Living Hope Ministries
Bible Study

Genesis 41

This chapter reminds that when men forget us God is faithful and He never forgets us and his timing is perfect. We note too the significance of dreams in Joseph's life. His own dreams created big problems for his brothers, Pharaoh’s dreams will open for Joseph enormous blessings.

Pharaoh’s dreams

He sees a vision of seven cows sleek and fat then seven cows ugly and gaunt who eat up the healthy cows. His second dream is of seven heads of grain looking healthy and good and seven heads of grain looking very dry and poor. They swallow up the healthy grains. These dreams trouble him greatly.

Pharaoh's response to his dreams

He believes these are unusual and summons many magicians and wise men looking for an answer.

The cupbearer's response

The cupbearer is aware of this and at last remembers Joseph. He tells his story of how Joseph had interpreted his and the bakers dream correctly

Joseph is summoned

Joseph shaves and puts on clean clothes to stand in the presence of Pharaoh. He makes it clear that any ability to interpret dreams comes from God not himself.

Joseph's interpretation

Joseph shares that the two dreams are closely linked and the message from them is the same message. The seven is referring to seven years. There will be seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine. God has shown this so that Pharaoh can prepare.

Joseph's suggestion regarding pharaohs' response to this dream

He encourages Pharaoh to appoint someone to take charge of Egypt and set up good administration to handle the situation well. Mismanagement will be a disaster.

Pharaoh lifts Joseph up

The pharaoh considers that Joseph is the man to head up the administration of the things to come. He gives Joseph a ring signifying his authority in his work. He orders Joseph to be dressed in fine linen like a prince and no more a slave. He will travel in a chariot and the people will make way for him giving him honour and respect. Joseph is given a new name. We know that when we trust in Christ we become new creatures. We are clothed in Christ's righteousness. We sit with Christ in heavenly places. We are saved to do good works which God has ordained for us. He gives us His Holy Spirit to release courage and boldness to us to proclaim Christ's name.

Joseph acknowledges that God has taken away his troubles and made him fruitful and names his two sons accordingly.

For Joseph seven years of plenty are well used and so the seven years of famine are provided for and Egypt is set to be a place of hope to provide for the people around. The famine is very severe.

We offer the hope of Christ to a spiritually starving world because Christ has saved us and given us hope in Him.

Points to consider

- Have you asked whether a dream you have had is a message from the Lord? Its good to ask the question.
- Have we made a promise to someone and like the cupbearer have forgotten to keep it.
- Do we heed the warnings in scripture about the nature of the last days?
- Are we redeeming the time while we have time?
- Why do you think God honoured Joseph so much?