

In the Beginning

Genesis 41:1-57

- Joseph finds himself in a situation where it seems he has been completely forgotten, its been over ten yrs since he has been taken from his father Jacob and brought down into Egypt. Here he's been enslaved, looked down upon, lied on, and thrown into prison for a crime he did not commit, and yet in the midst of all this chaos and turmoil scripture says "**The Lord was with him**". No matter where you may find yourself always remember the Lord has not forgotten you.

V1-57

- **V1-8** its been two long yrs since Joseph correctly interpreted the butler's dream that he would be restored back to his position as cupbearer in the royal court, and all Joseph asked in return was that the butler remember the kindness Joseph showed him while he was in prison and say a kind word about him to Pharoah that he may get out of that prison > **40:14**. Sadly the butler forgot about Joseph as soon as it was well with him, folks that's human nature right here, once the butler was out of harm's way he could care less about those who had helped him earlier.
- Joseph may have been forgotten by the butler but he hadn't been forsaken but the Lord, instead of the butler saying anything to Pharoah God gives Pharoah a dream that greatly disturbs not only his sleep but his internal wellbeing. You know how it is when something is bothering you and its causing you to feel uneasy within and you desire some answers, and so he calls for the wisemen and mystics of his day to tell him his dream but they were unable to interpret them.
- **V9-13** if you ever doubt the Sovereignty of God all you have to do is read this chapter, Joseph is still locked up in the prison, its been two yrs since the Butler has gotten out, **10yrs** total that he's been in prison for a crime he didn't commit. All hope could easily have been lost, but in God's timing Pharoah has not one but two dreams that no one can interpret, and it opens up a door for the Butler to speak to Pharoah about a man who once helped him with his dreams.
- **V14-16** People with God its never an if but a when, the question is "when God does call us will we be ready to respond the right way"? Notice after Joseph gets cleaned up on the outside and made presentable to Pharoah he is asked if he can interpret dreams and he tells Pharoah that it "**is God him but God Who will give Pharoah an answer**". After **13yrs** of being a slave, **10yrs** of being imprisoned Joseph is completely sold out to the Lord, his bad circumstances didn't make him bitter it made him better prepared to submit and serve the Lord when called upon to do so.
- **Acts 11:22-26**- when Barnabas was called to help in the discipleship of believers in Antioch Barnabas realized he was going to need help if he was to go to other areas and do for them wat he had seen done in Antioch, so he went to Tarsus to get Paul who was still called Saul at the time. **Acts 13:2-3** later after fasting and praying the Holy Spirit confirmed to the church what Barnabas already knew as Paul is now sent out with Barnabas to evangelize the world.

- The point is he had been in the dark for over **10yrs** before Barnabas came for him, and if he hadn't been sharpening the ax while God was preparing the way he wouldn't have been able to answer the call correctly. The character of these men was no matter where they found themselves planted they were going to bloom, so they were content to be out of the limelight, but when God called them to be in the spotlight they didn't have to change anything, just continue to do in the light what they had been doing in the shadows. How many people would mention God to a pagan King who could either kill them or place them back into prison?
- **V17-25** Pharaoh tells Joseph his two dreams and to his astonishment Joseph tells him the two dreams are one and that God has graciously given Pharaoh a glimpse into what He was about to do in the near future. You have to understand in Egyptian culture Pharaoh was considered "**God on earth**" so to tell him that he is in need of guidance from something other than himself was blasphemy and could easily get you killed or at the very least beaten and thrown into prison.
- **V26-32** Joseph repeatedly tells Pharaoh that it is the true God and not him or their false gods that is warning him to prepare for the famine to come. This is a far cry than the younger Joseph we saw in the past who told his brothers his dreams in a self glorifying way, never once mentioning the Lord, but now that self confidence is long gone, and he is all about praising the Lord and giving Him the glory, so he lets all who are listening that God alone had the answer.
- **V33-36** after telling Pharaoh the interpretation of the dream he now gives him wisdom and instructions of how to prepare for its fulfillment. Pharaoh normally took **10%** of the grain in Egypt as tax Joseph tells him to double it to **20%** over the next seven yrs that way when the years of famine come they would still have food and supplies in their store houses.
- **V37-43** Pharaoh not only receives the interpretation but also the wise counsel Joseph gave and he recognizes what the scripture has been saying that "the Lord was with Joseph". It wasn't until Pharaoh announced it publicly but Joseph understood it privately that God had not forsaken him even if it seemed like man had forgotten him, and now he is made second in authority in all of Egypt. This after thirteen yrs of serving as a slave, blessing others in the prison, now he goes from the prison cell to the throne room, will we see Joseph call for Potiphar and his wife?
- God uses trials to mold and shape Joseph's character, if he hadn't overcome the temptation of a married woman, then he couldn't have endured the lies, false accusations, and injustices, that have now prepared him to rule and make decisions that will affect an entire generation. **V44-49** Joseph is given a ring, robe, gold chain, chariot, and new name, along with a wife from a prominent family, all to symbolize his new place and position to the Pharaoh. But no matter how close Joseph came to the Pharaoh he never veered far from the Lord, he stayed the course.
- **V50-57** Joseph has two sons and he gives them names to remind him from where he's come > "**Manasseh**" to forget all my troubles, "**Ephraim**" Fruitful, God has made him to prosper in the land of his affliction. So he doesn't want to forget everything only that God had not forsaken him and that everything that had happened to him was to bring him to a place of blessing.

- Joseph flourished as a slave, a prisoner, and now as a governor, as everywhere God placed him Joseph was blessed and in turn he was a blessing to others. But that just didn't happen overnight, as he didn't start out like that, earlier he was spoiled, selfish, and self centered, now he is God centered, and therefore he becomes selfless, using his position to further others well being.