

Genesis 41

**How God Controls
Nations to Accomplish
His Plans**

Introduction

- This chapter forms the turning point in the Joseph story, for it tells how Joseph came to power in Egypt.
- God controlled the economy of Egypt to bring Joseph to power and thereby prepare for the migration of Israel to Egypt

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- God had predicted that the descendants of Abraham would spend 400 years as strangers in a land not theirs.
- **Genesis 15:13** Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land

Introduction

- that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.
- God didn't tell Abraham which land, but we now see the events leading up to the land being Egypt.

Scripture and Outline

- **The King of Egypt had two dreams (41:1–7).**
- **The wise men of Egypt cannot interpret the dreams (41:8).**
- **The cupbearer remembers Joseph and his own dream experience in prison (41:9-13).**

Scripture and Outline

- The cupbearer testified: “as he interpreted to us, so it came about” (41:13).
- **The King of Egypt calls for Joseph and tells Joseph his dreams (41:14-24).**

Scripture and Outline

- Joseph disclaimed any innate ability to interpret dreams. “It is not in me” (41:16a).
- He gives God all the credit for interpreting dreams. “God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer” (41:16b).

Scripture and Outline

- **God enables Joseph to interpret Pharaoh's dreams (41:25-32).**
 - God uses an Israelite slave to confound the wisdom of Egypt.
 - The two dreams were one message concerning God's future actions in Egypt (25, 28).

Scripture and Outline

- Joseph begins the interpretation with “God” (41:25) and ends it with “God” (41:28) – emphasizing God’s sovereignty over the nations of earth.
- Joseph concludes his interpretation by saying the fulfillment was certain

Scripture and Outline

- and immanent and stresses God role in the affairs of nations – “the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about” (41:32).
- **Joseph gives wise counsel to Pharoah in light of his dreams (41:33-36)**

Scripture and Outline

- God gives Joseph wisdom to know what to say to Pharoah so Egypt will survive the famine.
- God's advice: collect 20% of the produce during the 7 years of plenty to sustain Egypt during the sequential 7 years of famine.

Scripture and Outline

- **Pharaoh elevates Joseph to power and authority in Egypt (41:37-44).**
 - Joseph's interpretation, and his giving God the credit for his ability to interpret dreams, was accepted by Pharaoh and his court officials.

Scripture and Outline

- Pharaoh recognized “the Spirit of God” was in Joseph (41:38).
- Joseph becomes the administrator (2nd in command under Pharaoh) over all Egypt.

Scripture and Outline

- **Joseph is married, has two sons, and saves Egypt from the destruction of the 7 yrs. of famine (41:45-57).**
 - Joseph receives a new name and a wife. (41:45)

Scripture and Outline

- Joseph serves as minister of agriculture over Egypt (41:46-49)
- Joseph named his first son Manasseh, because God had made him forget – “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house” (50–51).

Scripture and Outline

- The memory of toil and sorrow were replaced by the birth of this first son and what he signified.
- Joseph named the second son Ephraim, because “God had made him fruitful in the land of his affliction” (41:52).

Conclusion

- **How should the believer live in the light of this great truth?**
 - In great comfort,
 - in bold faith to declare God's plans, and
 - in responsible obedience to what he or she knows God's plan is.