

This week...

Scripture: Genesis 41

Monday Genesis 41:8 “*⁸In 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.*”

There is no doubt where this dream came from. Recollect the events in the life of Joseph, and note how God has been orchestrating his life for the past 10+ years. Spend some time studying Joseph’s responses along the way. What would have happened if Joseph had rejected God or on his own looked for “better” options to what he was facing? Be very careful that when God is acting on your life that you don’t short circuit His plans with plans of your own.

Tuesday Genesis 41:9 “*⁹Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, ‘Today I am reminded of my shortcomings.’*”

Meditate on why it took the cupbearer so long to remember Joseph? Was he afraid; unconfident; lazy; busy; forgetful; or self-serving? Consider each possibility, and place yourself in a similar situation. How would you have behaved?

Wednesday Genesis 41:14 “*¹⁴So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh.*”

If Joseph has been praying, hoping, and waiting for years for such a day as this, why did he take time to shave and change his clothes? Before you answer, take time to consider how Joseph sees this as a “God thing”.

Thursday Genesis 41:15-16 “*¹⁵Pharaoh 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.’”

What more may we add to our understanding of Joseph’s character from these verses? Explore the evidence of his humility, obedience, and maturity displayed by his servant’s heart. When someone ascribes great ability to you, what is your attitude and response? How much do they learn of your God by your response?

Friday Genesis 41:39-40 “*³⁹Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. ⁴⁰You 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.’”*

Wow! Is there any wonder that the Hebrews were welcomed into Egypt and enjoyed many years of favor before there arose a Pharaoh who did not know Joseph? Our Christian witness has powerful and long-lasting effects not only on our own lives but on the lives of those we touch and influence. Joseph is about 30 years old when Pharaoh appoints him to his new and high position. Spend some time considering your present life, submission to God, and the impact you are having on others as a direct result of a humble heart surrendered to honoring the Lord. Are there areas for improvement? What is your plan?