

FINAL STUDY NOTES - GENESIS CHAPTERS 40 & 41

8/26-27/2024

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- Beginning Tuesday, June 4, 2024, TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, Suggest using *WAZE* ([waze.com/live map](http://waze.com/live-map)) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
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OPENING PRAYER

The Exaltation of Joseph!

Genesis Chapter 40 – The Prisoners' Dreams - (vs. 1-23)!

Genesis Chapter 41 – Pharaoh's Dreams - (vs. 1-36); Joseph's Rise to Power – (vs. 37-57)!

REVIEW:

- **Following the great example of resisting temptation, Joseph, being falsely accused, was sent to prison! More testing!** (*Gen 39:22-23*) *And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. [23] The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.*
- (*Psa 105:16-22*) *Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread. [17] He sent a man before them—Joseph—who was sold as a slave. [18] They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons. [19] Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him. [20] The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free. [21] He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions, [22] To bind his princes at his pleasure, And teach his elders wisdom.*

The Prisoners' Dreams

Gen 40:1 It came to pass after these things that the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt offended (sinned against) their lord, the king of Egypt.

- **After what things?** After Potiphar's wife had falsely accused Joseph of attempting to rape her and Joseph was thrown into prison. Joseph is now in the prison in Egypt.

Gen 40:2 And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief butler and the chief baker.

- **The word for officers, is Hebrew word for *eunuch*.** It would seem that all of those who were placed in any position around the Pharaoh and all were required to be eunuchs. It's interesting that didn't happen to Joseph.

Gen 40:3 So he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard (Potiphar's title), in the prison, the place where Joseph was confined.

Gen 40:4 And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them; so they were in custody for a while.

- ***Joseph was confined.*** Later, he will be placed in charge over the prison. He is running the prison when the butler and the baker came into disfavor of the Pharaoh. Possibly they discovered some poison and realized that someone was out to poison the king. The two likely suspects were the butler and the baker. Whatever the cause, these two men were thrown into prison and in prison they came under Joseph's scrutiny and Joseph's supervision because the keeper of the prison had placed everything into Joseph's care.
- ***If anybody had a right to question the providential care of God for His children, or the goodness of God, it was Joseph!*** Joseph lived an exemplary life. His brothers were pretty rotten. Joseph reported some of the incidents that his brothers were doing to their dad. They actually began to hate him. When Joseph was sent by his father to visit his brothers, seeing him coming, they decided to kill him. Then they opted to sell him to slave traders headed for Egypt.
- ***When he came to Egypt, he was sold to Potiphar, the captain of the guard,*** where he became a very entrusted servant. Potiphar placed everything he had under Joseph's authority. But then Potiphar's wife desired Joseph, and sought to entice him. When her seduction was not successful, she then tried to force him into bed and he fled out of the house. Seeing that she was scorned, began to scream, rape! The servants came in and she accused Joseph of attempting to rape her and then repeated the lie to her husband. Joseph was thrown into prison in Egypt.
- ***Joseph was seventeen years old when his brothers sold him to the slave traders.*** He probably was in Potiphar's house as a servant for about seven years, and then was likely in prison for a few years during which time the butler and the baker got tossed into jail. After their dream experience, he was there for two more years. So by the time he was finally brought out to the Pharaoh to interpret the dream, he was thirty years old.
- ***Thirteen valuable years of his life have passed in slavery and in prison,*** all because of the dastardly acts of his brothers, the heartless action of selling their brother as a slave. Joseph could very well have challenged the goodness of God, during that time. Where is God in all of these things? If God is so good, then why, when I have only tried to do what was right? When I am resisting temptation, why would God allow me to be in prison because of the false accusations of this woman?

If you were living it with him day by day, it would seem like, "My life is being wasted away. I am growing old and I haven't had a chance to live."

- **But Joseph maintained his integrity and his faith in God in spite of all of the obstacles!** When this woman sought to seduce him, he said, "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" He was conscious of God even though it would appear that God had forsaken him. God allowed his brothers to sell him as a slave, and yet, he was still aware and conscious of God and lived in that consciousness of God.
- **How frequently do I challenge the goodness of God? Do I do well maintaining my integrity and my faith in God in spite of all of the obstacles in my life?**

Gen 40:5 Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, had a dream, both of them, each man's dream in one night and each man's dream with its own interpretation.

- **What caused them both to dream?** More than likely, God Himself, possibly through angelic agents, led them to dream as they did, in order to give Joseph the opportunity to come to Pharaoh's attention.

Gen 40:6 And Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and saw that they were sad.

- **Joseph was a very observant man;** he had charge of these men and he saw that they were dejected. Joseph is discerning! He is merciful! He had charge over them, so he watches them carefully.

Gen 40:7 So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in the custody of his lord's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?"

Gen 40:8 And they said to him, "We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it." So Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please."

- **Still after years in prison, there is that constant awareness of God.** Even though all of these obstacles seem to be against him and mitigate against the goodness of God, still he is aware of God.
- **Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please.** He would not make that statement to them if he were not still confident that the God-given dreams and their interpretation were going to come true in his life. He is essentially saying, I believe in dreams. I believe that God gives dreams. I believe that God keeps the dreams, the promises that He gives them, the dreams that He gives you. Tell them to me, please. So there's this beautiful confidence that he has!

Gen 40:9 Then the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "Behold, in my dream a vine was before me,

Gen 40:10 and in the vine were three branches; it was as though it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and its clusters brought forth ripe grapes.

Gen 40:11 Then Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

Gen 40:12 And Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days.

Gen 40:13 Now within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand according to the former manner, when you were his butler.

Gen 40:14 But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house.

- **Tell the Pharaoh about me. Tell him the bum rap that I got.** This woman falsely accused me and I didn't do anything wrong, remember me to the Pharaoh!

Gen 40:15 For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon."

- **I am innocent. I was kidnapped** (no mention of his brothers here). **I was taken away from my own people,** kidnapped and thrown in this dungeon. Tell the Pharaoh about me.
- **This is really very tender.** Even in prison Joseph is willing to serve the Lord and be faithful to God while God's plan is unfolding for his life! He is willing to be faithful to Him in that prison, but he really wants out! So he says to the butler, listen, would you please tell somebody my story because I would really like to get out of here! It is touching, this revelation of his heart!

- **If while I was being completely faithful to God, I was falsely accused, and sent to prison, how likely would I be willing to be faithful to Him in that prison, helping and reaching out in a Christ-like manner to others?**

Gen 40:16 When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, "I also was in my dream, and there were three white baskets on my head.

Gen 40:17 In the uppermost basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on my head."

Gen 40:18 So Joseph answered and said, "This is the interpretation of it: The three baskets are three days.

Gen 40:19 Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat your flesh from you."

- One of the great things about Joseph here is that he is equally faithful to speak to both of them. He knows the butler is going to be very excited to hear his voice and he also knows to the other it's going to be very hard for this baker to hear what I have to say.
- As a believer, if you're going to speak for God, you have to speak both ways. You have to speak, knowing it is going to be good news to the person that's going to hear it. But, you also have to speak when you know it's going to be really hard for people to hear it. We don't get to pick and choose in this kind of thing that God calls us to! Joseph is very, very faithful to deliver God's message to them both!

Gen 40:20 Now it came to pass on the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants.

Gen 40:21 Then he restored the chief butler to his butlership again, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.

Gen 40:22 But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them.

Gen 40:23 Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

- Now, Joseph probably had a glimmer of hope. "When this guy gets to the Pharaoh and tells him my story, surely the Pharaoh will pardon me and I will split for home. I'll get back to my father and all." That is exactly what God didn't want him doing! God didn't want him going home! God had a task for him to do here in Egypt. So God allowed the butler to forget him, though he had a very unforgettable experience. For two full years Joseph continued there in the prison, forgotten by the butler.
- Imagine Joseph now for two years longer in the prison, time dragging on, the days into weeks, the weeks into months, and months into years. Where is God? I believe that Joseph was praying the whole while that God would free him, that God would plead his case, that God would work in his behalf. He trusted in God. But it seemed like heaven was silent, that God was deaf! Surely he had a right to challenge the goodness of God, the love of God. But the story wasn't yet complete.
- It's hard for us to get the full impact of this because we know the end of the story. If you would close the book right here at the end of chapter 39 and say, "Boy, what a sad thing that he'd forgotten. There he is. Tragic!" You could easily jump to the conclusion that God is not fair, that God is not good, that God is not loving. When you see the rest of the story and you see it unfolding, as it begins to unfold in chapter 41, and then further unfolds in forty-two, then you say God is so good, so wise, and so smart, that you have a whole different concept of God as you see the total story. Now that is where the big problem lies, as we are in the midst of our trials we can't see the whole story.
- You see, Joseph didn't see the full story. He only saw a part of the story, making his judgment by just seeing an incomplete story. Neither did his father, Jacob, who said, *(Gen 42:36c) All these things are against me.* You would be amazed what God is doing, Jacob. Do you know that in a few days you will be hugging Joseph, eating at his table, and you will see the glory that God has bestowed upon him in Egypt? But only seeing part of the picture, you say, "Oh, everything is against me!"
- Whenever you are prone in your circumstances to cry, "Everything is against me, God is against me. God doesn't love me. If God loved me, why?" **Just know** that your problem is you don't see the whole story yet! You have an incomplete novel here. God is working. God is good. God does love you. And God is even working in these adverse circumstances His plan and His will for your life and when the cycle is complete, when you see the total story, you will say, "But God is so good! He is so

wise! His works are marvelous!" So don't make your judgment until all of the facts are in, because you might find yourself embarrassed trying to explain to God how sorry you are for those rotten things you said to Him in the midst of your adversity.

- **To me it is a notable thing that Job, in all of the adversity that he faced**, it says, "He did not curse God, neither did he charge God foolishly!" Now there may be no temptation to curse God. That is a pretty heavy thing. Man gets so embroiled in his problems that he actually curses God. That, I think, is beyond your capacity, but charging God foolishly, that is something else, isn't it?
- **During times of great testing and difficulty, how much confidence do I put in others, in their promises? Am I depending on man the most? On both man and God equally? Or always primarily on God?**

Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams

Gen 41:1 Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream; and behold, he stood by the (Nile) river.

Gen 41:2 Suddenly there came up out of the river seven cows, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow.

Gen 41:3 Then behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ugly and gaunt, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the river.

Gen 41:4 And the ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven fine looking and fat cows. So Pharaoh awoke.

Gen 41:5 He slept and dreamed a second time; and suddenly seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, plump and good.

- **Heads of grain.** It's that little head of wheat, actually. So it's really talking about the grain in the wheat here.

Gen 41:6 Then behold, seven thin heads, blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them.

Gen 41:7 And the seven thin heads devoured the seven plump and full heads. So Pharaoh awoke, and indeed, it was a dream.

- **It was like a nightmare.** He was really shaken!

Gen 41:8 Now it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them for Pharaoh.

- **Now these fellows that Pharaoh was calling are pretty sharp fellows.**
- **Later on when Moses go into the Pharaoh to demand the release of the children of Israel**, Moses took his rod and threw it down and the rod turned into a serpent. And the Pharaoh's magicians, what did they do? They threw their rods down too, and they turned into serpents. These guys had some pretty powerful demonic stuff going for them, but Moses' serpents ate up all of their serpents. But (1Jn 4:4c) *Because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.* These guys were really into the magical arts. These guys were into the occult. They were into Satanism. They were into the evil spirit realm. They probably were able to interpret dreams that came from the satanic realm, but this dream came from God and they were at a loss. You are crossing a spiritual barrier here. **They are at a loss to interpret the dream.**

Gen 41:9 Then the chief butler spoke to Pharaoh, saying: "I remember my faults this day.

Gen 41:10 When Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, both me and the chief baker,

Gen 41:11 we each had a dream in one night, he and I. Each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his own dream.

Gen 41:12 Now there was a young Hebrew man with us there, a servant of the captain of the guard. And we told him, and he interpreted our dreams for us; to each man he interpreted according to his own dream.

Gen 41:13 And it came to pass, just as he interpreted for us, so it happened. He restored me to my office, and he hanged him."

- **So suddenly two years later when the Pharaoh was troubled by this dream**, no one able to interpret it, **suddenly God brought Joseph to the mind of this butler.** God's timing is now perfect! God's plan is ready now to go into operation. It was for this reason that God put in the minds of

Joseph's brothers that evil thought to sell him as a slave; that that woman set her eyes upon Joseph and cried rape when he refused to be seduced; that Joseph had spent time in jail in order that he might meet the butler; that Pharaoh was angry with the butler to get him in jail, that he might meet Joseph.

- **God is behind the scenes working out His plan all the way along**, even as God is behind the scene in your life. If you are a child of God and He is working out details and plans of which you know nothing at all, but one day when you see the fruition you'll say, "Wow! Do you realize that if we hadn't been there at that time we wouldn't have met them? And if we hadn't met them then this and this and this...wow!" You see how God has been working even when you didn't know it, even when you weren't aware of it! God is controlling the circumstances of our lives!
- **You remember when Daniel came into that drunken Belshazzar again to interpret the writing on the wall**, and Daniel, before he interpreted the writing, gave him a stern lecture concerning the true and the living God. *(Dan 5:23c) the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.* You are so close to God and God so governs over your life that in His hand is your very breath.
- **When Paul stood amidst the Greek philosophers there on Mars Hill**, he said, "You are very religious people. I have been going through your streets. I have been observing your worship. I have seen all of the altars that you have. As I was walking down a street there in the marketplace, I saw an altar and it was inscribed to the Unknown God. I would like to tell you about that God. He is the God who created the whole universe and in Him we live, we move, and we have our being."
- **God is working out details and circumstances in your life.** Jesus said, "There is not a sparrow that falls to the ground but what your Father isn't aware of it." Now if your Father is that aware of sparrows, how much more is He aware of you and the situations in your life? One thing that Jesus taught us, and **that is God's complete concern for man!** With the very intricate details of man, such trivia as how many hairs there are on your head. God knows your life fully and completely! God is bringing about the circumstances of your life.
- **Now, with Joseph we are about to see the plan of God unfolding and we will begin now to understand a little bit better as we get to this stage, as we get to this chapter, now we begin to understand a little bit of the hardship and of the grief and the sorrow and the problems that he faced earlier on in his life**

Gen 41:14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh.

- **It was an abomination not to be shaved in those days in Egypt.** If you were to appear before the Pharaoh there is a code that you should be shaved to appear before Pharaoh. He shaved.

Gen 41:15 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that you can understand a dream, to interpret it."

Gen 41:16 So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."

- **Now, here again, and we find this so many places through the scriptures, these men that were so used of God were men who were never willing to take credit for the gift of God.** Yes, he was anointed of God. God had given him a gift. Yes, he could interpret dreams by the power of God. But he wasn't about to take credit for that power himself! "*It is not in me.*"
- **When Daniel was brought before Nebuchadnezzar to interpret his dream**, we see the same thing. Nebuchadnezzar said to Daniel, "I understand you can interpret dreams." Daniel said, "No, you got it wrong, king. I can't interpret dreams, but there is a God in heaven who knows everything and He is able to give you the understanding of your dream." Giving God the credit for what God has done. **Oh, that we would learn to do that!**
- **It is such a shame, a disgrace today; so many people are going around taking credit for what God has done.** "Well, we have discovered this formula and we will be glad to train you and teach you how you too can be a great success. Put down your money and we will make a success out of you. We've got the answers." Man is so willing to take credit for what God has done, to take the glory, stand up and take the bows, but not these men. *It is not in me: God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.*
- **How often do I take credit for what God had done or is doing in my life? (Isa 42:8) I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.**

Gen 41:17 *Then Pharaoh said to Joseph: "Behold, in my dream I stood on the bank of the river.*

- **He repeated his dream to Joseph**, how he *stood on the bank of the river* and saw the seven fat cows and the seven skinny ones and the gaunt ones and how they ate up the fat ones and the same with the wheat.

Gen 41:18 *Suddenly seven cows came up out of the river, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow.*

Gen 41:19 *Then behold, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and gaunt, such ugliness as I have never seen in all the land of Egypt.*

Gen 41:20 *And the gaunt and ugly cows ate up the first seven, the fat cows.*

Gen 41:21 *When they had eaten them up, no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were just as ugly as at the beginning. So I awoke.*

Gen 41:22 *Also I saw in my dream, and suddenly seven heads came up on one stalk, full and good.*

Gen 41:23 *Then behold, seven heads, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them.*

Gen 41:24 *And the thin heads devoured the seven good heads. So I told this to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me."*

Gen 41:25 *Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do:*

- **There is one interpretation** for both dreams.
- **God hath shown Pharaoh what He is about to do.** God has placed in the heart of kings His mind, His will. It is interesting that is exactly what God did to Nebuchadnezzar. (Dan 2:29 c) He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. Both of these men were pagan kings. Yet, God spoke to them in dreams revealing the future and what He was about to do.

Gen 41:26 *The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads are seven years; the dreams are one.*

Gen 41:27 *And the seven thin and ugly cows which came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty heads blighted by the east wind are seven years of famine.*

Gen 41:28 *_ which I have spoken to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do.*

Gen 41:29 *Indeed seven years of great plenty will come throughout all the land of Egypt;*

Gen 41:30 *but after them seven years of famine will arise, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine will deplete the land.*

Gen 41:31 *So the plenty will not be known in the land because of the famine following, for it will be very severe.*

Gen 41:32 *And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.*

- **Joseph now lays out for the king exactly what is going to happen.** God is showing you the future, the next fourteen years that God has laid out before you. They will be divided in two, seven-year periods. During the first seven years, each year will be a bumper crop. It's going to be years of abundance, but it will be followed by seven years of drought, seven years of famine, and the famine will be so great that all of the abundance of the seven good years will be used up, eaten up.

Gen 41:33 *"Now therefore, let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt.*

Gen 41:34 *Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, to collect one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years.*

- **Now as a general rule the people were taxed ten percent**, but Joseph is suggesting that during this time of surplus **that the government tax them twenty percent**, so that they might gather a large surplus to see them through the lean years that were coming.

Gen 41:35 *And let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming, and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.*

Gen 41:36 *Then that food shall be as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land may not perish during the famine."*

- **Note here the principle of planning for the future, insures good living!** How easily we can note the absence of this principle in our country at this time!

- **How clearly is this principle of planning for the future being shown in my life? Spiritually(eternally), as well as physically? How about those loved ones around me?**

Joseph Rises to Power

Gen 41:37 So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants.

- They said, “Wow, that’s a great idea, good plan!”

Gen 41:38 And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?"

- They recognized that there was a quality in Joseph that set him above the crowd. He wasn't an ordinary person. He had gone through thirteen years of severe testing, trial, hardship, and still there was that quality about him. Why? Because of the Spirit of God in him, and it was recognized. **Oh, what a difference the Spirit of God makes in our lives! How we need the Spirit of God in control in our lives. Can we find a man like this in whom is the Spirit of God?**
- **How much evidence is there in my life that the Spirit of God is in me, that it can be said, There is a man in whom is the Spirit of God?**

Gen 41:39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you."

Gen 41:40 You shall be over my house, and over all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you."

Gen 41:41 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

- Wow! Talk about rags to riches! Prison to praise!

Gen 41:42 Then Pharaoh His signet ring his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.

- Man, that is the authority! Wherever you go, that signet ring, that’s the authority of the king, that’s the authority of the government! They gave it to Joseph!

Gen 41:43 And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, "Bow the knee (regard him as the son of pharaoh)!" So he set him over all the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:44 Pharaoh also said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."

Gen 41:45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath-Paaneah (revealer of secrets). And he gave him as a wife Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On (city of sun worship). So Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

- Joseph's name Zaphnath-Paaneah. It probably means “the revealer of secrets

Gen 41:46 Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

- Now there are many similitudes between Joseph and Jesus. If you want to really go into the typology studies, you will find that Joseph becomes a very interesting type of Jesus Christ. Joseph was sent by his father to his brothers, even as Jesus was sent by the Father to His people. But his brothers despised him and sold him, even as Jesus was rejected by His own, sold by Judas.
- **The brothers threw him into a pit, even as Jesus was sent into Hades.** Joseph was brought up out of the jail, out of the dungeon to stand before Pharaoh, **even as Jesus arose from the dead and ascended to the Father!** Joseph was then given great authority, **even as Jesus has been given great authority!** “All power is given unto Me.” Here Joseph was thirty years old when he began his ministry over Egypt, even as Jesus was thirty years old when He began his public ministry. On and on you can find many, many types.
- Arthur Pink’s book on "Gleanings From Genesis" lists sixty or so types of Christ. Dr. J. Vernon McGee, in his commentary on Genesis, gives you twenty-eight or more types and you can follow it through and see many similarities here.

Gen 41:47 Now in the seven plentiful years the ground brought forth abundantly.

Gen 41:48 So he gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities; he laid up in every city the food of the fields which surrounded them.

- So in key cities he gathered together the food from the farm areas round about.

Gen 41:49 Joseph gathered very much grain, as the sand of the sea, until he stopped counting, for it was immeasurable.

- There was just an abundance of grain. Super crops!

Gen 41:50 And to Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him.

- Now you have seven good years, so he was thirteen years from the time he was sold by his brothers till the time that he was appointed now over the land, seven more years until the famine began. So his brothers probably came down maybe at the end of the first or second year of famine, so a time of perhaps twenty or twenty-one years elapsed between Joseph being sold by his brothers and then meeting them again when they came down to Egypt to buy grain. By that time Joseph is thirty-eight or thirty-nine years old. The last time they saw him, he was just a stripling kid, seventeen years old. That is why the brothers didn't recognize him. While he was in the seven good years collecting everything, God gave him a couple of sons.

Gen 41:51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh (making forgetful): "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house."

- Those bad years, those years in prison, those years as a slave, God has caused me to forget all of those years of toil. Forgetting, Manasseh.
- It is an interesting thing, the Bible speaks about when we get to heaven that the former things will not be brought into mind, (*Rev 21:4*) *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.* The years of toil, struggle, and of trying and testing won't be brought into mind when you are there. There will be so much more of the glory that we won't even be concerned about the past.

Gen 41:52 And the name of the second he called Ephraim (fruitfulness; doubly fruitful): "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."

- Again, a very beautiful phrase, God has caused me to forget all my toil, all my father's house, and He has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction!
- So come here, Forgetfulness. Come over here, Fruitful. Sit down here on your daddy's lap. Every time he called his kids he was reminded of God's goodness and God's blessings, what God had done for him!

Gen 41:53 Then the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Egypt ended,

Gen 41:54 and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. The famine was in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

Gen 41:55 So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Then Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, do."

Gen 41:56 The famine was over all the face of the earth, and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. And the famine became severe in the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:57 So all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all lands.

- God now brings his brothers to him. They are going to do obeisance to him. Even as God is going to ultimately bring Israel around and they will recognize Jesus as their Messiah! They will bow their knee! They will declare that Jesus is the Lord, to the glory of God the Father!
- Next week I think is one of my favorite chapters of the Old Testament. I love this portion of the story. There is just so much emotion in it. So we'll have an exciting time next week as Joseph's brothers come down to buy grain! I enjoy it every time I read it!
- There is more to the story. Don't close the book. Don't end the chapter and stop there. Wait for God to bring you into that next chapter where the solution to the puzzle lies and see the unfolding grace of God in your life and the goodness of God day after day until you say, "God is so good!"
- Oh, the goodness of God!

SUMMARY

- **How frequently do I challenge the goodness of God? Do I do well maintaining my integrity and my faith in God in spite of all of the obstacles in my life?** (Gen 40:3) *So he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard (Potiphar's title), in the prison, the place where Joseph was confined.*
- **If during a time that I was being completely faithful to God, I was falsely accused, and sent to prison, how likely would I be willing to be faithful to Him in that prison, helping and reaching out in a Christ-like manner to others?** (Gen 40:15) *For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon."*
- **During times of great testing and difficulty, how much confidence do I put in others, in their promises? Am I depending on man the most? On both man and God equally? Or always primarily on God?** (Gen 40:23) *Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.*
- **How often do I take credit for what God had done or is doing in my life? (Isa 42:8) I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.** (Gen 41:16) *So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.*
- **How clearly is this principle of planning for the future being shown in my life? Spiritually(eternally), as well as physically? How about those loved ones around me?** (Gen 41:36) *Then that food shall be as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land may not perish during the famine."*
- **How much evidence is there in my life that the Spirit of God is in me, that it can be said, There is a man in whom is the Spirit of God?** (Gen 41:38) *And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?"*

CLOSING SONG

GOODNESS OF GOD! Bethel Music (4:46/4:49)

I love You, Lord, Oh Your mercy never fails me. All my days I've been held in Your hands

From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head, I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus - And all my life You have been faithful. And all my life You have been so, so good

With every breath that I am able Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire. In the darkest night, You are close like no other.

I've known You as a Father. I've known You as a Friend. And I have lived in the goodness of God

(Chorus)

Cause Your goodness is running after. It's running after me.

Your goodness is running after. It's running after me.

With my life laid down I'm surrendered now I give You everything

Your goodness is running after, It's running after me. (2x)

(Chorus) (2x)

Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Read and study Genesis Chapters 42 & 43! Joseph and His Brothers!