

A. Posture
of Joseph

1. The Passion to
Serve

37:13 - "Here I Am"

39:1-6 - When Joseph became a slave, he served Potiphar with excellence.

39:20-23 - When he was thrown in prison, he kept exhibiting this important attitude about serving.

He continued to be willing to serve even though...

-His own dreams had seen little fulfillment.

-His previous service had resulted in unjust treatment.

-His present place of service was so lowly.

2. The Patience to
Serve

40:14 - He asked the cupbearer to remember him.

40:23 - The cupbearer forgot Joseph.

41:1 - Joseph had to wait "two whole years" before being summoned to the palace.

⁵ And one night **they both dreamed** ... each his own dream, and each dream with its own interpretation. ⁶ When **Joseph** came to them in the morning, he saw that **they were troubled...** ⁸ They said to him, "We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them." And **Joseph** said to them, "**Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me.**"

⁹ So the **chief cupbearer** told his dream to **Joseph** and said to him, "In my dream there was a vine before me, ¹⁰ and on the vine there were **three branches**. As soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the **clusters ripened into grapes.** ¹¹ **Pharaoh's** cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them into **Pharaoh's** cup and **placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.**" ¹² Then **Joseph** said to him, "This is its interpretation: **the three branches are three days.** ¹³ In three days **Pharaoh** will lift up your head and **restore you to your office**, and you shall place **Pharaoh's** cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his **cupbearer.** ¹⁴ **Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house.** ¹⁵ For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should **put me into the pit.**"

¹⁶ When the **chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable**, he said to **Joseph**, "I also had a dream: there were **three cake baskets** on my head, ¹⁷ and in the uppermost basket there were all sorts of baked food for **Pharaoh**, but the **birds were eating it out of the basket on my head.**" ¹⁸ And **Joseph** answered and said, "This is its interpretation: **the three baskets are three days.** ¹⁹ In three days **Pharaoh** will **lift up your head—from you!—and hang you on a tree.** And the birds will eat the flesh from you."

²⁰ On the **third day**, which was **Pharaoh's birthday**, he made a **feast** for all his servants and **lifted up the head** of the **chief cupbearer** and the head of the **chief baker** among his servants.

²¹ He **restored** the **chief cupbearer to his position**, and he placed the cup in **Pharaoh's** hand. ²² But **he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them.** ²³ Yet the **chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.**

¹ After **two whole years**, **Pharaoh** dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, ² and behold, there came up out of the Nile **seven cows, attractive and plump**, and they fed in the

B. Predictions
of Joseph

1. The Prisoners and a
Feast (40:9-22)

-Cupbearer (40:9-13)

-Baker (40:16-19)

-The interpretation of the cupbearer's dream may seem self-evident, but as the baker's dream shows, such apparently self-evident meanings are by no means certain.

**Faithfulness in
speaking the truth**

-Everything happened exactly as Joseph predicted (40:20-22)

Jeremiah 28:9 "As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."

**Faithlessness in
hearing the truth**

-Obviously, the baker was looking for a "favorable" interpretation. (40:16)

Isaiah 30:10-11 "...Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things"

C. Pleas
of Joseph

1. The Petition for
Deliverance (40:14)

"Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house."

B. Predictions of Joseph (cont.)

2. The Palace and a Famine (41:1-32)

Effect of the dreams

"his spirit was troubled" (41:8)

-Because of this troubled feeling, he sought help. (41:8)

-This led to the cupbearer remembering Joseph. (41:9-13)

-This ultimately brought comfort as Joseph told Pharaoh that "God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer." (41:16)

Enigma of the dreams

"there was none who could interpret them to Pharaoh." (41:8)

1Cor 2:14 - "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."

C. Pleas of Joseph (cont.)

2. The Plan for Preservation (41:33-36)

Selection of an officer

"a discerning and wise man" (41:33)

Stewardship of opportunities

"take one-fifth of the produce" (41:34)

reed grass.³ And behold, **seven other cows, ugly and thin**, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile.⁴ And the **ugly, thin cows ate up the seven attractive, plump cows**. And **Pharaoh** awoke.⁵ And he fell asleep and dreamed a second time. And behold, **seven ears of grain, plump and good**, were growing on one stalk.⁶ And behold, after them sprouted **seven ears, thin and blighted** by the east wind.⁷ And the **thin ears swallowed up the seven plump, full ears**. And **Pharaoh** awoke, and behold, it was a dream.⁸ So in the morning **his spirit was troubled**, and **he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men...there was none who could interpret them to Pharaoh**.

⁹ Then the **chief cupbearer** said to **Pharaoh**, "I remember my offenses today...¹² **A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard...**

¹³ And as he interpreted to us, so it came about..."

...¹⁵ And **Pharaoh** said to **Joseph**, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it..."¹⁶ **Joseph** answered **Pharaoh**, "**It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.**"¹⁷ Then **Pharaoh** said to **Joseph**...

²⁵ Then **Joseph** said to **Pharaoh**, "The dreams of **Pharaoh** are one; God has revealed to **Pharaoh** what he is about to do."²⁶ The **seven good cows are seven years**, and the **seven good ears are seven years**; the dreams are one.²⁷ **The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years**, and **the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind are also seven years of famine**.²⁸ It is as I told **Pharaoh**; **God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do**.²⁹ There will come **seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt**,³⁰ but after them there will arise **seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt**. The famine will consume the land,³¹ and the plenty will be unknown in the land by reason of the famine that will follow, for it will be very severe.³² And **the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God**, and **God will shortly bring it about**.³³ Now therefore let **Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt**.³⁴ Let **Pharaoh** proceed to appoint overseers over the land and **take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt** during the seven plentiful years...³⁶ That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to occur in the land of **Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine.**"

Enlightenment of the dreams

The revelation was...

Gracious - Pharaoh's conduct, court, and country were not holy; but God gave him warning anyway concerning the future and how to prepare for preservation.

Important - It was a matter of life or death..."so that the land may not perish" (41:36)

Certain "And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about." (41:32)

Comforting "God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer." (41:16)

Timely "shortly bring it about." (41:32)

Urgent - They had to start storing up immediately to be prepared for the 7 years of famine.

-Also...the revelation from the dreams illustrates some important truths about the salvation of the soul.

-There are many parallels between the salvation delivered by Joseph (physical) and the salvation delivered by Jesus (spiritual).

Posture

Genesis 37:13 (ESV)

¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” And he said to him, “Here I am.”

Genesis 39:1–6 (ESV)

¹ Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. ² The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³ His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. ⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵ From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶ So he left all that he had in Joseph’s charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

Genesis 39:20–23 (ESV)

²⁰ And Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. ²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. ²² And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. ²³ The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph’s charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.

Predictions

Jeremiah 28:9 (ESV)

⁹ As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.”

Isaiah 30:10–11 (ESV)

¹⁰ who say to the seers, “Do not see,”
and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us what is right;
speak to us smooth things,
prophesy illusions,
¹¹ leave the way, turn aside from the path,
let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.”

1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.