

Rags To Riches

Genesis 41:1-57

Introduction

I Pharaoh Had Two Dreams

- A. Pharaoh's 1st dream: **Cows** - Job 33:14-18
- B. Pharaoh's 2nd dream: Heads of **grain**
- C. Pharaoh's response
 - 1. He was **troubled** - Gen 40:6-7; Dan 2:1
 - 2. He told his magicians his dreams - Isa 19:11-13
 - a. But no one could **interpret** them - 1 Cor 2:14
 - b. Until the cupbearer **remembered** Joseph - Dan 5:11-12

II Pharaoh Summoned Joseph

- A. Pharaoh explained his dilemma - Dan 4:4-7; 5:14
- B. Joseph pointed Pharaoh to **God**
 - 1. "I **can't** do it!" - Dan 2:27-28; 1 Cor 4:6-7; 2 Cor 3:5
 - 2. But God will give Pharaoh the answer - Ps 25:14
- C. Pharaoh recounted his dreams
- D. Joseph interpreted the dreams - Acts 20:27
 - 1. The 7 healthy cows/grain = 7 years of **abundance**
 - 2. The 7 sickly cows/grain = 7 years of **famine**
- E. Joseph **advised** Pharaoh
 - 1. Put a discerning and wise man in charge - Ezek 22:30-31
 - 2. Appoint commissioners over the land - Ex 18:21-22
 - 3. Take **20%** of grain harvest during abundant years
 - 4. Hold this food in reserve for the famine - Prov 6:6-8

III Pharaoh Appointed Joseph

- A. Pharaoh liked what he saw in Joseph - Prov 22:29
 - 1. He liked Joseph's **plan** - Prov 14:35; 16:13
 - 2. He liked Joseph's **divine** connection - Dan 4:18; Acts 1:8
 - 3. He liked Joseph's discernment and wisdom - Ps 111:10
- B. Pharaoh **elevated** Joseph - Dan 2:48-49; Job 36:7
 - 1. He put Joseph in charge of his palace - Ps 105:21-22
 - 2. He put Joseph in charge of all of Egypt - Acts 7:10
 - 3. He provided Joseph with royal status
 - a. He gave him royal **clothing** - Dan 5:29; Isa 61:10

- b. He gave him a royal position - Est 6:7-9; Eph 2:6-8
- c. He gave him royal **authority** - Dan 7:27
- d. He gave him a royal name - Rev 3:12
- e. He gave him a royal **family** - Jn 1:11-12; Rev 19:7-8

IV Joseph's Diligence

- A. He **stored** up grain for 7 years - Prov 12:24
- B. He had two sons:
 - 1. Manasseh - Isa 43:18-19
 - 2. Ephraim - Ps 84:5-7
- C. He **distributed** the grain for 7 years - Gen 12:2-3

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. What are some of the most significant lessons you have learned so far in our study of Joseph's life from the book of Genesis?
2. Have you ever been tempted to take credit for God's work in your life? How does God view that kind of behavior? [Hint: Read Isa 42:8; 1 Cor 4:7] What should you do? [Ps 115:1]
3. Are you more of a "problem identifier" or a "problem solver"? What is the downside of offering one without the other? Is there an area in your life where you need to take specific and practical action to resolve a problem you already know exists?
4. Joseph was a man who was ready when the opportunity came knocking. In your opinion, what accounted for his readiness? If God suddenly elevated you to a position of significant leadership, would you be ready? If not, what steps do you need to take to prepare yourself?
5. Joseph's status was changed in a single encounter with the king of Egypt. Compare Joseph's new status [41:42-45] with the new status of a believer [Eph 1:3-14]. What are the parallels?
6. Take a moment to thank God for transferring you from darkness to light and from rags to riches through His Son, Jesus Christ!

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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