



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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And he restored the chief butler unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand: 22 But he hanged the chief baker: as Joseph had interpreted to them. 23 Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.

We can only wonder how long Joseph held out hope that any minute the guards would allow him his freedom because the chief butler spoke about him. But this call never came, not immediately anyway. Joseph was about 28 years old when these events took place. He has now been in captivity for 11 years. Another in a long line of disappointment must have been being forgotten by the butler.

II- Pharaoh's Dream:

We fast-forward two years to dreams of Pharaoh. *Genesis 41:1a* And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed...

The first dream of Pharaoh is recorded for us in *Gen 41:1b* ...and, behold, he stood by the river. 2 And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favoured kine [cows]and fatfleshed; and they fed in a meadow. 3 And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill favoured and leanfleshed; and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river. 4 And the ill favoured and leanfleshed kine did eat up the seven well favoured and fat kine.

The dream was seven fat cows coming out of the river followed by seven skinny cows. We are told after this, *So Pharaoh awoke.*

Many times, in the night we dream, wake, and do not remember the dream or they are flights of jumbled up unreality.

Pharaoh returns to sleep and dreams again. *Gen 41:5* And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank and good. 6 And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them. 7 And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream.

The second dream was of corn with the seven fat ears eating the seven skinny. This is an addition to the first dream.

III- Joseph Remembered:

While all of this is going on Joseph was seemingly forgotten in prison. When dawn comes, the next day, Pharaoh was troubled by the dreams he had experienced.

Gen 41:8 And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his



Coordinates:
Gen 40:1-41:46

Sights to See:

- 1- God sees all there is to see even the minds of men in their dreams.
- 2- God alone is the interpreter of dreams. He may choose if He wants to reveal the meaning of dreams but this is very infrequent.
- 3- God was the one who placed the dreams into the mind of Pharaoh.
- 4- God is the one who is in control of the affairs of this earth such as the years of famine and drought and the years of blessings.
- 5- God did not forget Joseph thought the butler did for a time.
- 6- God is the one who sets men over kingdoms and places rulers over nations that suit His sovereign purposes.
- 7- If God can do what we have seen accomplished in the life of Joseph it should hearten us that He can use us if we will surrender our will to His.



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dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh. These men had no interpretation of the dream for Pharaoh. Remember that the interpretation of dreams belong to God.

Then a memory was triggered in the mind of the chief butler. May I be so bold as to suggest that God brought about the memory in a timely manner? The butler remembered Joseph, God had never forgotten him. The butler, in possible peril of his own self by reminding Pharaoh of his former anger with him, tells of the dreams of him and the baker.

Gen 41:9 Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day: 10 Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker: 11 And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream. 12 And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret. 13 And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged.

The butler tells of the accuracy of the interpretation of the dream by Joseph.

IV- Interpreter of Dreams:

Joseph, we are told in *Gen 41:46* was 30 years old by this time. He has been in captivity and in prison for about ½ of his life. He had been trying to serve faithfully in these trying circumstances.

This portion of the story is often referred to as from the pit to the palace. One day Joseph was in the pit or dungeon and the call finally came. Pharaoh wants to see you.

Gen 41:14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh. 15 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it. 16 And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.

Joseph is quickly called forth and made presentable to Pharaoh. Again we see Joseph reiterate that it is God who gives the interpretation of the dreams.

Pharaoh retells the dreams to Joseph in *Gen 41:17-24*. Pharaoh again makes the statement that none of his magicians can tell him the meaning. This points out the obvious fact that God is far superior in knowledge and understanding than man. Remember the words of *Isaiah 55:8-9* *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Isaiah 46:9-10 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done...

So Joseph is given the dream of Pharaoh and asked to tell the meaning of it. We cannot help but notice the difference between this dream and the dream of Nebuchanezzar, king of Babylon, that Daniel was asked to interpret. In *Daniel 2* we see that Nebuchanezzar would not tell, if he even knew, what the dream was he had. He told them to tell him the dream and then he would know they could interpret it instead of just some make up nonsense. They could not but Daniel does. *Daniel 2:19-22 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God*



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of heaven. 20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: 21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: 22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

Daniel then goes before Nebuchanezzar. *Daniel 2:27-28 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; 28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;*

So beloved the matter of interpreting dreams is one for God and He even knows the dreams that flee from us at night.

V- Rising Political Star:

Joseph is now fresh out of prison for not crime and is standing before Pharaoh. He tells Pharaoh the interpretation of the dream is seven good years of plenty followed by seven lean years. Notice we see that Joseph tells Pharaoh that it is God who is in total control of all things.

Gen 41:25 And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do. 26 The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one. 27 And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine. 28 This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh. 29 Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt: 30 And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land; 31 And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous. 32 And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

The God of the universe is going to send years of plenty followed by lean years. God has chosen to reveal this to Pharaoh. We might wonder why he revealed it to Pharaoh. Not to get ahead of our story but God is doing it to preserve Israel and his descendants.

Joseph does not flinch but offers some political advice to Pharaoh about what he should do because of this. Notice *Gen 41:33 Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. 34 Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years. 35 And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. 36 And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.*

The advice was to store up while the years were good so that during the coming lean years there would be a supply to sustain them.

