

THE STUDY OF

# GENESIS

"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED  
THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH."

# Prison to the Palace

## Genesis 41



# THE REDEMPTION STORY: FROM GENESIS TO JESUS

- The Bible is one beautiful story of Jesus and redemption (Ephesians 1:7-10)
- Scripture presents a purposeful narrative revealing God's redemptive plan (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

# Big Picture

- Redeemer/Seed Hunt Gen. 3:15; 12:1-3 (There is one Hero... Jesus)
- Past promises point to future faithfulness, different times - same Lord
- Continuity — From Abraham to Christ (Heb 11:13–16; Gal 3:29)



## Genesis 40:23 NKJV

Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him

## Genesis 41:1 NKJV

(1) Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream; and behold, he stood by the river.

## v.1 Two Years Later....

1. God often allows seasons of delay because He is doing His deepest work in us during those times.
2. Joseph's suffering was not meaningless.
3. It was preparation.



## Genesis 41:2-4 NKJV

(2) and behold, there came up out of the Nile seven cows, attractive and plump, and they fed in the reed grass.

(3) And behold, seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile.

(4) And the ugly, thin cows ate up the seven attractive, plump cows. And Pharaoh awoke.

## v.2-4 De-Nile

1. The Nile River was the lifeline of Egypt.
2. Over 90% of Egypt's population in the ancient world lived within a mile of the Nile.
3. Egyptians worshiped the Nile through the god Hapi

## **v.2-4 Holy Skiny Cows Dream-man!**

The goddess Hathor was associated with fertility and life. She was often depicted as a cow or as a woman with cow horns, Egyptian mythology also spoke of the seven cows of Hathor

(5) And he fell asleep and dreamed a second time. And behold, seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk. (6) And behold, after them sprouted seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind. (7) And the thin ears swallowed up the seven plump, full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream.

## v.5-7 Being Stalked in a Dream

1. **Osiris** — god of agriculture and fertility
2. **Renenutet** — goddess of the Harvest
3. **Min** — god of fertility and crops
4. The scorching east wind from the desert could destroy crops overnight.

## **v.2-7 two by two...**

**1. two prisoners in Genesis 40**

**two dreams in prison**

**two years later**

**two dreams of Pharaoh**

**two retellings of the dreams**

**2. In Hebrew storytelling repetition often**

**signals certainty. (Sailhamer)**



## Genesis 41 NKJV

(8) So in the morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was none who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

## v.8 Egypt's Wisdom Fails

1. Genesis 40:8 - Interpretations belong to God (alone)
2. Human wisdom reaches its limits when divine revelation is required.

## v.8 Egypt's Wisdom Fails

3. This moment echoes another biblical story. Daniel 2:27–28
4. The world's wisdom fails.
5. God is the source and reveals truth to His servant.



## Genesis 41:9-16 NKJV

(9) Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "I remember my offenses today.

(10) When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard,

## Genesis 41 NKJV

(11) we dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own interpretation.

(12) A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each man according to his dream.

## Genesis 41 NKJV

(13) And as he interpreted to us, so it came about. I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged."

(14) Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh.

## Genesis 41 NKJV

(15) And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

(16) Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

## v.9-16 The Prison to the Palace

1. Even the timing of memory is under God's providence.
2. What looked like neglect becomes the doorway to Joseph's promotion.
3. James 4:6 (NKJV) "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."



## Genesis 41:17-32 NKJV

(17) Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Behold, in my dream I was standing on the banks of the Nile. (18) Seven cows, plump and attractive, came up out of the Nile and fed in the reed grass. (19) Seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and thin, such as I had never seen in all the land of Egypt.

(20) And the thin, ugly cows ate up the first seven plump cows, (21) but when they had eaten them no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were still as ugly as at the beginning. Then I awoke. (22) I also saw in my dream seven ears growing on one stalk, full and good. (23) Seven ears, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them,

(24) and the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears. And I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me." (25) Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. (26) The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one.

(27) The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind are also seven years of famine. (28) It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. (29) There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt,

(30) but after them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt. The famine will consume the land, (31) and the plenty will be unknown in the land by reason of the famine that will follow, for it will be very severe. (32) And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about.

## **v.17-32 Giving God the Glory**

Joseph also explained why the dream appeared twice:

It meant the matter was firmly established by God and would happen soon.

It could collapse the entire nation, he offers a plan...



## Genesis 41:33-38 NKJV

(33) Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt.

(34) Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plentiful years.

(35) And let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it.

(36) That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine.”

(37) This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.

(38) And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?"

## v.33-38 God's Spirit and Wisdom

1. Appoint leaders (delegate)
2. Collect 20% during abundance
3. Store grain in every city
4. Bread of life for the Nations...?
5. Publicly recognized as possessing the Spirit of God.



## Genesis 41:39–45 NKJV

(39) Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are.

(40) You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you."

(41) And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

(42) Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck.

(43) And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, "Bow the knee!" Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. The prisoner becomes prime minister.

(44) Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."

(45) And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him in marriage Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On. So Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.

## v.39-45 Prison rings to Pharaoh's bling

1. Zaphenath-panea = “God speaks and he lives.” or “The revealer of mysteries.”
2. Asenath — an Egyptian name likely meaning “belonging to Neith,”



## Genesis 41:46 NKJV

(46) Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt.”

## v.46 30 Years Old

1. Age 17 → sold into slavery

Age 30 → ruler of Egypt = 13 years of preparation.

2. Priests began serving at 30 (Num. 4:3)

3. David began ruling at 30 (2 Sam. 5:4)

4. Jesus Begins at 30 (Luke 3:23)



## Genesis 41:47-57 NKJV

(47) During the seven plentiful years the earth produced abundantly,

(48) and he gathered up all the food of these seven years, which occurred in the land of Egypt, and put the food in the cities. He put in every city the food from the fields around it.

(49) And Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured.

(50) Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore them to him.

(51) Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house." (52) The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction." (53) The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of Egypt came to an end,

(54) and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. (55) When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do."

(56) So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt.

(57) Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.

## **v.47-57 The forge is where we take shape**

- 1. Manasseh = “Causing to forget” or “one who forgets.”**
  - a. God transformed suffering into peace.**
- 2. Ephraim = “God has made me fruitful.”**
  - a. God did not remove Joseph from hardship. He produced fruit through hardship**

1. **Philippians 1:12 (NKJV)** “The things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.”
2. God often brings preparation from the pit, Potiphar, and prison, to prepare for the Palace

Genesis 45:7 (NKJV) “God sent me before you to preserve life.”

... The bread that gives life to Israel and all nations....? (John 6:35)



# Takeaway 1 - Embrace Hidden Seasons

1. God prepares His servants before He promotes them.
2. Hidden seasons are not wasted. They are preparation.
3. God works on your character to match your calling

## Takeaway 1 - ACTION:

Be faithful where God has placed you today. Serve the Lord in the small things. Because the same God who prepares in obscurity exalts in His perfect time.

1 Peter 5:6 (NKJV) “Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.”

## **Takeaway 2 - Walk in Wisdom**

Wisdom Begins with Reverence for God

**Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV)** “The fear of the

LORD is the beginning of wisdom,

And the knowledge of the Holy One is

understanding.” (Col 2:3)

**Wisdom** = Humility, faithfulness, integrity,

discernment, and diligence

## **Takeaway 2 - ACTION:**

### **1. Ask God for Wisdom**

**James 1:5** “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God...”

### **2. Practice Daily Wisdom**

Read 1 chapter of **Proverbs** each day

Let God train your heart in wisdom.



**From Adam → Joseph → Christ**

**Adam**

Humanity's first ruler

Failed in obedience

Brought death into the world

**Genesis 3:6; Romans 5:12**

**From Adam → Joseph → Christ**

**Joseph**

A faithful ruler under God

Preserved life during famine

A picture of the ideal wise man

**Genesis 41:39–57**

# From Adam → Joseph → Christ Jesus

The Last Adam

Perfect obedience

Brings eternal life to the world

1 Corinthians 15:45 (NKJV)

“The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.”



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# Joseph as a Typology of Jesus

1. Beloved Son = Matt. 3:17
2. Sent by the Father = John 6:38
3. Rejected by His Own = John 1:11
4. Betrayed for Silver = Matt. 26:14–15
5. Delivered to the Gentiles = Matt.  
20:18–19
6. Stripped = Matt. 27:28, 35

7. Falsely Accused = Matt. 26:59–60
8. Numbered with Transgressors = Isa. 53:12;  
Luke 23:32–33
9. One Saved, One Condemned = Luke  
23:39–43
10. Exalted to the Right Hand of God = Acts  
2:33; Heb. 1:3
11. Bread for the Nations = John 6:35
12. Forgave His Betrayers = Luke 23:34

# HEAT - THORNS - CROSS - FRUIT

**Heat** = pressure, trials, difficulty (Ps. 88; James 1:1-15)

**Thorns** = our sin, flesh response (Eph. 4-6; Heb. 4:14-5:10)

# HEAT - THORNS - CROSS - FRUIT

**Cross** = God's gospel transformative power, changes our focus from self to Jesus, (Rom 1:16; 2 Peter 1:1-11)

**Fruit** = the new right, Holy Spirit, Grace-empowered response to life's struggles. (Ps. 1; Gal 5:22)