pharaoh is troubled all his servants are troubled. But when something seems good to Pharaoh it seems good to his servants.*

Gen 41:38 Then Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is a divine spirit?"

- *Pharaoh is not saying what we would understand as the "Spirit of God." While it is true, Pharaoh was a polytheist and believed not in the One True God.*
- *Unbelievers all around us say they believe in God. It may sound correct but generally they are not talking about the God we know or do they mean belief unto salvation. Do not be thrown off when an unbeliever uses Christian speak.*

Gen 41:39 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are.

Gen 41:40 "You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do

homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you."

Gen 41:41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

Gen 41:42 Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck.

- *This is a ceremony. Very public. All was able to see that this is by the command of Pharaoh.*

Gen 41:43 He had him ride in his second chariot; and they proclaimed before him, "Bow the knee!" And he set him over all the land of Egypt.

- *The second chariot was reserved for the Grand Visier of Egypt.*

Gen 41:44 Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "{Though} I am Pharaoh, yet without your permission no one shall raise his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."

Gen 41:45 Then Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenath-paneah; and he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphra priest of On, as his wife. And Joseph went forth over the land of Egypt.

- *Pharaoh confers upon Joseph Egyptian citizenship.*
- *Gives an Egyptian wife to Joseph. The priest of On was the next most powerful influence in the land.*
- *We really never know what a day may bring:*
  - *Joseph woke up in prison, but by the end of the day he was 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of Egypt*
  - *Pharaoh woke up troubled, but by the end of the day he had a 14 year plan.*
  - *The Cupbearer woke up in routine, but by the end of the day he made the introductions that saved Egypt.*
  - *Asenath woke up a daughter of a priest, but by the end of the day the wife of the Grand Visier*
  - *Potipher's wife woke up happy in her home, but by the end of the day she was running for her life out of Egypt. (not found in text, just a thought)*

Gen 41:46 **6) Joseph Prospers** vs 46-57

Now Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:47 During the seven years of plenty the land brought forth abundantly.

Gen 41:48 So he gathered all the food of {these} seven years which occurred in the land of Egypt and placed the food in the cities; he placed in every city the food from its own surrounding fields.

Gen 41:49 Thus Joseph stored up grain in great abundance like the sand of the sea, until he stopped measuring {it,} for it was beyond measure.

- *The measure of the amount of grain, stored during the years of plenty, was so great that keeping track was too cumbersome.*
- *The 20% tax on the grain was not difficult for the people.*

Gen 41:50 Now before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphra priest of On, bore to him.

- *2 sons borne to Joseph from a Gentile woman*
- *Imagine the conversations between a pantheist woman and Joseph who believed in One God.*

Gen 41:51 Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, "For," {he said,} "God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household."

Gen 41:52 He named the second Ephraim, "For," {he said,} "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

- *At 17 Joseph was taken from his home. Has traveled with Midianites. Spent 13 years either in Potiphers house and prison. But no scripture. No Hebrew priest, No recorded visitation of God. Then 6 more years managing Egypt's Grain. Then he has 2 sons and names them in recognition of what Jehovah has done*

- *God has caused me to forget all my trouble + Father's household. He no longer grieves.  
\* How has God allowed trouble in your past to be forgotten?*
- *God has made him fruitful where he was.*

- Gen 41:53 When the seven years of plenty which had been in the land of Egypt came to an end,  
Gen 41:54 and the seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said, then there was famine in all the lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.
- *All Lands was hit by famine*
- Gen 41:55 So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried out to Pharaoh for bread; and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, you shall do."
- Gen 41:56 When the famine was {spread} over all the face of the earth, then Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians; and the famine was severe in the land of Egypt.
- Gen 41:57 {The people of} all the earth came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the earth.
- *All Peoples of the earth was coming to Joseph to buy grain.*
  - *The plan was in effect.*
  - *Bread*
    - *Verse 54 "There was Bread."*
    - **Jhn 6:33-35** "For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."
    - **Jhn 6:48** "I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."
    - **1Cr 11:23-32** "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way {He took} the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink {it,} in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

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