

Questions Week 14

Genesis 40-41

The Patriarch Era

In this week's lesson we see Joseph in prison for a crime he did not commit. Many years pass before he is finally released and brought back to a place of honor. Sometimes it's hard to understand why people have to go through hardship, but God always uses people to accomplish His purpose not only for His glory, but for their good. Isaiah 55:8-9 says, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:8 - "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

Prayer Focus: Are you going through a difficult time? Ask for God's strength and grace. Pray that He would use it to accomplish His glory and your good.

1. Why do you think the warden placed Joseph in charge of the other prisoners?

After Joseph had been imprisoned for a number of years and was now 28 years old (41:1, 46), Pharaoh "became furious" with two high-ranking officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker.

2. How does Joseph help the cup bearer and baker?

(The cup bearer and baker were the third and fourth non-Israelites to have dreams with divinely inspired meanings (Abimelech, Genesis 20:3; Laban, Genesis 31:24; were the first and second).

3. How does Joseph know the interpretation of their dreams?

4. What was the cup bearer's dream?

5. What was Joseph's interpretation of the dream?

6. What prompted the chief baker to ask for an interpretation of his dream?

7. What was Joseph's interpretation of the chief baker's dream?

8. Why does the cup bearer forget his promise to Joseph?

9. What does Joseph anticipate will happen once the cup bearer is restored?

10. How much time passes before the cup bearer remembers Joseph?

11. What does this tell you about God and His ways? What does this tell you about people?

12. What prompts the cupbearer to remember Joseph?

13. What does this tell you about God?

14. Describe Pharaoh's dreams.

15. When Joseph tells Pharaoh that he can interpret his dream, where does he place his hope?

16. What did Pharaoh recognize about Joseph?

Joseph's insight into the dream, along with his ability to devise such an intelligent plan during the 7 years of plenty and 7 years of lean, convinced Pharaoh that Joseph had God's spirit in him. Pharaoh gave Joseph the Egyptian Name Zaphenath-paneah (Then God Said, "Let Him Live").

17. What are some lessons Joseph has learned in the past 13 years about himself, God, others, work ethic, and leadership?

18. Until his release from prison, does it look like Joseph's dreams will ever come true?

19. What does this tell you about your circumstances and God's method of working in the lives of His people?
