

Joseph in Egypt

Lesson 15: Genesis 39-41

December 10, 2017

Review

- Creation
- Fall
- Tower of Babel, Scattering
- Terah, Abraham, Sarah, Lot
- Ishmael, Isaac
- Jacob, Esau
- Joseph then the Jews go to Egypt

These are the generations of...

- 2:4 the heavens and the earth
- 6:9 Noah
- 10:1 Shem, Ham, and Japheth
- 11:10 Shem
- 11:27 Terah
- 25:12 Ishmael
- 25:19 Isaac
- 36:1 Esau
- 36:9 Esau
- 37:2 Jacob

Outline

- Joseph with Potiphar
- Joseph in prison
- Joseph's final exaltation

Pattern

- Treachery
- Removing of clothing
- Pit
- Blessed slavery

References to Joseph

- Descendants
- Joseph's bones: Exodus 13:19, Joshua 24:32
- Stephens' speech: Acts 7:9-18
- Hebrews 11:22

Genesis 39:1-4

¹Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there. ²The LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. ³Now his master saw that the LORD was with him and *how* the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand. ⁴So Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he owned he put in his charge.

- Sold as a slave in Egypt
- Circumstances don't indicate the Lord's presence
- Abraham was to be a blessing to the nations

Genesis 39:5-8

⁵It came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house and over all that he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; thus the LORD's blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field. ⁶So he left everything he owned in Joseph's charge; and with him *there* he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. ⁷It came about after these events that his master's wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." ⁸But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, with me *here*, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, and he has put all that he owns in my charge.

- The Lord's blessing
 - On Joseph and his work
 - On Potiphar's house
- A second trial begins

Genesis 39:9-12

⁹There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?" ¹⁰As she spoke to Joseph day after day, he did not listen to her to lie beside her *or* be with her. ¹¹Now it happened one day that he went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the household was there inside. ¹²She caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me!" And he left his garment in her hand and fled, and went outside.

- Joseph's reasoning
 - It would be sin against God
 - She has a duty to her husband
 - Joseph was grateful for Potiphar's trust
- All sin is against God
- Flee temptation

Genesis 39:13-18

¹³When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, ¹⁴she called to the men of her household and said to them, “See, he has brought in a Hebrew to us to make sport of us; he came in to me to lie with me, and I screamed. ¹⁵When he heard that I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment beside me and fled and went outside.” ¹⁶So she left his garment beside her until his master came home. ¹⁷Then she spoke to him with these words, “The Hebrew slave, whom you brought to us, came in to me to make sport of me; ¹⁸and as I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment beside me and fled outside.”

- Love turns to hate
- Joseph doesn't escape
- He waits for the Lord
- Potiphar is blamed

Genesis 39:19-23

¹⁹Now when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spoke to him, saying, "This is what your slave did to me," his anger burned. ²⁰So Joseph's master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; and he was there in the jail. ²¹But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. ²²The chief jailer committed to Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible *for it*. ²³The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made to prosper.

- Another low point
- The Lord is still with him
- Favor and elevation
- Similar to 39:1-6a
- The Lord is the one who make things prosper

Potiphar's titles

- Genesis 37 – Pharaoh's officer, captain of the bodyguard
- Genesis 39 – officer of Pharaoh, captain of the bodyguard
- Who is mentioned in Genesis 40?
 - The captain of the bodyguard

Genesis 40:1-5

¹Then it came about after these things, the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt. ²Pharaoh was furious with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker. ³So he put them in confinement in the house of the captain of the bodyguard, in the jail, the *same* place where Joseph was imprisoned. ⁴The captain of the bodyguard put Joseph in charge of them, and he took care of them; and they were in confinement for some time. ⁵Then the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt, who were confined in jail, both had a dream the same night, each man with his *own* dream *and* each dream with its *own* interpretation.

- Although in charge, Joseph serves
- God is orchestrating events

Genesis 40:6-10

⁶When Joseph came to them in the morning and observed them, behold, they were dejected. ⁷He asked Pharaoh's officials who were with him in confinement in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?" ⁸Then they said to him, "We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell *it* to me, please."

⁹So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "In my dream, behold, *there was* a vine in front of me; ¹⁰and on the vine *were* three branches. And as it was budding, its blossoms came out, *and* its clusters produced ripe grapes.

- No interpreters in prison
- Joseph points to God
- Both dreams had
 - Three items
 - Things related to their job

Genesis 40:11-15

¹¹Now Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; so I took the grapes and squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I put the cup into Pharaoh's hand." ¹²Then Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: the three branches are three days; ¹³within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office; and you will put Pharaoh's cup into his hand according to your former custom when you were his cupbearer. ¹⁴Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house. ¹⁵For I was in fact kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing that they should have put me into the dungeon."

- "lift up" is used of both
- Joseph uses the opportunity
- Dungeon = pit
 - His brothers
 - Potiphar

Genesis 40:16-19

¹⁶When the chief baker saw that he had interpreted favorably, he said to Joseph, “I also *saw* in my dream, and behold, *there were* three baskets of white bread on my head; ¹⁷and in the top basket *there were* some of all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, and the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head.” ¹⁸Then Joseph answered and said, “This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days; ¹⁹within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head from you and will hang you on a tree, and the birds will eat your flesh off you.”

- Similar structure in recounting the dream
- Similar structure in interpreting the dream

Genesis 40:20-23

²⁰Thus it came about on the third day, *which* was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. ²¹He restored the chief cupbearer to his office, and he put the cup into Pharaoh's hand; ²²but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them. ²³Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

- Joseph was accurate
- Human help failed
- God did not forget Joseph
- Joseph is about 28 years old

Genesis 41:1-7

¹Now it happened at the end of two full years that Pharaoh had a dream, and behold, he was standing by the Nile. ²And lo, from the Nile there came up seven cows, sleek and fat; and they grazed in the marsh grass. ³Then behold, seven other cows came up after them from the Nile, ugly and gaunt, and they stood by the *other* cows on the bank of the Nile. ⁴The ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven sleek and fat cows. Then Pharaoh awoke. ⁵He fell asleep and dreamed a second time; and behold, seven ears of grain came up on a single stalk, plump and good. ⁶Then behold, seven ears, thin and scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them. ⁷The thin ears swallowed up the seven plump and full ears. Then Pharaoh awoke, and behold, *it was* a dream.

- Cows
 - Beautiful and fat
 - Bad and thin
- Ears of grain
 - Fat and good
 - Thin and scorched

Genesis 41:8-11

⁸Now in the morning his spirit was troubled, so he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

⁹Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, "I would make mention today of my *own* offenses.

¹⁰Pharaoh was furious with his servants, and he put me in confinement in the house of the captain of the bodyguard, *both* me and the chief baker. ¹¹We had a dream on the same night, he and I; each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his *own* dream.

- Like Nebuchadnezzar
- God's timing has arrived

Genesis 41:12-15

¹²Now a Hebrew youth *was* with us there, a servant of the captain of the bodyguard, and we related *them* to him, and he interpreted our dreams for us. To each one he interpreted according to his *own* dream. ¹³And just as he interpreted for us, so it happened; he restored me in my office, but he hanged him.”

¹⁴Then Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph, and they hurriedly brought him out of the dungeon; and when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came to Pharaoh.

¹⁵Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; and I have heard it said about you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.”

- Joseph could interpret
- He had interpreted correctly
- Dungeon = pit

Differences in dream retelling

1: Now it happened at the end of two full years that Pharaoh had a dream, and
2: In my dream,

1: behold, he was standing by the Nile. ² And lo, from the Nile there came
2: behold, I was standing on the bank of the Nile; ¹⁸ and behold,

1: up seven cows, sleek and fat; and they grazed in the marsh grass.
2: seven cows, fat and sleek came up out of the Nile, and they grazed in the marsh grass.

1: ³Then behold, seven other cows came up after them from the Nile, ugly and gaunt,
2: ¹⁹Lo, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and gaunt,

1: and they stood by
2: such as I had never seen for ugliness in all the land of Egypt;

1: the other cows on the bank of the Nile. ⁴The ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven
2: ²⁰and the lean and ugly cows ate up the first seven

1: sleek and fat cows.
2: fat cows. ²¹Yet when they had devoured them, it could not be detected that

1: Then Pharaoh awoke.
2: they had devoured them, for they were just as ugly as before. Then I awoke.

1: ⁵He fell asleep and dreamed a second time; and behold, seven ears
2: ²²I saw also in my dream, and behold, seven ears, full and good,

1: of grain came up on a single stalk, plump and good. ⁶Then behold, seven ears, thin and
2: up came on a single stalk; ²³and lo, seven ears, withered, thin, and

1: scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them. ⁷The thin ears swallowed up
2: scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them; ²⁴and the thin ears swallowed

1: the seven plump and full ears. Then Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream.
2: the seven good ears.

Genesis 41:16-21

¹⁶Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.” ¹⁷So Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, “In my dream, behold, I was standing on the bank of the Nile; ¹⁸and behold, seven cows, fat and sleek came up out of the Nile, and they grazed in the marsh grass. ¹⁹Lo, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and gaunt, such as I had never seen for ugliness in all the land of Egypt; ²⁰and the lean and ugly cows ate up the first seven fat cows. ²¹Yet when they had devoured them, it could not be detected that they had devoured them, for they were just as ugly as before. Then I awoke.

- Dreams and interpretations come from God
- Pharaoh is satisfied

Genesis 41:22-27

²²I saw also in my dream, and behold, seven ears, full and good, came up on a single stalk; ²³and lo, seven ears, withered, thin, *and* scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them; ²⁴and the thin ears swallowed the seven good ears. Then I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me.”

²⁵Now Joseph said to Pharaoh, “Pharaoh’s dreams are one *and the same*; God has told to Pharaoh what He is about to do. ²⁶The seven good cows are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are *one and the same*. ²⁷The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven thin ears scorched by the east wind will be seven years of famine.

- The two dreams were the same
- Cows/ears = years
 - Good years
 - Famine years

Genesis 41:28-33

²⁸It is as I have spoken to Pharaoh: God has shown to Pharaoh what He is about to do. ²⁹Behold, seven years of great abundance are coming in all the land of Egypt; ³⁰and after them seven years of famine will come, and all the abundance will be forgotten in the land of Egypt, and the famine will ravage the land. ³¹So the abundance will be unknown in the land because of that subsequent famine; for it *will be* very severe. ³²Now as for the repeating of the dream to Pharaoh twice, *it means* that the matter is determined by God, and God will quickly bring it about. ³³Now let Pharaoh look for a man discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

- Interpretation
 - Years
 - Why they were doubled
- What action Pharaoh should take

Genesis 41:34-37

³⁴Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him exact a fifth *of the produce* of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance. ³⁵Then let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and store up the grain for food in the cities under Pharaoh's authority, and let them guard *it*. ³⁶Let the food become as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which will occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish during the famine."

³⁷Now the proposal seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his servants.

- Joseph's plan
 - Gather one fifth
 - Store the food in reserve

Genesis 41:38-43

³⁸Then Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom is a divine spirit?” ³⁹So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are. ⁴⁰You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you.” ⁴¹Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” ⁴²Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck. ⁴³He had him ride in his second chariot; and they proclaimed before him, “Bow the knee!” And he set him over all the land of Egypt.

- Pharaoh submits to Joseph
- Joseph’s elevation
 - Over Egypt, except the throne
 - He was to be honored
 - Fine clothing
 - Second chariot

Genesis 41:44-48

⁴⁴Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, “*Though* I am Pharaoh, yet without your permission no one shall raise his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.”

⁴⁵Then Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenath-paneah; and he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, as his wife. And Joseph went forth over the land of Egypt.

⁴⁶Now Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt. ⁴⁷During the seven years of plenty the land brought forth abundantly. ⁴⁸So he gathered all the food of *these* seven years which occurred in the land of Egypt and placed the food in the cities; he placed in every city the food from its own surrounding fields.

- Joseph’s elevation
 - Absolute authority
 - A new name
 - A noble wife
- Joseph continues his diligent work
- The food was stored where it was produced

Genesis 41:49-52

⁴⁹Thus Joseph stored up grain in great abundance like the sand of the sea, until he stopped measuring *it*, for it was beyond measure.

⁵⁰Now before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore to him. ⁵¹Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, “For,” *he said*, “God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household.” ⁵²He named the second Ephraim, “For,” *he said*, “God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

- The progress of the plan
- Further blessing in the years of abundance
 - Manasseh: causing to forget
 - Ephraim: fruitfulness, twice fruitful

Genesis 41:53-57

⁵³When the seven years of plenty which had been in the land of Egypt came to an end, ⁵⁴and the seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said, then there was famine in all the lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. ⁵⁵So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried out to Pharaoh for bread; and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, you shall do."
⁵⁶When the famine was *spread* over all the face of the earth, then Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians; and the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. ⁵⁷*The people of* all the earth came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the earth.

- Transition to famine
- Widespread famine
- The people are sent to Joseph

Summary

- The Lord is with us in afflictions
- Flee temptation as all sin is against God
- “do your work heartily, as for the Lord...”