

Genesis - Lesson 41

Genesis Chapter 41

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Memory verses for this week: *Philemon 1:21 Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.*

Introduction: We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as Joseph is called upon to interpret more dreams, this time the dreams of Pharaoh. We will be covering the first half of Chapter 41 in this morning's lesson.

I. Pharaoh's Dream

Gen 41:1 And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river.

Gen 41:2 And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favoured kine and fatfleshed; and they fed in a meadow.

Gen 41:3 And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill favoured and leanfleshed; and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river.

There are many important lessons to be learned from the experiences of Joseph. As we discussed last week, the heart of the king is in the hand of the Lord. (Pro. 21:1) So God used Pharaoh to deliver Joseph from prison. God uses strange things to accomplish His will.

In chapter 39 Satan used Potiphar's wife to put Joseph in prison, and in chapter 40 Pharaoh's chief butler is used to keep him in prison. In chapter 41, the same butler is used to get his release. From the viewpoint of the world, none of this seems to make sense. But the wisdom of the world (Egypt) is foolishness with God. Only God's man received the light to reveal the future. Even though Joseph endured considerable hardship, it is clear that all things work together for good.

If I had done nothing wrong, I doubt I could have shown the patience and faith Joseph shows. Time goes by day by day, and ultimately Joseph has remained in prison for 2 years. Think about how long that would be to wait and try to figure things out. Most people would have given up, but Joseph had faith and waited on the Lord.

Psa 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psa 37:32 The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.

Psa 37:33 The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.

Psa 37:34 Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

God chooses who He will communicate with, even a wicked king. Not only does he choose who, but also how and when. God chooses mysterious ways to reveal His truth, and to the non-believer, it does not compute. But the child of God, the one who has maturity, sees beyond the immediate day and looks at God's long-term plan.

Gen 41:4 And the ill favoured and leanfleshed kine did eat up the seven well favoured and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke.

Gen 41:5 And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank and good.

Gen 41:6 And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them.

Gen 41:7 And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream.

Pharaoh explains his first dream, and then the second. Seven lean kine (cows) eating seven fat kine. This would be a shocking dream, for cows do not eat cows. Remember that in Egypt the cow was a sacred animal and a symbol of Isis, the goddess of the earth. Then after he goes back to sleep, a second dream comes with similar and confusing parts. Next he sees corn eating corn. The thin seven ears of corn devoured the first good seven. This is even more strange. The "east wind" was known in Palestine as the "sirocco."

Some verses that reference the east wind are:

Jer 18:17 I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity.

Jon 4:8 And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.

Hos 13:15 Though he be fruitful among his brethren, an east wind shall come, the wind of the LORD shall come up from the wilderness, and his spring shall become dry, and his fountain shall be dried up: he shall spoil the treasure of all pleasant vessels.

Gen 41:8 And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.

Pharaoh was very troubled by the dreams and sends for the magicians and wise men to

come and explain what he has dreamed. None could do it. There was a failure of the wise men. Why? God had a plan for Joseph.

Gen 40:8 And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you.

1Co 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

1Co 1:19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

1Co 1:20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

1Co 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Gen 41:9 Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day:

Gen 41:10 Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker:

Gen 41:11 And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream.

Gen 41:12 And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret.

Gen 41:13 And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged.

After two more years in prison, Joseph is finally remembered by the butler. We talked about how it seemed like such a small thing that Joseph had asked of the butler. By God's help, he had interpreted the butler's dream, and asked that when he came back to his position with Pharaoh that he would remember him since he was innocent of any wrong doing. Now, it says in verse 9 that the butler remembers his own faults.

God can cause His own to be remembered. We understand how it all worked to Joseph's family's advantage that he was not remembered until now. Not only did it work good in his family, but it saved thousands of people's lives there in Egypt also. The butler tells Pharaoh how there was a young Hebrew in the prison and how he had told the interpretation of both the baker and the butler's dreams. By God's hand, Joseph was an interpreter of dreams.

II. Joseph Interprets the Dreams

Gen 41:14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.

Gen 41:15 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.

Gen 41:16 And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.

The king calls for Joseph and he reveals his humility and takes none of the glory for the ability to interpret the dreams. At Pharaoh's request, Joseph is delivered and made presentable to appear before the king. He shaves, cleans himself up and puts on new raiment. When we come before important people, we should look our best. When we come before God in church, we should be dressed in a manner that honors and glorifies the Lord.

This doesn't mean all dressed up, but being presentable in modest apparel. Some churches don't care what you wear to church. I think as a Christian we should attempt to look our best at all times. If we would dress up for a dignitary, should we not come in good clothes for the King of Kings.

In verse 15, Pharaoh appeals to Joseph for help. Joseph reveals that it is God who interprets dreams. Note that Joseph does not appeal for his own freedom, nor does he tell of his plight. He did not put himself first, but rather the message was first. This shows how he looked beyond the immediate day and trusted God in all things. Believe me, that would take the grace of God after sitting in prison for over two years. Waiting on the Lord is hard, but we are commanded to do that.

Pharaoh repeats his dreams so that Joseph can hear what he dreamed.

Gen 41:17 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the river:

Gen 41:18 And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fatfleshed and well favoured; and they fed in a meadow:

Gen 41:19 And, behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and very ill favoured and leanfleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness:

Gen 41:20 And the lean and the ill favoured kine did eat up the first seven fat kine:

Gen 41:21 And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still ill favoured, as at the beginning. So I awoke.

Gen 41:22 And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up in one stalk, full and good:

Gen 41:23 And, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them:

Gen 41:24 And the thin ears devoured the seven good ears: and I told this unto the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.

Notice the things that he added to the first account. Perhaps the dreams had come back more vividly to him, or perhaps he just explains in greater detail to Joseph.

Gen 41:25 And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed

Pharaoh what he is about to do.

Gen 41:26 The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one.

Gen 41:27 And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine.

Gen 41:28 This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh.

Gen 41:29 Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt:

Gen 41:30 And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land;

Gen 41:31 And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous.

Gen 41:32 And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

Joseph is able to tell Pharaoh the message in the dreams. Joseph explains that the two accounts in the dreams were in fact one event to happen. The dreams were very important and contain a message from God to Pharaoh. Seven prosperous years were to come to the land of Egypt followed by seven years of famine. The two dreams were given as a certainty and they were about to come to pass imminently.

In The Annotated Bible, by Arno C. Gaebelin, Vol. 1, page 81.

"And this dream of Pharaoh and Joseph's interpretation has been remarkably confirmed by the hieroglyphic inscriptions. One was discovered in 1908 which tells of the seven years of famine, because the Nile did not overflow. It has been ascertained that this was the very time when Joseph was in Egypt."

Again in this lesson, we find Joseph as a type of Christ.

Joseph was delivered from prison. Jesus was despised, rejected, crucified and buried, yet God delivered Him.

Act 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Act 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Act 2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Joh 20:3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

Joh 20:4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

Joh 20:5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

Joh 20:6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,
Joh 20:7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.
Joh 20:8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.
Joh 20:9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

God delivered Joseph.

Gen 45:4 And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.
*Gen 45:5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for **God did send me before you to preserve life.***
Gen 45:6 For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest.
Gen 45:7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.
Gen 45:8 So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.
Gen 45:9 Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not:

It was God who delivered Christ.

Act 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:
Act 2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Act 2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.
Act 2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Act 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.
Act 10:39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:
Act 10:40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;
Act 10:41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

Joseph was a revealer of secrets. So also was Christ.

Joh 17:7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.
Joh 17:8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received

them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

Joseph warned Pharaoh of the future danger and the need to prepare for it. The Gospel is all about what is coming and how we all need Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. No one outside of Christ will be saved.

Mat 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Mat 24:37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Mat 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

Mat 24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Mat 24:40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Mat 24:41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Mat 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Mat 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Mat 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

There are some great lessons here for our admonition.

The faithful believer will be abundantly recompensed for the disgrace he has patiently suffered and his righteousness will shine forth so all will know that God is with him. As Joseph solved Pharaoh's vexing problems, so Jesus relieves the heart of its burdens.

Trials down here are many, but God orders our every step when we know Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Joseph's patience and faith in God should be an encouragement to us when we face things we don't understand. It doesn't mean God has forgot us or forsaken us. It just means we have to wait a while to see the full plan of God in our lives.

III. Joseph Becomes the Wise Counselor

Gen 41:32 And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

Gen 41:33 Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:34 Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years.

Joseph summarized the two dreams in verse 32 and points out that the two dreams were really one dream that was doubled, and it came to Pharaoh for him to realize that the thing was established by God and would shortly come to pass. Joseph now offers advice To Pharaoh in verse 33. He tells him that the right man was needed. It should be one that is discreet and wise.

This chosen one was to be placed over Egypt. We see from Joseph's advice that the Spirit of God not only gave him the interpretation of the dream, but also gave him the advice he was to give to Pharaoh. Through divine guidance from the Lord, Joseph instructs that officers are to be appointed over the land, and a fifth part of the crops were to be taken during the 7 good years.

Gen 41:35 And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

Gen 41:36 And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.

These officers over the land were to gather the fifth part of all the food and store it under Pharaoh's control. It is doubtful if Joseph had thought of himself being a candidate for the job of chief administrator. Likely he would have been satisfied to have been given his freedom if you remember what he told the chief butler.

Gen 40:14 But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house:

Gen 40:15 For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.

Gen 41:37 And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants.

Gen 41:38 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?

Gen 41:39 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

Gen 41:40 Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

What a turn of events in this young man's life. He goes from living in a cell to being chosen by the king. Joseph is appointed by Pharaoh to be the one in charge of putting back the 20% of the crops for the next seven years. Pharaoh and his advisers accept the plan and conclude that Joseph is the best choice for the job.

Why was he chosen? Pharaoh made it clear in verse 38. The reason was because the Spirit of God was in him. It seems that Pharaoh spoke much more truth than we would

expect from a heathen king, but it is possible that there was a much greater knowledge of the one and only true God, than we would have expected. If you and I as Christians are living a spirit filled life and walking according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, not only will our friends see the Spirit in us, but so will the lost.

Pharaoh is very pleased and promotes Joseph to become the second ruler of Egypt. Only Pharaoh would be greater in power than Joseph.

Gen 41:41 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:42 And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

Gen 41:43 And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Joseph is rewarded by Pharaoh and set over all the land of Egypt. He took the ring off of his hand and gave it to Joseph. The giving of the ring which was an official seal. In verse 42, Joseph was properly robed in vestures of fine line and a gold chain was placed about his neck. Joseph no doubt took on an air of importance. You and I as saints are to be properly robed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

The gold chain given Joseph may have been a symbol of authority. A chariot second only to Pharaoh's was given to him also. The people were commanded to show reverence, honor, and respect. The people obliged and this was shown to him.

Gen 41:44 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

By the order of the king, Egypt was now under Joseph's control. And after this, Joseph received a new name and was rewarded with a Gentile bride, Asenath the daughter of Potipherah, the priest of On.

Matthew Henry said this on his notes on Genesis 41.

Here is, I. The good advice that Joseph gave to Pharaoh, which was, 1. That in the years of plenty he should lay up for the years of famine, buy up corn when it was cheap, that he might both enrich himself and supply the country when it would be dear and scarce. Note, Fair warning should always be followed with good counsel. Therefore the prudent man foresees the evil, that he may hide himself. God has in his word told us of a day of trial and exigence before us, when we shall need all the grace we can get, and all little enough, "Now, therefore, provide accordingly."

As in several of our recent lessons, again Joseph is recognized as a type of Christ in these middle verses of chapter 41 down through verse 45.

1. Joseph was a wonderful counselor. Christ is the Wonderful Counselor.

Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Col 2:1 For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

Col 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

Col 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

2. Joseph's counsel was wisely followed by Pharaoh. Today and in all ages, the wise will follow Christ's counsel.

Mat 7:28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

Mat 7:29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Joh 7:44 And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.

Joh 7:45 Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?

Joh 7:46 The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.

3. Joseph was exalted and set over all Egypt. Christ is exalted and set over all. Every knee will bow to the King of Kings one day.

1Pe 3:22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

4. Joseph was seated on the throne of another. Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Rev 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

5. Joseph was exalted because of his worth. Pharaoh and the people saw his worth in that day. Never has one ever been so worthy as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Php 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Php 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Php 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Php 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Php 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Php 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Php 2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

6. Joseph was invested with the insignia as to become his new position. This was also true of Christ.

Act 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

Act 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Heb 2:7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

Heb 2:8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

7. Joseph's authority and glory was publicly recognized. Christ's authority and glory will certainly be displayed.

Act 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

8. Joseph's new name meant, "Saviour of the world." Jesus is the Saviour of the world.

Php 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Php 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Act 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

9. Joseph had a Gentile wife given to him. When the church is raptured out, Christ will

receive a Gentile bride.

Act 15:14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

Eph 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

10. Joseph's marriage was arranged by the king. Christ's marriage is arranged by the Heavenly Father.

Mat 22:2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

Mat 22:3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

IV. Joseph Becomes the Wise Ruler

Gen 41:46 And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:47 And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls.

Gen 41:48 And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same.

Gen 41:49 And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.

Joseph wastes no time but immediately prepares for the famine. He was not an old man endowed with years of wisdom and knowledge, but was only 30 years old. Much like Christ, he had tremendous wisdom for his age.

He first surveyed the land. At his command, vast amounts of corn and other foods were stored in all the cities.

Gen 41:50 And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him.

Gen 41:51 And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.

Gen 41:52 And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

What a world of difference was there now and looking back 10 years when Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. Now second only to Pharaoh in the land, Joseph is a great ruler. And now, he is blessed with a family. He had two sons born before the famine. Manasseh means "forgetfulness." What did Joseph forget? Verse 51 says that God had made him forget all his toil and all his father's house. Ephraim means "doubly

fruitful." Who was ever more fruitful than this young man?

Gen 41:53 And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended.

Gen 41:54 And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

Gen 41:55 And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.

Gen 41:56 And the famine was over all the face of the earth: And Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:57 And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.

After the seven years of plenty, just as God had promised via the dream, the famine hits the land. Joseph now provides during the famine. Not only was there a famine in Egypt, but it was that way in all the lands. Verse 56 says that the famine was over all the face of the earth. Now the people were sent to Joseph. And according the original plan, Joseph now opens the storehouses. God through Pharaoh's dream and Joseph's work and guidance had allowed the vast storehouses of food to be stored. Now the other nations are blessed.

Again Joseph is a Type Of Christ in verses 46-57.

1. Joseph enters his great work at the age of 30. So did Christ.

Luk 3:22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

Luk 3:23 And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,

2. Joseph alone could dispense the bread to the starving nations. Christ is the living bread and the only source.

Joh 6:35 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.

3. Joseph becomes a Saviour to all nations. So did Christ.

Joh 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

4. Joseph's resources seemed unlimited. How true this is of Christ.

Eph 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Eph 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Eph 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might

be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

Mat 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Mat 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How did Joseph advise Pharaoh to prepare for the 7 years?

Put a man of wisdom in charge to store up food during the 7 years of plenty.

2. Who did Pharaoh appoint to be over these matters?

Joseph

3. Why was Joseph the right man for such a job?

Because of the spirit of God was in him.

4. How did Pharaoh reward Joseph for his wisdom?

He put him in charge of the whole nation of Egypt. Only he was of higher power.

5. How is Joseph seen as a type of Christ in these matters?

Over 10 types. See notes following verse 45.

6. How old was Joseph when he became ruler in Egypt?

30 years of age

7. What were the names of Joseph's two sons and the meaning of their names?

Manasseh means "forgetfulness." Ephraim means "doubly fruitful."

8. How many years of plenty and how many years of famine?

7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.