

It  
Is Not In  
Me

## Genesis 41:1 – 45



~ In our last report from our Spiritual Safari, we left Joseph for the second time languishing in an ancient Egyptian prison. He was chained to the wall as the sun went down. I'm sure Joseph cried many nights. He is incarcerated without a cause, forgotten, forsaken and he is utterly alone in this world at this moment as the sun comes up over the horizon and onto another long and dreadful day. Do you suppose Joseph had a hard time understanding this was all God's purpose in his life? I mean, seriously, what could the point possibly be? If you and I could recognize the purpose of Gods will in our lives during the trials and troubles of our sorrows, it would give us a profoundly fresh outlook on life. Tribulation worketh patience; as demonstrated in the life of Joseph.

Weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning, saith the Psalmist. Well, that may be difficult to accept if you're in an ancient Egyptian prison convicted by perjury. Either way, the sun is coming up again on our safari and it's a new day for Joseph, too. Or, maybe it was a new year? We've been in prison with Joseph a long, long time. I've lost track of the days and I'm ready to get out! Thankfully, we will get out soon when Pharaoh has a dream and needs him to interpret it. Joseph will ultimately get back to a good life and have two children, Ephraim and Manasseh. This roller-coaster story is actually thrilling and is made more thrilling when we see the hand of God moving in Joseph's life.

We are also soon going to see a severe famine in Canaan whereby God demonstrates and accomplishes another spectacular purpose and plan. That plan is to get eleven brothers and their extended family out of a polluted land of rank idolatry - and into Goshen of Egypt. The merciful hand of God is more than evident in doing this. Read this whole chapter very carefully and slowly before you continue now, friends; and, to catch us up a

little bit more, remember, the butler and baker had been put in prison with Joseph and he had interpreted their dreams. The interpretation came to pass exactly as Joseph had said they would. This makes Joseph the first human prophet we have come across in our safari. The baker was executed - but the butler got his job back. Joseph had begged the butler to remember him – but the butler had forgot Joseph, you will recall....

***1 And it came to pass at the end of two full years that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river.***

~ Two years is a long time to spend chained to a wall and waiting for something to happen that hasn't happened and may or may not ever happen, is it not? I think I have permanent marks on my wrists from just thinking about it. Well, now that we have experienced that let's examine this man's dreams and not worry about our wasted years. To understand it all better, let's consider the awkward situation Pharaoh puts his subjects in: he probably chided them for not knowing the answer but if one dared to speak and was wrong – they would be chained up alongside of Joseph; possibly hanged with the baker! This is the picture of godless rule today, too. It happens in business, and it happens in the home; typically manifesting itself in some other form of psychological abuse. Also, I should say that anyone who is looking to their dreams for revelation does not trust the Word of God; indeed, does not care about the Word of God or what it has to say. Stop dreaming, wake up and get into a conscientious and meaningful Bible study for a change....

***2 And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favoured kine and fatfleshed; and they fed in a meadow.***

***3 And, behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ill favoured and leanfleshed; and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river.***

***4 And the ill favoured and leanfleshed kine did eat up the seven well favoured and fat cows. So Pharaoh awoke in the midst of a cow to cow encounter.***

**5 And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank and good.**

**6 And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them.**

**7 And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream.**

**8 And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.**

**9 Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day:**

~ This was a little more than a fault in verse nine. Leaving Joseph down there was an inconsiderate, selfish, thoughtless act. It's what the world calls the 'fortuitous concurrence of circumstances.' We believers call it: "...the providence of God!" These things that happen as examples are difficult – even for us – to believe, understand and accept or agree with at times. I cannot imagine how Joseph feels right now in his life? Moving on, we have a very interesting picture of Joseph being raised up from the dead. Life in an ancient Egyptian prison was a living death – do not doubt that for a moment. Joseph gets cleaned up and shaved – and he's given a NEW GARMENT! Now, Joseph goes out to the Gentiles – what a picture – a picture of the resurrection of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ! Moreover, we are going to learn later about a Nazerite custom whereby males did not shave....

**10 Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker:**

**11 And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream.**

**12 And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret.**

**13 And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged.**

**14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.**

**15 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.**

**16 And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.**

~ "It is not in me!" - Joseph can give Pharaoh an answer of peace because Joseph gave the glory to God FIRST! If you and I are doing something and the Lord isn't put first; be assured we are doing nothing that is accepted by the Lord for the cause of Christ. Never. If a believer is accomplishing anything at all it is only because God is moving in and through their lives and hearts towards the blessings of others. In this case, Joseph said, "...I have no idea; but God will give you the answer!" Those are Joseph's first words to a wholly ungodly man when he gets out of that man's prison. That's pure, genuine and STRONG faith in God, friends....

**17 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the river:**

**18 And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fatfleshed and well favoured; and they fed in a meadow:**

**19 And, behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and very ill favoured and leanfleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness:**

**20 And the lean and the ill favoured kine did eat up the first seven fat kine:**

**21 And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still ill favoured, as at the beginning. So I awoke.**

**22 And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up in one stalk, full and good:**

**23 And, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them:**

**24 And the thin ears devoured the seven good ears: and I told this unto the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.**

**25 And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do.**

**26 The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one.**

**27 And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine.**

**28 This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh.**

**29 Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt:**

**30 And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land;**

***31 And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous.***

***32 And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.***

***33 Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.***

***34 Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years.***

***35 And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.***

***36 And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.***

***37 And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants.***

***38 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?***

***39 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:***

***40 Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.***

***41 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.***

~ Pharaoh had two dreams on two different nights that meant the same thing. God showed Pharaoh what He was about to do; and He repeated the

dream to stress the significance of it. However, God was only going to do one particular thing. So, we need to get refocused. Joseph had been thrown in prison and forgotten. He is only brought out for the highest possible purpose – to advise Pharaoh; and Joseph has the insight to suggest what they should do about this specific problem; all of which is the immediate and direct leading of the Holy Spirit in Joseph’s life. See, as Pharaoh listens, it makes sense to save in the seven years of plenty for the seven years of famine. I don’t think we have a good sense of what is coming in our future today. No preparation is being made for a famine of tomorrow. Gladstone stated, “...the mark of a good statesman is knowing the direction God is going for the next fifty years.” Pharaoh is given fourteen years insight - and he knows what is going to happen! A lot could be said about Joseph and how he went to the house of Potiphar; had control of all the assets there as training for what was to happen with Pharaoh – and how he was thrown in prison - and that was probably to reinforce the value of a good life. I don’t really think that’s the message here, though, friends; even though I have to admit I cannot find the real message – and even though Joseph is sitting next to the ruler of Egypt....

***42 And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;***

***43 And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.***

***44 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.***

***45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.***

~ Pharaoh made Joseph his vice-chancellor and vice-president all in one; when Pharaoh gave Joseph the ring signet that was like handing him a blank check and an open-ended authority to rule as he pleased. I like the

name Joe better than Zaphnathpaaneah, which means ‘revealer of secret things,’ though – but – whatever! If you keep reading in Scripture you can deduce that Joseph has been in Egypt, at this time, for thirteen years. We know of two years in prison and that’s after the baker and butler incident. That means Joseph was probably in Potiphar’s house for nearly a decade! We’re really traveling time now in our Spiritual Safari and, in our next report, we will traverse myriad time and space with Joseph ~

