

JOSEPH

THE HIDDEN HAND OF GOD

Part 4: In Bringing His Plans
to Pass Pt. 1”
May 26th, 2024
Genesis 41:1-45 (p.36)

Author: Moses with some later editors

Date: 1406BC

Melodic Line of Genesis: Despite the failure of God’s covenant people, God’s purposes and plans will come to fulfilment, not through the faithfulness of others but through the faithfulness of God.

BIG IDEA:

Four acts of God in our text as God works out His plan - both in this text and in our own lives:

1. _____
(41:1-8)

God and the Nations

Isaiah 13-23

Jeremiah 46-51

Ezekiel 25-32

Daniel 7-12

Amos 1-2

Nahum

2. _____
(41:9-14)

3. _____
(41:15-36)

4. _____
(41:37-45)

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MINING THE MESSAGE

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND FURTHER RESOURCES TO DIG
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MIDWEEK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The sermon points out that God reveals His will not just for individuals but also for nations (e.g., Pharaoh's dreams in Genesis 41). Can you think of other instances in the Bible where God revealed His plans for nations? How does this challenge our perception of God as a mere "provincial deity" or "tribal god"? (Cross-references: Jeremiah 18:7-10, Daniel 4:17, Acts 17:26)
- Joseph acknowledged that it was God, not himself, who would give Pharaoh the interpretation (Genesis 41:16). When God opens doors or provides opportunities, are they primarily for our own benefit or for His glory? How can we maintain a mindset of giving God the glory in our successes? (Cross-references: 1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:17, 1 Peter 4:11)
- The sermon suggests that even when trials come, we should lean on the God "who never has things happen to" rather than a God who experiences suffering like us. How can this perspective bring comfort in difficult times? What are the advantages of trusting in an unchanging, sovereign God? (Cross-references: Malachi 3:6, James 1:17, Hebrews 13:8)
- The sermon concludes with the quote, "God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain." Can you think of examples in your life when God's plans seemed unclear at first but became evident over time? How can we cultivate patience and trust in God's timing and ways, even when they seem mysterious? (Cross-references: Isaiah 55:8-9, Proverbs 3:5-6, Romans 11:33-34)

DIGGING DEEPER

Resources to help you think deeper about this week's Bible message. Recommended resources are not an endorsement of all the authors have said or written.

Something to Read:

Be Authentic - Warren Wiersbe

Living in the Light of Inexhaustible Hope - Iain Duguid and Matthew S. Harmon

The Sovereignty of God - A.W. Pink

Why Does God Allow War? - D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Something to Listen to:

From Prison to Prime Minister - Joel Beeke (available on SermonAudio.com)

His Promised Slowly Ripen Fast - Brian Borgman (available on SermonAudio.com)

Why Do the Nations Rage? God's Sovereignty over Nations - D. James Kennedy (available on www.ligonier.org)

God Has Made Me Faithful (Genesis 41) - Dick Lucas (available from www.st-helens.org.uk)

NEXT WEEK

Joseph: The Hidden Hand of God #5 - Genesis 41:46-42:38

What to do right after the service to help "the Word dwell more richly," within us (Colossians 3:16):

1. Instead of rushing off after the service is over, or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, "How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?" Or "what about God in the message encouraged you?"

2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don't let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications to share.

[Above from book Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member by 9Marks]