

Dreamer: The Life of Joseph Joseph—The Egyptian *A Study in Genesis 37-50* Genesis 41:37-57 July 4, 2021

Joseph's location: Taken from prison two years after interpreting a dream for Pharaoh's cupbearer, Joseph is brought before Pharaoh's court to interpret two troubling dreams of Pharaoh, himself. His successful interpretation and wise counsel lead to his elevation to power in Egypt.

I. PHARAOH, NIGHT TERRORS, AND GOD'S PLAN

- Joseph's training is over, now it's time for God's plan to be revealed in his life. His timing proves perfect...again.
- For the third time, two dreams prove decisive in the direction of Joseph's life (Gen. 37:5,9; 40:8; 41:5).
- Pharaoh was considered a god who lived on the edge of divine realms, therefore his dreams were very important.
- Joseph's response to Pharaoh and the interpretation of his dreams are completely God-centered (Dan. 2:27-28).
- Even as a young man, Joseph proves more capable and wiser than the best of Egypt's magicians, astrologers, and counselors (Dan. 2:48).
- Joseph is confirmed to leadership over Egypt with a public display of his authority, a new name, and a marriage.
- God follows through with his now revealed plan. Seven years of abundance are followed up with a great famine (Gen. 41:46-49, 53-54).

II. THE WAITING IS THE HARDEST PART

- The Joseph and Daniel narratives are strikingly similar, and provide great lessons for us. Both men engage with their new worlds without embracing the sin that warps them (Gen. 41:50-52; Dan. 1:7).
- The waiting was surely no fun for Joseph, but his faithfulness through it all pays off (Ps. 27:13-14; Luke 2:25; Rom. 8:18-25).
- God forgets nothing—except for our sin (Ps. 103:12; Isa. 1:18; Jer. 31:34; Micah 7:19; Heb. 8:12).
- God demonstrates incredible patience with those he loves. It should not be presumed upon (Rom. 2:4-5, 9:22; 1 Tim. 1:15-17).
- God knows about our pain, our suffering, our desire for vindication, but calls upon us to accept his timing (Deut. 32:35; Eccl. 3:1-11; 1 Peter 5:10; Rev. 6:9-11).

KNOW: Waiting is hard. Patience is a virtue. Both pay off for Joseph, and the naming of his sons tell the story.

DO: Be strong, take heart, and wait on the Lord.

Suggested Reading:

The Roots of Endurance: Invincible Perseverance in the Lives of John Newton, Charles Simeon, and William Wilberforce by John Piper

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 41:37-57

1. How is God vindicating Joseph in this narrative?
2. In Daniel chapter 2 we see some interesting parallels to Joseph's story. What did these two men have in common?
3. Pharaoh sees in Joseph a "discerning and wise man," but he is only 30 years old with zero experience in a king's court. Where does Joseph get this wisdom? Mostly God-given? Learned over 13 years of struggle? Natural gifting?
4. Joseph experiences a rapid rise to power. What dangers are associated with such meteoric changes in life?
5. Why were Pharaoh's wise men and magicians unable to interpret his dreams? Why was Joseph able to?
6. What, if anything, are you learning about patience, suffering, God's promises, God's sovereignty, and God's timing so far from our study?