

**Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams (Genesis 41)
For the week of February 6, 2022**



Fun Fact: The Nile Delta area known in antiquity was a vital element of the development of ancient Egyptian society and played an intrinsic part in their religion, culture, and day-to-day sustenance. In addition to providing fertile farmland, the Delta offered the ancient Egyptians many other valuable resources. (Sciencing 3/2018)

Observation (Read Genesis 41:1-8)

In your own words, describe what is happening.

Interpretation

Why do you think Pharaoh's dreams were so disturbing to him?

How do you interpret verse 8 that all the magicians and wise men of Egypt could not make sense of Pharaoh's dreams?

Compare and contrast Genesis 41:1-8 with Daniel 2:1-11.

Application

When was the last time you were deeply troubled (difficulty sleeping, etc.)? Did you attempt to find comfort and understanding from man or God? Why?

Observation (Read Genesis 41:9-13)

Describe in your own words what is happening.

Interpretation

Reread Genesis 40:14, 23.

Did the cupbearer fulfill the request of Joseph (considering 41:9-13)? How did he or didn't he? Did he really forget?

Application

Look at these verses that deal with God's planning and timing. What do they say to you?

Proverbs 16:9

Jeremiah 29:11-12

Habakkuk 2:3

Acts 1:7

2 Peter 3:8-9

Are there other verses about God's planning and timing which are meaningful to you that you would like to share?

Observation (Read Genesis 41:14-36)

What was the purpose of Joseph being brought before Pharaoh?

How many times did Joseph reference God and how did he reference God to Pharaoh?

Interpretation

Did Joseph go beyond what was asked of him in verses 33-36? Why or why not?

Was it significant for Joseph to reference God to a cult following Pharaoh? Why or why not?

Application

When do you find it the most difficult to bring Christ into a conversation with others? Why?

Observation (Read Genesis 41:37-57)

Note: Zaphenath-paneah is the name given to Joseph by Pharaoh. Because it is an ancient Egyptian name, the meaning is unknown. However, the most popular view is "God speaks and he lives."

How many years was it for Joseph from the pit to the palace?

What are the main events of these verses?

Interpretation

What is it that pleased Pharaoh in verse 37 and why is it significant to mention all his servants?

Was it wrong for Joseph to marry a daughter of the priest of On? Why or why not?

How did Joseph's time in slavery prepare him for his "rise in power"?

Application

Has there been a time in your life that others have seen Christ in you?