

Character Study: Joseph

Part 4 – Joseph Experiences Success

Genesis 41

What's happening?

- While Joseph remained in prison, Pharaoh had two dreams that greatly troubled him. He sought for someone who could interpret these dreams, but was unable to find anyone who could help. (41:1-8)
- Hearing about this, the butler remembered Joseph and told the Pharaoh about his ability to interpret dreams. (41:9-13)
- Pharaoh shared his dreams with Joseph. Joseph explained that the dreams were from God, showing that He was going to give Egypt seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine. (41:14-32)
- Joseph encouraged Pharaoh to save food in preparation for the famine. Pharaoh saw Joseph's discernment and wisdom and placed him over all the people. (41:33-45)
- Joseph prepared Egypt for the coming famine. When the famine arrived, people travelled from far away to get food from Joseph. (41:46-57)

What's God doing?

- > During this time period, God gave Joseph a wife (Asenath), followed by two sons (Manasseh and Ephraim). (41:45, 50-52)
- > God had elevated Joseph to the second highest-ranking position in Egypt. Through God's perfect plan and perfect timing, Joseph was in the perfect scenario to be given a prominent position of influence.

What's to learn?

→ It would not be easy for Joseph (a Hebrew) to rule in Egypt, especially while dealing with a famine. Yet, through the experiences of Joseph's life, God had taught him the humility and faith needed to succeed (note v. 16). What lessons has God taught you in life that have prepared you for success? What is He teaching you now?

→ Joseph received his leadership position because he was a person in whom was "the Spirit of God" (v. 38). Leadership qualities are not merely physical, or based on talent and skill. Becoming a leader is based on one's character, resulting from a meaningful walk with God!