

The Book of Genesis V | The Interpretation of Pharaoh's Dream

V. THE EXALTATION OF JOSEPH (Genesis 41:33-44)

A. The Advice of Preparation (Genesis 41:33-36)

1. Joseph advises Pharaoh to appoint a man over the land (Genesis 41:33)
 - a. Prophecy is not given to satisfy mere curiosity but to sanctify our conduct. As an example, after Peter predicted that *"the heavens shall pass away... the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up"* (2 Peter 3:10), he then exhorted *"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be"* (2 Peter 3:11).
 - b. So, when Joseph told of the years of plenty and also the years of famine, he exhorted Pharaoh to some important duty. Many who are interested in prophetic events are not interested in doing something in preparation for them. Joseph exhorted Pharaoh to two main duties.
 - (1) To appoint a man over the land
 - (2) To lay up a supply of corn for the seven bad years
 - c. While Pharaoh was also told to select other *"officers"* (Genesis 41:34) to help in the administration with the need, the key in preparation for the land was the selection of proper man to be in charge. The qualifications of this individual were twofold:
 - (1) To be *"discreet"*
 - (2) To be *"wise"*
 - (3) The man for the job must know what to do and be able to do it.
2. Joseph advises Pharaoh to lay up the corn under that appointed man during the seven years of plenty as preparation for the seven bad years (Genesis 41:34-36)

B. The Exalting of Joseph (Genesis 41:37-44)

1. The approval in the exalting (Genesis 41:37, 38)
 - a. The approval of the message (Genesis 41:37)
 - (1) The message of Joseph was accepted by Pharaoh and his servants.
 - (2) The acceptance of Joseph message was wise on the part of the Egyptians. Unlike many in every age, they did not despise the message, instead they went about preparing based on the advice of God's messenger.
 - b. The approval of the man (Genesis 41:38)
 - (1) Pharaoh's question is a rhetorical one.
 - (2) It was obvious that Joseph was the right man for the job, because of his conduct before Pharaoh.

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2. The appointment in the exalting (Genesis 41:38-44)
 - a. The attributes for the appointment (Genesis 41:38, 39)
 - (1) Joseph had certain attributes about him that qualified him for the job.
 - (2) Joseph's threefold qualifications:
 - (a) His character – Joseph's spirituality was the first qualification considered. It is the most important (Genesis 41:38).
 - (b) His comprehension – As has been noted, the word "*discreet*" speaks of knowledge. Joseph had to be knowledgeable about his task. Being in prison with the king's prisoners gave him training that would make him knowledgeable regarding the running of the Pharaoh's house and government (Genesis 41:39).
 - (c) His capacity – He was "*wise*" (Genesis 41:39). This speaks of his ability. He not only had knowledge, but he also had the necessary skills and abilities for the job (See Proverbs 8:12; 9:10).
 - b. The age in the appointment (Genesis 41:46)
 - (1) "*Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt*" (Genesis 41:46).
 - (2) This tells us that Joseph had spent some 13 miserable years before being promoted in the sight of the king. Joseph was seventeen (Genesis 37:2) when his story started in the scriptures.
 - c. The authority from the appointment (Genesis 41:40)
 - (1) Joseph was made the 2nd ruler of the land of Egypt.
 - (2) Being made "*over my [Pharaoh's] house*" makes the third house over which Joseph was made overseer.
 - (a) He was over Potiphar's house (Genesis 39:4).
 - (b) He was over the prisoner's house (Genesis 39:22).
 - (c) Now he is over Pharaoh's house (Genesis 41:40).
 - (d) He had proven his faithfulness in the previous lesser assignments before being given the greater one (Luke 16:10).
 - d. The accompaniments of the appointment – Six things accompanied this promotion.
 - (1) A ring (Genesis 41:42) – This was the authority of Joseph. The ring was Pharaoh's ring which would be used when imprinting wax upon a document giving it royal approval. With this Joseph could make laws.
 - (2) A robe (Genesis 41:42) – This was the apparel of Joseph. Pharaoh wanted Joseph to dress appropriately for his position.
 - (3) A rank (Genesis 41:42) – This was the aristocracy for Joseph. The gold chain was a symbol of authority. Much like a general would have gold stars today.
 - (4) A ride (Genesis 41:43) – This was the acclaim for Joseph. When Joseph rode down the streets people cheered.

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- (5) A reputation (Genesis 41:45) – A new name; This was the acquittal of Joseph. Joseph had been in prison; Pharaoh would wipe out any bad connotations of that experience. Joseph took care of his character and in due time God took care of Joseph's unjustly smeared reputation.
- (6) A romance (Genesis 41:45) – "*Pharaoh... gave him [Joseph] to wife Asenath*" (Genesis 41:45). This was the associate of Joseph. Had Joseph not been morally faithful regarding Potiphar's wife, he would not have been honoured with Asenath, who bore him two sons who became two of the twelve tribes of Israel (Genesis 48:5).

VI. THE LIFE AND WORK OF JOSEPH (Genesis 41:45-57)

A. The Seven Good Years (Genesis 41:45-52)

1. The gathering of grain (Genesis 41:45-49)
 - a. "*Joseph went out... and went throughout all the land of Egypt... and he gathered up all the food of the seven years.*" (Genesis 41:46, 48)
 - (1) Joseph did not delay in doing his job. In the seven good years, he was prompt in gathering up the food.
 - (2) Had he delayed, he would have put the whole nation of Egypt in peril.
 - b. Joseph "*went throughout all the land of Egypt... gathered up... laid up... gathered.*" (Genesis 41:46, 48, 49)
2. Sons born to Joseph (Genesis 41:50-52)
 - a. The first born – Manasseh, which means "*Forgetting*" (Genesis 41:51)
 - b. The second born – Ephraim, which means "*Doubly Fruitful*" (Genesis 41:52)

B. The First Years of Famine (Genesis 41:53-57)

1. The dearth was in all lands (Genesis 41:53)
2. There was bread in the storehouses of Pharaoh (Genesis 41:54-56)
3. All countries came to Joseph to buy bread (Genesis 41:57)