

Genesis 41

Genesis 41.1-8

V1 – Why did the Bible say “two **full** years”? To emphasize that the case for Joseph seemed hopeless

-God was still watching over Joseph, but it must have seemed that God had forsaken him

-**Who was supposed to help Joseph?** The cupbearer (Joseph interpreted his dream, etc. – *Genesis 40.14-15*)

-**Where was Pharaoh standing in his dream?** By the Nile

-**Significance?** Center of Egyptian life was the Nile

V2 – **What came up out of the Nile?** Seven cows that were very healthy looking

-**What did the seven cows do?** Starting grazing on marsh

V3 – **Next?** Seven ugly and lean cows came out of the Nile and stood on bank of Nile

V4 – **What did hungry cows do?** Ate the fat cows

-All kinds of things are possible in dreams

V5 – Second dream: **What happened in the second dream?** Seven good ears of grain sprouted on one stalk

V6 – **Next event?** Seven thin, scorched ears sprouted up

-When we have droughts today, we see scorched ears of grain and corn and other crops withered from the drought

V7 – **What happened?** The seven lean ears ate seven plump ears

V8 – **What did Pharaoh do?** Called on his “wise men” and magicians – no success – they could not interpret the dreams

-**Why not?** *Genesis 40.8* - seeing into the future belongs only to God

Genesis 41.9-13

V9 – Suddenly, the cupbearer remembered Joseph

-Cupbearer began telling his story

V10 – **Why was the cupbearer put in jail?** The Pharaoh was mad at him

V11 – **What had happened to the cupbearer?** He and the butler had had dreams

V12 – **Who was the Hebrew youth?** Joseph

-Joseph had interpreted the dreams

V13 – **Were the interpretations correct?** Yet

-The cupbearer was restored, and the baker was hanged

Genesis 41.14-24

V 14 – **What did Pharaoh do?** Sent for Joseph immediately

-**What did Joseph do?** Shaved and changed clothes

-Some have said that because of this verse, Christian men shouldn't have beards

-**Any comments?** He shaved because he had been in jail so long and was so ragged looking

V 15 – **What did Pharaoh say?** I hear that you can interpret dreams

V 16 – **Joseph's response?** He gave credit to God

-**What would most people have done here?** Taken the credit themselves

-This shows humility of Joseph (30 years old – [*Genesis 41.46*] – time most people are boasting, etc.)

V 17 – Pharaoh began retelling the story of his first dream

V 18-19 – The gaunt cows ate healthy cows

V 20-21 – **New detail?** Ugly cows did not grow any fatter for having eaten the fat cows

V 22-24 – He told the story of second dream (seven fat ears of grain and seven lean ears, etc.)

Genesis 41.25-37

V 25 – **Note:** Joseph didn't have any difficulty in interpreting the dreams; no hesitation whatsoever (not like psychics and astrologers today)

-**Joseph's two conclusions in v 25?** Both dreams are about the same thing: God was telling Pharaoh about the future events

V 26 – **What did the seven good cows and seven good ears represent?** Seven years of plenty

V 27 – **What did the seven lean cows and seven gaunt ears represent?** Seven years of famine

V 28 – Joseph reemphasizes to Pharaoh: God is telling you what is coming in the future

-In other words, pay attention!

-**Would our government leaders today like to know what is coming in the future?** Yes

-**Would they be willing to listen to God for advice?** For most of them: No

V 29 – **First event?** Seven years of great abundance

V 30 – **Followed by?** Seven years of awful famine

V 31 – People will forget the seven years of abundance, because the famine will be so severe

V 32 – **Why did God give Pharaoh two dreams, both on the same subject?** The matter was going to happen very soon

V 33 – **Joseph's advice?** Find a good man and put him in charge of a program

V 34 – **Joseph's suggestion?** Collect 1/5 of the harvest for each of the seven years

V 35– **And?** Store up the grain in special places and guard those places (hungry people will steal to feed themselves)

V 36 – Then use the stored grain for the seven years of famine

V 37 – **Was Pharaoh convinced by Joseph's interpretation and advice?** Yes - he agreed

Genesis 41.38-45

V 38 – Pharaoh had a meeting with his advisers

-**Pharaoh wanted?** Suggestions for who could take over this program

V 39 – **What did Pharaoh like about Joseph?** God was on his side – he was wise and discerning

V 40 – **Pharaoh's decision?** Joseph would be put over this program

-**Joseph's new position?** Second only to Pharaoh

V 41 – Joseph was put over all the land of Egypt (under Pharaoh)

V 42 – **What did Pharaoh do?** Put his ring on Joseph's finger and clothed him in fine linen and a gold necklace on neck

V 43 – **Also for Joseph?** Rode in second chariot, and people had to bow down to him

V 44– **Describe power of Joseph?** Basically no one could do anything without Joseph's permission

V 45 –**Another gift (perk)?** Joseph was given a wife

-How his situation had suddenly changed!

Genesis 41.46-49

V 46 – **Age of Joseph?** 30 – He began to implement the plans for seven years of famine

V 47 – **What happened in the next seven years?** Great abundance

V 48– Food was stored in every city

V 49 – **How abundant was the harvest?** Like sand on seashore - he stopped measuring it

Genesis 41.50-52

V 50 – **What happened in Joseph’s personal life during the seven years of abundance?** Two sons were born

V 51 – **Name of first son?** Manasseh, means “making to forget”
-**What memories could he overcome?** What his brothers had done to him

V 52– **Second son?** Ephraim, means “fruitfulness” – in other words, God had blessed him

Genesis 41.53-57

V 53 – **What came to an end?** Seven years of abundance

V 54 – **What began?** Seven years of famine (but Egypt had plenty of bread)

V 55 –People went to Joseph for grain and bread

V 56– The store houses were opened up

V 57– **How widespread was the famine?** Everywhere

Lessons:

1. God will take care of us if we are faithful
-If our children were taken from us at age 17, would they be as faithful as Joseph was?
2. Joseph was faithful even in foreign country (no parents or preachers or elders around to encourage him)

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