

Rise & Build:

Reflections from the Joseph Story



Better Days Ahead

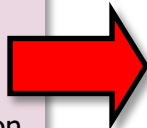
Genesis 41:47-48 And during the seven years of plenty the land brought forth abundantly. So he gathered all the food of these seven years which occurred in the land of Egypt, and place the food in the cities; he placed in every city the food from its own surrounding fields.”

The story of Joseph ends better than it began. It started with him being hated by his siblings, favored by his father and sold into slavery. It ends, with Joseph being second in command of the most powerful nation and tenderly caring for his family with compassion and forgiveness. Those things just didn't happen. They were choices made by Joseph. Had he made other choices, the story would have had a different outcome. We often want things to work out well in our lives, and that often requires us making the right choices.

Joseph and His Dreams

A big part of the Joseph story are the dreams. There are at least five dreams found in the Joseph's story.

- It is important to understand that these dreams were a form of _____ communication (Heb 1:1-2)
- It was understood that _____ would bring the absolute meaning out of these dreams (Gen 40:8; 41:16)
- The nature of these dreams are _____
- Joseph had two dreams while living at home (Gen 37:7,9)
- Joseph interpreted dreams while in prison (Gen 40)
- He interpreted Pharaoh's dreams of cows and grain



1. We need to understand that our dreams are not " _____ " sent by God.
- in these _____ God speaks through Jesus (Heb 1:1-2)
2. Our dreams are vague and often do not make _____
3. God does not send us personal messages—that would make the Lord a _____ of persons (Acts 10:34)
4. There is a long list of Bible greats that show _____ evidence that God spoke to them directly
5. The emphasis in Scripture is upon the written Word

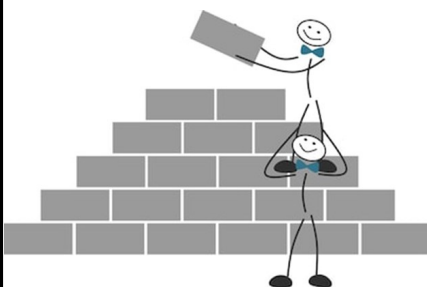
Pharaoh's dream of fat and skinny cows (Gen 41:1-4)

Seven fat cows were eaten by seven skinny cows
The skinny cows remained skinny

Pharaoh's dream of plump and thin grain (Gen 41:5-7)

The thin grain swallowed the plump grain

- God sent dreams to other world rulers—Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 2, 4)
- Reality teaches us that cows do not eat cows and grain cannot swallow grain
- Joseph's interpretation of the dreams (Gen 41:25-30, 32)
- Joseph's application (41:33-36) which must have also been God sent
 - Joseph is chosen to oversee this project (41:39-44)



What we see with Joseph:

1. He took God's message to h_____
 Although this was Pharaoh's dream, Joseph knew it to be true
2. He moved to a_____ (41:48-49)
 - Joseph kept food in the cities, rather than gathering it all in one place
3. Joseph proved himself to be t_____ (41:53-55)
4. Joseph s_____ up for the people he believes in (47:1)
5. Joseph was fair and kind in his _____ through the storm (47:20-26)
 - He helped the people as well as helping Pharaoh

Lessons Learned:

1. Even though we'd like for God to tell us specifically and personally every detail of our lives, we are to walk by _____ - (2 Cor 5:7)
2. We all have the _____ information and instruction from the Lord
3. Wise p_____ through good seasons helps through the hard times
 - the wise man built his foundation before the storms came
 - living day to day without any forethought to tomorrow will hurt us financially and spiritually
4. We often wait for others to make our day better. It is up to us to make our day good through righteous _____
5. Joseph showed himself to be _____ and _____
6. God's plans are _____ and He can see far into the _____
7. God's _____ hand is seen in all of this
8. Joseph's credibility _____ because of the accuracy of handling what God said
9. God put Joseph in the _____ to help others. He had to have the heart to do that.
10. Who you _____ yourself with can help or hurt your decisions
 - Pharaoh listened to Joseph
 - Daniel 6:6-7
 - 2 Sam

