

# JOSEPH

✧ ✧ the prisoner ✧ ✧

## AWARE

Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt.<sup>2</sup> Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker,<sup>3</sup> and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined.

<sup>4</sup> The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them. After they had been in custody for some time,<sup>5</sup> each of the two men — the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison — had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own.

<sup>6</sup> When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected.

<sup>7</sup> So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?"<sup>8</sup> "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."

<sup>16</sup> When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation, he said to Joseph, "I too had a dream..."

<sup>18</sup> "This is what it means," Joseph said. "The three baskets are three days.

<sup>19</sup> Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat away your flesh."

Genesis 40:1-8, 16, 18-19

## FORGOTTEN

Now the third day was Pharaoh's birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials:<sup>21</sup> He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's hand,<sup>22</sup> but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation.<sup>23</sup> The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

Genesis 40:20-23

## TIME (the great teacher)

When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream:

Genesis 41:1a

## GOD @ WORK

In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.<sup>9</sup> Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today I am reminded of my shortcomings..."

<sup>12</sup> A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his dream.

<sup>13</sup> And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us:"

Genesis 41:1, 9, 12-13

## OPPORTUNITY

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh.

<sup>15</sup> Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

<sup>16</sup> "I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."

<sup>31</sup> The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe.<sup>32</sup> The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.<sup>33</sup> "And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt."<sup>34</sup> Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance.<sup>35</sup> They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food.<sup>36</sup> This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine."<sup>37</sup> The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials.

Genesis 41:14-16, 31-37

## RULE AND RESPONSIBILITY DURING PLENTY

So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?"<sup>39</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you."<sup>47</sup> During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully.<sup>48</sup> Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it.

Genesis 41:38-39; 47-48

## A SON NAMED FORGOTTEN

Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On.<sup>51</sup> Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household."<sup>52</sup> The second son he named Ephraim and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."

Genesis 41:50-52

## RULE AND RESPONSIBILITY DURING WANT

The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end,<sup>54</sup> and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food.<sup>55</sup> When all Egypt began to feel the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you."

<sup>57</sup> And all the countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the world.

Genesis 41:53-55, 57

✧ ✧ next steps ✧ ✧

Joseph: A Man of Integrity and Forgiveness ~ Chuck Swindoll

November 19/20, 2011