

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

AUGUST 16, 2023

GENESIS 41:53 – 42.5

INTRODUCTION:

1. Joseph went through a series of highs and lows in keeping with the divine plan of God to preserve the nation of Israel. (Ps. 105.16-22)
2. When Joseph rose to power, he experienced the highest position of his life.
 - a) Joseph was given a great position. (Gen. 41.41,42)
 - b) Joseph was given great prosperity. (Gen. 41.42)
 - c) Joseph was given great prestige. (Gen. 41.43)
 - d) Joseph was given great power. (Gen. 41.44)
3. **GENESIS 41.53:** *“Then the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Egypt ended”*

I. THE SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE

- A. The seven years of famine were predicted.
 1. **GENESIS 41.54:** *“the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said.”*
 2. Joseph reveals the meaning of Pharaoh’s dream. (Gen. 41.28)
 3. Why did Pharaoh believe him? (Gen. 41.38)
 4. How do you know if someone speaks by *“the Spirit of God?”* (Deut. 18.21,22)
 - a) Can someone speak from the Bible and still be wrong? (2 Tim. 2.15)
 - b) It is the responsibility of each one to *“test the spirits”* (1 John 4.1; 1 Thess. 5.21)
- B. The seven years of famine were severe.
 1. The famine was widespread.
 - a) **GENESIS 41.54:** *“The famine was in all lands”*
 - b) **GENESIS 41.56:** *“over all the face of the earth”* (cf. Gen. 47.13; Acts 7.11)
 - c) **GENESIS 41.57:** *“So all countries came to Joseph”* (cf. Deut. 1.7)
 2. The famine was deadly. (Gen. 41.31,54,56,57; 43.1; 47.4,13)
- C. The seven years of famine were prosperous.
 1. **GENESIS 41.54:** *“but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.”*
 2. **GENESIS 41.55:** *“The people cried out to Pharaoh for bread.”*
 3. **GENESIS 41.56,57:** *“Joseph...sold to the Egyptians...All countries came to Joseph”*

II. THE SONS OF ISRAEL TO GO EGYPT

- A. Israel sent his sons to Egypt.
 1. **GENESIS 42.1:** *“Why do you look at one another?”* They were lost and confused.
 2. **GENESIS 42.2:** *“buy for us there, that we may live and not die.”* The entire chain of events was for the purpose of keeping them alive. (Gen. 45.7)
 3. **GENESIS 42.3,4:** Benjamin stayed behind *“lest some calamity befall him”*
 4. **GENESIS 42.5:** *“And the sons of Israel went to buy grain among those who journeyed”*
- B. Two thoughts of application.
 1. There is always something that we can do.
 - a) Hardships are no excuse for sin. (Prov. 30.7-9)
 - b) Our plans must be in keeping with the will of God. (James 4.13-16)
 2. God will always provide for our needs.
 - a) God provided for the needs of Israel. (Est. 4.13,14)
 - b) But God does not always provide what we want. (Num. 14.22)