

## JOSEPH EXALTED

**INTRO:** -Joseph promoted. Joseph succeeds. How come? Who is really exalted in this passage and in Joseph's life and testimony?  
 -Many today when they succeed are quick to give credit to themselves: "I knew that I could do it. I believed in myself."  
 -Over against this boasting in self and pride, we listen to Joseph's humble testimony, "Not I, God..."

### **I. DREAMS PROPERLY INTERPRETED.**

#### A. God gives dreams.

1. In this chapter, God is on the foreground, present and working in this story.
2. God sends two dreams to Pharaoh.
3. Pharaoh is troubled; he has no peace.
4. Well might the wicked have absolutely no peace in their conscience when God speaks to them.

#### B. God gives the interpreter.

1. Pharaoh's wise men and magicians cannot interpret. I Cor. 2:14
2. The butler suddenly remembers; he in sin, but God in his providence.
3. God raises Joseph out of prison (I Cor. 1:27-29).
4. Pharaoh looks to Joseph to be the wise man to answer his dreams.
5. Joseph is quick to give all the glory to God (I Cor. 4:7).

#### C. The dreams

1. Two dreams are one in meaning, the certainty and the nearness emphasized.
2. Seven fat cows and seven ears of corn per stalk refer to seven years of abundance.
3. Seven skinny cows and seven withered ears of corn point to severe famine wherein the prosperity is forgotten.
4. The boldness in interpretation: It is God who gives years of plenty.
5. It is God who will send seven years of famine in the land.

### **II. PHARAOH PROFOUNDLY IMPRESSED:**

#### A. Joseph gives wise counsel.

1. Joseph gives not just interpretation, but unsolicited advice: a dire problem that needs to be addressed.
2. Bold testimony to one who considers himself a god: God has decreed he will do to Egypt. This is what you must do.
3. Joseph's plan:
  - a. Pharaoh to appoint a wise man to head up this famine preparation and relief agency.
  - b. Pharaoh to have subordinate officers execute the orders this wise man would give.
  - c. A 20 % tax levied on the Egyptians ea. of the prosperous years.
  - d. Large storehouses built to store up the grain and food stuffs for the lean years.

#### B. Pharaoh assents to Joseph's plan.

1. Not dilly-dallying with "what shall we do", but immediate assent to Joseph's plan.
2. Pharaoh discerns in Joseph "a man in whom the Spirit of God is."
3. The testimony of Joseph pays off: "God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art."
4. Again we see here how God had prepared Joseph for this moment managing Potiphar's house and the prison.

#### C. Joseph is made governor, second only to Pharaoh.

1. From prison to prime minister, from rags to riches.
2. Joseph is rewarded by God for "waiting on the LORD." He is given power, riches, and prominence.
3. In this exaltation, Joseph's God is extolled who does all things well, and this from the lips of a heathen king.
4. Joseph elevated in the face of his enemies is a type of Christ who was elevated and is now at God's right hand.
5. One day all who have suffered opposition for the Word of God will be exalted! But not necessarily in this life!

### **III. GOD IS EXALTED!**

#### A. Grace was given to Joseph enabling him to remain faithful in his labors.

1. God enabled Joseph to be faithful as a slave in Potiphar's house.
2. God enabled Joseph to be faithful as a prisoner in the king's dungeon.
3. God enables Joseph to be faithful governor in a heathen land.
4. Faithfulness often much more difficult in an exalted position than in a lowly position!

#### B. Grace was given to Joseph in the face of difficulties and opposition.

1. How Joseph must have been hated and plotted against when this Hebrew slave is promoted over all loyal Egyptians.
2. How Joseph must have hated and ill spoken of when he was the tax-collector: 20% of their goods!
3. There would be the skeptics: 'Look at our plenty that the Sun and River gods shower upon us!'
4. How Joseph must have been hated as he ruled and taught wisdom to the senators (Ps. 105:22).

#### C. Grace was given to Joseph to remain faithful to God.

1. God enables Joseph to resist the temptation to self-serving pride. How will Joseph use his power, riches and success?
2. God enables Joseph to resist Pharaoh's attempts to make him an Egyptian: clothing, name, wife, new circles etc.
3. Joseph could have reasoned, "Why maintain my identity, a son of Shem in the midst of the sons of Ham?"
4. Are we tempted to blend in at work or with our neighbors, become one with them (common grace)?
5. Or will we name the name of Christ, stand out as a Daniel, a peculiar people zealous for God and his kingdom?
6. Joseph names his sons Hebrew names, names that testify of God's goodness and faithfulness to him.
7. God is exalted in this history, carrying out his plan and purposes for his people, and for the coming of Christ.