

Introduction

On January 11, 2018, I had a dream of going through the neighborhoods around 2501 Juan Tabo. At that time we had been praying about locating our church to this facility. In the dream, we went house to house and did two things. First, we introduced ourselves, and told them that we are a new church in the area. Second, we asked them if there was something that we could pray about for them. As we prayed, God moved and lives were touched. An outpouring of the Holy Spirit hit our outreach and many people started coming. We did not have enough workers to help mentor and care for all the new believers.

On the same night, Pamela June had a dream, and she saw a need to cry out to the Lord for workers in the harvest. She was leading prayer that week, so she emailed us and said that we were to pray for workers in the harvest.

As of yet, none of you knew about this dream. I believe that God used the dream to confirm that we were to be here. I also believe that there is work for us to do in the neighborhoods around this facility. I believe that we are to do exactly what I saw in the dream. We are to walk the neighborhoods, introduce ourselves, and pray for people. I believe that God is going to honor our obedience to what He spoke to me about in that dream. In my dream and in Pamela June's word the same day, we were short on laborers. So, another application is prayer. We need to beseech the Lord of the harvest to send laborers. We are going to need them.

Last week we looked at the dreams that the Cupbearer and the Baker had. Both men were dejected because they did not know the interpretation. We looked at some principles of interpretation. We saw that it was important to discern whether the dream was from God or not. Does the dream point us to worshipping God? Does it point us in to live more like Christ? We also looked at the symbols in a dream. They are significant to the dreamer and to the proper interpretation of the dream.

Last week I also shared a dream that I had in 2001, where God told me that a man was coming to see me. There was not a lot of interpretation needed. God wanted to let me know the man was coming and that I was not to act defensively or harm the man. The man did come the very next day, and repented of things that he had done to me. In this dream the application was the key thing. When God told Joseph in a dream to go to Egypt, it was not the interpretation that was significant; he needed to get up and high-tail it to Egypt, which he did.

(Matt 2:13-14) "Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." {14} So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt."

We are in Genesis 41 this week, and in our text today the interpretation and the application are both important. Pharaoh had two dreams and no one was able to interpret them. The cupbearer remembers Joseph and how he had interpreted his dream, so he tells Pharaoh about him. Joseph is brought out of prison, and he interprets the dream. Then, Joseph tells Pharaoh what they needed to do in response to the dream. This was the application of the dream. Pharaoh sees how wise Joseph is and puts him in charge of everything in Egypt. He was second only to Pharaoh. Finally, we will look at the outworking of the dreams.

1. **Pharaoh's Two Dreams** (Gen 41:1-7)
2. **Joseph Is Brought To Pharaoh** (Gen 41:8-14)
3. **Interpretation of Pharaoh's Dreams** (Gen 41:15-32)
4. **Application of Pharaoh's Dreams** (Gen 41:33-44)
5. **Outworking Of The Dreams** (Gen 41:45-57)

1. **Pharaoh's Two Dreams** (Gen 41:1-7)

(Gen 41:1-7) "Now it happened at the end of two full years that Pharaoh had a dream, and behold, he was standing by the Nile. {2} And lo, from the Nile there came up seven cows, sleek and fat; and they grazed in the marsh grass. {3} Then behold, seven other cows came up after them from the Nile, ugly and gaunt, and they stood by the *other* cows on the bank of the Nile. {4} The ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven sleek and fat cows. Then Pharaoh awoke. {5} He fell asleep and dreamed a second time; and behold, seven ears of grain came up on a single stalk, plump and good. {6} Then behold, seven ears, thin and scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them. {7} The thin ears swallowed up the seven plump and full ears. Then Pharaoh awoke, and behold, *it was* a dream."

It has been two years since Pharaoh's birthday when Joseph interpreted the dream of the Cupbearer. Joseph asked him to mention him to Pharaoh, the Cupbearer forgot about him. People will let you down. We have to keep our eyes fixed on the author and perfecter of our faith. Keep your hope for deliverance in God. At the end of these two years, God stepped in, and gave Pharaoh a dream. I pray for the President of the United States every day. I prayed for Obama and I pray for Trump. One of the things that I pray for is revelation from God. He gave dreams to Pharaoh. He gave dreams to Nebuchadnezzar. He can give dreams, visions, and revelation to our President. Solomon said that the heart of the king is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He directs it wherever He wishes (Proverbs 21:1). The Lord gave Pharaoh two dreams.

In the first dream, he was standing by the Nile and up from the Nile came seven cows, sleek and fat and they grazed in the marsh grass. Then, seven ugly and gaunt cows came up and ate the seven sleek and fat cows. Pharaoh fell back to sleep and had a second dream. This time there were seven plump and good ears of grain, and then seven thin and scorched ears of grain, and they swallowed up the good ears. Then, Pharaoh woke up. This dream seemed so real that it was only after he woke up that he realized that he was just dreaming.

At this point, I recommend that you write down your dreams. If you do not write them down, there is a strong possibility that you will forget the dream. You will also forget some of the details of the dream, and some of these may be very important.

2. **Joseph Is Brought To Pharaoh** (Gen 41:8-14)

(Gen 41:8-14) "Now in the morning his spirit was troubled, so he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh. {9} Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, "I would make mention today of my *own* offenses. {10} "Pharaoh was furious with his servants, and he put me in confinement in the house of the captain of the bodyguard, *both* me and the chief baker. {11} "We had a dream on the same night, he and I; each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his *own* dream. {12} "Now a Hebrew youth *was* with us there, a servant of the captain of the bodyguard, and we related *them* to him, and he

interpreted our dreams for us. To each one he interpreted according to his *own* dream. {13} And just as he interpreted for us, so it happened; he restored me in my office, but he hanged him." {14} Then Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph, and they hurriedly brought him out of the dungeon; and when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came to Pharaoh.

When Pharaoh woke up, his spirit was troubled. Similar to the Cupbearer and Baker who were dejected because they did not know the interpretation, Pharaoh was troubled. So, he called all his wise men and asked them to interpret it. None of them could interpret the dream.

At this point, the Cupbearer had an "aha moment." He remembered Joseph in prison. He gives Pharaoh a brief summary of what happened and how he met Joseph in jail. He told Pharaoh how he had correctly interpreted both dreams and how things worked out exactly like he said. So Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph. They brought him out of the dungeon, let him shave himself and change his clothes, and then brought him to Pharaoh.

In verse 46 we find out that Joseph is thirty when he stands before Pharaoh. He was seventeen when Potiphar bought him as a slave. He has spent thirteen long years serving Potiphar at his house and being in jail. I am sure that he wondered if he would ever get out of that dark, smelly, dungeon. I am sure that he wondered about these dreams of the sheaves and the sun and moon. All of us have some valleys and storms in life to go through, and the time of waiting for Joseph is finally over. In Habakkuk 2:3 we are told that sometimes we have to wait until the appointed time for the vision to come through. We are to wait, for it will certainly come. Joseph has been waiting for many years. If you had a word from the Lord that has not been fulfilled, keep waiting. If it was a true word from the Lord, it will come to pass.

3. Interpretation of Pharaoh's Dreams (Gen 41:15-32)

(Gen 41:15-32) "Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; and I have heard it said about you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." {16} Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer." {17} So Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, "In my dream, behold, I was standing on the bank of the Nile; {18} and behold, seven cows, fat and sleek came up out of the Nile, and they grazed in the marsh grass. {19} "Lo, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and gaunt, such as I had never seen for ugliness in all the land of Egypt; {20} and the lean and ugly cows ate up the first seven fat cows. {21} "Yet when they had devoured them, it could not be detected that they had devoured them, for they were just as ugly as before. Then I awoke. {22} "I saw also in my dream, and behold, seven ears, full and good, came up on a single stalk; {23} and lo, seven ears, withered, thin, *and* scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them; {24} and the thin ears swallowed the seven good ears. Then I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me." {25} Now Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Pharaoh's dreams are one *and the same*; God has told 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 *and the same*. {27} "The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven thin ears scorched by the east wind will be seven years of famine. {28} "It is as I have spoken to Pharaoh: God has shown to Pharaoh what He is about to do. {29} "Behold, seven years of great abundance are coming in all the land of Egypt; {30} and after them seven years of famine will come, and all the abundance will be forgotten in the land of Egypt, and the famine will ravage the land. {31} "So the abundance will be unknown in the land because of that subsequent famine; for it *will be* very

severe. {32} "Now as for the repeating of the dream to Pharaoh twice, *it means* that the matter is determined by God, and God will quickly bring it about.

Pharaoh tells Joseph that he has heard that he can interpret dreams. Notice Joseph's answer: "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer." Joseph is relying on God to give the interpretation. Notice Joseph's confidence. He said, "God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

Then, Pharaoh told Joseph his dreams and again tells him that the magicians could not interpret it. Joseph proceeded to tell Pharaoh the interpretation. First, he tells him that the two dreams are one and the same. Second, he tells him that God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. Third, Joseph tells him that the seven good cows and the seven good ears are seven good years. The seven lean cows and lean ears are seven years of famine. The seven bad years that followed the seven good years will ravage the land so that the seven good years are forgotten.

Fourth, Joseph explains a principle of interpretation. He said that the repeating of the dream twice means that this has been determined by God and He will quickly bring it about. The seven good years are going to start very soon, which means they need to plan accordingly. Joseph had two dreams. In the first dream he saw sheaves that bowed down to his sheave. In his second dream the sun, moon, and stars bowed down to him. Those two dreams were one and the same. Those two dreams were also firmly established by God.

I mentioned at the beginning that God gave me a dream about outreach in this community. On the same night he gave Pamela the same vision. That was a confirmation and it also told me that this was firmly established by God.

4. **Application of Pharaoh's Dreams** (Gen 41:33-44)

(Gen 41:33-44) "Now let Pharaoh look for a man discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. {34} Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him exact a fifth *of the produce* of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance. {35} Then let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and store up the grain for food in the cities under Pharaoh's authority, and let them guard *it*. {36} Let the food become as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which will occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish during the famine." {37} Now the proposal seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his servants. {38} Then Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is a divine spirit?" {39} So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are. {40} You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you." {41} Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." {42} Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck. {43} He had him ride in his second chariot; and they proclaimed before him, "Bow the knee!" And he set him over all the land of Egypt. {44} Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "*Though* I am Pharaoh, yet without your permission no one shall raise his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."

When God spoke to Joseph about going to Egypt, it was not the interpretation that was significant. It was the application. In Pharaoh's dream, the interpretation is significant, but the application was also very significant. Joseph tells Pharaoh in verse thirty-four, "Let Pharaoh take

action..." Joseph understood the need for a plan of action based on the revelation that God had given to Pharaoh. Not only did Pharaoh need to act, but he need to act wisely. Joseph told Pharaoh to look for a man discerning and wise and set him over the land of Egypt. Merriam-Webster defines wisdom as "a wise attitude, belief, or course of action." One of the definitions that Wikipedia gives for wisdom is "the soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good judgment." It is good to know what the situation for the next fourteen years is going to be. It takes wisdom to make wise decisions to prepare and weather the last seven years of drought.

Joseph did more than tell Pharaoh to find a discerning and wise man; he told Pharaoh what needed to be done. God gave Joseph the wisdom for the situation. They needed to put a 20% tax on all the produce in the seven years of abundance. They were going to store it up to prepare for the seven years of famine.

The proposal seemed good to Pharaoh, and his first response was, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is a divine spirit?" Then, he said, "Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are." Pharaoh recognized that the Lord was with Joseph. He recognized that the Lord had given him the interpretation. He recognized that the Lord gave him the wisdom to know what to do. Then, Pharaoh put Joseph over his house and over all the land of Egypt. He was second in command only to Pharaoh. Pharaoh took off his signet ring and put it on Joseph's hand. The signet ring was used to seal any official business documents. This allowed Joseph to make laws, rules, and conduct business on behalf of Pharaoh. He also clothed Joseph in fine linen, and put a gold necklace around his neck. In a public announcement, Pharaoh "had him ride in his second chariot; and they proclaimed before him, "Bow the knee!" This let the people of Egypt know that Pharaoh had put Joseph in this position and they needed to submit to him and honor him as they would Pharaoh.

When we come into the kingdom of God, some very similar things happen. God gives us a new name. He makes us citizens of heaven. He clothes us in righteousness. He gives us His signet ring, meaning that He gives us all power and authority to carry out His business here on earth. (See Matthew 28:18-20 and Isaiah 61:10.)

When God gives us a dream, we need to look for the proper interpretation. Then, we need to ask God if there is an action that needs to be taken as a result of this revelation. The Cupbearer and Baker had no actions to take; they simply needed an interpretation to the prophetic revelation they had received. Joseph's first two dreams were prophetic dreams and there were no actions to be taken. His brothers and family would someday bow down before him. Pharaoh's dream required both interpretation and revelation.

I shared a dream with you last week about me sitting on a porch at our home in Atlanta. I was sitting in a rocking chair and I had my shotgun on my lap. Then, a man who had caused much harm to me and to our first church plant came driving up the driveway. God was showing me my heart towards this man. I had forgiven the man, even though he had never asked. But, I did not trust the man and my heart was in a protective and guard mode around him. God was sending this man to see me. The application was that God wanted me to lay down my guard and receive this man. The very next day the man drove nearly 500 miles from Orlando just to come and repent for the things he had done. We need to ask God for both the interpretation and the application, because both are important.

Ask God if there is something He wants you to do because of the information that He gave to you. Ask God for wisdom about the action that needs to be taken. Ask God about the time frame for any actions that need to be taken. In my dream about the neighborhoods around us, there are still actions to be taken. The immediate action that came to both Pamela and I was that we were to pray for laborers. As a church, we have been praying for laborers. Until we have some people to help in this and other areas, I am limited on what other things that I can do. Ask God for wisdom in creating plans of action.

5. **Outworking Of The Dreams** (Gen 41:45-57)

(Gen 41:45-57) “Then Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenath-paneah; and he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, as his wife. And Joseph went forth over the land of Egypt. {46} Now Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt. {47} During the seven years of plenty the land brought forth abundantly. {48} So he gathered all the food of *these* seven years which occurred in the land of Egypt and placed the food in the cities; he placed in every city the food from its own surrounding fields. {49} Thus Joseph stored up grain in great abundance like the sand of the sea, until he stopped measuring *it*, for it was beyond measure. {50} Now before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore to him. {51} Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, "For," *he said*, "God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." {52} He named the second Ephraim, "For," *he said*, "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction." {53} When the seven years of plenty which had been in the land of Egypt came to an end, {54} and the seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said, then there was famine in all the lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. {55} So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried out to Pharaoh for bread; and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, you shall do." {56} When the famine was *spread* over all the face of the earth, then Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians; and the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. {57} *The people of* all the earth came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the earth.”

Pharaoh gave Joseph a new name, Zaphenath-paneah, which means “revealer of secrets.” He also gave him a wife, Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On. One respected commentary I read said that this was part of Pharaoh's naturalization of Joseph, making him an Egyptian citizen. This was also an alliance with a family of high distinction. What stands out to me is that this is not a Biblical pattern of marriage. Only a father has the right to give his daughter away in marriage. In our marriage ceremonies, the father will walk his daughter down the aisle. Then, the pastor will ask, “Who gives this woman to be married to this man?” We have a lack of understanding of authority, and a lack of submission and many young men do not ask the father for permission to marry his daughter. In the Jewish and Christian culture, young men and women are under their parents' authority until they get married. In the Egyptian kingdom, the Pharaoh obviously had some influence or control over Potiphera, the priest of On.

During the seven years of plenty, the land brought forth abundantly, just as Pharaoh had dreamed. Joseph stored up a great abundance of grain, like the sand of the sea. There was so much that he stopped measuring it. Also, during those years, two sons were born to Joseph. His first son was Manasseh, which means to forget. The joy that his firstborn son gave him made him forget the past thirteen years of bondage and prison. He named his second son, Ephraim, which

means fruitful, because God had made him fruitful in the land of his affliction. Both of these names were Hebrew words. Joseph may have been given an Egyptian name, but he gave his sons Hebrew names.

At the end of the seven years, seven years of famine began. This famine was not just in Egypt, but in all the lands, which meant that Israel and all Joseph's brothers were also experiencing a famine. People all over the face of the earth came to Egypt to buy grain. Next week, we will be in Genesis 42, and Israel will send his sons to Egypt to buy grain.

This was all part of God's plan. God had told Joseph in a dream that his brothers would bow down before him, and that his entire family would bow down before him. God had just put Joseph into the position where they were going to bow down before him. It has been fifteen plus years of positioning. He was sold as a slave to a caravan going to Egypt. God was going to move the nation of Israel to Egypt where they would be for four hundred years. Joseph faithfully served Potiphar, and then he spent several years in the King's prison and met the Cupbearer. He interpreted dreams correctly for the Cupbearer and Baker and for that reason he was brought before Pharaoh. The prophetic dream of Pharaoh's was no accident. God gave him that dream. The interpretation and application were no accident. It was God's hand at work. The seven good years and now the years of famine were no accident. God is bringing Israel to Egypt, just as He told Abraham. God is bringing Joseph's brothers and his parents to Egypt to bow down before him. We see God's sovereignty and the outworking of His greater plan.

Conclusion and Applications

This morning has been our second message on dreams. Joe Warner is going to be sharing some about dreams, particularly prophetic dreams. In coming weeks, Mark Virkler will be sharing on dreams. So, we see that God is teaching and preparing us to hear His voice in many different ways, including dreams. Ask God to give you dreams and speak to you in your dreams. He said in Joel 2:28 that in the last days we will have dreams and visions. We are in those last days. The last days started at Pentecost. Write down the dreams that you receive. Ask God for the interpretation of your dream. Ask God for wisdom about any actions that need to be taken.

Father, I thank You for speaking to us in dreams. Help us to be alert and quick to listen to you. We need to hear the things that You want to tell us. We want to hear the things that You have to say to us. We need Your direction in our lives. We are Your sheep and we want to hear Your voice. (John 10:3-4, 16) Speak to us in dreams, visions, and other ways. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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