

Community Bible Church

The Book of Genesis

Chapter 41

The Old Testament narrative of the life of Joseph is found in **Genesis chapters 37-50**. The focus of this week's lesson is on **chapter 41** and the theme of this chapter is the transition of Joseph from **Prisoner** to **Prince**. God is continuing to work in the life of Joseph to mature his character and to prepare him for service. An outline of several of these chapters show the developing transitions in Joseph's life.

Joseph the Forgotten Prisoner 39:21-40:23
Joseph the Famed Statesman 41:1-57 (this week's lesson)
Joseph the Forgiving Saint 42:1-48:22

However, while it may seem that this is the story of the patriarch Joseph, in reality it is a story about God. Using this theme, **chapter 41** can be outlined as follows, using God rather than Joseph as the main focus.

God gives Pharaoh Two Dreams 41:1-8
God reminds the Cupbearer about Joseph 41:9-13
God leads Pharaoh to Send For Joseph 41:14-36
God leads Pharaoh to choose Joseph 41:37-39
God empowers Joseph during the famine 41:40-57

Another simple overview of **chapter 41** looks like this:

The Dreams of Pharaoh 41:1-36
The Decrees of Pharaoh 41:37-57

1. From **41:1-7** write a brief description of Pharaoh's two dreams.
2. Since no one in Pharaoh's circle could explain the dreams, his cupbearer stepped forward in **41:9-13** with advice. His message to Pharaoh is quoted in this passage. What did he tell him in **verses 9-13**?
3. Joseph, who had been in prison ("*the dungeon*") for two years, was summoned to report immediately to Pharaoh. What did he do (**verse 14**) before leaving?

4. In **41:17-24** Pharaoh once again explains his strange dreams, this time to Joseph. In **41:25**, Joseph indicates that both dreams are connected and that God has revealed them to Pharaoh for a specific purpose. Read **41:26-32** and write a summary of Joseph's explanation of the dreams to Pharaoh.

5. Throughout the narrative, Joseph's responses often make reference to God's role in these events. What does that tell you about Joseph and can you recall examples in your own life where it seemed that God was directing, or orchestrating,, life events?

6. Not only did Joseph explain the meaning and implications of these dreams but he gave advice and recommendations as to how Pharaoh should respond. Read **41:31-37**. What was this advice and how did Pharaoh respond? What does this teach you about Joseph?

7. In **41:37** there is a major transition in the chapter from the **Dreams of Pharaoh** to the **Decrees of Pharaoh**. Joseph was thirty years old at this time. From **41:36-46** describe some of the major changes in the life of Joseph.

8. Describe the famine relief plan implemented under the leadership of Joseph in **41:47-49**.

9. Read **41:53-57** and describe how this remarkable story of God placing Joseph in a high-level, responsible government position concludes.

10. What lessons, principles, or personal applications do you see in **chapter 41**?