



The Beginning

Lesson 17: Joseph Becomes Great In Egypt

(Genesis 40:1-41:57)

God was with Joseph while he was in prison and the keeper of the prison even let Joseph be in charge of the other prisoners. One day, the chief butler and chief baker for the king of Egypt (Pharaoh) made the king angry. So, Pharaoh had them put into prison. Joseph was the one who was in charge of them while they were there.

Then, they both had a dream on the same night. The next morning when Joseph came to them, he could see that they were upset. So, he asked them why they looked so sad. They told him that they had dreams and there was no one to tell them what their dreams meant. Now, Joseph knew that the interpretations of their dreams belonged to God and asked them to tell him. So, each one took a turn telling Joseph his dream and God gave Joseph the ability to tell them what their dreams meant.

First, the chief butler (who prepared Pharaoh's drinks) told Joseph about his dream. He said that in his dream was a vine. In this vine were three branches that budded with many blossoms and produced many clusters of ripe grapes. Then, Pharaoh's cup was in his hand and he took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup, and gave the cup to Pharaoh.

Joseph explained that this dream meant that in three days, Pharaoh would get him out of prison and he would once again be the king's chief butler. Then, Joseph asked the butler to remember him, to show him kindness, and to mention him to Pharaoh so that Joseph could be let out of prison. For, Joseph said that he had done nothing wrong to be put in prison for.

Next was the chief baker (who prepared the king's food). After he heard the good interpretation of the butler's dream, he wanted to hear the interpretation of his own. He told Joseph that in his dream were three white baskets on his head. In the top basket were all kinds of baked food for Pharaoh and the birds ate from the basket. But, this man's dream did not have a good interpretation. Joseph explained that the baker's dream meant that Pharaoh would hang him within three days. Then, the birds would eat his flesh.

The third day was Pharaoh's birthday. And, at this time, he made a feast for all his servants. He gave the butler his job back and let him out of prison. But, he had the baker hanged. So, it was just as Joseph had said. Yet, the chief butler forgot Joseph.

After two years, Pharaoh had two dreams. In one dream, he stood by the river and seven good looking and fat cows came up and ate in the field. Then, seven more cows came out of the river. These ones were ugly and skinny. They stood by the other cows on the bank of the river and ate the good looking and fat cows. Then, when Pharaoh fell back to sleep, he had a second dream. In this dream, there were seven good and full heads of grain came up on one stalk. Then, seven thin head came up on a stalk. And, the seven thin heads ate the seven fat heads.

When Pharaoh woke up, he was very upset and wanted to know what these dreams meant. But, no one could tell him. Then, the chief butler remembered Joseph and how he had interpreted the dreams for himself and the chief baker. So, Pharaoh sent for Joseph and had him come to him.

Joseph explained that Pharaoh's dreams had one meaning. There would seven years when there would plenty of food in all of Egypt. But, after these seven years, there would be seven years of famine when there would be very little food in Egypt.

So, Joseph told Pharaoh to find a wise man to set in charge of Egypt who would save one-fifth of all the food during the years of plenty so they could have food during the famine. Pharaoh chose Joseph to do this work. Only Pharaoh was greater than Joseph in the land of Egypt. And, all the people of the earth came to Joseph in Egypt to buy food during the famine. During this time, Joseph also had two sons, named Manasseh and Ephraim.

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: CS35

Written by Eric Krieg

Copyright: Copyright © 2018 GodSaidSo Press. Please use this material to God's glory and honor. Feel free to copy and distribute this material in any way that will bring God glory and help souls to be saved. However, you may not take any of the material out of context or change the material in any way. Please provide the author with the proper credit for the material.

Scripture quotations: Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Study Questions:

- 1) Who were put into prison? Why?
- 2) What was the butler's dream? What did it mean?
- 3) What was the baker's dream? What did it mean?
- 4) What happened on the third day?
- 5) What two dreams did Pharaoh have?
- 6) Why did Pharaoh call for Joseph?
- 7) What did Pharaoh's dreams mean?
- 8) What did Pharaoh do with Joseph?

Memory Verse:

“You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.” (Genesis 41:40).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: