

FROM PRISON TO PALACE TO PRIME MINISTER – IN GOD’S TIME {Genesis 41}

Genesis 41 is about ...

- 1) _____ - where the word ‘Elohim’ is found 9x – On display is His providence, His plan, and His preservation of His chosen earthly people. He is Joseph’s focus.
- 2) _____ - in God’s plan & promises, and even timing.
- 3) Being _____ to the Lord & His will wherever you are at circumstantially. {1 Pet. 5:6-7}
- 4) God _____ and _____ His servant through the afflictions of life. (Job 23:10-12)

A. In the PRISON. (Genesis 41:1-36)

1. **The introduction to this chapter is the last verse of chapter 40... “Yet the chief butler _____
_____ Joseph, but _____ him.”** What are true of many trials in life involving people?
 - Did Joseph react or respond? What encouragement and hope might Joseph have found during this time of delay & unjust circumstances?
2. **The trials of Joseph and the fulfillment of God’s early dreams would take ___ more _____
_____.** (41:1a) Is it hard to wait on the Lord? How about for 13 years? 20 years?
 - Isaiah 30:18; Psalm 27:13-14
 - What was God doing during those last 2 years? What is one of the Romans 8:28s about this?
3. **Once again God would use two _____ to accomplish His objectives. (41:1b-8)**
 - What must you recognize about the significance of the Nile River? {41:1}
 - What were the two dreams? {41:2-7}
 - How did this affect Pharaoh, and what did he do? What was revealing about this? {41:8}
 - What does this indicate who ultimately is in control?
4. **Suddenly the chief butler / cupbearer _____ Joseph and his ability & accuracy to interpret dreams. (41:9-36)**
 - Why does the cupbearer remember Joseph and how did he handle it? {41:9-13}
 - How did Joseph respond to being summoned by Pharaoh? {41:14}
 - How does Joseph respond when asked by Pharaoh about his ability to interpret dreams? What 2 words describe it? {4:15-16} How would you respond?
 - What is Pharaoh’s explanation & interpretation of the dreams? {41:26ff}

- Why was Pharaoh given this dream by God? {41:25, 28}
- Why was the dream repeated twice? {41:32}
- What unsolicited counsel does Joseph then give Pharaoh? {41:33-36} Was this a risk?

B. In the PALACE. (Genesis 41:37-57)

1. God in His sovereignty _____ Joseph. (41:37-44)

- What did Pharaoh recognize about Joseph? {41:37-38} Do people recognize this about you?
- What kind of promotion did Joseph receive? {41:39 – 44} Can he handle this at 30? Does he take advantage of this to “even the score”? How about you?

2. God in His grace _____ Joseph. (41:45-57)

- What happened to Joseph’s name and what did it mean? {41:45a}
- What was added to Joseph’s life? {41:45b - 49}
- How also did God bless Joseph and what can you learn from his son’s names? {41:50-52}
- Were God’s Joseph’s interpretations through divine enablement accurate & was his wise counsel & administration / preparation for the famine significant? {41:53-55}
- Did Joseph abandon his dependence on the Lord when success came?
- When God wants to change a person’s circumstances, can it occur quickly?
- Do you think Joseph was glad at this time that he waited on the Lord for all of this?

Some closing lessons:

- 1) When God is having you WAIT, He is not sleeping or uninvolved but _____ you. So, instead of living in panic-palace, _____ in His plan, promises, and timing for you!
- 2) Remember that DELAY is not _____ when God has clearly promised you. It will be worth the wait!
- 3) When others recognize your giftedness or faithfulness, be sure to _____ instead of becoming puffed up with pride!
- 4) God knows how to heal your wounded heart & enable you to _____ your emotions and be _____ in your affliction. Trust Him!