



*Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphara, priest of On. Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh[e] and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." The second son he named Ephraim[f] and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering." – Genesis 41:50-52*

In Genesis 41 Joseph sees God lift him out of the season of waiting. We all long for that lift ... Until then, there are moments when you cling to God's mercy as a drowning man clings to a life preserver. At other times you are overwhelmed by a sense of God's majesty. Often you will swim in the ocean of God's love. When evildoers get away with murder, you will find solace in the truth that God is just. But we learn to trust in God ... through it all.

### Glimpses of God at work ... Gen. 41

- I. God gave Pharaoh \_\_\_\_\_ ... vs. 1-11
- II. God \_\_\_\_\_ the Cupbearer about Joseph ... vs. 9-13
- III. God gave Joseph the \_\_\_\_\_ ... vs. 14-32
- IV. God gave Joseph a \_\_\_\_\_ ... vs. 33-37
- V. God moved Pharaoh to \_\_\_\_\_ ... vs. 38-40
- VI. God caused the \_\_\_\_\_ to Come to Pass ... vs. 41-55
- VII. God \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph with a Family ... vs. 55-59

### Some Reflection ...

- I. Manasseh must come before Ephraim ... We must be set free from \_\_\_\_\_ before we can experience God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- II. Joseph moved from languishing in prison to prime minister of Egypt because He was willing to \_\_\_\_\_ when it was hard. We must learn the same.
- III. How \_\_\_\_\_ ?

1. This weekend we saw Joseph yanked out of prison with no real time to prepare for a meeting with Pharaoh, yet he was ready. Like Joseph, some of our greatest opportunities to serve God come when we least expect them. Read through the following Scriptures and write down any actions you see that could help you be ready to be used by God at any time.

1 John 1:9	Romans 6:13	Hebrews 12:1-3
1 Peter 4:1-2		Matthew 5:16

How could Philippians 3:13-14 help someone who wants to be used by God, but may feel unworthy due to their past?

2. How have you felt like God was against you? That He was keeping from you something that would have made the situation better? Was that the truth? Why or why not? How did God prove faithful in your circumstance?

3. Read the following verses about the first principle regarding the Sovereignty of God.

Job 42:2	Psalms 115:3	Psalms 135:6-9
Romans 11:33-36	Ephesians 1:11	Revelation 19:6-7

What stands out to you from these verses? Anything bother you or causes you to struggle?

4. Read Daniel 4:34-35, 37. Prior to these verses, King Nebuchadnezzar had taken credit for the greatness of his kingdom. As a result, God struck him with a kind of insanity that made him think he was a beast of the field. For seven years he lived among the wild animals. When he finally turned his heart to the Lord, his sanity was restored. These verses represent his life after he turned his heart to the Lord. What stands out to you from these verses? How did he speak of the Lord? What caused Nebuchadnezzar to praise the Lord after 7 years of living like a wild animal?
  - a. Where is the biblical balance between drawing near to God as our loving Father and yet fearing Him as the Holy One?
  - b. Since God uses trials to conform us to Christ, should we pray to get out of our trials? How should we pray about trials?

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NLT) - "Be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise. Make the most of **every opportunity for doing good in these evil days**. Don't act thoughtlessly, but try to understand what the Lord wants you to do."



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### Glimpses of God at work ... Gen. 41

- I. God gave Pharaoh **2 Dreams** ... vs. 1-11
- II. God **Reminded** the Cupbearer about Joseph ... vs. 9-13
- III. God gave Joseph the **Interpretation** ... vs. 14-32
- IV. God gave Joseph a **Wise Plan** ... vs. 33-37
- V. God moved Pharaoh to **Choose Joseph** ... vs. 38-40
- VI. God caused the **Dreams** to Come to Pass ... vs. 41-55
- VII. God **Blessed** Joseph with a Family ... vs. 55-59

### Some Reflection ...

- I. Manasseh must come before Ephraim ... We must be set free from **bitterness** before we can experience God's  **blessing**.
- II. Joseph moved from languishing in prison to prime minister of Egypt because He was willing to **trust in God** when it was hard. We must learn the same.
- III. How **Big is Your God**?

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