

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03 Mar.....Genesis 21-23.....A Substitute
- 2) 10 Mar.....Genesis 24.....Guidance Needed
- 3) 17 Mar.....Genesis 25-27.....A Deceiver
- 4) 24 Mar.....Genesis 28-30.....A Stairway
- 5) 31 Mar.....John 20.....Believe!
- 6) 07 Apr.....Genesis 30-31.....Blessed
- 7) 14 Apr.....Genesis 32-33.....Wrestled
- 8) 21 Apr.....Genesis 34-36.....Renewed
- 9) 28 Apr.....Genesis 37.....Dreamer
- 10) 05 May.....Genesis 38-39.....Accused
- 11) 12 May.....Genesis 40-41.....Revealed
- 12) 19 May.....Genesis 42-46.....Reconcile
- 13) 26 May.....Genesis 47-50.....Revenge?

INTRODUCTION

- The Lord was with Joseph, bestowing on him the ability to interpret dreams, which changed his life forever. God's gift first got him sold into slavery, then it finally got him released from slavery.
- Joseph was in bondage for about 13 years (based on he was at least 17 when sold as a slave (**Gen 37:2**) and he was 30 when released from jail (**Gen 41:46**). God allowed him to lose some of his prime years. WHY? WHAT DID HE LEARN AS A SLAVE FOR 13 YEARS?

Passage	Comments
40:1-23	<p>Joseph's Secret to Success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-5. The Cupbearer & Baker possibly were accused of making Pharaoh sick from their food or drink • vv6-8. Joseph shows concern for those hurting, even when his situation is not the best <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Joseph could've easily thought to himself that his God-given gift of dream interpretation was the cause of all his problems. But Joseph continued to use his gifts – and he gave God the glory in the process • vv9-23. Joseph correctly interprets the Chief Baker's & Cupbearer's dreams. Joseph pleads for kindness to help him escape his current plight, but he is forgotten until the timing is right • Joseph's philosophy in life mirrored the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Do everything heartily for the LordCol 3:23 ◆ Be content in your situation ..2Cor 12:9; Phil 4:11-13 ◆ Remain in the situation God has called you in (1Cor 7:20-24), BUT it is OK to seek change to improve one's situation.....1Cor 7:21
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like Joseph, when is it appropriate to seek a change in life? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ What if our life or job has become too difficult? ◆ What if our circumstances become oppressive? • How should God play into any life-change we make? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ What does it mean to wait on the Lord? ◆ Why does God take so long to answer our prayers for relief?
41:1-14	<p>Finally, God Begins to Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After another 2 years in prison, God gives Pharaoh a dream to eventually get Joseph released • Again, why would God leave Joseph in prison so long? • God's timing is a mystery since only He knows the end from the beginning • v14. Joseph, a Hebrew who typically let their beards grow, shaved himself. Joseph acquiesced to the cultural norm of the day - Egyptians were clean shaven <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Principle of cultural etiquette – do as the Romans do if it does not violate God's laws ◆ The Jewish custom not to conform to the styles of their idolatrous neighbors by shaving or styling their hair and beards for idol worship reasons was not in effect yet see Lev 19:27; 21:5

Passage	Comments
41:15-32	<p>Joseph Accurately Interprets the Dream</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph still gave God credit for his gift of interpretation • BUT validation of those dreams would not come for 14 more years (7 years of plenty + 7 years of famine) • Pharaoh must exercise faith in Joseph's gift <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Was his faith blind faith or substantiated faith?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of faith are we to have in God (blind or substantiated)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Remember – Faith Is NOT FACT – Faith should NOT be Blind – and Faith is NOT Permanent (Only LOVE is eternal) ◆ Faith, like Hope, is temporal during our earthly existence ◆ Faith will one day be Fact, and Hope will one day be realized • So, our Faith is a substantiated faith based on historical facts on the Lord's crucifixion and resurrection & reliability of God's word
41:33-36	<p>Pharaoh Needs to Find the Right Man for the Task</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph makes a bold recommendation how Pharaoh should proceed – Tax the produce by 20% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Note: Droughts and famines were quite common in Egypt, some lasting for 20+ years
41:37-49	<p>Joseph – You Are the MAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph, 30, is made 2nd in command of a heathen, idolatrous nation – and willingly accepts it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ In like fashion, Esther also played a prominent role in a heathen, idolatrous nation ◆ We, like Joseph and Esther, are also outside of our Promised Land, & we must discern how God can use us in our idolatrous times BUT HOW? • vv45. Joseph married the daughter of an idolatrous priest – but he raised his family to be God-fearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Did Joseph sin by being made to marry a non-Jew? ◆ Did Esther sin by being made a part of a harem?
41:50-57	<p>...For Such a Time as This...Joseph is on the Scene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The names of Manasseh and Ephraim reflect how God restored, refreshed, & blessed Joseph for his troubles • God set the wheels in motion to move Israel to Egypt for 430 years. His ways are not our ways for sure.

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- When in tough situations – continue to be faithful & to seek the welfare of others
- ...and when in tough situations – it's OK to seek a way out, assuming we wait on the Lord and do it His way

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 42-46. A grandiose family reunion occurs with drama to the bitter end. God's special envoys (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and all their wives and kids) are just as normal as the rest of us and just as messed up. What a great God we have. If God can accomplish His will with such malcontents and dysfunctional people as them, then He can accomplish great things through us as well.

