

Genesis 41.1-40

“The Day I Rode a Rocket!”

Thomas (not his real name) Mission Team Mate of ours in Kazakhstan

Most of us JEALOUS of him – Degree in Engineering from World’s Top Uni

Short Time FLUENT in KAZAKH Lang – Rarely Went Lang Class, A Student

Soon Realized NEEDED speak Russian so he Learned that Fluently Too

Got good Job doing Environmental Study of Important City in KZ

Worked Hard as Engineer AND Preaching Word of God in Kazakh churches

Part of Team that Translated Bible into Kazakh Lang

Environmental Study Finished > REPORT made National HEADLINES

TANKS holding FUEL at PETROL Stations LEAKING into WATER SUPPLY

SCANDAL > PETROL Stations OWNED by LEADING POLITICIANS!

REPORT was BURIED in Bureaucracy > THOMAS Deported from KZ

Months Later > To JOB Fair USA > HIRED by World’s Largest Oil Company

Engineering Degree – Spoke Kazakh and Russian > Sent him to KZ

Not like his Rag-Tag Teammates – Private Jets, Driven by Chauffer, Lived Villa

Part of Job was GOV’T LIASON – Met HIGHEST Officials of Govt

Gift Giving Culture – What Better GIFT Newly Translated, Published KZ Bible?

I still remember Praying with him the Week he Gave Bible to PRESIDENT!

TEXT Pulls back CURTAIN > Glimpse of 1 Most Powerful Men in World

LOOK BACK 4000 yrs ago See PHARAOH of EGYPT

MIGHTY Leader has Troubled MIND > FEARED Man gripped by FEAR

1. a god Confronted by God



Pharaoh of Egypt considered MORE than MAN – he was a god

The Pharaoh was central to Egyptian life. He encompassed both the secular and sacred which to Egyptians were one and the same. He settled legal disputes and led the religious rituals that sustained Egypt. The Pharaoh was not only a god-king but was responsible for holding the balance of *maat*, that was the rule of order over the chaos that was waiting to envelope the world.

Ken Humphries

a. Shock – Living a Lie! Egyptian god gets VISIT from True and Living God

The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

Proverbs 21.1

vs. 1-4 Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, and behold, there came up out of the Nile seven cows attractive and plump, and they fed in the reed grass. And behold, seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile. And the ugly, thin cows ate up the seven attractive, plump cows. And Pharaoh awoke.

Even Today Cattle Escape Egypt's HEAT & INSECTS take DIP in NILE River

Pharaoh GLAD to see PLUMP Cows in DREAM – he's doing Great Job!

Egyptians believed it was PHARAOH who KEPT them WELL FED!

But WAIT – Thought Cows VEGETARIANS? Skinny Ones like RAPTORS!?

SKINNY COWS and SHRIVELED CORN give Same GRIM MESSAGE

I Never Read Babylonian DREAM BOOK but Message seems OBVIOUS

GOOD LIFE of Egypt soon SWALLOWED UP by Couple Lean Mean Machines

v. 8 So in the morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was none who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

He CALLED all the RESOURCES of EGYPT > ALL of its WISE MEN
 Professors All the Uni's – Doctors from all Hospitals – Engineers Every Projects
 Army – Navy – Courts – Judges, Lawyers, Princes, Scholars, Top Students

400 yrs later COURTESANS were MORE POWERFUL...

Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they, the magicians of Egypt, also did the same by their secret arts. Exodus 7.11

Seems KHAMSIM Wind blew in from SAHARA Desert TOASTED BRAINS

Can you FEEL the DESPERATION of this SITUATION?

Pharaoh is their GO-TO guy for Everything – god whom they TRUSTED
 NILE River was Source of POWER, FERTILITY, LIFE for all EGYPT
 He & All Magicians & Wise Men put Heads Together > NOBODY HOME!

Pharaoh to maintain GOOD RELATIONS with GRAIN god to Help Nation

“I produced the grain, because I was beloved by the grain god. No one was hungry in my years.”
 Unknown Pharaoh

Pharaohs DIVINE POWER was to BALANCE Natural Forces & Ensure PEACE

NOT SURPRISING that this Pharaoh has a TROUBLED SPIRIT

Since Pharaoh was DIVINE was UNUSUAL for him to Seek Dream Interpret
 Most Powerful Man in EGYPT – Same Predicament as Cupbearer and Baker

TERRIBLE Picture – Famine almost Unknown in Egypt > Dependable NILE R.

Gods must be VERY ANGRY to bring 7 yrs of SUCH MISERY!

b. Submission – Foreigner brings Freedom?

Indication of JUST HOW DESPERATE Situation – CUP Bearer Speaks Up

vs. 9-13 Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “I remember my offenses today. When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, 11 we dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own interpretation. A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each man according to his dream. And as he interpreted to us, so it came about. I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged.”

Joseph served MEMORABLY in WORKPLACE - MARKETPLACE Ministry

Might THINK you are UNNOTICED – like Joseph – Seen by GOD AND MAN

“2 yrs ago when Thought about Cutting My Head Off – Met guy in PRISON”

HEBREW – Inferior People / SHEPHERD – Egyptians found DISGUSTING

One more AWKWARD DETAIL – He is a CONVICTED RAPIST!

v. 14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph...

Pharaoh had NO BETTER OPTIONS – GO CALL THE KID!

v. 14 ...and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh.

HEBREWS wore BEARDS, EGYPTIANS were CLEAN SHAVEN, HEAD too!

SIGN things are IMPROVING – Lost Coats when got in Trouble – Puts it ON!

Joseph will Accommodate to their CULTURE but NOT his CONVICTIONS

Pharaoh tells JOSEPH 2 Dreams > BLAST from Past, 2 Own, Cupbearer, Baker!

Joseph says “THIS IS DOUBLE DOG GONNA HAPPEN Mr. Pharaoh”

SURE Will Happen SHIFTS, from Dream Interpret to Dream Administration

vs. 33-37 Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plentiful years. And let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine.” This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.

ALL Magicians, ALL WISE MEN, & PHARAOH – have JAWS on GROUND

They are In a PANIC – NO IDEA what Pharaoh’s 2 Dreams MEANT

HEBREW – SHEPHERD – CONVICTED RAPIST – Rode in on a ROCKET

WINS NOBEL PRIZES for DREAM INTERPRETATION & ECONOMICS

All Egyptians in a PANIC – Hebrews tells how to Turn PROFIT during a FAMINE

Those MAGICIANS & WISE MEN just got NEW BOSS > Foreign Slave!

We need more people of Joseph’s character and courage to stand before our presidents if Africa is to move toward establishing systems that care for the needs of ordinary people. Fairness to all should be at the centre of the counsel our presidents receive from preachers. Samuel Ngewa

2. A Man Committed to God

a. Serving an On-Time God – Sure SEEMS like he is LATE!!

1 day 17 yr old Young Man from Son to slave - 4,745 days in Exile as Refugee

Joseph, was *seventeen* years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers Genesis 37.2

Joseph was *thirty* years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Genesis 41.46

NEVER will Return Home AGAIN – DIE in this FOREIGN Land

One day he was his father's favored son, destined to inherit his authority and wealth, the next day he was thrown into a cistern...One day he had hopes of deliverance through his friend the cupbearer, but that day was followed by many days of despair...but Joseph did not forget God. James Boice

v. 1 After two whole years / SINCE Cupbearer was FREED – Hoped he'd HELP



What a DIFFERENCE a Day can Make

Joseph Woke Up on a Day Like any Other

Another Long, Dark, Dreary Day in PRISON

NO Idea he DAY become FIRST ROCKET MAN

GREATEST & FASTEST PROMOTION

of any Man in Entire BIBLE

It is important to pray, but it is equally important to know that God will respond to our prayers in his own time and in his own way. TV preachers in Africa ask God to act immediately in the way they prescribe – as if they know his will perfectly. If we knew this, he would cease to be God. Preachers sometimes make this mistake because they assume that God will act in the same way for us as he did for some Biblical character, like Joseph. But God's ways are limitless, and he has innumerable options how to handle similar situations. He made us each with unique fingerprints and he has unique situations for each of us. We must let God be God – even when we claim his promises. Samuel Ngewa

Joseph's RIDE From PIT to PALACE was to SERVE the PURPOSES of GOD
NOT to make him COMFORTABLE or HAPPY but FAITHFUL & OBEDIENT

God's PROMISE to Great Grandpa ABE was to BLESS the NATIONS

Then the word of the LORD came to me: "...If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, and if that

nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it.”
Jeremiah 18.7,8

Joseph & JEREMIAH – Find their FULFILLMENT in Serving Purposes of God

EGYPT found MERCY by HEARING & HEEDING Spirit of God

400 yrs Later Pharaoh & Armies Drowned in RED Sea > Rejected God & Word

But this is Joseph’s TIME – Stand before Most POWERFUL Man in REGION
Perhaps you FEEL ALONE – Campus, Office, Community – LONELY Christian
Joseph ONLY Follower of True & Living GOD in ENTIRE Nation of EGYPT

Not AFRAID or ASHAMED of his God – Cheerfully, Confidently Shares Him

Steady in PURPOSE - Spiritual in the Natural - Natural in the Spiritual

Joseph is NOT PERFECT, but he is EXEMPLARY

The pilgrimage of Joseph from slave to vice regent parallels the journey of Israel as escapees from Egypt to the nation under Solomon, the life of David from shepherd’s helper to king, and the story of Jesus from manger to the right hand of God...The presence of God brings life in the place of death, honor instead of humiliation...the presence of Immanuel.
E.F. Roop

b. Showing an Unseen God

v. 15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of *you* that when you hear a dream *you* can interpret it”

GREAT OPPORTUNITY 4 Joseph’s ADVANCEMENT – *Right, I’m Your Guy!*

Joseph does NOT FLATTER Pharaoh – FAITHFULLY Speaks God’s WORD

v. 16 Joseph answered Pharaoh, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.”

Joseph points FALSE GOD Pharaoh to the REAL GOD

ALL Magicians, ALL WISE MEN, & PHARAOH – have JAWS on GROUND

They have been in PANIC – NO IDEA what Pharaoh's 2 Dreams MEANT

v. 32 And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about.

HEBREW – SHEPHERD – Wearing PRISON Clothes – KNOWS Living GOD

He is Only ONE in ALL Egypt knows True God

vs. 38-40 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. 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."

Pharaoh has a TROUBLED SPIRIT, Joseph has the HOLY SPIRIT

This is NOT the JOSEPH STORY > It is the GOD of Joseph Story

Providence of God over his Life // Presence of God in his Life

Joseph PIVOTS from outhouse to penthouse

the LORD declares: '...for those who honor me I will honor' 1 Samuel 2.30

If you are ONLY Believer in True God in FAMILY, WORK, CAMPUS

Might think I BETTER be QUIET – Don't Offend Anyone, RESPECT Others

What if Only Person who had CURE for CANCER? FOOD during FAMINE?

What if Only Person who knew TSUNAMI going to hit your ISLAND?

Joseph Kindly, Courteously, Clearly tells this DIGNITARIES about his GOD

Open about FAITH AND GOD creates NEW ATMOSPHERE of OPENNESS

No OBJECTION – Don't REBUKE him or IGNORE him > INVITE him to HELP

The testimony of the Spirit is more excellent than all reason. For as God alone is a fit witness of himself in his Word, so also the Word will not find acceptance in men's hearts before it is sealed by an inward testimony of the Spirit. John Calvin

Joseph's FAITH was CONTAGIOUS – Even Pharaoh of Egypt is IMPACTED

Pharaoh gave Joseph Egyptian Name: Zaphenath-paneah = “God lives and sees”

What is remarkable is that we find such an idea remarkable. We are people of little faith...this applies to the opportunities we have to share our faith in our wider vocations...Pharaoh did not respond to the force of Joseph's intellectual argument or to his impassioned rhetoric. God was sovereignly at work in Pharaoh's heart, confirming the truth of Joseph's words, so that he immediately found that Joseph's proposal made perfect sense.

Iain Duguid

What does this say to MY Country, YOUR Country, THIS Country?

Your Economy can be SOARING, Technology can be ROARING

Can have Presidents, Parliaments, Armies, Navies, Academies, Universities

But do You have SPIRIT of God? Men, Women, Boys, Girls Filled w/ SPIRIT?

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD

Psalm 33.8-12

EGYPT Received MERCY of God because Listened to MESSENGER of God

Egypt was PROTECTED by God because Embraced PROMISE of God

Are WE Showing UNSEEN God to our NATION? Our LOST WORLD?

Pharaoh saw INTEGRITY in Joseph's Character > What See in ME & YOU?

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect 1 Peter 3.13-15

Peter commands Give REASON for HOPE amidst your SUFFERINGS

Peter doesn't say they'll ask Our Faith, Our Doctrine, Good Conduct

They might ask those things. We want them to...

But Peter expects they will ask about our HOPE

For Peter's Readers HOPE could NOT have been in Govt, Possessions, Earthly Future, Work Opportunities, Academic Options, Vacations, Gadgets.

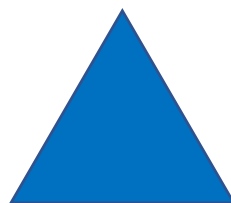
Hope is a heartfelt, joyful conviction that our short-term future is governed by an all-caring God, and our long-term future, beyond death, will be happy beyond imagination in the presence of the all-satisfying glory of God. John Piper

Does the world ask you and me? If not, why not? **Pray They Would Ask**
Peter didn't say how often it would happen. He says be ready when it does.

God's Spirit creates Seasons in History

People of God are More Hopeful, More Fearless, More Merciful
THEN the World is More Attentive / Let us pray for such a season!

Honor Christ as Lord



Make a Defense

Gentleness and Respect

honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect
1 Peter 3.15

Life on EARTH is PIT AND PRISON, PALACE is Coming
God is FORMING US for GLORY – Walk in Wisdom, Learn

World been HIT HARD by FIRES, FLOODS, HURRICANES, STORMS

Thousands in Many Lands LOST EVERYTHING

HOPES Floated out FRONT DOORS

If your HOPE is in Anything in World – Will be DISAPPOINTED

Only thing Truly WORTHY of Hope is PERSON of Lord Jesus Christ

TRUE SON of Abraham NOT Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, or Judah >> JESUS!

STORY Line of BIBLE is COMING of Jesus the SAVIOR of the WORLD

Jesus ROCKET Climbed HIGHER, Depths of CROSS to Stratosphere GLORY

As our SUBSTITUTE was HUNG on the TREE of a ROMAN CROSS

RISEN to Highest Point – RESTORED to His Glory @ RIGHT Hand of GOD

...he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow

Philippians 2.8-10

Genesis 41.¹After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, ²and behold, there came up out of the Nile seven cows attractive and plump, and they fed in the reed grass. ³And behold, seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile. ⁴And the ugly, thin cows ate up the seven attractive, plump cows. And Pharaoh awoke. ⁵And he fell asleep and dreamed a second time. And behold, seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk. ⁶And behold, after them sprouted seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind. ⁷And the thin ears swallowed up the seven plump, full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream. ⁸So in the morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was none who could interpret them to Pharaoh. ⁹Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “I remember my offenses today. ¹⁰When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, ¹¹we dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own interpretation. ¹²A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each man according to his dream. ¹³And as he interpreted to us, so it came about. I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged.” ¹⁴Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. ¹⁵And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” ¹⁶Joseph answered Pharaoh, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.” ¹⁷Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Behold, in my dream I was standing on the banks of the Nile. ¹⁸Seven cows, plump and attractive, came up out of the Nile and fed in the reed grass. ¹⁹Seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and thin, such as I had never seen in all the land of Egypt. ²⁰And the thin, ugly cows ate up the first seven plump cows, ²¹but when they had eaten them no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were still as ugly as at the beginning. Then I awoke. ²²I also saw in my dream seven ears growing on one stalk, full and good. ²³Seven ears, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them, ²⁴and the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears. And I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me.” ²⁵Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁶The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one. ²⁷The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind are also seven years of famine. ²⁸It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁹There will come

seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt, ³⁰but after them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt. The famine will consume the land, ³¹and the plenty will be unknown in the land by reason of the famine that will follow, for it will be very severe. ³²And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about. ³³Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. ³⁴Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plentiful years. ³⁵And let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. ³⁶That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine.” 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.”