

## Connecting The Dots Between God's Control & Our Conduct

A Series Of Studies About Joseph's Life (Genesis 37–50)

### ***When Joseph's Childhood Dreams Became True: Prophecies, A Proposal, A Promotion, & A Plague***

Genesis 41:1–42:9; Proverbs 1; 1 Corinthians 1–2; Psalm 105

- Genesis 37 = Joseph's **dreams & clothing** became a theme to follow
- Genesis 39 = Joseph's **clothing** was used to accuse him & put him in jail
- Genesis 40 = With God's help, he accurately interpreted two **dreams**
- Genesis 41 = God's timing is perfect: It led to some **fancy new clothes**

—**A summary that introduces today's message:** After two more years, the cupbearer finally remembered Joseph because Pharaoh needed someone to interpret his dreams. After God enabled Joseph to explain the meaning of Pharaoh's dreams, He elevated Joseph to an unexpected position where his strategies would prepare for the severe famine!

#### —Three additional highlights that we shouldn't ignore:

- 1} Joseph lived before there were any written instructions from God. His faith in the Lord is evident thru—out Genesis 37–30, but there is no explanation about how he became such a faithful follower of YHWH. What we can assume is that in His sovereign authority, God chose Joseph for the very special role he fulfilled as a *savior* for his father, Jacob's family and also for the world during the famine.
- 2} Joseph is an amazing example of a godly person who faithfully used his God—given abilities to honor & glorify God in what most people would describe as a secular job. He was gifted as an administrator. In our Christian culture today, some would look at Joseph's Christ—like character & question how someone who is as spiritual as he was could be satisfied or fulfilled in the role he had? We should recognize that every authentically faithful follower of the Lord is a full—time minister, regardless of where they work.
- 3} If the cupbearer had remembered to tell Pharaoh about Joseph when Joseph expected it to happen, Joseph wouldn't have become the Prime Minister of Egypt. God's timing is always perfect in what's necessary to fulfill God's plans & purposes .

① The \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ to Pharaoh {41:1–31}

- A severe famine is coming: first there will be 7 years of abundance then 7 years of absolute devastation
- God has told Pharaoh exactly what He has determined will happen!
- It's time to prepare because it's coming quickly!

② The \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ to Pharaoh {41:32–37}

- Immediately look for a wise & discerning leader to put in charge.*

③ The \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ from Pharaoh! {41:38–53}

- Pharaoh wondered out loud, "Can we find another man like this?"
- Pharaoh: "Since God has told you this, there's no one else as wise!"
- Pharaoh: "You're in charge! See, I have set you over all Egypt!"
- He gave Joseph his signet ring, royal clothing, a gold chain around his neck, a chariot with authority, a new name, & a wife!

④ The \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ upon the earth. {41:50–42:9}

- The good years ended & the famine spread to all the lands!
- But in Egypt there was bread & when people cried out to Pharaoh, he told everyone, "Go to Joseph & do what he tells you to do!"
- People from all the earth went to Egypt & Jacob sent his 10 sons.
- They came & bowed down to Joseph; he recognized them!
- Joseph remembered his dreams & said to them, "You are spies!"

**—PERSONAL APPLICATIONS & LESSONS TO STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH**

**—1— The cupbearer forgot about Joseph, but we can be assured that God never forgets about His faithful followers!**

**—2— Joseph provides an amazing example for us to follow!**

**—He honored God by acknowledging that God is the source of all his ability & success!**

**—He clearly gave God the credit for his interpretation of dreams!**

**—He recognized God’s sovereign authority, even in the midst of a culture where false gods and idols were popular!**

**—Joseph consistently expressed humility!**

**—3— Joseph was a model of how to face difficult circumstances with an attitude of hope in the Lord!**

**—He wasn’t defeated by a sense of bitterness or self-pity!**

**—He was diligent in the tasks he was given: both menial & ones that required or included authority!**

**—4— A Lesson to Learn about Expectations by comparing Joseph with Moses**

**JOSEPH  
from Canaan to Egypt**

**MOSES  
from Egypt to Canaan**

**Some Relevant Quotes & Discussion Questions to Help us Dig Deeper**

—“Our world and our culture is constantly changing, but we need to realize that God never changes and He’s forever faithful to His Word. Therefore we are safest when we trust and obey Him.” —**GAD**

—“*When you follow God's will for your life, you can see how yesterday's events prepared you for today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.*” —**David Jeremiah**

—“Choose to view life through God's eyes. This will not be easy because it doesn't come naturally to us. We cannot do this on our own. We have to allow God to elevate our vantage point. Start by reading His Word, the Bible...Pray and ask God to transform your thinking. Let Him do what you cannot. Ask Him to give you an eternal, divine perspective.” —**Charles Swindoll**

—“*Everything that God brings into our life is directed to one purpose: that we might be conformed to the image of Christ.*” —**Erwin Lutzer**

**This week, we’re trying to learn the lessons from the example we find in Joseph’s life. Please carefully read Genesis 41:1–42:9 to prepare for the study questions below.**

**—1—** Genesis 37–50 repeatedly reminds us that God was with Joseph. Even though Pharaoh was the ruler of a nation that worshipped idols and practiced multiple rituals that disregarded God, he noticed that Joseph had “a divine spirit.” (See 41:38.) What are some specific lessons we can learn from how Joseph honored God in a secular society?

**—2—** From what we read in Genesis 41, we can conclude that Joseph maintained a humble perspective of his ability to interpret dreams. In other words, it didn’t lead to pride. He gave God all the credit for what he was able to do. Is it ever acceptable to accept praise or honor for doing what God enables us to do? How do we guard against becoming proud of what we can do? What’s the difference between being confident in the talents, gifts, or abilities God has given us & becoming too self-sufficient because we’ve gained some competence? What’s involved in harmonizing personal success with having a biblical values?

**—3—** When Pharaoh met Joseph & suggested that he could interpret dreams, Joseph clearly told Pharaoh that he couldn’t do it, but God would give Pharaoh a favorable answer. Put yourself in Joseph’s place. How would you have responded to Pharaoh? What does this tell us about Joseph’s faith & trust in the Lord?