

Remnant Life Church
11.13.22
Joseph
Pt 6
Pharaoh's Dreams
Gen 41:1-8; 15-16; 25-32

Three things have we seen regarding Joseph's encounter with Potiphar's wife

- The first was that he obeyed the law of God over the law of man
- Second, he could not be worn down but stood firm in his convictions even after she had made multiple attempts
- The third thing is that he could have given in, and nobody would have known

This entire episode between Joseph and Potiphar's wife presents us with an important lesson and truth

- First, the more you live your life for God, doing what is right, always wanting to please God, and being honorable, your life will become an example to others.
- If you think that the more God blesses and promotes you the less you will have to deal with temptations, you need to think again

Through all that Joseph has endured to this point, we have seen...

- God puts all things in place
- His favor will follow those who obey him

READ – **Genesis 41:1-7; 15-16; 25-32**

While things are going to get much better for Joseph there is something that you should not forget

- How long it took Joseph to get to this point
 - He was sold by his brothers at the age of 17 (37:2)
 - He became the second most powerful man in Egypt at the age of 30 (41:46)
- That means it was 13 years that Joseph was either a slave or in prison
 - And remember that he was either a victim (when sold by his brothers) or innocent (falsely accused by Potiphar's wife) through it all
 - To our way of thinking, nothing that happened to Joseph was "fair"
 - The plans of God may not always appear "fair"
 - But "fair" should not be the only way you judge the circumstances of your life

Let's look at what is now happening to Joseph

- The Bible does not identify which Pharaoh Joseph is dealing with
 - There are a number of possibilities based on chronological time-lines
 - A likely possibility is a ruler within the Hyksos Period of Egypt's history (between 1650 and 1540 BC)
 - In the latter half of the 18th century BC, the Middle Kingdom of Egypt began to decline and came under the rule of rival dynasties.

- Because they were weakened, foreigners from Canaan (later known as Palestine) and southern Syria began to migrate into the region and eventually seized power.
- They were known as the Hyksos people, which is an Egyptian term meaning “foreign chiefs”
- For approximately a century these Canaanites ruled Egypt
 - When you consider where these people were from it becomes clearer why this Pharaoh was so willing to embrace a fellow “foreigner” and elevate him to so high a position in the kingdom
- When the Hyksos period came to an end, the Egyptians retook their land and placed an Egyptian pharaoh back on the throne
 - This would coincide with how the Hebrews went from being honored and cared for by Egypt to being made into a slave nation
 - The timeline for this to happen was around 100 years or so
 - We read this in **Exodus 1:8** - *Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt.*
- If the date of the exodus is set, as many believe, at approximately 1440 BC then the king who did not know Joseph would have been Ahmose I
- The king of the exodus itself would have then been Thutmose III
 - The total time the Israelites were in Egypt, from Jacob and his family coming to Joseph to the time of the exodus led by Moses was approximately 430 years
 - Yet God told Abraham that this would happen to his descendants over 200 years earlier
 - **Gen 15:13** – *Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.”*
 - God’s hand was present long before Joseph and his family ended up in Egypt

Joseph is, once again, dealing with the power of dreams

- Remember it was a dream that was the final straw that fractured the relationship between Joseph and his brothers
 - While those dreams resulted in Joseph being separated from his family
 - These two dreams of Pharaoh will be the catalyst of him being reunited with them
- The dreams, of course, tell of the future for Egypt
 - 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine
 - God is putting in to motion the events that will bring Jacob and his family to Egypt for them, not only to survive, but to fulfill the word of God given to Abraham
- As you remember, dreams were viewed as messages from the gods

- We can see that even those who worshipped false gods viewed them in the same way
- What also lends to the argument of the Hyksos being in power during Joseph's time is that the Egyptians believed that Pharaoh was god on earth
 - IOW infallible and all-knowing
 - Given that this Pharaoh freely admitted he did not know the meaning of his dreams opens the door for Joseph to demonstrate the power of the one true God
- Several factors are evident for Joseph as he comes with the answer to Pharaoh's questions

The first is that he begins by making a disclaimer

- He says that he is unable to interpret the dream but only God can (41:16)
- Joseph demonstrates his unwillingness to take credit for something only God can do
- Preachers and ministries today taking credit...
- He is saying something here that will be repeated several centuries later
 - Daniel, much in the same way as Joseph, is an official in Nebuchadnezzar's court
 - The king has a dream that the interpreters must not only tell the meaning but describe the dream itself
 - *Dan 2:27-28 - ...No wise man, enchanter, magician, or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries...*
 - Righteous men and women of integrity who have been given a great gift by God will never take the credit but will only give glory to God.

Second, he presents the interpretation as being from God

- Now he does not specifically identify God as Yahweh
- But I believe that he is counting on Pharaoh making the correct connection knowing that Joseph is a Hebrew
 - This keeps Joseph from being accused of speaking the good or the bad of the dream as being either a divine blessing or punishment
 - Joseph is clearly not a malcontent bringing news of disaster nor is he a flatterer trying to get on Pharaoh's good side to perhaps end or reduce his time in prison
 - Joseph also demonstrates the wisdom God has given him by immediately providing a possible solution to the problem
- It is likely for this reason that Pharaoh responds so favorably to Joseph and even correctly connects Joseph to the One True God
 - He states in 41:38 – *Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?*

- Pharaoh uses the same word for God that Joseph does.
- And by doing this he acknowledges that the source of Joseph's wisdom and interpretation is the God of the Hebrews

Joseph once again comes through with flying colors in a situation that could have gone several directions

- Joseph gave all the glory to God
- He told Pharaoh exactly what he was supposed to do without inserting or building himself up
- He did not hesitate to use the gifts that God had given him at the right time and in the right way

Through it all, God's perfect will was accomplished, Jacob's family was saved, and the nation of Israel began to grow and take root as a people.