

**“but God will give Pharaoh
the answer he desires.”**

Genesis 40-41

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the answer he desires.”**

Genesis 40:1-8

1 Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. **2** Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, **3** and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined.

4 The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them. After they had been in custody for some time, **5** each of the two men — the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison — had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own.

6 When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. **7** So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why do you look so sad today?" **8** "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."

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the answer he desires.”**

**“Only God, who knows the future ,
can properly interpret dreams...
Joseph presents himself as God’s
agent through whom God will make
known the revelation contained in
their dreams-Israel is God’s prophetic
people through whom God’s
revelation comes to the nations.”**

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Genesis 40:20-23

20 Now the third day was Pharaoh’s birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials:

21 He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's hand— **22** but he impaled the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation. **23** The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

**“but God will give Pharaoh
the answer he desires.”**

**“Unfortunately, the
cupbearer “forgot him” until
two full years later.”**

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Genesis 41:1-7

1 When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile, **2** when out of the river there came up seven cows, sleek and fat, and they grazed among the reeds. **3** After them, seven other cows, ugly and gaunt, came up out of the Nile and stood beside those on the riverbank.

4 And the cows that were ugly and gaunt ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up. **5** He fell asleep again and had a second dream: Seven heads of grain, healthy and good, were growing on a single stalk. **6** After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted — thin and scorched by the east wind. **7** The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up; it had been a dream.

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Genesis 41:8-14

8 In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him. **9** Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “Today I am reminded of my shortcomings.

10 Pharaoh was once angry with his servants, and he imprisoned me and the chief baker in the house of the captain of the guard. **11** Each of us had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. **12** Now a young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his dream.

13 And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was impaled.” **14** So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh.

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“Magicians and wise men were common in the palaces of ancient rulers. Their job description included studying sacred arts and sciences, reading the stars, interpreting dreams, predicting the future, and performing magic. These men had power, but their power was satanic. They were unable to interpret Pharaoh’s dream, but God had revealed it to Joseph.”

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Genesis 41:15-16

15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” **16** “I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.”

**“but God will give Pharaoh
the answer he desires.”**

**“Joseph made sure that he
gave the credit to God. We
should be careful to do the
same.”**

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**“but God will give Pharaoh
the answer he desires.”**

Genesis 41:25-37

25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh,
“The dreams of Pharaoh are one
and the same. God has revealed to
Pharaoh what he is about to do.

26 The seven good cows are seven
years, and the seven good heads of
grain are seven years; it is one and
the same dream.

27 The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine. **28** “It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do.

29 Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, **30** but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. **31** The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe.

32 The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon. **33** “And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. **34** Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance.

35 They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. **36** This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine.” **37** The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials.

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“After interpreting Pharaoh’s dreams, Joseph gave the king a survival plan for the next 14 years. The only way to prevent starvation was through careful planning; without a famine plan Egypt would have turned from prosperity to ruin...Joseph was able to save a nation by translating God’s plan for Egypt into practical actions. (implementation).”

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Genesis 41:38-40

38 So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God ?” **39** Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. **40** You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.”

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**“Joseph rose quickly to the top,
from prison walls to Pharaoh's
palace. His training for this
important position involved being
first a slave and then a prisoner. In
each situation he learned the
importance of serving God and
serving others.”**

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Genesis 41:41-45

41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.” **42** Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph’s finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. **43** He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, “Make way !” Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt.

44 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt.” **45** Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt.

**“but God will give Pharaoh
the answer he desires.”**

**“The pharaoh presumed to use
this marvelously endowed
servant of the Lord for his own
royal purposes... He did not
recognize that Joseph served a
Higher Power, whose kingdom
and redemptive purposes are
being advanced.”**

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Genesis 41:46-52

46 Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh’s presence and traveled throughout Egypt.

47 During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully.

48 Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it.

49 Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure.

50 Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On. **51** Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, “It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household.” **52** The second son he named Ephraim and said, “It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.”

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the answer he desires.”**

**“In just 13 years, Joseph had
become second-in command
in Egypt.”**

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Genesis 41:53-57

53 The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end, **54** and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food. **55** When all Egypt began to feel the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph and do what he tells you.”

56 When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. **57** And all the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere.

Life Applications

- **God is the Giver of gifts**
- **The LORD redeems those who are His**

Final Thoughts

Romans 12:6-8

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; **7** if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; **8** if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Final Thoughts

Isaiah 43:11-13

11 I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior. **12** I have revealed and saved and proclaimed — I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “that I am God. **13** Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?”