

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

### Message #86

### Genesis 41:41-57

Joseph was faithful to God and His Word at age 17, at age 30 and at age 37. No matter what Joseph experienced in life, he remained faithful to God. This promotion is given to a 30 year old because years before, he walked away from sin. You can't help but wonder, what the older men, who had been with Pharaoh for years, thought when a 30 year old is put in charge.

**GOD WILL GREATLY HONOR AND ELEVATE ONE WHO STAYS FAITHFUL TO HIM, AND THOSE WHO DEMONSTRATE THEY DESERVE TO BE ELEVATED REMAIN FAITHFUL AFTER THE PROMOTION AND ELEVATION.**

W. H. Griffith Thomas said that in spite of Joseph's circumstances, "there was no alteration made in Joseph's character (*Genesis*, p. 396).

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #1** - The faithful servant is highly rewarded . Gen. 41:41-46

**Reward #1** - He is rewarded with new authority . 41:41

When Joseph was sold as a slave to Potiphar, he was given authority over everything in his house (39:5). When he was in a dungeon, he was given authority over the whole prison (39:22-23). Now Pharaoh puts him in charge of all the land of Egypt. 1) High elevated promotions can be given by God in heathen environments; 2) The path that leads upwards often initially leads downward; 3) God's promotions come after years of consistent faithfulness.

**Reward #2** - He is rewarded with new clothing . 41:42

Joseph went from dungeon rags to royal robes. The signet ring gave Joseph royal authority. Those hands that had done so much slave work now wore a ring to do royal work. That coat of many colors once stolen from Joseph was now replaced by the most royal robe in the world.

**Reward #3** - He is rewarded with new transportation. 41:43

Joseph got a new Egyptian company car, a new chariot. In a parade, people were forced to bow to Joseph.

**Reward #4** - He is rewarded with a new reputation. 41:43b-44

It had been rumored for years that Joseph was a low-life rapist, but now he was a high-life ruler. Even though some people talked about him and lied about him they could not stop the promotion God was giving him.

**Reward #5** - He is rewarded with a new name. 41:45a

This is a difficult name to interpret: 1) One who rescues the world; 2) One who speaks and lives for God.

**Reward #6** - He is rewarded with a new wife . 41:45b

Had he given into immorality he would have missed all of these blessings.

Joseph was given an Egyptian, Gentile wife. For many men, this may have been a threat in that one could forget about God because of all of the wonderful Egyptian perks being given to him, but not for Joseph. You could put him in an Egyptian prison or an Egyptian palace and he would never forget God. Dr. C. I. Scofield says this is no insignificant picture, for it demonstrates that prior to the actual family of Israel being brought back into her proper relationship with Jesus Christ, she would first reject Him and God's program would reach out to Gentiles (*New Scofield Reference Bible*, ftnt. #2, p. 59).

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #2** - The faithful servant is occupationally blessed. 41:47-49

Joseph was so successful in storing up grain and food in cities that you could not even mathematically calculate it. In fact, he stopped counting the numbers because of the blessing of God (41:49).

When a faithful servant of God is put in charge, the task God wants completed will get done and Work will be done at a high level.

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #3** - The faithful servant is physically blessed. 41:50-52

The names of these boys are critical because even though Joseph is married to an Egyptian wife, he gives his sons Hebrew names, demonstrating he is still focused on God. Children are a blessing of God and God gave Joseph two sons: 1) Manasseh, a son, who would help cause Joseph to forget about all the negative things that happened to him; 2) Ephraim, a son, who would cause Joseph to focus on his new level of prosperity . **The thing God did to help cause Joseph to forget about all the past negatives of his life was to give him many new blessings.**

God does not want His people living the rest of their lives plagued over their lousy past. He wants them to get on with their lives and experience His blessings. Joseph had a lousy past and there was nothing he could do about that, but now he could experience and enjoy the blessings of God. No matter what your past, when you purpose to turn away from sin and turn to God, your future will be bright.

**NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #4** - The faithful servant is futuristically blessed. 41:53-57

Joseph was faithful to God in feast times and famine times and it is very clear from this text that the thing that brought him the blessing of God was the fact that he kept his focus on the Word of God and the future.

The thing about Joseph is that he had a faith that believed God controlled everything connected to his life, the good and the bad. No matter what you did to Joseph or where you put Joseph, he kept his focus on God.