

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS

AUGUST 9, 2023
GENESIS 41:25-36

INTRODUCTION:

1. Having been in prison for at least two years, Joseph is summoned by Pharaoh.
 - a) Pharaoh's first dream: Seven fat cows and seven skinny cows. (Gen. 41.17-21)
 - b) Pharaoh's second dream: Seven full heads of grain and seven empty. (Gen. 41.22-24)
2. **GENESIS 41.25:** *"The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do:"* God is going to cause this to happen. (cf. Isa. 45.5-7; Dan. 5.28-32; Gen. 45.5-7)

I. JOSEPH INTERPRETS PHARAOH'S DREAMS

- A. The time in which these events will take place. (Gen. 41.26-28)
 1. Why did Pharaoh dream about these events twice? (Gen. 41.32).
 2. God's plans revealed to man always come to pass...even if it takes a while.
 - a) How long did it take for God to fulfill his promises to Abraham? (Gen. 12.1-4)
 - b) How long did it take for God to destroy Jerusalem? (Matt. 24.1,2,34; Rev. 1.1-3)
 3. How much time passed before God began to fulfill His plan?
 - a) Thirteen years passed from the time Joseph was sold till he was summoned in the court of Pharaoh. (Gen. 37.2; 41,46)
 - b) **GENESIS 41.47:** *"Now in the seven plentiful years..."* No time frame is given.
 4. God does everything on His schedule. (Acts 17.31; 2 Pet. 3.4-9)
- B. The events that will take place. (Gen. 41.29-31)
 1. **GENESIS 41.29:** *"Indeed seven years of great plenty will come"*
 - a) Being desert, Egypt's crops depended on the level of the Nile River.
 - b) How much plenty would Egypt enjoy? (Gen. 41.49)
 2. **GENESIS 41.30,31:** *"but after them seven years of famine will arise...very severe"*
 - a) **GENESIS 41.30:** *"all the plenty will be forgotten."* During hard times, we tend to forget a time when things were good. (cf. Gen. 41.51)
 - b) **GENESIS 41.30:** *"the famine will deplete the land."*

II. JOSEPH ADVISES PHARAOH

- A. **GENESIS 41.33:** *"Now therefore, let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man"*
 1. Pick a discerning man. (Gen. 41.33)
 - a) Describes someone who is observant even to make a distinction. (cf. 1 Kings 3.8,9)
 - b) Some cannot tell the difference between right and wrong. (Jonah 4.11; Heb. 5.14)
 2. Pick a wise man. (Gen. 41.33)
 - a) Literally, someone who is skilled.
 - b) Wise men were used to describe those skilled in divination. (Dan. 2.12; Gen. 41.8)
 - c) Wise men were used to describe those skilled in righteousness. (Prov. 1.7)
 - d) Joseph advised Pharaoh to choose one who is skilled in dealing with current events.
- B. **GENESIS 41.34:** *"and let him appoint officers over the land"*
 1. Officers translates a word that means "overseer." Describes governors. (cf. Neh. 11.9)
 2. Their purpose: *"to collect one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years."* They were to oversee the collection of a flat grain tax.
 3. The purpose of the tax: *"Then that food shall be a reserve for the land...that the land may not perish during the famine."*