

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 6) Apr 06 ..... Gen 37-38 ..... Dealing with Hatred
- 7) Apr 13 ..... Gen 39:1-20 ..... Temptation
- 8) Apr 20 ..... Gen 39:21-40:23 ..... When all Hope seems lost
- 9) Apr 27 ..... Gen 41 ..... Challenging Tasks
- 10) May 04 ..... Gen 42 ..... Broken Relationships
- 11) May 11 ..... Gen 43-45 ..... Reconciliation
- 12) May 18 ..... Gen 46-47:26 ..... Making Major Life Adjustments
- 13) May 25 ..... Gen 47:27-50:26 ..... Remain Faithful

**INTRODUCTION**

- When is it proper to seek a career change?
  - ♦ What if our job has become difficult?
  - ♦ What if our life style has become too hard to sustain?
  - ♦ What if our circumstances become oppressive?
- How should God play into any career change we make?
  - ♦ What does it mean to wait on the Lord?
  - ♦ Why does God take so long to answer our prayers?

Passage	Comments
39:21-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Again, the Lord was with Joseph to the extent of receiving special privileges and responsibilities</li> <li>• Joseph’s philosophy in life mirrored the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Do everything heartily for the Lord ..... Col 3:23</li> <li>♦ Be content in your situation ..... Phil 4:11-13</li> <li>♦ Remain in the situation God has called you in</li> <li>♦ It is OK to seek change to improve one’s situation – but wait on the Lord ..... 1Co 7: 20-24</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
40:1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph possibly in jail 5-10 years (based on he was 17 when sold as a slave, and he was 30 when released from jail – 41:46)</li> <li>• The Cupbearer and Baker possibly were accused of making Pharaoh sick from food or drink</li> </ul>
40:6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph shows concern for those hurting, even when his situation is not the best</li> <li>• Joseph could’ve easily thought to himself that his God-given gift of dream interpretation was the cause of all his problems</li> <li>• But Joseph continued to use his gifts – and give God the glory in the process</li> </ul>
40:9-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cupbearer’s dream and interpretation</li> </ul>
40:14-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph pleads for kindness to help him escape his current plight</li> <li>• When is it OK to seek a career change?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ To seek relief from oppression</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
40:16-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Baker’s dream and interpretation</li> </ul>
40:21-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretations come true</li> <li>• Joseph is forgotten – almost by design</li> </ul>
41:1-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finally, after another 2 years in prison, God gives Pharaoh a dream to eventually get Joseph released</li> <li>• Why would God leave Joseph in prison so long?</li> <li>• God’s timing is a mystery since only He knows the end from the beginning and He knows the inner workings of the human psychic;</li> </ul>
41:14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph, a Hebrew who typically let their beards grow, shaves himself                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Joseph acquiesces to the cultural norms – Egyptians are clean shaven</li> <li>♦ Principle of cultural etiquette – do as the Romans do if it doesn’t violate God’s laws</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The Jewish custom (as noted in Lev 19:27; 21:5) not to conform to their idolatrous neighbors by shaving or styling their hair and beards for religious reasons was not in effect yet</li> </ul>
41:15-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph still gives God the credit for his dream interpretation</li> </ul>
41:17-32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph accurately interprets the dream, but validation won’t come for 14 more years (7 years of plenty + 7 years of famine)</li> <li>• Pharaoh must exercise faith in Joseph’s gift</li> </ul>
41:33-36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph makes a bold recommendation how Pharaoh should proceed                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Tax the produce by 20%</li> <li>♦ Droughts and famines were quite common in Egypt, some lasting for 20+ years</li> <li>♦ There is on record an Egyptian drought lasting for 7 years during the time of Joseph</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
41:37-49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph, 30, is made 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of a heathen, idolatrous nation – and willingly accepts it                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ In like fashion, Esther also played a prominent role in a heathen, idolatrous nation</li> <li>♦ We, like Joseph and Esther, are also outside of our Promised Land, and we must determine how God can use us in our heathen/idolatrous times</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Joseph is given a wife who was the daughter of a idolatrous priest – but he raises his children to be believers                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Did Joseph sin by marrying a non-Jew?</li> <li>♦ Did Esther sin by being a part of a harem?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
41:50-57	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The names of Manasseh and Ephraim reflect how God restored, refreshed, and blessed Joseph for his troubles</li> <li>• God has set the wheels in motion to move Israel to Egypt for 430 years</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATION FOR TODAY**

- When in tough situations – continue to be faithful & to seek the welfare of others ..... 40:6,7
- When in tough situations – it’s OK to seek a way out, assuming we wait on the Lord ..... 40:14,15

**SUPPORTING PASSAGES**

1Cor 7: 20-24 Each man must remain in that condition in which he was called. Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that. ... Brethren, each one is to remain with God in that condition in which he was called.

2Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness."

Phil 4:11-13 for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,

**NEXT WEEK .....Joseph reunites with his brothers**