

Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge

Genesis 39:20–41:49

After Joseph was taken as a slave to Egypt, he became a servant in the house of Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials. Joseph proved himself a faithful servant, and Potiphar eventually put him in charge of his household. Then Joseph was unjustly accused of making advances toward Potiphar's wife and was thrown in prison.

God had a plan for Joseph and continued to fulfill that plan even when Joseph was in prison for something he hadn't done. It was with God's help that Joseph interpreted the dreams that eventually gained his release.

Pharaoh's "wise men" were people he paid to advise him, and they often claimed supernatural powers. However, they had no idea how to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. Only God can truly interpret dreams, and Joseph was God's instrument. Not only did Joseph interpret the dreams, but he also advised Pharaoh about how to avoid devastation in Egypt.

It must have been quite evident that God was working through Joseph. Remember that Joseph was a foreigner. Furthermore, he was only 30 years old and had correctly interpreted only two other dreams. Yet the ruler of Egypt chose this young Hebrew to become second in command, placing the welfare of all of Egypt in Joseph's hands.

Joseph's name change and his marriage to an Egyptian woman signaled Joseph's acceptance into the ruling class of Egypt. It also served to remind him that Egypt was now his home and he owed allegiance to Pharaoh. However, despite his marriage to the daughter of a pagan priest and his allegiance to Pharaoh, Joseph remained true to God, and God blessed his efforts by producing abundance in Egypt.

Joseph even honored God in the naming of his two sons (Genesis 41:50-52). God didn't forget Joseph, and Joseph didn't forget God!

Think about Joseph's opportunities to reject God. It would have been easy to give up on God when his brothers sold him into slavery. When God allowed him to be unjustly imprisoned, Joseph could have given up on God. And when he was elevated to second in command in the kingdom of Egypt, Joseph could have felt he no longer needed God. But because Joseph remained true to God, God was able to use him in mighty ways. As we remain true to that same God, he can use us to bring blessings to people wherever he leads us.

Devotion for Leaders

The One Thing: As we love and serve God, we grow in the strength and character of Christ. God uses growing Christians to make a difference in the lives of people everywhere.

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: Joseph made a difference in the midst of some strange and difficult circumstances. Are you aware of the difference you are making in the lives of your students? Take a quiet moment to pray this prayer: "Jesus, help me understand the significance of leading these students. Thank you for using me—to help them grow closer to you."