

Genesis 41-42: 8
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GENESIS 41-42

KEY POINT:

The famine that we read of in the Bible tonight is a FACT of history. Joseph's position of authority along side of Pharaoh is a FACT of history.

QUOTE:

(From Grant Jeffrey book - "The Signature of God) - In 1850, Dr. Crutenden, an English explorer, found the tomb of a rich Yemenite woman (Southern part of Arabia) who died during the time of the Egyptian famine - the tomb was discovered when a flood washed away soil and uncovered it. In the tomb they found an inscription about the famine that read - In thy name O, God, I Tazia, sent my steward to Joseph to bring back a measure of flour.



But the beauty of it is GOD'S INVOLVEMENT in it!

KEY INSIGHT:

As we read this account We CAN'T MISS that (just as Isaiah declared Isa 40:15) the nations are a drop in a bucket to Him.

NOTE WELL:

While we are reading the story, we don't even know what Pharaoh's name is (that is his title).

We know Joseph's name - and we are even given his Egyptian name -

But we are only given Pharaoh's title in passing - because to God he is just another ruler in this world.

By contrast we have 13 chapters devoted to Joseph. We have a record of his entire life BECAUSE God is more concerned with this man and the survival of this man's family and the nation that would come from it than any other kingdom or ruler.

From Genesis 12 forward God's Word only records the history of other nations as it relates to Israel - and thus to Jesus Christ.

We left off with Joseph in prison - unjustly so.

He is now 30 years old.

While in prison he interpreted the dreams of the chief butler and the chief baker - they have come true exactly as Joseph declared.

The chief butler was restored to his former place before Pharaoh.

After interpreting their dreams, and before they were released, Joseph asked the chief butler to remember him and speak to Pharaoh on his behalf.

But it was the Lord who sent those guys to prison - just to encourage Joseph concerning his own future and the dreams that the Lord had given to Joseph.

When Joseph saw their dreams fulfilled exactly as the Lord revealed them, he would think in his own heart Lord, Even though these things that you have sown into my heart haven't come to pass - I know that THEY WILL.

However - The butler FORGOT all about Joseph.

So while he was in prison the Word of the Lord (those dreams given to Joseph back in Genesis 39) TESTED him and TRIED him - like steel in a fire.

He learned about FAITH in the promises of God.

(Gen 41 KJV) And it came to pass at the end of two full years,

I'll bet they were full - full of disappointment as every day went by and the butler forgot to speak to pharaoh.

that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river . {2} And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favoured kine and fatfleshed; and they fed in a meadow.

We need to bear in mind that the Egyptians worshipped the Nile.

Also - Even today - there are drawings of Osiris - one of the principle Egyptian dieties - he is pictured as a bull with 7 cows around him.

POINT:

We might look at this dream and think little or nothing - but this dream would be a pretty weighty thing to pharaoh

*{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.
{4} And the ill favoured and leanfleshed kine did eat up*

(Literally - chewed up)

*the seven well favoured and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke.
Seven skinny killer cows would tend to wake one up!
{5} And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank (full) and good. {6} And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them. {7} And the seven thin ears devoured (different word = swallowed whole) the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream. {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.*

These were HEAVY guys -

We remember that the magicians of pharaoh stood toe to toe with Moses

Moses cast down his rod and it turned into a serpent - they cast theirs down and theirs turned into serpents (Only the seprent of Moses ate all of theirs).

Moses turned water to blood - they did the same.

Moses called up frogs from the land - and so did they.

It isn't until Moses turns the dust of the land into lice that they say - *THIS is the finger of God.*

SO these are no light-weights. But they can not interpret the dream because they have no access to the realm from which these dreams came.

GOD has inspired this dream and He has given the interpretation to Joseph.

{9} Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day: {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: {11} And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream. {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. {13} And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged.

We all know what it is like to do someone a favor and then have them forget about you.

You help them paint or hang some drywall - or move - and then they have a party and invite everyone but you.

BUT - 3 months later they call you back - and ask you to help them paint another room.

SO this is something we can all relate to!

The chief butler isn't remembering Joseph because of his kindness - he remembers Joseph because there is a NEED again.

The amazing thing to see in all of this is Joseph's heart when he comes out.

In fact - as we follow Joseph coming out of prison until the time he dies - in eighty years he doesn't speak a bitter or an angry word against his brothers who hated him and sold him - not against Potiphar's wife who falsely accused him - not against the butler who forgot him.

It is REMARKABLE to observe the character of this man!!

By the way - Do you think that Joseph didn't FEEL anything bad about those people that had wronged him?

The Bible tells us that these guys were subject to the SAME PASSIONS as you and I.

We just read today that we are to be *immitators of God and WALK in love* - NOT FEEL love - but chose to WALK /ACT in a way that is loving.

{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.

INSIGHT:

Jews did not shave - Egyptians did. So at the age of 30 this is probably the first time that Joseph ever shaved.

And when you stood before pharaoh you would shave your beard, your head and your eyebrows.

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

This is REMARKABLE!!

You know, if you are going to place a 30 year old guy in charge of the world - he needs to be a REFINED 30 year old - REFINED in God's fire

And here comes Joseph - 30 years old - and he refuses to touch the glory - refuses to take any glory from God for himself.

He refuses to say - *I'll give you the interpretation if you cut this butler's head off.*

He refuses to say - *yeah - I can do that! He says - GOD will give you and answer of peace!*

{17} And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the river: {18} And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fatfleshed and well favoured; and they fed in a meadow: {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: {20} And the lean and the ill favoured kine did eat up the first seven fat kine: {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. {22} And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up in one stalk, full and good: {23} And, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them: {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. {25} And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath showed Pharaoh what he is about to do. {26} The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one. {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. {28} This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he showeth unto Pharaoh. {29} Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt: {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; {31} And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous. {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.

KEY INSIGHT:

WHEN God repeats Himself PAY ATTENTION because God REPEATS Himself when He desires to ESTABLISH something!

LET ME ILLUSTRATE:

You're coming down the stairs with a cup of hot coffee and you trip over something the kids left on the stairs. You fall, the cup breaks - hot coffee all over you. You get mad at the kids and then you take it out on your wife.

You pick up your morning devotional and it says - *Husbands, love your wife as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it.*

Then you get in the car and you turn on Christian radio and the guy says - *Husbands, love your wife as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it!*

You come to Monday Night @ Metro and in the course of the study I quote the same passage

When that happens - TAKE NOTE of that because God is trying to establish something.

And of course - that happens to wives too!!

God will REPEAT Himself to confirm and establish things.

KEY OBSERVATION:

Now in VERSE 33 Joseph gives something to Pharaoh that he didn't ask for - ADVICE on what to do in light of the dreams.

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

KEY INSIGHT:

It was common for governments to take 10% percent in those days.

Joseph says that the crops will be so great that you can take 20% and they won't miss it.

NOTE WELL:

Joseph has been TRAINED by God for this. He was SCHOOLED in the Lord's Seminary.

He was in charge in Potiphar's house with great abundance.

He was in charge in a prison under very difficult conditions.

13 years of management - part of it in very lavish and luxury - and part in the rigors of prison life.

CRUCIAL:

God was PREPARING - and so he does in our lives!! We do NOT know what's up - but the great thing is that the shepherd is NOT dependent upon the sheep's I.Q. in order to lead them - PRAISE GOD!!

{37} And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. {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?

KEY INSIGHT:

Pharaoh did not understand the theology of this is we do. He was a pagan man - a polytheist - but he did understand what he could see in this young man's life.

Same with us - The unbelieving world around us doesn't know or care to know about the nature of the Triune God - but they do RECOGNIZE the fruit of the Spirit in a man or woman's life.

{39} And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath showed thee all this, there is none so

discreet and wise as thou art: {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.

KEY OBSERVATION:

THIS IS A STRANGE DAY!!

Here's Joseph - his father's favorite son. One day sent out by dad to check on his older brothers - as their foreman -

In the morning he is the favorite of the father but by that night he is on his way to Egypt as a slave - IN ONE DAY.

He is in Egypt where he served as the chief steward in Potiphar's possessions.

He wakes in the morning as Potiphars most powerful servant - and by the evening he is in prison.

His life seems to make these changes in ONE day!

On this morning he wakes up in prison - giving out bread and water to the other prisoners - the door opens - Pharaoh wants to see you - and by the afternoon he is ruling the land of Egypt and only Pharaoh has more power than him.

[Psa 75:5-7 NKJV](#) Do not lift up your horn on high (don't promote yourself); Do not speak with a stiff neck.)don't speak out of pride)'" {6} For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. {7} But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another.

This is the theme of Daniel's prophecy.

{41} And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. {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; (instead of shackles) {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.

CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

Joseph had been in the God's Seminary for 13 years.

He dreamed the dream of others bowing down to him back in chapter 37.

But he was 13 years in the process of being the man that God wanted him to be so that he could be capable of ruling when people did bow down.

{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. {45} And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah;

And Joseph said - *That's exactly the name I was thinking of!!*

Giving him an Egyptian name and citizenship to give him respect in the eyes of those he would rule.

and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

The priests of On were almost as powerful as pharaoh. So for Joseph to be given a daughter of one of these men was a sign of favor.

{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. {47} And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. {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. {49} And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number. {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. {51} And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh (from Hebrew verb = to forget): For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.

He forgot the BITTERNESS of his experiences.

KEY OBSERVATION:

GOD did this.

KEY APPLICATION:

Have YOU known bitterness - been hated by your family - treated unjustly / dishonorably?

Joseph was hated - sold into slavery - falsely accused - from the human perspective 20 years of his life gone down the drain -

And without a Bible - Without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit

Joseph is able to say - *GOD HAS MADE ME TO FORGET THE BITTERNESS.*

And God is the SAME today - He is the Lord who changes not.

IF YOU are dealing with bitterness and anger - THIS God is the SAME God that He was in the day of Joseph.

He is ABLE to make you to forget too - NOT the lessons that were to be learned - but the venom.

Your part - my part - is to WALK IN LOVE - act not according to our feelings, but chose to act in love - choose to NOT speak bitter words that would tear down.

In time God HEALS the heart.

{52} And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction. {53} And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended. {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.

BY THE WAY: We are now 20 years since Joseph was sold.

He was 30 when he came out of prison. The seven full years have gone by - he is now 37 years old.

EXTREMELY INTERESTING:

We remember how that Joseph was the son of Jacob's old age. Joseph was raised on his father's knees when he was no longer Jacob - but Israel - governed by God.

Without a doubt, Israel would have told Joseph about the dream that he had at Bethel - a dream that changed his life - when he was running from his brother who hated him.

He would have heard his father tell him how he worked 7 years for his wife Rachel - but was ripped off by his father-in-law (woke up and found Leah in bed next to him)

He worked 7 more years for Rachel - and then worked 6 more years - **a total of 20 years** - before he returned to Canaan to see his brother.

Isn't it amazing that Joseph would spend 20 years of hardship before he would see his brothers again!!

KEY POINT:

Joseph could see how God was at work even in his youth to prepare him and preserve him.

Can't you look back and see how God worked in your life BEFORE you were saved and see the hand of the Lord.

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

(Gen 42 KJV) Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another?

That's what I call hungry - Remember those old cartons with 2 guy son a desert island and on guy look sat the other guy and sees a big cheeseburger.

{2} And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. {3} And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt. {4} But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him. {5} And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan. {6} And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.

LOOK AT VERSE 9

{9} And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them

30 years have gone by - he looks like an Egyptian - so they would NOT recognize Joseph - but he recognizes them.

Joseph will speak to them through an interpreter, but he understands them because he understands Hebrew - but he doesn't want to let on that he knows who they are.

{7} And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food. {8} And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.

REMEMBER - We said that Joseph is a very powerful picture Jesus.

KEY OBSERVATION:

Here we see these DESPERATE men not recognizing their source of provision

It is this GULF that Joseph ACHED to bridge.

The same is true for the world

[John 1:10](#) *He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

It is this GULF that Jesus came to bridge

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