

**Series "In The Beginning...God"**  
**"Prison To Palace"**  
**Genesis 41:1-40**  
**Study-70**

**One Of The Most Beloved Passages In The Bible: Romans 8:28**  
**"From Prison To Palace, To 2<sup>nd</sup> To Pharaoh In An Hour."**

**Joseph Models How Daily Faithfulness In The Ordinary Duties Is The Best Preparation For Future Service. "Now Prison To Palace!"**

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "Adversity, Prosperity Or Exultation Did Not Affect Joseph's Trust And Witness In God Whom He Served."

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| <b>1. Verses 1-8</b>   | <b>Pharaoh Dreams</b>      |
| <b>2. Verses 9-13</b>  | <b>Cupbearer Remembers</b> |
| <b>3. Verses 14-32</b> | <b>Joseph Interprets</b>   |
| <b>4. Verses 33-40</b> | <b>Joseph Promoted</b>     |

**1. Verses 1-8 Pharaoh Dreams**

**Genesis 41:1 Now it happened at the end of two full years.**

**Context** - Moses left off with Joseph in prison, where he interpreted two dreams: one for the **Cupbearer** and one for the **Baker**. He then tells the cupbearer who would be restored to his position. **Genesis 40:14-15**

What Joseph said came true, and the cupbearer was restored **Genesis 40:23, Genesis 41:1 Now it happened at the end of two full years**

**"Our stops as well as our steps are ordered by God."** Psalm 37:23

**(Joseph, 17 when sold to slavery, now 30 (Genesis 41:46), as he stands before Pharaoh, 13 years have gone by) Philippians 1:6**

**Verses 1-4 Pharaoh's First Dream - Cattle: that Pharaoh had a dream,** Pharaoh had two dreams. Behind the scenes, God is working!

**and behold, he was standing by the Nile. Nile** – a god, giver of life. God of Fertility.

**Genesis 41:2-4 ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven sleek and fat cows** - This could only happen in a dream! Cows eating up cows.

**Verses 5-7 Pharaoh's Second Dream - Grain: Genesis 41:5** (Grain (not Corn), a great asset of the Egyptians).

**Genesis 41:6-7 thin ears swallowed up the seven plump and full ears.** This again could only happen in a dream.

**Then Pharaoh awoke,** - The word "**behold**" is used **six times**, it shook the king to his core.

**Genesis 41:8 Now in the morning his spirit was troubled,** - He realized that this was some divine message from God.

**magicians of Egypt,** - students of the occult. "*Lector-Priests*" learned in *sacred writings, rituals, and spells at temple schools*. Moses would encounter this same group. **Exodus 7:11**

**and all its wise men.** Philosophers who had books and formulas on dreams.

## **2. Verses 9-13 Cupbearer Remembers**

**Genesis 41:9** Remembers two years later, something! **Genesis 41:10-13**

## **3. Verses 14-32 Joseph Interprets**

**Genesis 41:14 Then Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph,** God can change things in a moment.

**he had shaved himself and changed his clothes,**  
The Hebrews did not shave, but they grew beards. The Egyptians were clean-shaven. (Makeover, from dungeon to palace)

**he came to Pharaoh.** Joseph's life has been one of ups and downs.

**Genesis 41:15** It happened before with the testimony of the cupbearer.

**The greatest temptation of Joseph's life will be maintaining his integrity towards God in the midst of prosperity:**

**Genesis 41:16 To God Be The Glory: "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."** What a witness for God Joseph was. Daniel follows. **Daniel 2:27-28**

**"It is not in me; Humility in its truest sense! I can't be the person I must be, apart from God. 2 Corinthians 3:5**

**God will give – 4 times: Verses 16, 25, 28, 32.**  
Joseph pointed to God again and again.

**God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."** That was a brave statement, Pharaoh, who was considered a god, Joseph said, "*Elohim, Creator Sovereign,*" "*God would explain the dream to Pharaoh, God is superior to you!*" *What a bold witness of Faith!*

**The Pharaoh** who was "*regarded as a divine and son of the sun god incarnate.*"

To the cupbearer, Joseph boldly said, **Genesis 40:8**

**Verses 17-24 Pharaoh Tells Joseph His Dream: Genesis 41:17-21**

**Note: it could not be detected that they had devoured them;**  
This is an additional statement that Pharaoh adds to the story, one he did not mention at the beginning.

**Genesis 41:22-24**

**Verses 25-36 Joseph Interprets The Dream: Genesis 41:25 God has told to Pharaoh what He is about to do.** Notice the witness for God! Joseph has invoked God as the interpreter and revealer of the dreams.  
**Jeremiah 18:7-10**

**Genesis 41:26-28**

**God has shown to Pharaoh what He is about to do.** Notice the witness for God.

**Genesis 41:29-30** Some have suggested that the Nile, which floods each year, bringing topsoil and water, would not overflow for seven years. Creating a famine. **2 Kings 8:1**

**God bless the faithful messenger who speaks the entire message of God!**

**Genesis 41:32 the matter is determined by God, and God will quickly bring it about.** Notice the exalting of God!

**This famine was to preserve Israel. To multiply Israel in a perfect environment for growth, multiplying over a million, then returning to Canaan.**

**"Kings do not make history but rather God uses them to effect His purposes."**

#### **4 Verses 33-40 Joseph Promoted**

**Verses 33-36 Joseph Advises Pharaoh: discerning** *"discreet, to show understanding, to perceive, pay attention"* (We Would say, They Get It!) **wise**, *"skilled, intelligent, ability to judge"* **"A person with understanding who pays attention, with intelligence, applies it to life."**

**Joseph, a faithful messenger, tells Pharaoh the meaning of God's message and then gives instructions on its application of this truth.**

**Genesis 41:34 "Let Pharaoh take action** - When God reveals His will to us, we are expected by God to act upon it.

**We are responsible for the message this morning, for what we have heard.**

**Genesis 41:35-36 There were thieves in Pharaoh's day, rip-offs!**

**Genesis 41:37-38 "Can we find a man like this, in whom is a divine spirit?"** *"In whom is the spirit of God"* This is the first time in Scripture that mentions the Holy Spirit coming upon a person. Later in **Exodus 31:3-5; 35:30-31**, Fulfilled in **Acts 2**

**Genesis 41:39 no one so discerning and wise as you are. Genesis 41:33**

**Proverbs 21:1**

**Genesis 41:40 "You shall be over my house,**

**Struck by the suddenness of the promotion of Joseph.**

**Psalms 105:20-22; Acts 7:9-10**

**"The secret of power is character, but the secret of character is God."**

### **Application:**

- 1.** Our Stops, As Well As Our Steps, Are Ordered By God.
- 2.** Joseph said, "It is not in me." Humility In Its Truest Sense, I Can't Be The Person I Must Be, Apart From God.
- 3.** One Of The Greatest Temptations Of Joseph's Life And Ours Is To Maintain Integrity Towards God In Prosperity.