

Joseph Before Pharaoh Genesis 41:1-36

I. Intro

- A. 7 P's
- B. The message is from God: its His message, we are to receive it
- C. Joseph heads to the palace and faces off with a man claiming to be God
 - 1. There have been many throughout the years
 - 2. Men have desired to take what belongs to God and twist it to be a perversion of the truth.
 - 3. The mark of a true servant of God is the humility to remind everyone that they have nothing to offer but the message of God.
- D. A reminder:
 - 1. God chose Joseph for this task
 - 2. God empowered Joseph for this task
 - 3. And because of that, Joseph was the most powerful person in all of Egypt, though he was still a slave and moving from the prison pit, to the prison palace.
 - 4. Joseph was free by faith, and chose to follow God through it all.

II. Text

- A. Verses 1-8: The Dreams of Pharaoh
 - 1. After 2 years:
 - a) Joseph is about 30 now, and been in Egypt for about 12-13 years scholars believe.
 - b) At 30, Joseph is about to begin his ministry to set things right.
 - 2. Pharaoh is a title given to the king of Egypt
 - 3. This is Amenemhat III of the Twelfth Dynasty
 - a) King for 45 years, shared the throne for 20 years with his father
 - b) 6th king of the twelfth dynasty and during his reign Egypt was never more powerful, culturally or economically. (Because God did it...)
 - 4. He has the power to place the young slave from Israel to a position of power greater than Potiphar, who actually owned him as a slave.
 - 5. The slave becomes the ruler over the master
- B. Verses 9-13: The Cupbearer remembers and gives testimony of Joseph's actions
- C. Verses 14-15: Pharaoh calls for Joseph, they clean him up before putting him before the king
- D. Verse 16: Joseph gives testimony of God's power, work, and revelation (Elohim)
- E. Verses 17-24: The retelling of the dreams
- F. Verse 25: Joseph gives a second testimony (Elohim)
- G. Verses 26-36: Joseph reveals the message from God
 - 1. Verse 28: Joseph reminds Pharaoh that GOD has revealed the message (Elohim)
 - 2. Verse 32: Joseph reveals to Pharaoh that it is established and set to happen (Elohim)
 - 3. Verse 33: Joseph gives the wisdom from God on how to navigate the blessing and the challenge.
 - a) Discerning: bene in Hebrew, understanding
 - b) Wise: hakam: wise, skillful, cunning

III. Points

- A. Not In Me
 - 1. Bliade, Hebrew phrase for the reminder of this truth: beside, without: Not Joseph doing this.
 - 2. There is no power in man to do the work of God other than what He empowers us to do.
 - 3. We must quickly remind all who will hear that we have nothing to offer but Jesus.
 - 4. Joseph is proclaiming to Pharaoh what Paul proclaimed to Corinth:

- a) [1Co 2:1-10 ESV] 1 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 6 Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. 7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"-- 10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.
- b) The wisdom of man is never enough or sufficient
- c) The Spirit shines light into the areas lacking understanding
- d) Our role in this is:
 - (1) To remind people its not about our message or version of the truth
 - (2) But it is clearly about God and His truth being declared.

B. God (Elohim)

- 1. Elohim is used by Joseph 5 times:
 - a) God will give (16)
 - b) God has revealed (25)
 - c) God has shown (28)
 - d) Fixed by God (32)
 - e) God will bring it about (32)
 - f) Elohim is used in the creation account
 - (1) El Shaddai: God Almighty
 - (2) El Roi: God who sees
 - (3) El Eyon: most high God
 - (4) Adonai: master of Lord
 - (5) Yahweh: YHWH (not used for fear of breaking the law against taking God's name in vain.)
 - (6) Jehovah: a combination of the vowels of Adonai and the Consonants of YHWH, popular because they did not want to use YHWH
- 2. Joseph evokes the name of the one true God before Pharaoh, a man presenting himself to be a god.
 - a) The True God will never need a dream interpreter to tell Him the message from another claiming to be God.
 - b) The power of the one true God is clear and evident in this text.
- 3. Elohim:
 - a) Plural form of El or Eloah meaning God or powerful
 - b) While the form is plural, when used for the God of Israel, it typically functions as a singular noun, sometimes interpreted as a "plural of majesty" to convey God's supreme power and nature.
 - c) The suffix (-im) is the masculine plural form of the Hebrew word
 - d) What this does to our understanding of God, outside of the trinitarian nature of God, is to show the multiplied power of God.

C. Christ Connection

- 1. Joseph, like Jesus pointed to the father as the source of the message
 - a) [Jhn 5:19-20 ESV] 19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. 20 For the Father loves

the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

b) Jesus defers to the father

2. Joseph, like Christ, was the embodied wisdom of God that was able to defeat the gods of Egypt, putting them to open shame (Col. 2:15).
3. [Col 2:8-15 ESV] 8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. 11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.
4. Both were raised from humiliation to stand before the highest earthly powers, speaking divine truth that worldly wisdom could not comprehend.

IV. Close

- A. Be reminded today to give a proper witness for Christ
- B. Be reminded of your limited strength and His limitless strength
- C. Be reminded to reflect Christ in all you do!