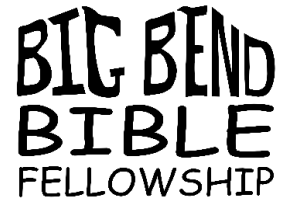


# Prime Minister of Egypt

Joseph 5; Genesis 41:37 – 42:5

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## Genesis 41:37-45, Joseph's Rise to Power

<sup>37</sup> The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. <sup>38</sup> So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?"

<sup>39</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. <sup>40</sup> You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you." <sup>41</sup> So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." <sup>42</sup> Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. <sup>43</sup> He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. <sup>44</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt." <sup>45</sup> Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt.

## How did Pharaoh react to Joseph's dream interpretations and his recommendation?

Pharaoh recognized Joseph's advice as being good and elevated him to be the overseer of the effort to prepare for the famine.

## v38 – What is the significance of Joseph being recognized as "a man in whom is the Spirit of God"?

As Pharaoh recognized Joseph as "a man in whom is the Spirit of God", so was Jesus [64]:

John 3:34 – *He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.*

## v40 – What was the significance of Joseph being put over Pharaoh's house?

As Pharaoh made Joseph ruler over his house, so did the Father make the Son ruler over His house [65]:

Hebrews 3:1-4 – *the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who*

*appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.*

## v41 – What is the significance of Joseph being exhaled after suffering in the dungeon?

As Joseph was raised up going from the dungeon to the throne, so too was Jesus raised up going from the tomb to the throne [66]:

Luke 24:26 – *Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?*

## v42 – What is the significance of Joseph being given Pharaoh's signet ring?

As Joseph was given the authority of Pharaoh to seal and unseal things, only Jesus had the authority to loose the seven seals of the Tribulation [67]:

Revelation 5:5 – *the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.*

## v42 – What is the significance of Joseph being given the garments and jewelry of a king?

As Joseph was given the garments and jewelry of a king, so too was Jesus [68]:

Mark 15:17-18 – *They dressed Him up in purple, and after twisting a crown of thorns, they put it on Him; and they began to acclaim Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!"*

## v43 – What is the significance of Joseph riding in the second chariot of Pharaoh?

As Joseph was second in Pharaoh's kingdom being equal in authority, so too is Jesus the Second Person of the Trinity [69]:

Matthew 3:17 – *And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

**v43 – What is the significance of people being told to “bow the knee” as Joseph rode past?**

As all would “bow the knee” before Joseph, so too will all “bow the knee” before Jesus [70]:

Philippians 2:9–10 – *God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth*

**v43 – What is the significance of Joseph being set “over all the land of Egypt” so that their people would survive the coming famine?**

As Pharaoh gave Joseph authority over all the people of Egypt so that they may survive the coming famine, so too did the Father give Jesus authority over all people so that they may have eternal life [71]:

John 17:1-3 – *Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.*

**v44 – What is the significance of no one doing anything in Egypt without Joseph’s consent?**

As Joseph had such authority that no one could do anything in Egypt without his consent, so too can no one do anything without Jesus [72]:

John 15:5 – *I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*

**v45 – What is the significance of Joseph being given a new name along with his authority?**

As Joseph was given a new name along with his authority over Egypt, so too was Jesus when He ascended [73]:

Philippians 2:9 – *God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name*

Revelation 3:12 – *He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. **And I will write on him My new name.***

**v45 – What is the significance of Joseph taking an Egyptian wife before the 7-year famine?**

As Joseph took an Egyptian wife before the 7-year famine, so too will Jesus return for His bride before the Tribulation [74]:

John 14:1-3 – *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions {dwelling places}; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

**Why did Jesus say, “let not your heart be troubled”?**

It is a blessing to consider that He could return for us at any time... so no matter what we are going through, it is a blessing to remember that Jesus could return for us before it gets really bad (doctrine of imminence of the rapture). And Paul connected this idea to the rapture even more explicitly...

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 – *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. **Therefore comfort one another with these words.***

The context here is the Day of the Lord, the Tribulation (1 Thessalonians 5). Thus, the doctrine of the rapture is a comfort in the context of the Tribulation... for the rapture to be a comfort, it must precede the Tribulation. Jesus also promised those who were in the faithful church of Philadelphia:

Revelation 3:10 – *Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will **keep you from** the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*

That is a clear reference to the pre-trib rapture!

**v45 – What is the significance of Joseph’s priestly connection (wife was daughter of priest of On)?**

As Joseph had a priestly connection, so too was Jesus associated with the order of Melchizedek, a priest-king with no known origin whom Abraham honored [75]:

Hebrews 5:10 – *being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.*

### **Genesis 41:46-52, Joseph During the Time of Plenty**

<sup>46</sup> Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt. <sup>47</sup> During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. <sup>48</sup> Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. <sup>49</sup> Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure. <sup>50</sup> Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On. <sup>51</sup> Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." <sup>52</sup> The second son he named Ephraim and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."

### **What did Joseph do with his authority?**

He did as he recommended, stored-up produce from the plentiful years in the various cities of Egypt, an immeasurable amount. He also had two sons during the days of plenty.

### **v46 – What is the significance of Joseph being 30-years old when he began to save the people of Egypt?**

As Joseph was 30 years old when he began to save the people of Egypt, so too Jesus was 30 years old when He began His ministry as our Savior [76]:

Luke 3:23 – *When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli*

### **v50 – What is the significance of Joseph having his children prior to the 7-year famine?**

As Joseph had his children before the 7-year famine, so too did Jesus have His spiritual children of the church prior to the Tribulation [77]:

2 Thessalonians 2:3 – *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition*

The context of the Greek word translated "falling away" indicates a physical departure, the rapture of the church. (See Andy Wood's excellent discussion of this in his book, "The Falling Away: Spiritual Departure or Physical Rapture?")

### **v51 – What is the significance of Joseph naming his first-born son Manasseh which means forget?**

While we are all first born as sinners, God forgets the sin of those born again in Christ [78]:

Psalm 103:12 – *As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

### **v52 – What is the significance of Joseph naming his second-born son Ephraim which means fruitful?**

Only those who experience the second, spiritual birth are able to produce eternal fruit [79]:

Philippians 1:11 – *being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God*

### **Genesis 41:53-57, Joseph During the Famine**

<sup>53</sup> The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end, <sup>54</sup> and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food. <sup>55</sup> When all Egypt began to feel the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you." <sup>56</sup> When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. <sup>57</sup> And all the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere.

### **What happened when the seven years of plenty was over?**

The seven years of famine began as foretold by Joseph. Indeed, it affected all other countries besides Egypt as well. People were sent to Joseph for food who sold it those in need. (There is no free lunch.)

### **v55 – What comes to mind from Pharaoh telling those in need to do whatever Joseph says?**

As Pharaoh said to those in need of food to do whatever Joseph says, so too did Mary, the mother of Jesus, tell the servants who ran out of wine at the wedding in Cana to do whatever Jesus says [80]:

John 2:5 – *His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."*

### **v57 – What is the significance of Joseph being the only source of bread in the world?**

As Joseph was the only source of physical bread in the world, Jesus is the only source of spiritual bread in the world [81]:

John 6:33 – *For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.*

### **Genesis 42:1-5, Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt**

When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you just keep looking at each other?"<sup>2</sup> He continued, "I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die."<sup>3</sup> Then ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt.<sup>4</sup> But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him.<sup>5</sup> So Israel's sons were among those who went to buy grain, for there was famine in the land of Canaan also.

### **What was going on in Canaan, and what did Jacob, the patriarch of Israel do about it?**

As all the world but Egypt was without food, Jacob sent all his remaining sons except Benjamin to Egypt to buy grain.

### **Why didn't Jacob send Benjamin to Egypt?**

*Lest some calamity befall him* – he was the only son of his favorite wife Rachel that he had left.

### **v1-3 – What is the significance of Joseph's brothers staring at one another not knowing what to do?**

As Joseph's brothers stared at one another not knowing what to do then going out to get food, so too did Jesus's disciples [82]:

John 21:2-3 – *Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you."*

### **v2 – What is the significance of those who seek-out the source of grain in Egypt not dying?**

As the seekers of grain in Egypt would find their salvation in Joseph, so too would seekers of the bread of life find salvation in Jesus [83]:

John 6:35 – *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."*

### **v2 – What is the significance of the sons of Jacob coming to Joseph in the midst of the famine?**

As the sons of Jacob come to Joseph in the midst of the famine, so too will Israel recognize Jesus as their Messiah at the abomination of desolation in the midst of the Tribulation [84]:

Zechariah 12:9-10 – *It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they*

*pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.*

### **v3 – What is the significance of 10 brothers turning to Joseph for salvation?**

As there were 10 brothers who had to turn to Joseph for salvation, so too does the Law represented by the 10 Commandments cause us to turn to God's provision in Christ Jesus for salvation [85]:

Galatians 3:24 – *the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

### **v4 – What is the significance of Benjamin not joining their brothers in their mission to Egypt?**

As Benjamin was separated from his brothers having had no part in betraying Joseph, so too was the Apostle Paul called by God to minister to the Gentiles who had no part in betraying Jesus (yes, Pilate and Herod yielded to political pressure from the Jewish religious leaders but they weren't the accusers) [86]:

Philippians 3:5 – *circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee*