

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOES

A study of the lives of Joseph, Jonah, and Job

Joseph - Genesis 41

Lesson 3

Genesis 41 begins *two full years* after the chief butler was restored to his position; *two full years* after he had promised to *remember Joseph* to Pharaoh. But God had not forgotten. Pharaoh had a dream, and just like the chief butler, he needed an interpreter of dreams. It was at that time the chief butler *remembered Joseph* to Pharaoh. Joseph interpreted the dream and Pharaoh complied with its dictates, elevating Joseph to second in the land.

OBSERVATION: Read Genesis 41

1. Read through this week's verses preferably using the New King James Version Bible. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Joseph was careful to acknowledge God as he interpreted the Pharaoh's dream. Read through the chapter and make a list of what it reveals about God.
3. Scan the chapter and record what the text reveals about Joseph.

THE PHARAOH'S DREAM: Read Genesis 41:1-7

1. *Two full years* had passed. What are some attitudes Joseph might have had during that time as he remained in prison waiting for the chief butler to tell the Pharaoh about him?
2. What do you learn from the following verses that are helpful during times of waiting or disappointment?

Psalm 42:5

Psalm 62:2,5

Psalm 103:2

Micah 7:7

Challenge: Share some other verses that are helpful during these times.

3. *Pharaoh had a dream. In the dream, he stood by the river. Suddenly seven cows came up out of the river. Describe the seven cows.*
 - a. *After them, seven other cows came up. Describe those cows.*
4. Pharaoh dreamed a second time. Seven heads of grain came up. Describe the seven heads of grain.
 - a. The first seven heads of grain were followed by seven other heads of grain. Describe those heads of grain.
5. What similarities do you see in the two dreams?

PHARAOH SEEKS AN INTERPRETER: Read Genesis 41:8-14

1. Using verse 8, describe Pharaoh's emotional state when he woke up the next morning.

a. Who did the Pharaoh call upon for relief?

b. We have all started days feeling *troubled*. What are some other sources people go to for relief or wisdom?

1.) Thoughtfully record the words of Psalm 61:2.

2.) Contrast running to other sources with running to *The Rock*.

2. After the magicians and wise men of Egypt were unable to interpret the dreams, the chief butler remembered that Joseph had interpreted his dream. According to Genesis 41:12,13, what was Joseph able to do?

a. What do these two verses reveal?

Psalm 25:14

1 Corinthians 1:19

1.) What is your personal application of these two verses?

RECOUNTING THE DREAM: Read Genesis 41:15-24

1. Pharaoh made a statement in verse 15 that Joseph corrected in verse 16. What was the statement that Joseph corrected?

a. What did Joseph say?

2. Acts 12:20-23 recounts the story of King Herod not *giving glory to God*, but rather receiving the praise of the people. What happened to him (verse 23)?
 - a. What does it mean to *give God glory*?
 - 1.) What are some ways you can do that?
3. Do you think God speaks to people or interprets dreams today?
 - a. Why? Or why not?
Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.

JOSEPH INTERPRETS THE DREAM: Read Genesis 41:25-32

1. What did Joseph say about the dreams in verse 25?
2. What did the seven good cows and the seven good heads represent? Verses 26, 29
3. What did the seven thin and ugly cows and the seven empty heads represent? Verse 27
4. Using Genesis 41:28-31 explain the dreams.
5. According to Genesis 41:32, why was the dream *repeated twice*?
 - a. Return to Joseph's dreams in Genesis 37:7 and 9. What do you see?
 - b. Define or use synonyms to describe the word *established*.
 - c. What do you think of when you consider the *establishing* power of God?

APPLICATION OF THE DREAM: Read Genesis 41:33-46

1. Using Genesis 41:33-36, summarize Joseph's advice to Pharaoh.

a. Describe a person who is *discerning* and *wise*.

2. Joseph suggested that Pharaoh select a man who was *discerning and wise*. According to verse 38, what was Pharaoh also looking for?

a. What does Daniel 5:14,16 reveal about Daniel?

3. Every believer has the Holy Spirit dwelling within. From the following verses, what can we know is available to every believer?

Romans 8:26,27

1 Corinthians 2:12,14

a. Explain these truths as you would to a new believer.

4. Who did Pharaoh select to oversee the work?

a. Why did he choose Joseph?

b. What were Joseph's responsibilities and privileges?

THE DREAM'S FULFILLMENT: Read Genesis 41:47-57

1. What did Joseph do during *the seven years of plenty*?

2. *Joseph had two sons before the famine came.* What do their names mean?
Manasseh

Ephraim
 - a. What would you name your children if you named them according to God's actions toward you?

3. Using Genesis 41:54-56, describe *the seven years of famine*.

4. Genesis 41:57 reveals the beginning of God's plan. What was it?

REVIEW: Read Genesis 41

1. What are some lessons you learned from Joseph as you studied Genesis 41?

2. What did you learn about God?

*You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,
- Psalm 30:11*