

July 23, 2017 - Gen. 41:38–57 - Joseph Elevated
Torah Readings: Gen. 41:38–57 - Joseph Elevated
Psalm 34
Haftorah - (1) Isaiah 11:2-10 + 16

According to tradition, God told the cupbearer, “Thou , O butler, thou didst forget Joseph, but I did not,” and he caused Pharaoh to dream a dream that was the occasion for Joseph’s release.

Joseph’s circumstances changed in a moment from being forgotten in a dungeon to having the whole nation of Egypt at his command. But he remained the same person, and retained his integrity both in prison and in the palace.

Joseph’s behavior exemplifies Paul’s saying:

Philippians 4:12 - “I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.”

Joseph is now placed only one step lower than the Pharaoh, and charged with leading what is depicted as probably the largest international hunger relief mission in history.

He was 30 years old (vs. 46) - same age as Jesus when he began his ministry.

Compare with Jesus’ words:

Matthew 25:23 - “His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”

Genesis 41:45 - “And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath paaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah, priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.”

Zaphnath paaneah - The name means “God has spoken and he lives.” Or, “He who explains hidden things” according to Targum Onkelos.

Genesis 41:47 - “And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls.”

It was almost as if the curse on the earth from Genesis 3:17-19 was lifted for these seven years of plenty.

It was necessary to guard the grain from rotting over the years, so according to tradition, Joseph had ash and earth scattered on the stores of grain from the very soil from which it had grown to preserve it. - *Legends of the Jews*

Joseph had two sons during this time:

Genesis 41:51-52 - "And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house. And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."

Manasseh = "causing to forget" or "one who forgets"
Ephraim = "double ash-heap: I shall be doubly fruitful"

Then the seven years of famine began.

Genesis 41:55 - "And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do."

Recall what Mary said of Jesus: His mother saith unto the servants, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." (**John 2:5**)

See

"Joseph's Brothers Arrive in Egypt, and Depart" -
Alfred Place Church - <http://buff.ly/2u5cCx3>