



Lesson 32

Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <p>interpretation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s): “what _____ is about to do” (v 28, similar in v 25) • Climax: <i>Genesis 41:25 And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do.</i> |
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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: God 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 there was one purpose to the two different dreams:
 - a) (v 26) The seven healthy cows and seven healthy ears of corn represent seven years of _____.
 - b) (v 27) The seven unhealthy cows and seven unhealthy ears represent seven years of _____.

- c) (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:
- a) (v 34) He should find a man discreet (discerning) and _____ who should be appointed to lead the famine-relief project.
- b) (v 34) This man should appoint other officers beneath him who would help to collect 1/5th (____%) 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:
- a) royal signets, gold chains, royal vestures, and Pharaoh's second _____
- b) _____ proclamation of his rank and power
- c) a name-change to Zaphnath-paaneah, which means "_____ of secrets"
- d) 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).
- a) As Joseph was sure to give God the glory, so likewise we should reflect all praise and honor back to our Creator in everything we do. Matthew Henry remarks, "Great gifts appear most graceful and illustrious when those that have them use them _____, and take not the praise of them to themselves, but give it to God."¹
- b) Christ perfectly glorified the Father in all things because he was not just a reflection of God's glory, but the _____ 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 • 7) a) plenty; b) famine; c) divinity • 8) a) wise; b) 20 • 9) a) chariot; b) public; c) revealer; d) Asenath • 10) all • 11) a) humbly; b) fullness

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

¹ Henry, Matthew. [Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume](#). Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.