

## Joseph in Prison (40:1-23)

- Joseph was 17 when sold into slavery and won't leave prison until he is 30.
- He is in prison for at least 2 years and could be as many as 12.
- The baker and cupbearer join Joseph in prison, but they appear to be guilty.
- They both have dreams that trouble them and need interpreting.
- Joseph notices and cares about their well being.
- The correct interpretation of dreams belongs to God not human ability or skill.
- Both dreams are about food, three days, and their fate.
- The cupbearer will be restored.
- Joseph asks the cupbearer to remember him and show him "hesed" or loyal covenant love.
- The baker also hopes for a positive interpretation but is disappointed.
- Joseph's interpretations come true exactly as he said exactly when he said they would.
- But the cupbearer forgets Joseph.
- Only God shows us faithful love.
- God has not forgotten Joseph.

## Pharaoh's Dream (41:1-13)

- Joseph has been forgotten for two years.
- Pharaoh has two dreams that deeply trouble him.
- He dreams of seven healthy cows eaten by sickly cows and seven healthy ears of grain eaten by sick grain.
- The dreams are sent by God and the magicians are kept by God from being able to interpret them.
- Rightly interpreting dreams is not a skill, but a gift from God.
- The cupbearer providentially remembers Joseph at the best possible time.

## Joseph's Interpretation (41:14-36)

- Joseph is again lifted out of a pit (37:28), this time towards blessing.
- Joseph is once again stripped of his clothes (37:23; 39:12), but this time to be honored.
- Pharaoh is ready to praise Joseph, but he shows humility.
- Joseph acknowledges only God can interpret them.
- Dream is repeated twice because it will definitely happen and is coming soon.
- The dream is a warning about a coming famine that will cover the whole earth.
- God is warning them ahead of time so that they can prepare.
- Joseph offers a solution of the best way to save the most lives.

## Joseph's Solution (41:37-57)

- Pharaoh acknowledges that the interpretation is correct and accepts his advice.
- Pharaoh acknowledges Joseph has the Spirit of God.
- The king of a polytheistic and pagan nation recognizes God's presence and blessing.
- The purpose of God using and blessing Abraham's people is to spread the blessing.
- Joseph is promoted to the second most powerful person in Egypt.
- Joseph is clothed once more in a new garment showing his high position.
- The crowds bow before Joseph.
- He is given power so that nothing can happen in Egypt without his approval.
- Joseph is given a wife and new name, which means something like "revealer of hidden mysteries."

## Joseph's Actions (41:46-57)

- 13 years after it was promised, Joseph has received all God promised.
- He saves the food he spreads it throughout the entire nation.
- God continues to bless Joseph by making the harvests incredibly abundant.
- Joseph names his two sons after the blessing God has shown him.
- The first is named after God making him forget his suffering.
- The second is named after God blessing him in his suffering.
- Both are in the theme of blessing in the midst of suffering.
- The famine comes as promised and Joseph is in charge of the relief efforts.
- The whole world is blessed and saved through Joseph.

## Application

- God can use our suffering to bring blessings to us and the whole world.
- We need to endure even when it seems like God is not working.
- God's blessing does not come on our timeline.