

“Joseph Exalted in Egypt”

Genesis 41:1-57

PHARAOH’S TROUBLING DREAMS

- 1. Two years later... Pharaoh had 2 troubling dreams the same night. v.1-8**
 - “After two whole years” = in Heb. it is literal. –to the day. It was Pharaoh’s birthday 2 years later!
 - First dream: seven fat and attractive cows were eaten up by seven thin and ugly cows. **v.2-4**
 - Second dream: seven fat and good ears of grain were swallowed up by seven thin & dry ones. **v.5-7**
 - He told the dreams to all the magicians and wise men of Egypt, but none could interpret them. **v.8**
- 2. The cupbearer ‘remembered’ Joseph before Pharaoh. v.9-13**
- 3. Pharaoh called for Joseph. v.14-16**
 - Joseph clearly gave credit not to himself, but to God. v.16
- 4. Pharaoh remembered the dreams before Joseph. v.17-24**

JOSEPH’S TRUE AND WISE INTERPRETATION OF PHARAOH’S DREAMS. v.25-36

- 1. Joseph’s interpretation. v.25-32**
 - Though there are two dreams, they mean the same thing. **v.25**
 - The 7 good cows and ears of grain represent 7 years of abundance. “years of plenty”
 - The 7 bad cows and ears represent 7 years of famine.
 - The “doubling” of the dreams means it is fixed in God’s plan—and it is about to begin. **v.32**
- 2. Joseph’s wisdom and advice for Pharaoh. v.33-36**
 - First, Pharaoh should find a discerning and wise man to put over the land of Egypt. **v.33**
 - Second, Pharaoh should appoint overseers over the land to organize a system to prepare. **v.34**
 - Third, Pharaoh should stockpile food during the good years to prepare for the hard years. **v.35-36**

JOSEPH EXALTED TO VICEROY OF EGYPT. v.37-57

- 1. Pharaoh chose Joseph to be his ‘right-hand man’ – second only to Pharaoh. v.37-41**
 - v.40: Heb. lit. “and according to your command all my people shall kiss the ground”
- 2. Pharaoh bestowed on Joseph authority, position, and power. v.42-45**
 - Signet ring = authority to make decisions in lieu of or in the name of Pharaoh himself.
 - Clothed him in garments of fine linen.
 - Pharaoh gave Joseph an Egyptian name and an Egyptian wife. **v.45**
 - Joseph’s Egyptian name: Zaphenath-paneah = ‘God speaks and he lives’
 - Joseph’s Egyptian wife: Asenath, daughter of Potiphera priest of On.
- 3. God’s Word was fulfilled as Joseph interpreted in the dreams. v.46-57**
 - During the next 7 years the land produced abundance—and Joseph stored up grain. **v.46-49**
 - God abundantly provided for Joseph as well—children! **v.50-52**
 - The 7 years of famine began. There was famine “in all the land”—but food in Egypt! **v.53-56**
 - “All the earth” came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph. **v.57**

Applications:

1. Personal:

- Luke 16:10-11: One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?
- Psalm 34:19: Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

2. Redemptive-historical: God’s sovereign plan to bless & save the nations through His appointed one.

- God rescued Joseph from prison in Egypt and exalted him to ruler in order to save the world from famine.
- God later rescued His people Israel from slavery in Egypt in order to bless and save the world through a Savior.
- God raised Jesus from the tomb in order to save the world through Him.
 - Jesus’s resurrection and ascension as King of kings demonstrate his authority and power to save.