

Lets Begin By Dismissing Our Kids To Their Kids Quest Areas Of Ministry!



This Morning We Continue Our Journey In The Life Of Joseph!

Text:

Genesis 41:41-57!

Title:

Joseph is Given a Bride!



Today's Three Point Outline:

A. (41:41-46) Joseph's complete **POWER!**

B. (41:47-52) Joseph's power during **PROSPERITY!**

C. (41:53-57) Joseph's power during **POVERTY!**



Let's Get Into The Inspired Text!



I. (41:41-57) Joseph is Given a Bride!

Last week Joseph was hurriedly removed from the prison cell and forced to stand before the King. And as he stood before Pharaoh, he revealed God's interpretation of the king's dream. And because of his ability to do this, Joseph was promoted by Pharaoh to the position of Prime Minister in Egypt!

This morning we build upon that specific scene!



I. (41:41-57) Joseph is Given a Bride!

A. (41:41-46) Joseph is given complete

POWER!

In these verses we are given an exact and detailed account of what Joseph's promotion encompassed!

1. (vs.41-45a) Joseph's New POSITION:

a. (v.41) Came with power.

Here Pharaoh announces from the throne and before the most prominent men in Egypt that Joseph alone has been granted Pharaoh's unlimited power and authority. Joseph has been appointed by Pharaoh to the high position of Prime Minister over all Egypt!

I. (41:41-57) Joseph is Given a Bride!

A. (41:41-46) Joseph is given complete POWER!

1. (vs.41-45a) Joseph's New POSITION:

a. (v.41) Came with power.

b. (v.42a) Controlled by the possession of a ring.

The King's signet ring was unique and there was only one like it in all the land of Egypt. It was the ultimate symbol of Pharaoh's limitless power and authority.

And it was significant because it rendered unto the one wearing it the full support, blessing, and authority of the King.

I. (41:41-57) Joseph is Given a Bride!

A. (41:41-46) Joseph is given complete POWER!

1. (vs.41-45a) Joseph's New POSITION:

- a. (v.41) Came with power.
- b. (v.42a) Controlled by the possession of a ring.
- c. (v.42b) Clothing expresses his prestige.

As Pharaoh's ambassador, Joseph stood in the place of Pharaoh. And because he represented the most powerful man on earth, it was imperative for him to look the part. Thus, Joseph's clothing would now be made from the finest linen and tailored in such a way to make him look his best. Since he represented Pharaoh, he had to dress in a way that showed he identified with Pharaoh.

A. (41:41-46)

Joseph is given complete **POWER!**

1. (vs.41-45a) Joseph's New **POSITION:**

d. (v.42c) Came with the **placing** of a gold necklace.

The gold necklace was a symbol of Joseph's position of power as Prime Minister over Egypt. Just as Congressmen and Senators today wear a lapel pin to announce their positions of leadership before our nation, so too, the Prime Minister of Egypt wore a gold necklace as a symbol of his position of power and authority (Prime Minister over all Egypt) on behalf of Pharaoh.

A. (41:41-46)

Joseph is given complete POWER!

1. (vs.41-45a) Joseph's New POSITION:

e. (v.43) Command for all to pay homage to him.

Here Pharaoh links Joseph with the respect and honor given only to the King himself. Joseph, like Pharaoh, would now be elevated above the crowds as he road in the king's second chariot. All would now look up at him and honor him. And as his passed by, all were commanded to bow the knee before him.

A. (41:41-46)

Joseph is given complete **POWER!**

1. (vs.41-45a) Joseph's New **POSITION:**

f. (v.44) Command for nothing to happen
without his **permission.**

Here we are given the parameters of Joseph's power and authority. Because of Joseph's unique insight into God's sovereign will, because God had chosen him to communicate the future to the king, nothing could be done without his knowledge and approval. Joseph is now the chief decision maker in all the land of Egypt.

A. (41:41-46)

Joseph is given complete **POWER!**

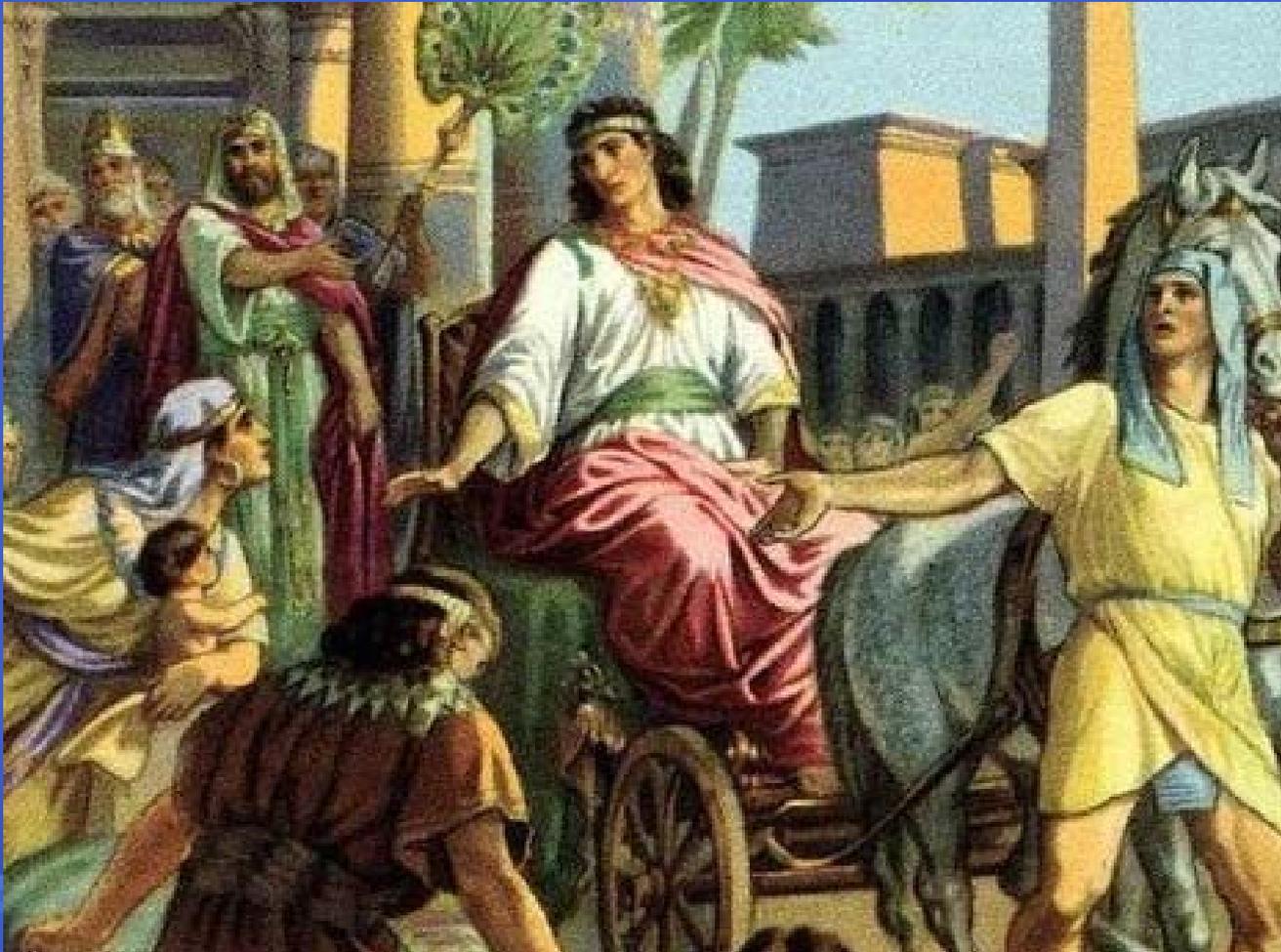
1. (vs.41-45a) Joseph's New **POSITION:**

- g. (v.45a) Command for him to be **proclaimed**
"Zaphenath-
paneah."

Many believe that this title was given to Joseph to remind all of his importance to the king. Scholars believe that the title was used to point out that Joseph alone was "Chief" over all the other Priests, Magicians, Counselors, and Wise Men of Egypt. And because he held such an important position, it was culturally expected that he would marry into one of the prominent and powerful families of Egypt. Such a family was the Potiphera family. And Pharaoh will see to it that it happens.

The Prime Minister Joseph!

Second only to the King



Joseph is Given the Daughter of Potiphera!

A. (41:41-46) Joseph is given complete POWER!

1. (41:41-45a) Joseph is given a new POSITION.

2. (41:45b-46) Joseph is given POTIPHERA'S daughter.

a. (v.45b) Asenath is Potiphera's daughter.

The name "Asenath" means "her father's daughter" and she is believed to be a gift to him from the goddess Isis.

Isis is the goddess of the moon and is identified with romance, feminine beauty, childbirth, and nurturing.

It was said that her followers love her (Isis) because of her willingness to be intimately involved in their private lives.

She was thought to be the source of all sexual pleasure.

The Goddess Isis!

Goddess of the Moon



Joseph is Given the Daughter of Potiphera!

A. (41:41-46) Joseph is given complete POWER!

1. (41:41-45a) Joseph is given a new POSITION.

2. (41:45b-46) Joseph is given POTIPHERA'S daughter..

b. (v.45c) She Presided in the city of On.

This city of “On” was located about seven miles north of “Cairo” (the capital city) . Its claim to fame was the temple of the sun god – Ra! The Egyptians believed that Ra had complete power over the heavens (all their many other gods) and the earth (all men). The ultimate proof of Ra’s power was the daily sun shine. This and the waters of the Nile River allowed Egypt to become the most wealthy and powerful nation on earth. It was believed that all life and wealth and blessing was sustained by Ra.

The Egyptian God Ra!

The Chief God of the Egyptians



Joseph is Given the Daughter of Potiphera!

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1. (41:41-45a) Joseph is given a new POSITION.

2. (41:45b-46) Joseph is given POTIPHERA'S daughter.

c. (v.45d) Her father is a Priest.

And as a priest he was ordained with power and control over the people in the city of On . Because of his contact with the chief god of Egypt, he, as a priest, became one of Egypt's most powerful and wealth men. His wealth was the result of his position at the temple. In any case, it is apparent that he was well known by Pharaoh.

An Egyptian Priest!

Asenath's Father



Joseph is Given the Daughter of Potiphera!

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1. (41:41-45a) Joseph is given a new POSITION.

2. (41:45b-46) Joseph is given POTIPHERA'S daughter.

d. (vs.45e-46) Her husband fulfills his Position.

In these verses we find Joseph faithfully serving Pharaoh and fulfilling his calling and position.

Joseph's faithfulness to Pharaoh will be returned by Pharaoh later in the story (setting begins next week).

Something to Think About!

This section is introduced with Pharaoh's words:

“I have set you over all the land.”

It is my personal belief that Moses is laying the foundation for what will later take place in the book of Exodus. In the first part of the book of the Exodus, a showdown will take place between Pharaoh and Moses. In this coming showdown the answer to the question – who is truly sovereign over all the earth – will be settled once and for all between Ra and Yahweh!

Something Else to Think About!

*Throughout the Bible one of Satan's strongest temptations is that of sexual sin. And today his strategy has not changed. **I was once told that the grass always seems greener in your neighbor's back yard. That is until you have to mow it!***

*I believe Pharaoh gives Joseph an Egyptian wife to help him turn away from his Hebrew heritage and God, and choose to become an Egyptian. **We too are often forced to choose between the calling of the world and the calling of God. Be sure to choose well!** I John 2:15-17!*

Some Old Testament Examples!

Judges 3:5-8a

***The sons of Israel lived among the
Canaanites ... and they took Canaanite
daughters for themselves as wives, and
gave their own daughters to the
Canaanite sons
and served their gods.***

Yet, we are called to be holy even as God is holy!

Some Old Testament Examples!

Ezra 9:1-3a

And the princes approached me saying,

“The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the land ... for they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race has intermingled with the peoples of the lands (the lineage of Christ is being corrupted).”

Some Old Testament Examples!

Nehemiah 13:23-25

You have committed all this evil by acting unfaithfully against God by marrying foreign women.

Matthew 24:37-38

For the coming of the Son of man will be just like the days of Noah ... they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage

Our Sermon Outline Continues!

A. (41:41-46) Joseph is Given Complete **POWER!**

B. (41:47-52) Joseph's Power During
the Years of **PROSPERITY!**

1. (v.47) The **LAND** of Egypt is blessed.

2. (vs.48-49) The **PLAN** of God is carried-out.

3. (vs.50-52) The **MAN** of God is comforted.

Our Sermon Outline Continues!

A. (41:41-46) Joseph is Given Complete **POWER!**

B. (41:47-52) Joseph's Power During
the Years of **PROSPERITY!**

C. (41:53-57) Joseph's Power During
the Years of **POVERTY!**

1. (vs.53-54) A summary of Joseph's **Service.**

2. (v.55) A summary of Pharaoh's **Shrewdness.**

3. (v.56) A summary of the famine's **Spreading.**

4. (v.57) A summary of God's **Sovereignty.**

Application for Us Today!

After studying this section it doesn't take much imagination to picture Joseph wearing his elegant Egyptian headdress, wearing the necklace of gold, exhibiting the king's bulky signet ring, and riding in a chariot behind the king as his title is proclaimed and as all bow the knee before him as he passes by.

Warning! Its during the good times that our faithfulness and God's past blessings are often forgotten. And for those who are not being blessed at this moment, material blessings are not a good measuring stick of God's grace and love (remember the story of Job).

Application for Us Today!

In the story Joseph is given a new name and a new wife. The new name was given to emphasize Joseph's uniqueness before all other men. His new wife, Asenath, was given to him to help him forget his heritage and renounce his God. Beware! The grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence.

Warning! Like Joseph, we must not desire to be exalted before men or tempted by a member of the opposite sex. When temptations of the flesh are given in to, they only lead to humility, shame, and destruction. This wisdom from God is often learned too late and it can never be applied too early (Solomon and the book of Proverbs / chapters 7 & 9)!

Application for Us Today!

In today's story we are given a glimpse into the heart of the young man named Joseph. We have seen Joseph's willingness to endure many years of affliction and unfairness. And we will see his love for God beginning next week when his brothers are introduced again into the story.

Faithfulness is not something that can be easily turned on and off. It does not rely on our circumstances or on the accountability of other men. Faithfulness is the result of a personal and intimate walk with God.

How are you doing with your walk with God today?
The Bible tells us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling!