



## Lesson 32

# JOSEPH INTERPRETS PHARAOH'S DREAM

### Story Elements

- **TEXT:** Gen. 41:1-45
- **Setting:** circa 1730 B.C. in Egypt.
- **Main Characters:** God, Joseph, the chief butler, and Pharaoh
- **Plot:** Pharaoh has a terrifying dream, and Joseph is summoned to give the interpretation.
- **Key word(s):** “what \_\_\_\_\_ is about to do” (v 25, similar in v 28)
- **Climax:** *Genesis 41:25 And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do.*

### Pharaoh's Dream

- 1) (v 1) Two years after the butler's restoration, Pharaoh also had two terrifying dreams:
  - a) (v 2) The first dream consisted of seven cows emerging from the \_\_\_\_\_ river. These cows were noticeably healthy and fed in a lush meadow.
  - b) (vv 3-4) Then, seven other cows emerged from the river, but these were sickly and skinny. And then the sickly cows \_\_\_\_\_ the seven healthy cows.
- 2) (v 5) After awakening from his first nightmare, Pharaoh went back to sleep and had a second terrifying dream:
  - a) Seven heads of wheat (KJV: ears of \_\_\_\_\_) sprang up from one stalk, “rank and good.”
  - b) (vv 6-7) The, seven sickly ears, blasted from an east wind, sprang up and \_\_\_\_\_ the healthy ears.
- 3) (v 8) Terrified and confused, Pharaoh was desperate for an interpretation. After summoning all his wisemen and magicians, he was disappointed to receive no help.

### Joseph's Deliverance

- 4) (vv 9-13) As he beheld the events unfolding before him, the chief butler was reminded of Joseph. He lamented, “I do remember my \_\_\_\_\_ this day,” and then recommended Joseph to Pharaoh – something he had failed to do for two years.
- 5) (v 14) Joseph was fetched out of the dungeon and prepared to stand before Pharaoh.

### Joseph's Direction

- 6) (vv 15-24) Pharaoh recounted his dreams to Joseph, but before he did Joseph said, “It is not in me: \_\_\_\_\_ shall give Pharaoh and answer of peace( v 16);” and then afterwards he reiterated, “\_\_\_\_\_ hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do.” (v 25) In all this we see Joseph's desire to glorify God in all things.

- 7) (v 25) Joseph then gave the interpretation of the dreams and how they were “\_\_\_\_\_,” meaning that there was one purpose to the two different dreams:
- (v 26) The seven healthy cows and the seven healthy ears of corn represent seven \_\_\_\_\_ of plenty.
  - (v 27) The seven unhealthy cows and the seven unhealthy ears represent seven \_\_\_\_\_ of famine.
  - (v32) The fact that two dreams were given emphasized the nearness of the events, the importance of their meaning, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of their source.
- 8) (vv 28-36) Joseph, having interpreted the meaning of the dreams, then advised what Pharaoh should do next:
- (v 34) He should find a man discreet (discerning) and \_\_\_\_\_ who should be appointed to lead the famine-relief project.
  - (v 34) This man should appoint other officers beneath him who would help to collect 1/5<sup>th</sup> (\_\_\_\_%) of all the grain that is grown during the seven years of plenty. During the famine, the grain that was stored up will be used to feed the nation.

## Joseph’s Destiny

- 9) (vv 37-45) Pharaoh was so impressed by Joseph’s interpretation and wisdom that he made him second-in-command over all of Egypt. Joseph’s promotion included:
- royal signets, gold chains, royal vestures, and Pharaoh’s second \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ proclamation of his rank and power
  - a name change to Zaphnath-paaneah, which means “\_\_\_\_\_ of secrets”
  - marriage to \_\_\_\_\_, the daughter of a nobleman priest.
- 10) (v 45) We begin to see Joseph’s prophetic dream of exaltation being fulfilled – “And Joseph went out over \_\_\_\_\_ the land of Egypt.”

## Application

- 11) Christians are the light of the world to the extent that we do all things to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31). As \_\_\_\_\_ was sure to give God the glory, so likewise we should reflect all praise and honor back to our Creator.
- 12) Christ perfectly glorified the Father in all things because he was not just a reflection of God’s glory, but the fullness of it – the epitome of it.

**John 1:14** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the \_\_\_\_\_ as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

## Answer Key

Key word(s): God | 1) a) Nile; b) devoured | 2) a) corn; b) devoured | 4) faults | 6) God, God | 7) one; a) years; b) years; c) divinity | 8) a) wise; b) 20 | 9) a) chariot; b) public; c) revealer; d) Asenath | 10) all | 11) Joseph | John 1:14 “glory”