



## *Fulfilment of a Dream*

### WEEK FOUR – THE PEAK OF POWER

#### Genesis 41

From a pit in Shechem to the palace of Pharaoh! *For with God, nothing is impossible.* (Luke 1:37). Sometimes it seems as if God is a long time in fulfilling his promises but many times in scripture, we read about God doing something at the right or the appropriate time.

*Habakkuk 2:3 For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*Psalms 27:14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!*

Today's generation seems to be saying: *I want it and I want it now!* But God does things only in his time. Joseph had asked the butler to mention him to Pharaoh but despite his promise it took two years before the butler remembered. What brought it to his mind was yet again, dreams. This time, Pharaoh's dreams. We will all probably remember them: the seven fat cows being eaten up by the seven thin scrawny cows, and the seven heads of healthy grain being devoured by the seven spindly heads of grain. Pharaoh was desperate for an interpretation but none of his magicians or wise men could come up with a solution. The butler went to Pharaoh and confessed he had not kept his promise about the young man Joseph who had rightly interpreted his, and the baker's dreams whilst in prison.

- Are you anxious for answers to the problems in your life? Make sure you never look in the wrong places for the answers. People are tempted with horoscopes, palm reading, and seances but these are not of God and are in fact forbidden in scripture.
- Pray, read God's word, share with a mature Christian, and ask their advice. The answer may take a little time, but it will come. God wants only the best for us.

Take notice of the answer Joseph gave Pharaoh when he said he had heard that Joseph could interpret dreams: *"It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied. "But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease."* (Genesis 41:16)

- Always remember that of ourselves, we can do nothing. It is only the power of the Holy Spirit, the comforter that Jesus promised, working through us that enables us to find the right answers. Jesus told his disciples in John 15:5, *“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”*

When Joseph gave Pharaoh the interpretation of his dream, he prefaced it by saying *“Both of Pharaoh’s dreams mean the same thing. God is telling Pharaoh in advance what he is about to do.”*

- James 1:5 tell us *“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.”* We can come to God any time and in any place because he gives *“Grace to help in times of need”* (Hebrews 4:16).

Joseph explained the seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine and how the problem should be handled. He suggested that Pharaoh select a man who was wise and discerning and allow him to carry out this immense task.

**Read verses 38-46** Remember the earlier verse from Habakkuk 2:3 which says to wait for the vision because it will surely come. At this point Joseph was 30 years old, so, **16 years** since he had been put in the pit in Shechem.

**Read verses 50-52** Joseph had two sons born before the time of famine and their names had special meaning: Joseph named his older son Manasseh, for he said, *“God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father’s family.”* He named his second son Ephraim, for he said, *“God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief.”* Yes, Joseph may have been second only to Pharaoh in Egypt, but he had paid a high price for that position.

- Remember to continually pray that God will work out his purposes in your life. There maybe some difficult times but God will get you to where he wants you to be.
- If you believe God has shown you something for the future, write it down. It’s often helpful to put a date on your notes so that when it has achieved fulfilment, you will be able to look back and say, yes it took a long time, but God has been faithful.

Verse 55 says: *“Eventually, however, the famine spread throughout the land of Egypt as well. And when the people cried out to Pharaoh for food, he told them, “Go to Joseph, and do whatever he tells you.”* Keep that verse in mind as we shall come back to it again.

### Prayer

**Father, I pray that you will help me to stay focused on you and willing to keep going until your promises in my life are fulfilled.**

