

Chapter 40-41

Summary of 39

40:1 Some time after this, the **cupbearer** of the king of Egypt and his baker committed an **offense** against their lord the king of Egypt. **2** And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, **3** and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined. **4** The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them, and he attended them. They continued for some time in custody.

- **Cupbearer –** The Hebrew word for cupbearer relates to the Egyptian, an official—often a foreigner—who often exercised political power because they became the king's confidant (see K. A. Kitchen, NBD3 248). Nehemiah was in this position in Persia.[1]
    - **KJV –** Butler
- Committed an **offense** against their lord the king – what did they do?
    - Same word used in 39:9 for "sin"
    - This contrasts Joseph as a servant who would not sin.

[1] Biblical Studies Press, *The NET Bible First Edition Notes* (Biblical Studies Press, 2006), Ge 40:1.

- Did the baker want to poison the king, and did the cupbearer get caught up in the scheme?

5 And one night they both dreamed—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison—each his own dream, and each dream with its own interpretation. 6 When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled. 7 So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why are your faces downcast today?"

- Why are your faces downcast today – in the midst of his own mistreatment, he shows concern for others!
  - Can we still show Christ's concern when we are having our own trouble, or does trouble make us self-centered?
  - It is difficult to minister to people when your own heart is broken, betrayed, or troubled. Yet Joseph does just that.
    - Perhaps he just had an attitude of gratitude (Which can greatly change our perspective) Self-centered usually equals miserable; others-centered usually not.

8 They said to him, "We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them." And Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me."

9 So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to him, "In my dream there was a vine before me, 10 and on the vine there were **three** branches. As soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes. 11 Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and **I took the grapes** and **pressed them into Pharaoh's cup** and **placed the cup** in Pharaoh's hand."

- Notice the 3s in this section –
    - **three** branches
    - **Three** actions
        - I took the grapes
        - pressed them …cup
        - placed the cup

12 Then Joseph said to him, “This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days. **13** In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh's cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer. **14** Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house.

- Joe is 100% confident this will happen!
- He and his whole family are experts at dream interpretation

15 For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit.”

16 When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, “I also had a dream: there were three cake baskets on my head, **17** and in the uppermost basket there were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head.”

18 And Joseph answered and said, “This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days. **19** In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head—from you! —and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat the flesh from you.”

- Some Stark differences from the cupbearer’s dream:

- Pharaoh isn't in the baker's dream. Contrast with the cup going back into his hand
- The baker **was not** performing his duties. The cupbearer **was**.
- **Birds of prey** were prominent in the baker's dream.

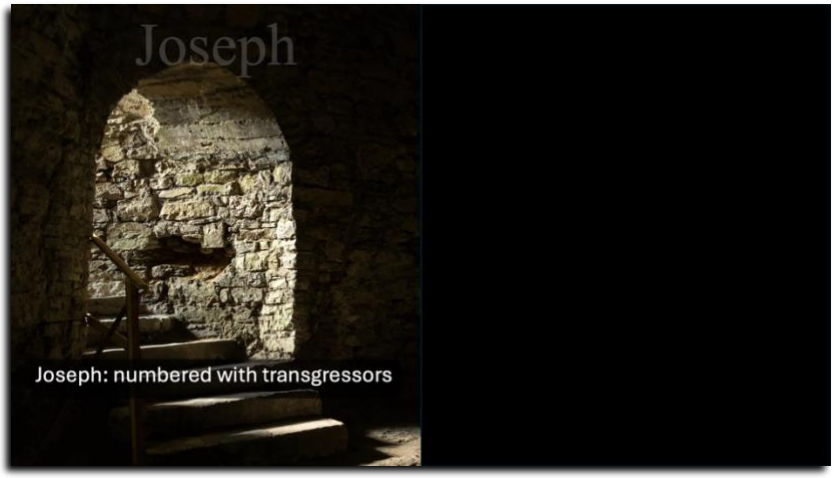
- I wonder if the baker didn't believe him because of this interpretation?

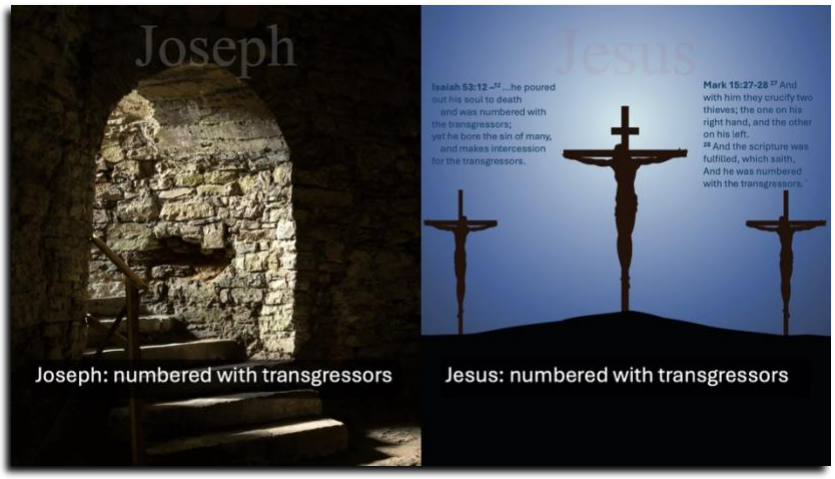
20 On the third day, which was **Pharaoh's birthday**, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. **21** He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. **22** But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them. **23** Yet the chief cupbearer **did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.**

- **Pharaoh's birthday** –
  - Only two Scriptural mentions of Birthday celebrations: here and King Herod's (Matthew 14:6)
  - Critics said they didn't celebrate birthdays back then, yet archaeology shows they did.
- **did not remember Joseph, but forgot him** – Joe had hope, but now he must be low
- This is **11 years** after he was sold into slavery
  - It seemed like everyone forgot about Joe
    - You might understand that feeling
      - On paper, everyone has abandoned/ forgot about you,
      - Being alone is only an issue when you forget or do not completely understand the presence of God
        - You might say, "Yeah, but that's God. I need people around"
          - When you walk with His Spirit and have true fellowship with Him, you will understand that you are not alone.

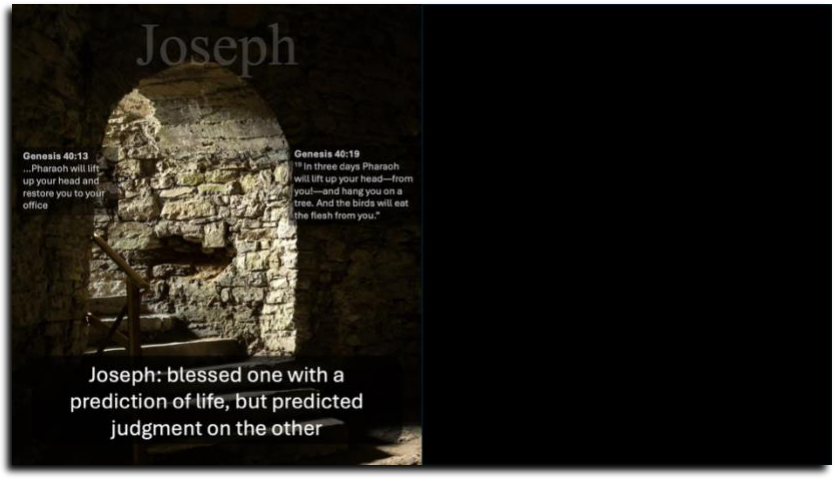
- Think: To do this, He is with me!
- In fact, God with you is the majority!

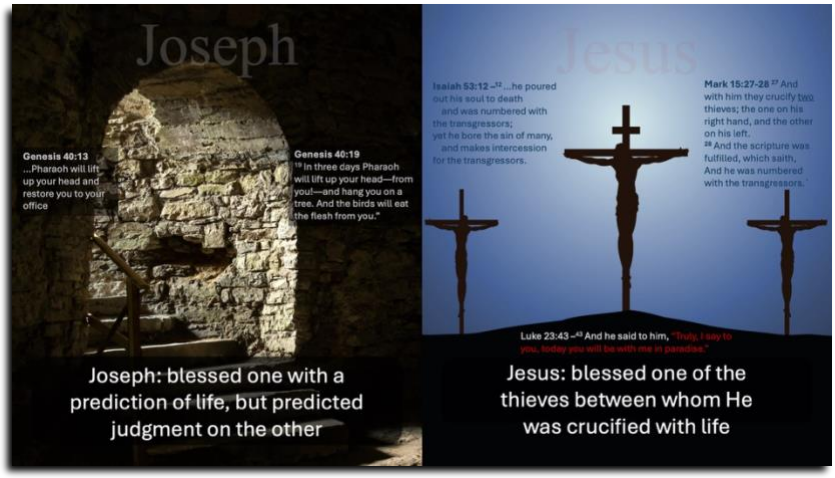
- When you look at these two prisoners, you can see some interesting parallels
    - **Type/ Foreshadow of Christ**



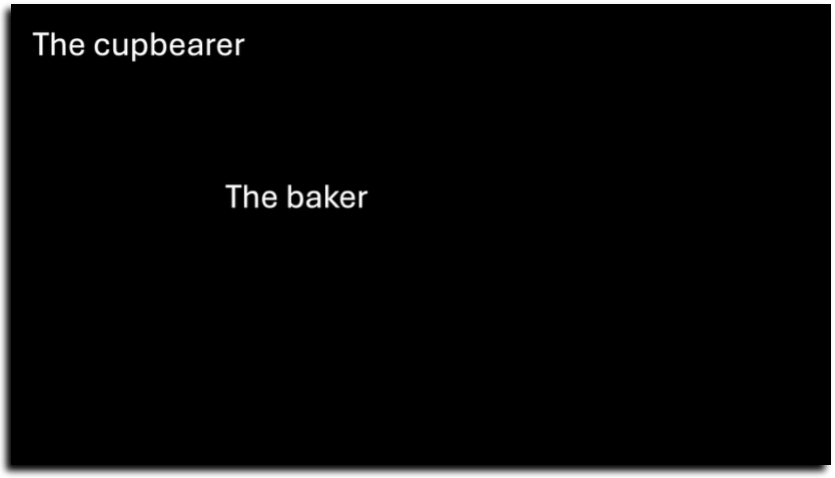


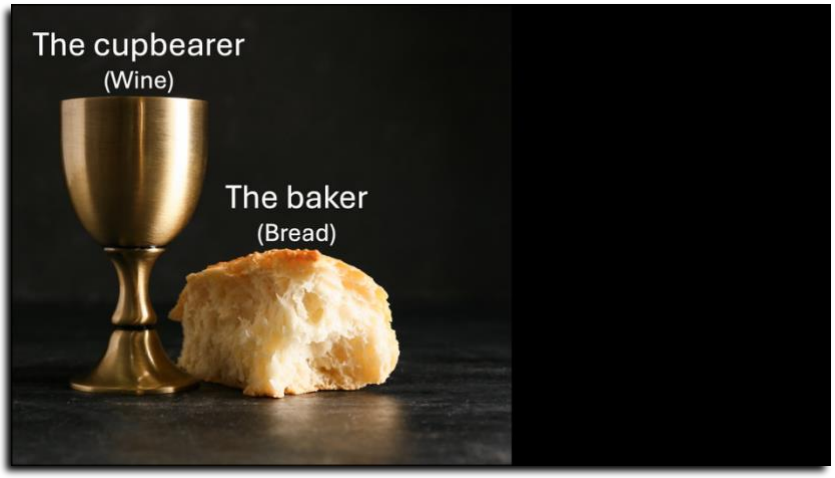
- **Two Criminals** – The cupbearer and the baker were with Joseph; two men were crucified beside Jesus (Luke 23:33).
    - Joseph: numbered with transgressors (40:1-3); prophesied & in Jesus (Isaiah 53:12) and as it was (Mark 15:28)



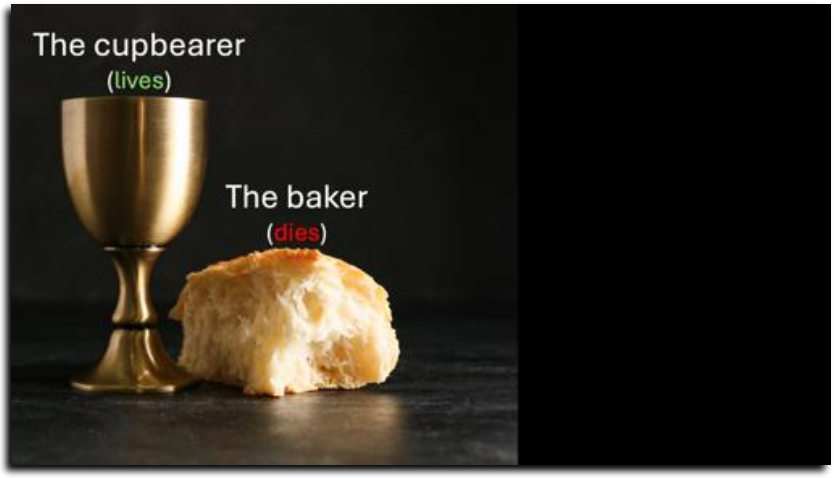


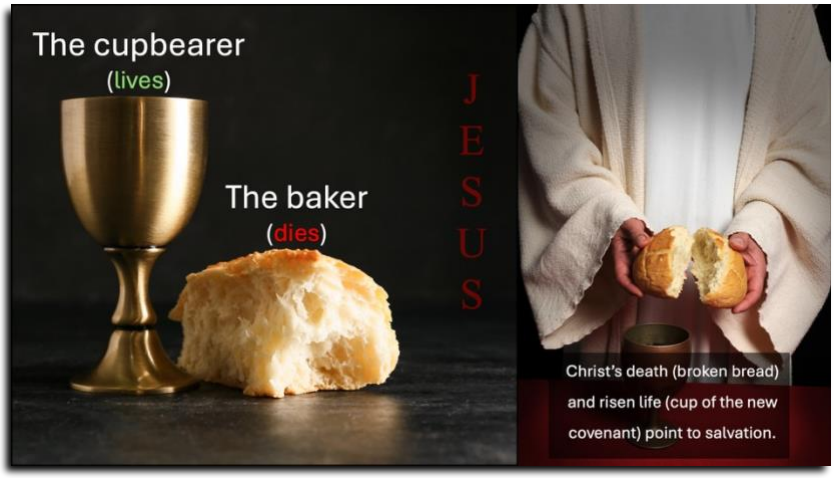
- **J**oseph blessed one but predicted judgment on the other (Genesis 40:12-13;19); Jesus blessed one of the thieves between whom He was crucified with life (Luke 23:43). The other was lost.





- **Bread and Wine**. The baker (bread) dies; the cupbearer (wine) lives—elements later combined in the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-28)



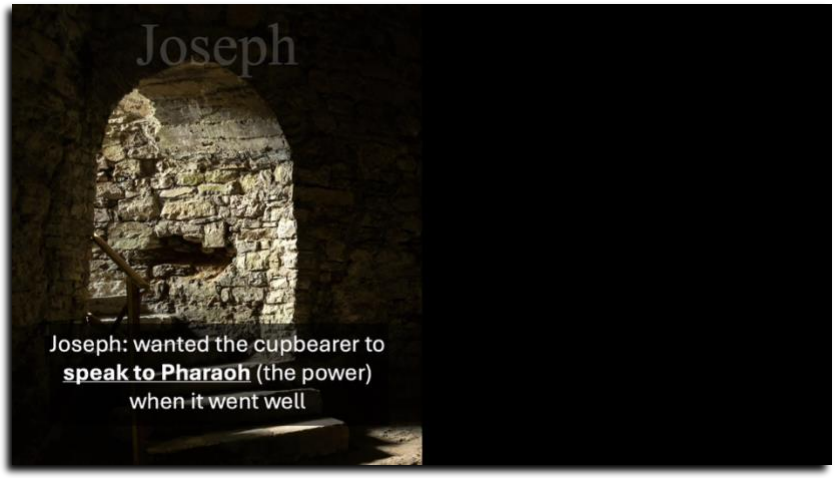


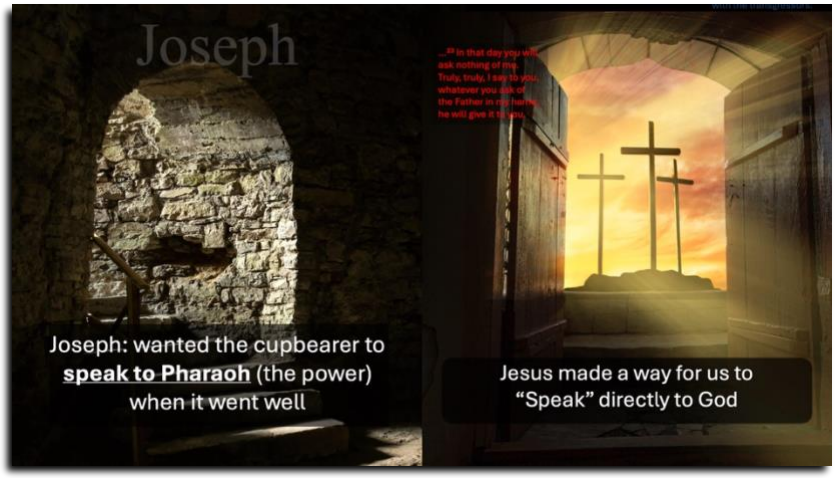
- The cupbearer lives, the baker dies
- Christ's death (broken bread) and risen life (cup of the new covenant) point to salvation.





- Joseph wanted the cupbearer to **remember** him (40:14); as Jesus said, "This do in remembrance of Me." (Luke 22:19)
    - Remember I am innocent; I suffered unjustly, bore the guilt of someone else's sin.
    - Remember me when things go well for you.



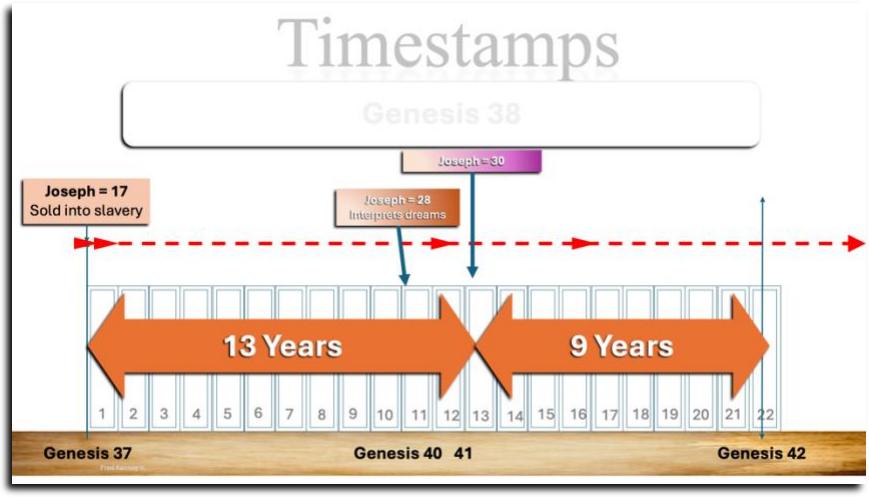


- Speak to Pharaoh
- Now we can speak directly to the Father with our request

- **Third-Day Theme**. Joseph's prediction comes to pass on the third day. Christ "was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:4). This foreshadows resurrection.

41:1 After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, [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.

- <🖥 After two whole years – **Timestamp**



- **Lesson:** There is futility in trusting in man
    - No bitterness recorded in Joseph

[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.

- **second time** – Notice that all the dreams are doubled up; they come in 2s
    - Joseph had two dreams Genesis 37:5-7;9-11
    - The Cupbearer and Baker both dreamed Genesis 40:5
    - Pharaoh dreamed twice here in Genesis 41
    - Joseph will tell us that this is God's way of confirming something will happen (v.32)

[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 could interpret them for him.

- Magicians – The book of Daniel shows a similar response from the king.
    - The world often seeks mystical, magical explanations.
    - Joseph and later Daniel present the true meanings.
    - God's messages are spiritually discerned, and without His Spirit, they are not understood.
        - The world comes up with all kinds of wrong

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

- God sovereignly oversaw this remembrance

[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. [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. [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."

- **God will give Pharaoh** – Daniel will also give credit to God before the sovereign king of the land regarding the king's dream.

[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."

- Cows and crops, these were big in the economy of Egypt.

[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. [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.”

- Joe is 30 years old; he has been enslaved and in jail for the last 13 years
- Jesus was 30 years old when He started His earthly ministry! Luke 3:23
    - Where did he get his education, training, skill? – God
    - The greatest lessons are God-taught
        - My preaching/teaching is honed by His Spirit

Joseph Rises to Power

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?" 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."

- in whom is the Spirit of God?" – Pharaoh recognizes Who makes Joeseph great
    - The same Spirit of God is in you if you are in Christ
    - **The Spirit of wisdom** Isaiah 11:2 – And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, **the Spirit of wisdom** and understanding, the **S**pirit of counsel and might, the **S**pirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
    - Ephesians 1:17-18 – 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

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.

- **Bow the knee! –** Remember Joseph's dreams?
    - This is partial fulfillment right here!

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.

- Zaphenath-paneah – revealer of dreams: Josephus (Antiq. II. 6. 1)
    - “the god speaks and he lives” (or “the god said: he will live”)[2]
    - E. Naville suggested that Zaphenathpaneah is a title, not a name[3]
- he gave him in marriage – A gentile bride!

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,

- **Joseph was thirty**– Jesus was thirty when starting His ministry – Luke 3:23

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.

---

[2] https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Zaphenath-Paneah
[3] Ibid.,

"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.

- all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph – There was one way to be saved!
- Full fulfillment will be seen next chapters

- Joseph was mistreated and hated for no reason – Jesus
- Joseph was falsely accused and punished because others sin – Jesus
- There is a period between Joseph's first visit to his brothers and his glorious revelation—a time when he suffers at the hands of both the children of Israel (Jews) and the Egyptians (Gentiles).
- **Psalm 105:16-22** – When he summoned a famine on the land

  and broke all supply of bread, [17] he had sent a man ahead of them,

  Joseph, who was sold as a slave.[18] His feet were hurt with fetters;

his neck was put in a collar of iron; [19] until what he had said came to pass,
the word of the Lord tested him.[20] The king sent and released him;
the ruler of the peoples set him free; [21] he made him lord of his house
and ruler of all his possessions,[22] to bind his princes at his pleasure
and to teach his elders wisdom.

- God did not forget Joseph
- God does not forget you!

24 The Lord bless you and keep you;
25 the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.