

The  
Dreams Which He Dreamed of  
Them

**Genesis 41:46 – 42:14**



~ I think it's fair to say that the account of Joseph's life has been like a gut-wrenching rollercoaster ride so far. First, his brothers plotted his murder – but, instead, decided to sell him as a slave and make a buck. He was bought by Potiphar, made a high-ranking trusted slave - and had everything in Potiphar's house within his control. Then, false accusations landed him in prison. He was chained to the wall for several years and forgotten about. If God Himself had not intervened, Joseph would have died chained to that wall, lonely, in a baking hot prison in the desert of Egypt, you may be absolutely sure! There was no man to help Joseph - and the sentence would never have gone to an appeals court.

In this report, our Spiritual Safari brings us to a remarkable vista of truth. I said before that Joseph's life may be my favorite account of any Bible character's life - and this PART of the story is my favorite section of Scripture. This is the part that brings me hope, friends; and no other part of the Bible reassures me regarding my own earthly family. The family of Jacob is reunited beginning here – Joseph and his brothers. It will take another report to cover the whole story. If I didn't have this particular historical record I would feel something was missing. If I didn't have this chapter I would feel some things may never be justified correctly in my personal life. This report will be just that personal to me. That makes for one ugly report; but we have another rare jewel here, friends - one that we'll find only here – and nowhere else on our safari Bible journey.

In our last report we saw Joseph interpret the dreams of Pharaoh and, as a result, Joseph was taken out of prison and given a new life and a great deal of responsibility again. There was to be seven good years of plenty and, then, seven bad years of famine. The Lord revealed that to Pharaoh through Joseph. So, we see God living through Joseph to speak to Pharaoh.

Likewise, God spoke to Pharaoh only in a dream. See, God wasn't going to even get close to Pharaoh's wicked heart; but He would speak to Pharaoh through dreams and by others – mainly angels, I'm sure. So, let's keep this real, shall we? If you think God is speaking to you today in a dream – or by angels – then there is only one explanation: you aren't receiving direct revelation from the Holy Spirit; because that would require you to study the Bible. Those who study the Bible properly, correctly and completely do not claim to have revelatory dreams or angelic revelation and manifestations – because God only speaks to our heart in His Word. Seriously, let's get real, friends. Let's not play with God. Joseph was faithful. How faithful are you in your Bible study?

Joseph received a ready reception from Pharaoh because he was faithful to God in the midst of his personal crises. Joseph proved his ability from the very beginning. Pharaoh put that chain around his neck; which would have given Joseph the same authority as Pharaoh. Then Joseph was given the daughter of the Priest of On, Asenath, a rank idolater. She came right out of Egyptian heathenism, and she is the pagan Gentile bride of Joseph. Jesus is calling out a name unto Himself; from the world, a Gentile bride - the church. We have noted several parallels between Joseph and the Lord Jesus Christ in our safari and this is another very beautiful example. Another parallel is that Joseph was thirty years old when he began his ministry....

## XLI

***46 And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt....***

***47 And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls.***

***48 And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same.***

***49 And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.***

***50 And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him.***

***51 And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.***

~ Manasseh probably should have been named Amnesia; because God had made Joseph to suddenly forget all the years in slavery and the years in prison. Joseph is now free, and he has forgotten about his brothers who wanted to kill him. I don't think Joseph ever once said to himself, "...if they could only see me now." No, I think Joseph was done with his brothers. He may have been homesick at first - but not anymore. That was a long time ago. Joseph is now dressing like an Egyptian, talking like an Egyptian and shaving like an Egyptian – yes, he even walks like an Egyptian. This speaks of the resurrection and from going from the old life to the new life....

***52 And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.***

***53 And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended.***

***54 And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.***

***55 And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.***

***56 And the famine was over all the face of the earth: And Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt.***

***57 And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.***

~ Joseph was in charge of the bread distribution. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." That's pretty straight forward; and so is how the two sons changed Joseph's life. Joseph is a new man today and all is well; and on that high note background we come to the most wonderful of all accounts in Scripture. We will see the undeniable Hand of God move now, I assure you. When Joseph was in the dungeon, though, he couldn't see all of this. In fact, he probably didn't see past so many tears; but Joseph believed God and he was enthusiastic and optimistic because of his faith. Honestly, because I always am honest with you dear readers, if my faith were as real to me as Joseph's was to him I would be a much better person for it. I would be a much more effective Bible teacher. No question about that. I pray that whatever the circumstances are I can be optimistic and enthusiastic; part of the remedy and not the affliction. Perhaps I can ease the burden of our fallen state for someone else somehow. Unfortunately, it doesn't even take a metaphorical storm in my life to bring me down. Just a few dark clouds and some wind will make me more uneasy than I should be. I'm sure that's not YOUR problem – but it sure is mine....

## XLII

***1 Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another?***

***2 And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die.***

***3 And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt.***

~ Joseph's brothers – Jacob's sons – you know, the kidnapping murderers – are all sitting around looking at each other not knowing what to do about the famine - so doing nothing. This really illustrates faith, also, my beloved. See, so many people today say, "...faith is a big mystery to me and I don't really know how to believe." Well, people can't believe when they don't want to believe! Period. Full stop. Notice how Jacob finds faith here: he had heard that there was corn in Egypt; he believed it would bring life and he acted on that belief. That is EXACTLY what saving faith is. If you believe the

news that tells you of eternal life then you have eternal life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ! Jacob tells them get out and do something before they all die - but Jacob won't let Benjamin go. Remember, Benjamin and Joseph were the only two who were decent men in that home. The rest were just awful killers, really. You may recall the little incident in Shechem that they all took part in....

***4 But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him.***

~ I guess the other ten didn't matter much. Jacob wasn't dumb. He knew there was foul play with Joseph, and he didn't want them coming back this time without Benjamin. After all, they might sell Benjamin for more bread! Candidly, I think they probably would have. It wouldn't have hurt Jacob nearly as much to lose ten of them as opposed to one Benjamin....

***5 And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan.***

***6 And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.***

***7 And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food.***

~ Joseph was not recognized by his brothers for several reasons. First, they thought Joseph was dead; so, they weren't even thinking about him. They certainly didn't expect to see him; although, I think Joseph WAS expecting them! There had been delegations from the far ends of the earth that came to buy corn and bread; so, it would have only been natural for them to come along sooner or later. So many years have gone by now. Joseph was about seventeen when he had been sold into slavery. He is now thirty-seven years old. It's been twenty years PLUS however many years we're into the famine – but we don't know that number – so, let's say, reasonably, twenty-two years. They don't know him - and they would never

even suspect it was him dressed as he is - and with that name Pharaoh gave him. Now they're all bowed down before him. The moment has come. Joseph looks down at those men, but they didn't DARE look back up at him. Remember the dream Joseph had that caused his brothers to hate him in the first place? Well, here they are bowing down to him - just as he dreamed they would. What do you think should be done to them? ~

***8 And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.***

***9 And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.***

***10 And they said unto him, Nay, my lord, but to buy food are thy servants come.***

***11 We are all one man's sons; we are true men, thy servants are no spies.***

***12 And he said unto them, Nay, but to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.***

***13 And they said, Thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and, behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is not.***

***14 And Joseph said unto them, That is it that I spake unto you, saying, Ye are spies:***

~ Alright, Joseph is really putting the pressure on the brothers as we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. The one who the brothers think is 'not' just happens to be right there before them now – and their lives are in his hands! I think Joseph was savoring such a dramatic moment. There will be no backing down because Joseph wants all the information there is to be had from his 'brothers.' So, Joseph will continue to "turn the screws" – so to speak – in our next report. He's not letting up on them tonight, that's for sure ~

