

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (October 22, 2023)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

In the Joseph stories we have seen a young man move from the annoying little brother, to the pit, to slave, to prisoner. Today having come out of prison and interpreted Pharaoh's dreams we see him take action on behalf of the sovereign. He is now essentially the prime minister of one of the most powerful countries in the world at that time. In his story we become aware of the promise of God's providence.

From Prisoner to Prime Minister (Genesis 41:37-57)

(Genesis 41:1-36. Pharaoh (king of Egypt) is troubled by his dreams. Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams. And he offers Pharaoh his counsel on how to save the people of Egypt (and in saving them he will save people of other nations too).

³⁷ This (Joseph's) 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?' 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. 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. ⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt. 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."

Questions:

1. What was the proposal that pleased Pharaoh and all his servants? (Read Chapter 41:25-36)
2. What does Joseph's behavior reveal about his character?
3. Where do you see God's activities in this narrative?

Notes

As you spend time praying, remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural part of your day. Prayer is a conversation: talking to God and listening to God. Ask God for wisdom. Ask God for courage. Ask God to help you trust Him. Ask God to speak to you. God will speak to you, guide you, and be with you, me too, because He loves us.