

1. Intro

- Story of Joseph takes up 13 of the 50 chapters of Genesis!
 - Must be important! We can learn much from Joseph's life and character.
- Review:
 - Despite his unfair treatment, Joseph just kept showing up and doing what was right, and honoring God with his life and choices.
- Today, we'll read that Joseph interpreted the dreams of his fellow inmates and of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.
 - No matter what difficulties and trials came Joseph's way, **he simply trusted God** to work the circumstances out His way.

2. Text: Genesis 40-41

Genesis 40:1-7

- Joseph **cared** for others even in his unwanted, difficult circumstances.
 - Joseph trusted God and was at peace with his own circumstances, and that allowed him to come alongside others going through difficulties.

Genesis 40:8-15

- With **God's** wisdom, Joseph interpreted the cupbearer's dreams.
 - Only God knows the future. There's nothing He doesn't know.
- Joseph pursued a **reasonable way** to get out of prison:
 - When we're in undesirable circumstances, if there's a reasonable way to get out, pursue it, but leave the results in God's hands.
 - **Serenity Prayer:** "God grant us the serenity (calmness/peacefulness) to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Genesis 40:16-23

- The cupbearer **forgot** all about Joseph, and Joseph remained in prison.
 - God answers our desires or prayers with "yes", "no", or "wait".

Genesis 41:1-16

- The cupbearer **remembered** Joseph **2 full years** later! He told Pharaoh about Joseph's ability to interpret dreams, and Pharaoh summoned Joseph.

Genesis 41:25-36

- In Pharaoh's dream, God revealed there would be 7 years of **prosperity** followed by 7 years of severe **famine**.

Genesis 41:37-46

- Pharaoh declared Joseph as the **2nd in command** of all of Egypt.
 - Joseph was finally out of prison. God's answer/plan was "wait" 2 more years after the cupbearer left the prison.
 - Joseph was **17** years old when he was sold into slavery by his brothers (37:2), and he was **30** years old when he became 2nd in command in Egypt (41:46).
- Joseph ending up as the 2nd in command in all of Egypt was not luck or random chance; it was by God's sovereign design!

Genesis 41:47-57

- Pharaoh's dream that 7 years of prosperity would be followed by 7 years of famine was fulfilled **exactly** as God revealed through Joseph.
 - What God says will happen, will **always** happen. **We can trust Him.**

3. Application

- **Just as with Joseph, God is with you. He's good and He's trustworthy. Trust Him.**
 - **Isaiah 26:3-4** "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock." (NLT)
 - **Jeremiah 17:7-8** "But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit." (NLT)