

# January 26/Day 26

## Genesis 41

### Verses 1-8

- How long was Joseph left in jail AFTER he asked the cupbearer to remember to mention him to Pharaoh? Is God sovereign over the timing of events in our lives? As a new believer, I spent some time fretting over why it took me so long to come to know God (I thought I knew God already), then He led me to Galatians chapter 1, verses 15-16a, “But when God, who had set me apart *even* from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles...” Then Paul goes on to tell what he did after this, but the point is that God called him to Himself in God’s timing, but notice God had set him apart for His purposes from the beginning.
- Who had a dream at this time? How many dreams did he have?
- How did Pharaoh feel about the dreams?
- Who did Pharaoh call for counsel? Could they help him?

### Verses 9-13

- What and whom did the cupbearer suddenly remember?
- Have you noticed how Scripture is referring to Joseph as the Hebrew? Abraham was first referred to as a Hebrew in Genesis 14:13.

### Verses 14-24

- For whom did Pharaoh send?
- What is the time reference used for fetching Joseph from the dungeon? There were dungeons in the beginning.
- What did Joseph have to do to be presentable for Pharaoh?
- Did Joseph take credit for interpreting the dreams?

### Verses 25-36

- Joseph said the dreams had the same meaning. What did they mean?
- Why was God, in His mercy, warning Pharaoh about this? What would the famine do to the land? Will it be a minor famine?
- What did God repeating the matter twice mean? We may get aggravated when passages repeat, but we would do well to remember the repetition helped the ancients remember their oral text and the repetition helps drill it into us. When God repeats something, it’s important.
- What kind of man should Pharaoh look for to prepare?
- How much of what the earth produces for Egypt during the years of abundance should they reserve for the time of famine?

#### Verse 37

- What did Pharaoh think of the plan?

#### Verses 38-45

- Review the question Pharaoh asks. Is there anyone as discerning and wise as Joseph?
- What position did Pharaoh give Joseph? Who was the only person ranked above him?
- What did Pharaoh place on Joseph's hand? What did this "signify"? The word has the same root.
- What kind of attire did he give Joseph? Why would this be important?
- He rode in a chariot. There were chariots in the beginning.
- What would people say as Joseph rode past?
- How much of the land of Egypt was in his charge?
- Pharaoh changed Joseph's name and gave him a wife not only from among the people, but the daughter of a priest of one of Egypt's false gods. "On" is not one of the gods, but one of the cities in Northern Egypt.

#### Verses 46-49

- How old was Joseph when he stood before Pharaoh? Do you remember how old he was when he was sold into Egypt? I'll give you a hint, he's been there 13 years now. It's good to keep up with their ages and other time-references. This is how scholars generate timelines. It's especially important when we study creation and end times (eschatology).
- What did Joseph do during the seven years of plenty?
- Why did he stop measuring it?

#### Verses 50-52

- What are the names of Joseph's two sons?

#### Verses 53-57

- Was the famine spread throughout Egypt only? Do you remember from before why Abraham went down to Egypt? Note: Going down to Egypt is a picture of getting help from the world instead of from God.
- Notice the other nations ran out of food before Egypt. There was still bread in Egypt for a time.
- What did Joseph do when the famine spread all over the face of the earth?
- Did Joseph **give** the grain away to the people?

## Genesis 42

#### Verses 1-5

- Who found out about the grain in Egypt?
- Which of the brothers didn't go down to Egypt? He was the other son of Rachel.

#### Verses 6-7

- What did Joseph's brothers do to Joseph? Remember Joseph's dream when he was a teen?
- Joseph recognized his brothers. Did his brothers recognize him? The passage says he disguised himself, but he has aged as well. Joseph was 17 when he came to Egypt. He was 30 when he stood before Pharaoh, and now at least another 7 or more years have passed (7 years abundance, 7 years famine- they came sometime during the famine). So, he's around 40. They haven't seen him for at least 23 years, maybe more. Also, he would probably sport quite a tan in Egypt and his fine garments would certainly add to the disguise.

#### Verses 8-17

- What did we recently learn about repetition?
- Who might they be referring to as the brother who was no longer alive?
- Joseph is devising a plan to see which brother?
- How long does Joseph detain the brothers in Egypt?

#### Verses 18-25

- On which day did Joseph speak to the brothers. We will see "third day" many times in Scripture. Already Abraham arrived with Isaac for sacrifice on the "third day".
- The brothers are starting to think they are receiving their comeuppance for the way they treated Joseph.
- What did Reuben reiterate?
- There was an interpreter between the brothers and Joseph so they assumed Joseph didn't understand what they were saying.
- What did Joseph turn away from them to do? He could've been still angry and still holding a grudge, but his heart was tender toward them.
- Joseph kept Simeon but did he keep the grain held back from them until they produced Benjamin? Besides giving them provisions for the journey, what did Joseph put in their grain sacks?

#### Verses 26-28

- What kind of pack animal did the brothers take on their journey?
- There was donkey fodder and there were lodging places in the beginning.
- How did they feel about finding their money in their sacks?

#### Verses 29-34

- The brothers told their dad, Jacob/Israel, what had happened.

Verses 35-38

- How many brothers found money in their sacks? Remember, these were grown men with their own families now. Each had a bundle of money.
- How was Jacob feeling about losing Joseph, now Simeon?
- Who will take responsibility for the welfare of Benjamin?
- Is dad willing, at this point, to let Ben go?

See you tomorrow.