

Genesis 41.37-57

Faithful in Affluence

JOSEPH Grew up in HOME w/ 13 Siblings – 4 Wives, One Dad – Disfunctional!

PAMPERED Son of Father – Jealous Brothers SELL him as SLAVE

Winds up IMPRISONED in EGYPT – FALSE Charge: Convicted RAPIST

Spends his YOUTH – Age 17 to 30 – Best Years! Exile, Refugee, Prisoner

Gets lots of LEMONS in Life, but makes AMAZING LEMONADE

GIFTED by God to INTERPRET Dream of Powerful Pharaoh of EGYPT

REWARDED for WISDOM – Appointed to 2nd Most Powerful Position

1. Promoted by Man

a. Power PUBLIC Declaration of APPOINTMENT of Joseph by PHARAOH

v. 40 You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you.”

Similar SCENES are Painted in Great Detail on Egyptian TOMBS

Section Contains Most Information that can be Checked against Egyptian History

“ORDER THEMSELVES” Heb lit. “all Egypt shall *kiss your mouth*”

vs. 41,42 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck

Joseph's INSTALLATION as VICEROY over Egypt > Public Act of Installation

Joseph is NO Longer a Hebrew SLAVE but an EGYPTIAN VIZIER

Egypt like NORTH KOREA – Leading Family was god, Worshipped by Citizens

Gets GOLD BLING becomes an Egyptian HIP-HOP Star

ROBES & RICHES were REMINDER to him & All – Here is Man of POWER

Wears SIGNET RING –Bears the Official STAMP of the Pharaoh

Would have been DISTINCTIVE RING bearing the NAME of Pharaoh

Authorization to MAKE DECISIONS and ENDORSE Official DOCUMENTS

GOLD CARD – Unlimited CREDIT Line – No FAPIAO Needed – Full, Free

v. 43 And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, “Bow the knee!” Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt.

Joseph rides as WING MAN to Pharaoh in GOLD GRILL Chariot

CHARIOTS were LIMOUSINES of the Day – Surrounded by BODYGUARDS

His REVERSALS of Fortune Marked by Cloak Stolen by Brothers & Pot’s Wife

I clad him in a garment with multicolored trimmings, placed a golden chain on him...put golden rings on his hands; I wrote my name upon an iron dagger to be worn in a girdle...I presented him with chariots, horses and mules as a means of transportation befitting his royal position as ruler.

Ashurbanipal investing Neco as Pharaoh (ca. 668-633 B.C.)

v. 44 Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.”

13 yrs Earlier Joseph DREAMED that SHEAVES of Field Will BOW to him

Now the MASSES of Egypt will BOW THEIR KNEE to this DIGNITARY

It was a wonderful ascent, sheer in a single bound from dungeon to the steps of the throne. His father had rebuked him; now Pharaoh, the greatest monarch of his time, welcomes him. He brethren despised him; now the proudest priesthood of the world opens its ranks to receive him by marriage into their midst, considering it wiser to conciliate a man who was from that moment to be the greatest force in Egyptian politics and life. The hands that were hard with the toils of a slave are adorned with a signet ring. The feet are no longer tormented by fetters; a chain of gold is linked around his neck. The coat of many colors torn from him by violence and defiled by blood, and the garment left in the hand of the adulteress, are exchanged for vestures of fine linen drawn from the royal wardrobe. He was

once trampled upon as the offscouring of all things; now all Egypt is commanded to bow before him, as he rides forth in the second chariot, prime minister of Egypt, second only to the kind.” F.B. Meyer

b. Perks

v. 45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him in marriage Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On. So Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.

Only Pharaoh can GIVE Joseph a NEW NAME > Greater AUTHORITY

Like DANIEL takes FOREIGN Name but KEEPS his FAITH in TRUE GOD

NAME? “the God has spoken and he will live” / “the one who knows”

POLITICAL STRATEGY – Egyptian WIFE and NAME gave Recognition

One of MOST POWERFUL Priestly Families in Egypt

Priest of ON Officiated at all Major Festivals – Supervised Priests of Sun god

Lived in TEMPLE City of HELIOPOLIS – about 20 kms N/E of CAIRO

v. 46 Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt...went out from the presence of Pharaoh...through all the land of Egypt.

After YEARS of CONFINEMENT – He is EAGER to get Out and EXPLORE

Now ACCEPTED as One of Them, Not just Foreign Hebrew Shepherd

Job Description and INVESTITURE Ceremony for GRAND VIZIER

OVERSEER of the ROYAL ESTATES – found in Egyptian DOCUMENTS

vs. 47,48 During the seven plentiful years the earth produced abundantly, and he gathered up all the food of these seven years, which occurred in the land of Egypt...He put in every city the food from the fields around it.

GRAIN Stored in ACCESSIBLE Locations to Protect & Provide for NATION

WEALTH Not Stored in PERSONAL, OFF-SHORE Accounts

See TRANSPARENCY and INTEGRITY of JOSEPH and his National Plan

v. 49 And Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured.

7 years of BULL MARKET – GDP was So High they STOPPED COUNTING
RAN Out of ROOM to STORE ALL the BLESSINGS and RESOURCES

PLAN benefitted NATION Not his PERSONAL GAIN

GRAIN more than could ASK or IMAGINE!

We need to ELECT More JOSEPH'S into the LEADERSHIP of our LANDS

c. Panic Joseph CORRECTLY Interpreted Pharaoh's 2 Dreams

vs. 53,54 The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of Egypt came to an end, and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

This is Challenge to LEADERS and LANDHOLDERS to Care and Conservation

Some lands can Look like PARADISE, others Lands Gripped by POVERTY

Key Role of EGYPT as BREADBASKET of REGION

Amidst DESERT Neighbors – NILE Watered Fertile Land of Egypt



As God looks down from HEAVEN

Must have Laughed at PRIDE of Pharaoh

Ruled over DESERT

Very THIN Strip of GREEN

Take AWAY NILE RIVER

Left with Only CASTLE of SAND

v. 55 When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do.”

One who PLANNED the SURPLUS Gave Out the ABUNDANCE

People had BEEN WARNED about COMING FAMINE

Yet, they did NOT SAVE during the Years of ABUNDANCE

Jesus Mother spoke SIMILAR word to Make Way for MIRACLE at CANA

His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” John 2.5

NOW we Need to Do what the Son tells US to Receive His BLESSING

vs. 56,57 So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.

Even in the most favored countries and in the most favored times the produce of the years of plenty does not seem to be enough to go around, and the specter of want looms darkly just around the corner. James Boice

2. Pleasing to God

a. Power

vs. 37-39 This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?” Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are.

Joseph’s SILENCE shows that God is the ONE Providentially at WORK

God Transformed PAST HUMILIATION into GREAT HONOR

SOURCE of his Success > OUR Source – Spirit of the Living God

Was NOT the BLING on his NECK – Or the BOWING of Egyptian KNEES

His WORK was his PLACE of WORSHIP and WITNESS

Joseph is the model for those who are born to rule... This narrative affirms that power is a good thing. It celebrates the capacity to make tough decisions, to face crisis boldly, and to practice prudence so that the empire can be fed... This is public power for the public good.

W. Brueggemann

From THIS Point on in Story – Nothing Bad is said about JOSEPH // DANIEL

Don't Blow Own Trumpet – Someone Else Blow It – Sound Travels 2 X's Far

The secret of power is character, but the secret of character is God.

Donald Grey Barnhouse

God's SERVANT is a Game Changer – Atmosphere is Made NEW

YOUR Presence HERE Now is a Blessing – Thanks for Coming to ZGC

Joseph said, "...for I fear God" Genesis 42.18

Our Nations can take LESSON from PHARAOH

Best People to keep our Nations FED are the MOST QUALIFIED

Not Necessarily from Same Tribe, Political Party, or Blood Relative

The fact that Joseph kept his eyes on God in adversity is remarkable. But even more remarkable is the fact that he kept his eyes on God when he was prosperous. How often promotions ruin people!

James Boice

Easy when Starting in Company to Go to Church – Bible Study – Prayer Mtg

Get Promoted to Vice-President of Company – New Ball Game

Too Busy to Read Bible and Pray Every Day

Need to meet CLIENTS at Golf Course on SUNDAYS Now

Main Concern for Children: Go Expensive School, So go to More Expensive Uni

Those Schools have NO PLACE for Jesus or the BIBLE

Kids Not interested in GOD Anyway, Don't See Parents take God SERIOUSLY

Same DIGRESSION happens to Nations

American NEVER was a Truly Christian Country – Fear, Respect of God
People’s Religious Rights and Freedoms were Valued and Admired

Even by those who did not have their own Faith Convictions

Now SUNDAY is FUNDAY in WEST: Sports, Entertainment, Personal Pleasure
Worship MEDIA so much ALLOW MEDIA MOGULS to MOLEST Women

God is our only source of morality – not the government, not the courts, not the laws. Goodness flows from God. So if we leave God out of our lives, we begin to lose touch with what is good and tear away the fabric of morality strand by strand.

James Boice

Need to move from DEPENDENCY on World Bank to the MAKER of World
JOSEPH was God’s Man to bring BLESSING to the WORLD

... the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed
Genesis 39.23

God is the primary actor in our lives, shaping us in particular ways according to his own purposes...God is shaping the painful as well as the joyful, to accomplish his providential purposes in us and through us in the lives of others. Iain Duguid

b. Perspective – Joseph teaches that GOD – Not Pharaoh – is Lord of EARTH
GOD is the OWNER and we are STEWARDS of Whatever he LOANS to US
Bible does NOT CONDEMN the Rich – Many WARNINGS about Danger \$
MONEY and WEALTH One Main Theme of JESUS’ Preaching

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

1 Timothy 6.17

Paul goes on to SAY “You Can’t Take it With You!”

vs. 50-52 Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore them to him. Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. “For,” he said, “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house.” The name of the second he called Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

As he CARED for NATION – He also Cared for his OWN FAMILY

Joseph shows FATHERLY LEADERSHIP that his Father JACOB Never Did

He NAMES his Sons – Names are TESTIMONY to GRACE of His GOD

Pharaoh Giving Joseph Egyptian NAME was Attempt to Change his IDENTITY

Let People CALL YOU whatever WANT – Does Not Change WHO You Are

Gives SONS HEBREW Names – Gonna Worship DAD’S God, Not Mom’s

WIFE from Egyptian Priestly Family – No Compromise, Not BOTH Religions

HEBREWS Names Points to TRUE GOD of COVENANT

BOTH Names PRAISE God for his PRESERVATION and his BLESSING

BLESSING of God was KEEPING him FROM BITTERNESS

Names CELEBRATE Joseph’s NEW LIFE and End of OLD TROUBLES

Name Manasseh like calling SON – Oh, my Troubles! Or Woe, is Me!

Making him FOREVER REMEMBER > God who DELIVERED from Troubles

Sees his Sons – Run, Jump, Enjoy Life in Freedom > Sees what God gave Him

When we REMEMBER our FAILURES, Faith says Remember your Forgiveness

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!
2 Timothy 2.8,9

1994 terrible Year in RWANDA – 100,000’s killed by Fellow Countrymen

In UGANDA – Right Next Door, Receiving the REFUGEES who Ran There

Had Privilege of Preaching at 1994 Remembrance Services – Emb Rwanda BJ

“I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten...” Joel 2.25

You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book? Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me. In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me? Psalm 56.8-10

NAMES Put Joe’s SUFFERINGS in the Context of God’s SOVEREIGNTY

Manasseh “You are such a BLESSING, I have Forgotten PAIN of my PAST!”

Ephraim “You are such a BLESSING, I am Filled w/ HOPE for my FUTURE”

His son became a permanent testimony of God’s power to redeem the past... The marks of the wounds remained in his life and could never be forgotten, but those scars had been incorporated beautifully into the intricate pattern of God’s grace in Joseph’s life.

Iain Duguid

EPHRAIM = FRUITFUL – ABUNDANT POSTERITY

Ephraim – God does not PROMISE to Deliver us OUT of Affliction

ENDURANCE in that Affliction will RESULT in FRUITFULNESS

Joseph was MOST FRUITFUL in Land where he had MOST AFFLICTION

Jesus: “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” John 12.24

c. Promise Still Son of Abe, Isaac, Jacob: PROMISE of God is Upon HIM

ECHO of PROMISE to ABRAHAM...

v. 49 And Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured.

I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. Genesis 22.17

“in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 12.3

v. 57 Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.

God raises up Kingdom of Egypt to Bless the Near Eastern Nations

Picture of His Universal Kingdom that will Bless All Nations

Nations FED when BOW KNEE to Joseph at Right Hand of PHARAOH

BREAD of LIFE is Freely Given when BOW to Lord Jesus Christ at Right Hand

We too have Message for Nations – Word of Life for their Eternal Preservation

“And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household.” Acts 7.9,10

Jesus is RISEN in GLORY but Still BEARS SCARS of His Sufferings for Us

His Scars that Speak of PAINFUL SUFFERING > Declare Powerful Salvation

His TERRIBLE AFFLICTIONS are Bearing Fruit to Ends of Earth, End of Age

No situation, however trying and humiliating, can be an obstacle to the Lord’s blessings. When God’s presence is with us, the most terrible slavery, the most brutal humiliation, or the worst treatment are nothing. God has the last word.

Samuel Ngewa

Come to Jesus like STARVING REFUGEE – Undeserving, Empty Handed

You will be SATISFIED when you HUNGER & THIRST for HIM

He allows You to See YOUR Suffering thru Lens of His Redeeming GRACE
How He uses all your PAIN for His PURPOSES – Your GRIEF for His GLORY
We LONG for His HOMELAND – Joy Inexpressible and Filled with Glory

As Pharaoh reserves HIGHEST Throne for himself – So does Sovereign GOD

Jesus answered him (Pilate), “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.”
John 19.11

In the FINAL Day of Egypt, Oppressed Slaves will Dance their VICTORY

“I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.”
Exodus 15.1,2

Genesis 41.³⁷This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. ³⁸And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?” ³⁹Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. ⁴⁰You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you.” ⁴¹And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” ⁴²Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. ⁴³And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, “Bow the knee!” Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. ⁴⁴Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.” ⁴⁵And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him in marriage Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On. So Joseph went out over the land of Egypt. ⁴⁶Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt. ⁴⁷During the seven plentiful years the earth produced abundantly, ⁴⁸and he gathered up all the food of these seven years, which occurred in the land of Egypt, and put the food in the cities. He put in every city the food from the fields around it. ⁴⁹And Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured. ⁵⁰Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore them to him. ⁵¹Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. “For,” he said, “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house.” ⁵²The name of the second he called Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.” ⁵³The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of Egypt came to an end, ⁵⁴and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. ⁵⁵When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do.” ⁵⁶So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. ⁵⁷Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.