

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

So last week, we did chapters 39 and 40.

In them we saw that Joseph had been a slave in Egypt for 11 years.

Of course this was a result of his brothers selling him into slavery.

Joseph was purchased by Potiphar and Potiphar was blessed as a result of Joseph being in his home.

Mrs. Potiphar falsely accuses Joseph of trying to rape her and then Joseph is placed in prison where God continues to

bless him in the prison as he is placed in charge of the rest of the prisoners.

It is in prison where he meets the baker and the butler – they each have a dream, God gives Joseph the interpretation of the dream and he reveals it to the baker and the butler – and as he tells the butler the meaning of his dream, he tells him to remember him when he is fully restored.

The baker is put to death by hanging and the butler is restored to the position he had occupied previously.

Then the last verse of chapter 40 reads -

**[Gen 40:23 NKJV] 23 Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.**

Then we come to the first half of verse one and it says

**[Gen 41:1-57 NKJV] 1 Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years,**

For two years Joseph sat in the prison looking at the door and wondering if today is the day that the butler is going to remember him.

Think about how we would have felt in his position, **resentful, angry, confused, depressed, and disillusioned?**

How did Joseph feel?

While God has not given us any detail regarding the thoughts of Joseph we can learn something from what we **do not see** from Joseph.

**Not once in all his trials does Joseph even come close to complaining.**

The absence of any evidence of frustration or complaints from Joseph is a strong indication of the relationship he had with God.

You see, it is only through a strong trusting relationship with God that any one of us can get through all that Joseph experienced without a feeling of displeasure.

You see, Joseph simply trusted God throughout and that is a profound lesson for those of us who are prone to complaining. We need to be more like Joseph no matter our circumstances.

And by God's grace we will be.

But it is all done in his perfect timing!

What would have happened if the baker had gone to Pharaoh and told him about Joseph – Joseph walks out of prison and heads home to Canaan to be reunited with his father Jacob and reconcile with his brothers – and then the famine happens. Who is going to reveal the dream to Pharaoh? Who is going to prepare Egypt? Who is going to save Joseph's family?

**You see, God has kept Joseph in Egypt for this reason.**

**Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream; and behold, he stood by the river. 2 Suddenly there came up out of the river seven cows, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow. 3 Then behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ugly and gaunt, and stood by the [other] cows on**

**the bank of the river. 4 And the ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven fine looking and fat cows. So Pharaoh awoke. 5 He slept and dreamed a second time; and suddenly seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, plump and good. 6 Then behold, seven thin heads, blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them. 7 And the seven thin heads devoured the seven plump and full heads. So Pharaoh awoke, and indeed, [it was] a dream.**

Now, it's Pharaoh's turn to have a dream.

Joseph had two dreams, the baker and the butler had one dream – now it's Pharaoh's turn.

In his dream, he is standing most likely on the Nile River, he sees seven fat cows come out of the water and then seven ugly skinny cows come out of the river and eat the fat cows.

Pharaoh then has another dream – similar to the first one but instead of cows – the dream had heads of grain – the skinny heads of grain eating the fat ones.

**8 Now 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 its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but [there was] no one who could interpret them for Pharaoh. 9 Then the chief butler spoke to Pharaoh, saying: "I remember my faults this day. 10 "When Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, [both] me and the chief baker, 11 "we each had a dream in one night, he and I. Each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his [own] dream. 12 "Now there**

[was] a young Hebrew man with us there, a servant of the captain of the guard. And we told him, and he interpreted our dreams for us; to each man he interpreted according to his [own] dream. 13 "And it came to pass, just as he interpreted for us, so it happened. He restored me to my office, and he hanged him." 14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh. 15 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and [there is] no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you [that] you can understand a dream, to interpret it." 16 So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "[It is] not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."

I want to draw your attention to how Joseph responds to the Pharaoh.

Because he could have easily soaked up everything Pharaoh was saying about him.

He could have easily said, “Yep – that’s me. It’s all me. I am that guy!”

Joseph instead corrects Pharaoh and makes sure to give God all the glory.

This is the same thing that Jesus did throughout His ministry.

**[Mat 5:14-16 NKJV] 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all [who are] in the**

house. 16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and **glorify your Father in heaven.**

Pharaoh then proceeds to tell his dream to Joseph.

17 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph: "Behold, in my dream I stood on the bank of the river. 18 "Suddenly seven cows came up out of the river, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow. 19 "Then behold, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and gaunt, such ugliness as I have never seen in all the land of Egypt. 20 "And the gaunt and ugly cows ate up the first seven, the fat cows. 21 "When they had eaten them up, no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they [were] just as ugly as at the beginning. So I awoke. 22

**"Also I saw in my dream, and suddenly seven heads came up on one stalk, full and good. 23 "Then behold, seven heads, withered, thin, [and] blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them. 24 "And the thin heads devoured the seven good heads. So I told [this] to the magicians, but [there was] no one who could explain [it] to me." 25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh [are] one; God has shown Pharaoh what He [is] about to do: 26 "The seven good cows [are] seven years, and the seven good heads [are] seven years; the dreams [are] one. 27 "And the seven thin and ugly cows which came up after them [are] seven years, and the seven empty heads blighted by the east wind are seven years of famine. 28 "This [is] the thing which I have**

**spoken to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what He [is] about to do. 29 "Indeed seven years of great plenty will come throughout all the land of Egypt; 30 "but after them seven years of famine will arise, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine will deplete the land. 31 "So the plenty will not be known in the land because of the famine following, for it [will be] very severe. 32 "And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing [is] established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.**

Pharaoh tells Joseph his dreams and then Joseph provides the interpretation – the two dreams are actually one dream.

There is going to be seven years of abundance followed by seven years of severe famine.

The famine is going to be so severe, that the people of Egypt will no longer remember the abundance.

There will be no more food – the people of the Kingdom of Egypt will starve to death.

That was the message to Pharaoh.

However, God not only provides Joseph with the interpretation, He also provides Joseph with wisdom to tell Pharaoh.

**33 "Now therefore, let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. 34 "Let**

**Pharaoh do [this], and let him appoint officers over the land, to collect one-fifth [of the produce] of the land of**

**Egypt in the seven plentiful years. 35 "And let them**

**gather all the food of those good years that are coming,**

**and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. 36 "Then that food shall be as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land may not perish during the famine."**

So the wisdom that Joseph gives to Pharaoh is that

- He must first select a discerning and wise man to oversee everything
- Appoint Officers over the land
- Set aside 20% of the crops collected during the abundant years to be used for the seven years of famine – and this was going to be managed by the officers.

Now, I want to point out that God has given Pharaoh, revelation; He has now given Pharaoh the wisdom so that the land will not perish during the famine.

However, it is still up to the Pharaoh to act upon the revelation and wisdom from God.

Pharaoh could have easily said – “you know what Joseph, I know what you are saying but, I am still going to do things my way.”

Or he could have said – I am sure there is another way.

Church, for the past couple of weeks, I have repeatedly mentioned to you that Joseph is a type or a picture of Jesus Christ – and doesn't Jesus also present each and every one of us with the revelation of who He is and doesn't He give us wisdom regarding how we are to live our lives.

Are we not in the same position as Pharaoh???

Pharaoh has heard the interpretation and the wisdom – the question is does he act on it?

**[Jas 1:22 NKJV] 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.**

What does Pharaoh decide?

**37 So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. 38 And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find [such a one] as this, a man in whom [is] the Spirit of God?" 39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, [there is] no one as discerning and wise as you.**

Pharaoh accepts the wisdom from Joseph and nominates Joseph to be the one in charge.

Pharaoh at this point delegated to Joseph all of the administrative tasks of ruling Egypt.

He became the Prime minister, and so was the second most powerful man in the world's most powerful kingdom.

Just a few hours ago, he was sitting in a prison and now he is the Prime Minister of Egypt. However church, we must not lose focus that this transition did not happen overnight – it was 13 years in the making.

**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.**

The signet ring was the expression of Pharaoh's authority. Now Joseph had that authority. Once he wore the shackles of a prisoner; now he had the signet ring of Pharaoh.

**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."**

No one in the Kingdom of Egypt could do anything without Joseph's permission.

Listen to the words of Jesus in John 15,

**[Jhn 15:5 NKJV] 5 "I am the vine, you [are] the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**

**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.**

We really don't know what the meaning of Joseph's new name is. I must have seen at least 6 different translation attempts.

So I am not going to provide one since everything is just a suggestion.

Why did Pharaoh change Joseph's name? Well because he was Hebrew and had a Hebrew name. He gives him an Egyptian name and an Egyptian wife as well.

**46 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. 47 Now in the seven plentiful years the ground brought forth abundantly.**

I asked you to underline that Joseph was 30 years old when he stood before Pharaoh – this is how we know that he spent 13 years as a slave.

So Joseph begins his ministry as Prime Minister of Egypt –

Jesus also began His public ministry at the age of 30. **[Luk 3:23 NKJV] 23 Now Jesus Himself began [His ministry at] about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) [the] son of Joseph, [the son] of Heli,**

And we also see that the interpretation of the dream was correct as Egypt sees an abundance for seven years.

**48 So 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; he laid up in every city the food of the fields which surrounded them. 49 Joseph gathered very much grain, as the sand of the sea, until he stopped counting, for [it was] immeasurable. 50 And to Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore**

to him. 51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house."

So Joseph's first son with his Egyptian wife, he names Manasseh (a Hebrew name) and the name Manasseh has an interesting meaning – forgetfulness

For God has made me forget all my toil or troubles.

And Joseph has encountered plenty of trouble the last 13 years.

The way his brothers treated him, the pit that they threw him in, being sold into slavery, being falsely accused, thrown into prison, being forgotten.

Listen to what Paul writes to the Philippian church -

**[Phi 3:13-14 NKJV] 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

One of the characteristics that we find in both Joseph and in Paul is that both of them didn't dwell on the past – they kept looking forward.

We can't do anything about the past. Those that dwell on the past simply hinder their walk. They become bitter.

**52 And the name of the second he called Ephraim: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."**

Joseph names his second son, fruitful. Ephraim is also a Hebrew name.

However, notice the order of the son's names.

For we will never be fruitful until we quit living in the past

**53 Then the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Egypt ended, 54 and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. The famine was in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. 55 So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Then Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, do."**

In the gospel of John 2, the first miracle of Jesus that John records is the one where Jesus turns water into wine at a wedding.

And Mary tells the servants the same thing that Pharaoh tells the Egyptians seeking bread.

**56 The famine was over all the face of the earth, and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. And the famine became severe in the land of Egypt. 57 So all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy [grain], because the famine was severe in all lands.**

In ch. 47 we'll discover that the famine lasted so long and was so severe, Joseph ended up owning or gaining control of virtually all of the land of Egypt for Pharaoh.

The people had to come to him so often to buy bread, that their savings were depleted and they ended up having to sell their lands and property.

And some of this land was set aside for Children of Israel as they multiplied and prospered during their time in Egypt.

And we will begin to see how Joseph's father and family end up in Egypt starting next week.

Let's pray...

