

GENESIS 41: JOSEPH IS PROMOTED

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Have you noticed how God uses things in our lives to prepare us for the next thing?
 - i. We realize we wouldn't be prepared if it weren't for previous experiences or circumstances
- B. God writes our lives like a symphony
 - i. If we are surrendered to him, we will be able to follow the notes on the page to create a beautiful sound of worship to Him
 - ii. This is what we see in Joseph's life

II. OVERVIEW

- A. Two years later, Pharaoh had two strange dreams
 - i. Seven fat cows came up out of the Nile to feed on the grass
 - a. Seven thin cows came up and ate the fat cows
 - ii. Seven plump ears of grain were growing on a stalk
 - a. Seven thin ears sprouted and ate the plump ears
 - iii. Pharaoh was troubled so he called his magicians to interpret the dreams
 - a. But they could not
- B. Then the cupbearer remembered Joseph
 - i. He told Pharaoh the story of Joseph correctly interpreting his and the baker's dreams
- C. So Pharaoh called Joseph
 - i. He told Joseph his dreams
- D. Joseph gave Pharaoh the interpretation of the dreams
 - i. They were the same dream
 - a. The seven fat cows and seven plump ears were seven years of plenty
 - b. The seven thin cows and seven thin ears were seven years of famine
 - c. God was showing Pharaoh what He would do
 - d. The doubling of the dream means it is fixed by God and will happen soon
 - ii. Joseph recommended that Pharaoh find a wise man to oversee the land
 - a. Take one-fifth of the produce during the years of plenty
 - b. Gather it in reserve for the years of famine
- E. Pharaoh was pleased by Joseph's recommendation

- i. So he set Joseph in charge over the nation
- ii. He gave him a wife
 - a. Asenath daughter of Potiphera priest of On

F. Joseph was 30 when he began to serve Pharaoh

- i. He gathered up food during the seven years of plenty
- ii. He put the food in every city

G. Joseph had two sons the year before the famine

- i. Manasseh was the oldest
- ii. Ephraim was the youngest

H. Then the seven years of famine hit the land

- i. The people cried out to Pharaoh
- ii. Pharaoh told them to go to Joseph

I. Joseph opened the storehouses and began to sell grain to the Egyptians

- i. Foreigners came to Egypt to buy food as well

III. TWO WHOLE YEARS – V. 1

A. He had been forgotten by the cupbearer for two years

- i. May have been very discouraging

B. Waiting is a theme in the lives of Abraham's family

- i. Abraham had to wait for Isaac to be born
- ii. Isaac had to wait for Jacob and Esau to be born
- iii. Jacob had to wait to return to the land

C. We will often find ourselves waiting on God longer than we wanted or planned

D. Continues the theme of two

- i. Indicates these events are established by God
- ii. God clearly knew Joseph needed two more years in prison¹

IV. NILE – V. 1

A. Associated with life

- i. Brought fertility to an arid region

V. CAME UP OUT OF THE NILE – V. 2

A. The Nile was the source of prosperity or famine

¹ Armstrong, S. (2013, February 17). Genesis 2011 - Lesson 41A. Verse By Verse Ministry International. https://versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_41a

VI. COWS – V. 2

A. Symbol of Isis, goddess of fertility²

VII. STOOD BY THE OTHER COWS – V. 3

A. Indicates the famine would come after the years of plenty

- But there would be no delay

VIII. DREAMED A SECOND TIME – V. 5

A. Third set of two dreams

- Indicates all of Joseph's life was directed and ordained by God

IX. EARS OF GRAIN – V. 5

A. Symbolic of Egypt

- Provided grain for much of the rest of the world

X. EAST WIND – V. 6

A. Where the sun rises

- They were heated and dried up
- As opposed to the west, where the sun sets in the evening

B. Symbolizes judgment

- Hosea 13:12-16 The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is kept in store. The pangs of childbirth come for him, but he is an unwise son, for at the right time he does not present himself at the opening of the womb. I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol; I shall redeem them from Death. O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion is hidden from my eyes. Though he may flourish among his brothers, the east wind, the wind of the LORD, shall come, rising from the wilderness, and his fountain shall dry up; his spring shall be parched; it shall strip his treasury of every precious thing. Samaria shall bear her guilt, because she has rebelled against her God; they shall fall by the sword; their little ones shall be dashed in pieces, and their pregnant women ripped open.*

XI. HIS SPIRIT WAS TROUBLED – V. 8

A. Just like the cupbearer and the baker were troubled after their dreams

- Genesis 40:5-6 And one night they both dreamed—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison—each his own dream, and each dream*

² Armstrong, S. (2013, February 17). Genesis 2011 - Lesson 41A. Verse By Verse Ministry International. https://versebyversem ministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_41a

with its own interpretation. When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled.

- B. If we wake up troubled from a dream, it may be from God

XII. PHARAOH TOLD THEM HIS DREAMS – V. 8

- A. He was seeking an answer to the riddle of the dreams
 - i. He didn't yet know they were from God
 - ii. He was seeking God and didn't know it
- B. This is why God reveals Himself to people
 - i. So they will seek Him

XIII. NONE WHO COULD INTERPRET THEM – V. 8

- A. Because interpretation comes from God
- B. Even though the dreams themselves and the interpretations were simple
 - i. 1 Corinthians 1:20 ***Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?***
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 ***But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.***

XIV. I REMEMBER MY OFFENSES – V. 9

- A. His sin against Pharaoh and his sin against Joseph
 - i. He had forgotten about Joseph immediately after he was reinstated
 - a. But his memory returned at the perfect time
- B. He probably didn't want to remind Pharaoh of the reason he was in jail

XV. WE DREAMED ON THE SAME NIGHT – V. 11

- A. The events from the previous chapter are told for a second time
 - i. Again highlighting God's hand in all these events

XVI. A YOUNG HEBREW – V. 12

- A. Contrasted with the Egyptian wise men and magicians³

XVII. A SERVANT – V. 12

- A. Two possible explanations for why the cupbearer mentioned Joseph's age and status

³ Longman, T., & Garland, D. E. (2008). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Genesis - Leviticus*. Zondervan.

- i. He didn't want Joseph to be promoted if he provided the correct interpretation
- ii. He wanted to justify why he never said anything about Joseph previously

XVIII. QUICKLY BROUGHT HIM – V. 14

- A. After a long period of waiting, now things are happening quickly
- B. The waiting is intended to prepare us for the quick events later
 - i. The waiting is when we develop dependance and devotion to God

XIX. OUT OF THE PIT – V. 14

- A. Joseph was finally brought out of the pit his brothers threw him in
- B. Picture of the resurrection
 - i. Revelation 20:4-6 *Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.*

XX. SHAVED HIMSELF – V. 14

- A. Because Egyptians didn't wear beards like the Hebrews⁴
- B. He was also likely very unkempt from being in prison

XXI. CHANGED HIS CLOTHES – V. 14

- A. Represents and foreshadows a new beginning
- B. Or a throwing off of old things and putting on new things
 - i. Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV) *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him*

⁴ Wiersbe, W. W. (2010). *Be Authentic: Exhibiting Real Faith in the Real World: Genesis 25-50*. David C. Cook.

who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

ii. Ephesians 4:20-24 **But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.**

C. This is the third time Joseph has lost his garment

- i. First as an heir
- ii. Then as a slave
- iii. Then as a prisoner

XXII. HE CAME IN BEFORE PHARAOH – V. 14

A. He was standing before the most powerful man in the world

- i. Like being a victim of trafficking from Estonia
- ii. And being brought before the President of the United States
- iii. And then being asked for advice

XXIII. YOU CAN INTERPRET IT – V. 15

A. Pharaoh believed when Joseph heard a dream he could understand it

B. He believed Joseph had this wisdom and understanding in himself

XXIV. IT IS NOT IN ME – V. 16

A. Joseph doesn't take any glory or credit for himself

XXV. A FAVORABLE ANSWER – V. 16

A. Or, an answer of peace (NKJV)

- i. Not that the answer would be a message of peace or favor
- ii. But the answer would bring peace to his spirit
 - a. Because it had been troubled since verse 8

XXVI. THEN PHARAOH SAID – V. 17

A. He tells the dreams a second time

- i. Continuing the theme of two

XXVII. UGLY – V. 21

A. Or, bad

- i. Hebrew *ra*

- B. Pharaoh highlights the contrast between the good (plump) cows and bad (ugly) cows
 - i. Same language as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
 - a. Here, the Egyptians relied on their own knowledge of good and bad
 - b. But Joseph relied on God's knowledge of good and bad

XXVIII. GOD HAS REVEALED TO PHARAOH – V. 25

- A. God revealed His will and purposes to a pagan king
 - i. Rather than to a prophet
- B. God will not send disaster without warning
 - i. Abraham previously filled this role
 - ii. But his family has descended into sin and corruption
 - iii. Joseph is righteous but has no influence
 - iv. So God must tell Pharaoh

XXIX. SEVEN YEARS – V. 26

- A. They are not specified as years of plenty
 - i. Egypt always had plenty
 - ii. This would not have been out of the ordinary

XXX. SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE – V. 27

- A. The famine is specified because this was the main point of the dream

XXXI. GREAT PLENTY – V. 29

- A. Now Joseph emphasized the great plenty of the first seven years
- B. After he mentioned the famine

XXXII. FIXED BY GOD – V. 32

- A. No amount of intercession could turn God away from doing what He determined
- B. There are certain things that God will do no matter what
 - i. Isaiah 46:8-11 ***“Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, (L)‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.”***

XXXIII. NOW THEREFORE – V. 33

- A. Joseph is about to provide the application beyond the interpretation

- i. Interpretation requires knowledge
- ii. Application requires wisdom⁵

B. Interpretation and application are two different things

- i. Many times people get these confused when delivering a prophetic word or dream
- ii. Leads to improper application and a seemingly incorrect word

C. Knowledge is good but not enough

- i. We need wisdom to properly apply God's word

XXXIV. ONE-FIFTH – V. 34

A. Some say Pharaoh taxed the people 10% up to this point⁶

- i. So Joseph would have doubled their taxes

XXXV. IN THE CITIES – V. 35

- A. Rather than a central location
- B. This was to put peoples' minds at rest
 - i. Once the famine comes, they won't have to go far to buy food

XXXVI. THAT FOOD SHALL BE A RESERVE – V. 36

- A. God is providing abundance before the famine to be kept in reserve
 - i. His provision requires partnership and good stewardship
 - ii. Poor stewardship of His provision will result in lack of provision
- B. We can take this lesson to our personal finances also
 - i. Times of plenty should be used to store up a reserve for lean times

XXXVII. THAT THE LAND MAY NOT PERISH – V. 36

- A. Implies the land could perish if Pharaoh didn't implement and follow wisdom

XXXVIII. THIS PROPOSAL PLEASED PHARAOH – V. 37

- A. Or, seemed good (NIV, NASB)
 - i. Like the fruit was good to the woman
 - a. Genesis 3:6 **So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.**

⁵ Guzik, D. (2018). *Genesis 41 - Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream and Rises to Power*. Enduring Word.
<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/genesis-41/>

⁶ Guzik

- ii. But this is actually a good proposal and not a deception
- iii. This inversion reveals a redemption of the story of the fall

XXXIX. CAN WE FIND A MAN LIKE THIS – V. 38

- A. Joseph stood out among the magicians and priests
 - i. But not because of who Joseph was
 - ii. But because the Spirit of God was in him

XL. IN WHOM IS THE SPIRIT OF GOD – V. 38

- A. First time the Holy Spirit is mentioned to be coming upon someone
 - i. Not in the context of miraculous things
 - ii. But in the context of practical things⁷
 - a. Giving wisdom and insight to deal with a coming global crisis
- B. Common misconception that the Spirit only comes upon people in the Old Testament
 - i. But it is clearly stated here that the Spirit resides in Joseph
 - ii. Joseph shows us a Spirit empowered life of wisdom and understanding
 - a. Ephesians 1:15-17 ***For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him...***

XLI. SINCE GOD HAS SHOWN YOU ALL THIS – V. 39

- A. Pharaoh gives glory to God just as Joseph did
 - i. He recognizes this power is from God and not Joseph

XLII. NONE SO DISCERNING AND WISE AS YOU – V. 39

- A. Pharaoh begins to indicate that Joseph is the man for the job
- B. No indication that Joseph was seeking a governmental position
- C. Joseph is being contrasted with Adam and Eve
 - i. They sought the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil so they could be like God
 - ii. Joseph had God's Spirit dwelling in him and received knowledge from God
 - iii. He was pointing toward a Man who would right the wrongs of Adam

⁷ Guzik

- a. A Man in whom the Spirit dwelt
- b. *Isaiah 11:1-4 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.*
- c. *Mark 1:9-10 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.*

XLIII. PHARAOH'S THREEFOLD GIFT TO JOSEPH – V. 42

- A. Signet ring on his hand
 - i. Carries Pharaoh's authority
- B. Garments of fine linen
 - i. No longer the rags of a prisoner
 - ii. These royal garments replaced his coat of privilege from his father
- C. Gold chain around his neck
 - i. Instead of prison chains

XLIV. RIDE IN HIS SECOND CHARIOT – V. 43

- A. Joseph once rode with a caravan of slave traders
- B. Now he rode on a chariot as a king

XLV. ZAPHENATH-PANEAH – V. 45

- A. Joseph receives a new name
 - i. Reveals his new purpose
- B. Likely means God speaks and he lives⁸
 - i. Refers to God giving the message that will save the lives of many

XLVI. ASENATH – V. 45

- A. Not a violation of Abraham's command

⁸ Guzik

- i. The Hebrews were only supposed to avoid marrying Canaanite women
- ii. Genesis 24:2-4 **And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh, that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.”**

XLVII. THIRTY YEARS OLD – 46

- A. Joseph was young to have so much authority
- B. But he had been refined and prepared since he was 17
 - i. Thirteen years of preparation
 - ii. Thirteen indicates the start of something new
 - a. Genesis 17:22-25 **When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham. Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him. Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.**
 - b. Genesis 14:4 **In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, these kings made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). And all these joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.**

XLVIII. MANASSEH – V. 51

- A. Means “forgetting”⁹

XLIX. GOD HAS MADE ME FORGET – V. 51

- A. He hadn't forgotten he had a family
- B. He hadn't forgotten where he came from
 - i. Which is why he gave his sons Hebrew names

⁹ Wiersbe

- C. Instead, he forgot two things
 - i. His hardship, or his sufferings
 - ii. His father's house
 - a. Meaning he had let go of what his brothers did to him
 - i. Forgiveness can be very difficult
 - ii. But Joseph was so committed he encoded it in his son's name
 - b. Forgetting is an important aspect of forgiveness
 - i. Contrary to our cultural definition
 - ii. The bible uses "forget" and "forgive" interchangeably
- D. He was able to do this because he knew it was all part of God's plan
 - i. Genesis 50:19-20 **But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.**

L. EPHRAIM – V. 52

- A. Means "twice fruitful"¹⁰
- B. Continues the theme of doubling
 - i. Indicates God's hand in Joseph's family

LI. GOD HAS MADE ME FRUITFUL – V. 52

- A. Joseph recognized the Lord had rewarded him for his sufferings
 - i. Luke 6:35 **But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.**
- B. God returned to him what his brothers had taken and more

LII. ALL LANDS – V. 54

- A. Except Egypt which had plenty of food

LIII. THERE WAS BREAD – V. 54

- A. Because of Joseph's wise and faithful stewardship

LIV. ALL THE LAND OF EGYPT – V. 55

- A. Egypt typically wasn't affected by droughts because of the Nile River

¹⁰ Wiersbe

- i. Provided water for crops even when it didn't rain much¹¹
- B. So this must have been an extremely severe drought

LV. OVER ALL THE LAND – V. 56

- A. Or, over all the face of the earth (NKJV, NASB)
 - i. Like the flood
 - ii. Indicates this is an act of judgment by God

LVI. BECAUSE THE FAMINE WAS SEVERE – V. 57

- A. God sent the famine for a purpose
 - i. We will find out that Jacob's family will have to move to Egypt
- B. If God told Pharaoh the famine was going to happen, certainly He could have stopped it
 - i. *Isaiah 45:5-7 I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things.*

LVII. POINTS TO JESUS

- A. Joseph foreshadows Jesus
 - i. He brought a message from God
 - a. *Hebrews 1:1-2 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*
 - ii. He provided bread that brought life to the world
 - a. *John 6:27-33 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread*

¹¹ Armstrong, S. (2013, March 11). Genesis 2011 - Lesson 41C. Verse By Verse Ministry International. https://versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_41c

from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

- iii. He was brought up from the pit
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 ***For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.***
- iv. He went from obscurity to authority quickly
 - a. Matthew 4:23-25 ***And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.***
- v. He went from a servant to a prisoner to a ruler
 - a. Mark 10:45 ***“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”***
 - b. John 18:12-13 ***Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.***
 - c. Philippians 2:9-11 ***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, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***
- vi. He didn't seek authority but it was given to him by choice
 - a. John 18:37 ***Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”***
- vii. He began his public ministry at age 30

- a. Luke 3:23 **Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli...**
- viii. The Holy Spirit came upon him at the beginning of his ministry
 - a. John 1:29-32 **The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.**
- ix. He was given a new name
 - a. Revelation 19:11-13 **Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.**
- x. He ruled over Jews and Gentiles
 - a. Romans 10:12 **For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.**
- xi. He forgave those who persecuted him
 - a. Luke 23:34 **And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.**
- xii. He forgot the sins of his brothers
 - a. Isaiah 43:25 **“I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.**
- xiii. All the nations came to him
 - a. Zechariah 8:20-22 **“Thus says the LORD of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, even the inhabitants of many cities. The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, ‘Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD and to seek the LORD of hosts; I myself am going.’ Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.”**
- xiv. They came to buy bread from him

- a. Isaiah 55:1-2 “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.”
- B. Joseph is presented as a second Adam
 - i. He relies on God’s knowledge of good and bad
 - ii. He is given authority over all the land
 - iii. He is given the image (signet ring and royal garments) of Pharaoh to rule
 - a. Just like Adam was made in the image of God
 - iv. He is provided with a wife by Pharaoh
 - a. Just like Adam was given a wife by God
 - v. Adam lost the land through disobedience
 - a. Joseph will preserve the land through obedience
 - vi. He shows what could have been if Adam had obeyed God like Joseph¹²
- C. Jesus is the second Adam
 - i. 1 Corinthians 15:45 *Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.*
 - ii. Romans 5:12-19 *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment*

¹² Longman & Garland

following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

- D. The theme of pairs points to Jesus' ministry
 - i. He came once to die and will come again to reign¹³

LVIII. QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- A. Have you ever had to wait longer than you expected for God to bring a breakthrough into your life? What did God do in your heart during that time?

- B. Are you comfortable with a God who creates calamity (Isaiah 45:7)? How does Genesis 41 challenge your view of God?

- C. What are some examples in your life of times when you have had to completely rely on God's wisdom?

- D. How has God used circumstances in your life to prepare you for greater responsibility or a more difficult assignment?

¹³ Armstrong, S. (2013, February 17). Genesis 2011 - Lesson 41A. Verse By Verse Ministry International.
https://versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_41a

E. Has it been easy or difficult for you to forgive those who have wronged you? How are we able to live a life of forgiveness?

F. Why can we take comfort from what God did in Joseph's life (Psalm 113:7-8)?

LIX. FURTHER STUDY

A. How does Joseph's story assist us in understanding Paul's words in Romans 8:28-29?

B. What language do you notice in Psalm 8 that reminds you of the story of Joseph? Of Adam?

C. How does Psalm 8 use the stories of Adam and Joseph to point to the Messiah and His ministry?

D. How does the judgment for disobedience in Leviticus 26:23-26 compare to the cows in Genesis 41? What does this say about the spiritual condition of Israel and of those who disobey God's commands?

E. What does Manasseh's name point to? See Isaiah 65:8-17.

F. Read Daniel 2 and list the similarities and differences from Genesis 41. Why do you think these chapters are so similar?

G. How can we hear from God as clearly as Joseph did? See Psalm 25:14 and Proverbs 3:32.
