

LESSON 6

Genesis 41:1–14 • Pharaoh has a dream

This chapter retells Pharaoh's dreams three times! We'll wait until the third retelling to discuss content of the dreams, since this is when Joseph interprets the meaning.

Pharaoh's distress about his dreams prompts his cupbearer (butler) to finally remember Joseph, still in prison, who had interpreted his dreams two years earlier.

And so, Joseph is finally brought forth to meet Pharaoh.

Question: What does Joseph's physical condition tell you about the conditions of the prison? _____

For Joseph, waiting another two years for something to happen after seeing the cupbearer return to Pharaoh must have been so agonizing: yet, God's timing is always perfect!

What do these passages say about God's timing? What should our response be?

Psalm 37:7&9 • _____

Ecclesiastes 3:1&11 • _____

Daniel 9:24-27 (don't break down the whole passage—just the big idea) • _____

Mark 1:15 • _____

Galatians 4:4 _____

James 1:2–4 (consider the word "endurance" or "patience") • _____

2 Peter 3:8 • _____

Genesis 41:15–24 • Pharaoh describes his dreams

Once again, we'll save Joseph's the dream interpretation for the next pass. The key in this passage is Joseph's response to Pharaoh! It is amazing!

Look at verse 16 very carefully: What does Joseph say? _____

Why is this so amazing? What does it say about Joseph's faith? _____

Put yourself in his sandals—what might your response to Pharaoh be in the same situation? _____

There are a few Psalms that describe the kind of faith Joseph exemplifies...

Psalm 27:13–14 • _____

Psalm 40:1–5 • _____

Psalm 130:5–8 • _____

Genesis 41:25–37 • Joseph interprets the dream

But—to quickly summarize, (and I'm sure you know this by now!) Pharaoh has two similar dreams, one of cows, and one of corn stalks, and in each, the seven plump and healthy ones are swallowed up by seven withered and ugly ones that follow after.

In this first telling of the dreams, the focus is on that fact that the dreams are incredibly distressing to Pharaoh, and he calls for his wise men and magicians, but none can interpret the dream! But, to

Joseph, there is no mystery, and God's plan is extremely clear to him: Seven years of plenty will be followed by seven years of famine.

And, because the dreams are repeated, this will definitely happen. They have to take God's warning very seriously. Joseph gives advice: Save up 1/5th each year during the years of plenty to get you through the years of famine.

I've often wondered: Did Joseph say this hoping to be the man selected to rule during the famine? Or was he simply giving godly advice and expecting nothing in return?

What do you think? _____

But, there is no answer to this question in the text. We can't read Joseph's mind at this point. But—knowing how Joseph humbly served in every situation before, we can get a pretty good guess at his intentions!

Here are some key passages tell us how we should serve: (Summarize each...)

John 13:12-17 • _____

Luke 14:8-11 • _____

Mark 9:33-35 • _____

Mark 10:42-45 • _____
