

## ***IN THE BEGINNING GOD***

### **Dreams and Interpretations Genesis 40:1—41:57**

*“We both had dreams, ... but there is no one to interpret them.’ Then Joseph said...  
‘Do not interpretations belong to God?’” Genesis 40:8*

#### **Day 1: Read Genesis 40:1–19.**

1. Both the cupbearer and the baker held prominent positions in Pharaoh’s court. How does this passage show the uncertainty of earthly position and recognition?
  
2. What do the baker and cupbearer dream? (vv. 9–11; 16, 17) Why are they dejected in the morning? (vv. 6–8)

#### **Day 2: Read Genesis 40:9–41:1.**

3. Joseph is trusting God for his welfare, and also seeks help from the cupbearer. What is the relationship between trusting in God, and asking for human help?
  
4. The cupbearer and baker are released from prison, but Joseph is not. How much time passes between the end of chapter 40 and the beginning of chapter 41? What might Joseph have been tempted to think during this time?
  
5. Is there a situation in your life where you have felt forgotten by a person or even God? What do you need to remember when you feel this way? (Ps. 77:1–15)

#### **Day 3: Read Genesis 41:1–16.**

6. Pharaoh has two dreams. How is his response the next morning similar to that of the cupbearer and baker? (Gen. 40:6–8a; 41:8) Why is Joseph not troubled? (Gen. 40:8b)
  
7. In the Joseph story we have seen three sets of dreams: to Joseph (Gen. 37:5–11), to the cupbearer and baker, and now to Pharaoh. What does God’s sending of these dreams show us about him?

8. Describe the events that result in Joseph's release from prison and his audience with Pharaoh. (vv. 9–14)

**Day 4: Read Genesis 41:15–43**

9. Joseph could easily have taken pride in his interpretation of the dreams. What does he say that shows this is not the case? (Gen. 40:8b; 41:16)

10. What interpretation does Joseph give Pharaoh concerning his dream? (vv. 25–30)

11. What is Joseph's plan for alleviating the devastating effects of the seven-year famine? (vv. 33–36)

**Day 5: Read Genesis 41:41–57.**

12. Joseph's life is a study in humiliation and exaltation. Recall the events of Joseph's life up to this point that illustrate this pattern.

13. This pattern of humiliation and exaltation is found throughout the Bible. Look at Philippians 2:5–11. How is Christ the perfect fulfillment of this pattern? How are we called to embody this pattern as well? (Mt. 23:12; Jas. 4:10)

14. While Joseph implements his plan to bless Egypt, his life is blessed as well. What blessings come into his life at this time? (vv. 45, 50–52)

15. When the famine does arrive, it affects not only Egypt, but also the rest of the known world. How is Joseph's preparedness a partial fulfillment of God's covenant promise to Abraham? (v. 57; Gen. 22:17, 18)