

Genesis: God and Man

An Answer of Peace

Genesis 41

Previously:

- Joseph had two dreams (sheaves of wheat; sun, moon stars)
- Brothers hated him, Jacob (Israel) kept it close to his heart even though he rebuked him
- Special coat
- Plot to kill him, Sold to Ishmaelite traders, brought to Egypt
- Potiphar's house
- God's favor clearly seen on him
- Cast into prison, but not killed
- God's continued favor, put in charge of the prison
- Baker, Cupbearer's dreams
- Joseph forgotten

Have you ever felt forgotten?

Left by the wayside?

Passed over?

What's the hungriest you've been?

Have you been out of work, wondering where your next meal would come from?

41:1-7

The end of two full years from the last chapter

Pharaoh had a dream

First dream

By the river (nile, their source of life)

Seven fat cows, seven ugly and gaunt cows

Ate fat cows

It woke Pharaoh up, probably a bit of a nightmare tone to it

I have to wonder what sort of dreams world rulers have. These sort of things have to happen today and they call for the astrologers, psychologists, doctors, gurus, spiritual advisors and scientists.

Eph 6:12 NKJV - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly [places].

There are spiritual powers over different regions. Look at the election.

Went back to sleep, second dream:

Seven heads of grain on one stalk (remember three bunches of grapes on one vine)

Seven heads blighted by the east wind
(east is the Middle East, Saudi Arabia, the dessert)

God showing a famine was coming.

Pharaoh woke up - the dream was so vivid he thought it was real until he woke up and thought about it for a minute.

**Dreams are powerful, even if they're not divine. Our interpretation of reality.
We really are a spirit inside an organic machine, interpreting the inputs of our flesh**

:8-16

Spirit was troubled...he was deeply disturbed

No one could make sense of them

Chief butler remembers his faults... back when he was in prison but also that he forgot Joseph

"Just as he interpreted for us, so it happened" -
this wasn't luck, 50/50, 10%, but 100% accurate

Pharaoh calls for Joseph. Talk about a quick meeting, being rushed there. Washed up, shaved (I picture him bald in the Egyptian style)

Joseph clearly says it's not his own power, but God speaking
"It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh and answer of peace."

God was the one would reach Pharaoh. Joseph doesn't rebuke Pharaoh for being a pagan, thinking he's God and not knowing the answer, but instead he shows Pharaoh that God is desiring to give Pharaoh peace, if Pharaoh would seek him.

What a contrast to the Pharaoh 400 years later in Exodus.

God wants Pharaoh and Egypt to turn to him. Often times we think that God only wanted to reach the Israelites in the OT and he didn't care about other nations. But to the contrary, he was trying to reach all the nations. S&G, Babel, Egypt, Babylon, Ninevah, Assyria, the list goes on.

I'm sure God does today. And much like Jonah we don't want God to save them, we know he will. We would think that God is done with a nation or a ruler or a leader.

1Ti 2:1-4 NKJV - Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this [is] good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

:17-24

Pharaoh recounts the dreams

Such ugliness as I have never seen in all the land of Egypt

Pharaoh's perception of the dream is a key part of how God was displaying it to him. That his perception of what was shown was important

There is such ugliness in America that we have never seen before

We are in years of spiritual famine...although it is a manufactured famine, a desired famine, a welcomed famine...and we wonder why such awful atrocities happen. And they are eating up all of the good of the past 250 years.

Democracies only last around 200 years on average

As Billy Graham once said, "If God doesn't judge America, he owes S&G an apology."

Eating the good cows didn't make the uglier any less ugly.

When evil gets its way, it doesn't get less evil.

Political compromise.

"So I told this to the magicians but there was none who could explain it to me"

Pharaoh's first instinct is to turn to these magicians for answers

We shouldn't turn to magicians, obviously, but where do we turn first? Is it the Lord? Or do we turn to someone else?

Only God can interpret these deep things in our souls.

:25-36

The dreams of Pharaoh are one - two dreams, but it's about the same thing.
They're really the same dream just displayed in different ways.

Cattle and crops. This famine would affect everything.

Bad year for poultry last year, bad year for certain crops this year in US.

God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do

The famine was something God was doing. Can we accept that?

God brought Joseph here because God was about to bring a famine on the world that they might come to Egypt and be saved. That they might learn about the true God who gave Joseph insight into what would come. And ultimately, that Joseph's family would come and Egypt would be the womb for bringing the nation of Israel into existence. And the finances to send them out.

This dream for this event was a pivotal moment in divine history.

God works on such a scale that we can't even imagine. And even when we get a glimpse of it, we can't understand without his Spirit.

Jhn 16:12-13 NKJV - "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear [them] now. "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own [authority], but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

**Seven plentiful years coming.
Seven famine years following.**

"All the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt"
1930's after the 1920's

The famine will be so severe it will eat up everything from the plenty. There won't be savings accounts left. There won't be food stored up. There won't be luxury for the masses.

Rev 6:5-6 NKJV - When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

V32 The dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God and God will shortly bring it to pass

Joseph's two dreams. The two dreams in prison. These two dreams: God established the events. God will do it.

Joseph interprets the dreams but goes one step further...he counsels him on what to do with the dreams (what the magicians would do)

It's good to seek counsel and hear it from those who have understanding on something we are involved with

Pastor and teacher gift

I don't know that Joseph was selling himself here with a sales pitch. Joseph was a humble guy (don't tell Moses)

Joseph, from this dream, from what God showed him, also has divine inspiration on a solution.

Gifts of administration

Put a wise steward over the land. Secretary of Agriculture. But put him over the affairs of Egypt because it's going to take everything we've got to do this right and survive.

Seven years of judgment coming.

Sec. of Ag has subordinates over the regions and types of produce, etc. One fifth...20%. Everyone pays an additional 20% tax that goes right into the storehouses. 20% federal food savings account. Under the authority of Pharaoh. Pharaoh still in charge, he, like all good rulers, just needs to set a special group of people to handle this. Distributed food in every city. (Multiple baskets, not eggs all in one). Food to be rationed out during famine.

It's one thing to pay taxes and have those funds evaporate into frivolous gov't programs, it's another to have an effective government program.

- *The latest projection has the combined Social Security trust funds that pay retirement and disability benefits running out of cash reserves by 2034.*
- *"The average American household has \$175,510 in savings as of June 2018. That may sound like a lot, but an average can't tell the whole story, since millions of families have nothing put away at all while others manage to be super-savers. Indeed, as it turns out, the median American household has only \$11,700. "*

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/27/heres-how-much-money-americans-have-in-savings-at-every-income-level.html>

- *The average American now has about \$38,000 in personal debt, excluding home mortgages. That's up \$1,000 from a year ago, according to Northwestern Mutual's 2018 Planning & Progress Study, which also reports that "fewer people said they carry 'no debt' this year compared to 2017 (23 percent vs. 27 percent)."*



<https://www.cnn.com/2018/08/20/how-much-debt-americans-have-at-every-age.html>

Recessions, bail outs, it's all fake. We're held up by our international power and relationships. Those are beginning to crumble. And at home, we're beginning to let the world come in and have it's way with what's left of our plenty. It's not going to last seven years.

:37-46

Everyone there sees how good this advice was. They couldn't even interpret the dream and this man both interprets it and gives perfect advice.

"A man in whom is the Spirit of God?"

Pharaoh recognized that this was the Spirit of God and not even their gods. Joseph's true and living God. I wonder if Pharaoh is in heaven?

Daniel, Jesus, others...

Inasmuch as God has shown you all of this...that GOD SHOWED IT TO HIM. Pharaoh knew that through and through.

And it was a message of peace...famine is coming, but I have warned you and given you a way of life through it.

Noah. The end times.

Pharaoh makes Joseph the man to carry out this plan. Who better?

Signet ring...Pharaoh gave Joseph his amex black card, no limit, buy whatever, do whatever, top secret clearance.

Pharaoh is still Pharaoh, but Joseph, you're running the day-to-day show around here.

That coat of many colors is now the finest clothes in all of Egypt, perhaps the world at the time. The authority of Joseph was only second to Pharaoh. This wasn't a formal role, this was real authority.

And what to they cry before his motorcade? **BOW THE KNEE.**

Talk about dreams coming true in someone's life. 13 years in the making.
17 sold away. 30 raised up to second in the land.

Zaphnath-paaneah = "treasury of the glorious rest"

i. More likely the name means, God Speaks and He Lives, referring to God's word coming through Joseph, his own preservation, and the way he has preserved the country.

It was suggested that Potipherah was a prince, not only a priest,[3] and that he may be the same person as Potiphar.

Joseph married into royalty. Not only a job for him, but he was officially in with the Egyptian culture and dynasty.

:47-57

Each city stored up the food from that city. Smart. When we put things into one pot, especially nationally, it tends to not get divided rightly.

Taking care of our private roads.

The grain was immeasurable. As the sand of the sea. He stopped counting. Too much!
Reminds me of the promise of the nation to Abraham.

Two sons born to Joseph

Manassah and Ephraim

All the burdens on Joseph that were unjustly put on him were over. He was now lifted above them by God. And he remembers God and gives Him credit in the names of his kids.

Seven years ended. I'm sure this went by quickly.

The famine was in all lands...but egypt had bread.

It still wasn't ideal, but they had food. It wasn't amazing eating, but they were eating.

God saving Egypt wasn't just for Egypt, but it was for all the nations.

I wonder, if God blessing America wasn't just for America, but for all nations...and now America is devouring itself and letting all nations plunder it...we're for all nations, but not at the expense of ourselves.

They didn't open up the storehouses right away wise...they waited until their was public outcry. To make sure they were truly in need and had used up everything.

Being wise stewards. And it wasn't free hand outs...it was sold. Again, to make sure it didn't go to waste. You want some bread, sell your chair.

The famine became severe. I don't think we can truly understand this statement from our perspective. I don't think we've ever felt something close to this as Americans.

Everyone came to Joseph to buy grain.

He's a ruler...nations bowing down to him...for grain.

But his dreams weren't totally fulfilled yet, his family still wasn't a part.