

Genesis 41:1-32

A Thing Fixed By God

Providence ...

I. Pharaoh's Troubling Dream

- A. Vivid Images
- B. Magicians Stumped
- C. Memory Jogged

II. Joseph's Divine Interpretation

- A. God's Spokesman
- B. Clear and Simple Explanation
- C. Daunting Challenge

III. God's Absolute Sovereignty

- A. God's Plan
- B. God's Purpose
- C. God's People

... and God's people.

Children, Listen ...

1. Had God forgotten that Joseph was in prison?
2. What did God use to remind the cupbearer to tell Pharaoh about Joseph?
3. A famine was going to hit the land for 7 years. What is a famine?
4. Do God's plans always happen?
5. Do God's plans always end up for the good of His people?

An Assured Confidence

God is sovereign over all things and all things work together according to his wise providence. We see that in the story of Joseph. It was not only the details of that one saint's life that were guided with precision by the hand of God (including trials and blessings) but even the dream life of Pharaoh was subject to God's direction. God had a perfect plan for His people Israel in all of this, but His plan included the nation of Egypt. Creation itself is subject to His decree as we see both the years of abundance and the years of famine are the work of His hand. While God's providence determines whatever comes to pass in some strange and mysterious ways it is always to His glory and always, ultimately for the good of His people. We latch on to that personally when we remember what Paul wrote in Romans: And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 8:28 But we must also keep the bigger body of believers in mind as well and that mean OT Israel as well as the NT Church. The course of history, the movement of nations and even the changes in creation are all part of God's perfect plan for His Kingdom and the people who belong to it. This affords us great confidence not only as individuals but as the church of Christ as a whole. Our confession puts it this way: As the providence of God does, in general, reach to all creatures; so, after a most special manner, it takes care of His Church, and disposes all things to the good of it. God's people can take courage no matter what comes to pass as object of his special love, care and providence.