



Matt Magee (August 11, 2024)

Title: From the Pit to the Palace (Series: Genesis - Meant for Good)

Scripture: [Genesis 40-41](#)

1. Introduction

1. Who controls your circumstances: You? Other people? God? The answer? YES!
 2. God uses detours (trials) to develop Christlike character in His children ([James 1:2-4](#); [Rom 5:1-5](#)).
2. Joseph interprets the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker (40:1-23)
1. Pharaoh becomes angry with his servants and puts them into prison (40:1-4; Proverbs 19:12)
 2. Joseph's guiding principle: Wisdom (interpretations) comes only from the Lord (Genesis 40:8b)
 3. Joseph's interpretations come to pass (40:20-22)
 4. Joseph is again let down (forgotten) by man (40:14-15; 23)
3. Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream (41:1-36)
1. Parallels to Daniel's experience many centuries later are remarkable (Dan 2:25-45; 4:19-27)
 2. Pharaoh himself is troubled by two dreams (40:1-8; Prov 21:1)
4. Joseph is again elevated as Prime Minister of Egypt (41:37-57)
1. Why does Pharaoh appoint Joseph? (41:39-41)
 2. Joseph is royally exalted in Egypt (41:40-44)
 3. The significance of the names of Joseph's sons? (50-52)
 1. Even after his exaltation in Egypt, Joseph remains loyal to God.
 2. God has helped Joseph move beyond his painful past (51)
 3. God has made Joseph fruitful (41:52; 49:22; Deut 33:13-17)
 4. Joseph implements his plan (45b-49, 53-57; Acts 7:11)
 1. Food is stored up in the years of abundance (45b-49)
 2. Joseph brings salvation not only for Egypt, but for the world (53-57; 12:3)
 3. God's ultimate purpose in Joseph's life is about to be fulfilled (57; 45:6)

APPLICATION

1. Look to God's revealed wisdom in His sufficient Word. Do not put your effort into interpreting dreams. God now speaks to us through Jesus, who is the Living Word (Heb 1:1)
 1. Most dreams have no particular meaning (Ecc 5:7)
 2. False interpretations are destructive (Jer 23:16, 9)
2. Show others that God's sufficient wisdom is laid out for us in His Word (Psalm 119; 2 Pet 1:3-11; 2 Tim 3:16)
3. Wait patiently upon the Lord (Isa. 40:30-31; 55:8-9; Rom. 8:18; Ps. 37:7; Prov. 3:5-6)
4. Put your trust in God, not men (Jer. 17:5-8; Mt. 6:11; Ps. 20:7; Phil. 4:19; Isa. 2:22; 26:3)
5. Imitate the godly wisdom Joseph exemplifies (Proverbs 1-31)

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What were God's purposes in the detours in Joseph's life?
2. What detours, trials, or disappointments are you experiencing? What might God be doing? How does your past experience of seeing God's faithfulness through trials give you hope (confidence) that God is at work now, even though it may be hard to see?
3. Does this passage teach that you should expect God to reveal things authoritatively (with certainty) to you in dreams? Explain your answer.
4. What is your confidence level that God's Word is sufficient (comprehensively enough) for every situation you encounter in this life (Low - Medium - High)? Explain your response.
5. How are Joseph and Daniel similar?
6. Why does Pharaoh elevate Joseph?
7. What should you do if you feel imprisoned by your circumstances in life?
8. What principles of wisdom are exemplified in Joseph's life?
9. How does this passage point to Christ?