

Context

- 1] Joseph been sold into slavery in Egypt by brother (37:28)
 - 2] Bought by Potiphar – rise to have everything left in his charge (39:6)
 - 3] Set up by Potiphar's wife on a charge of rape – prison (39:19, 20)
 - 4] Rise to charge of prison - Pharaoh's Cup bearer and baker, interpreted dreams (ch40)
 - 5] Cup bearer restored but did not remember Joseph (40:23)
- ??? *Why was Joseph SO confident? (16)*

Pharaoh's dreams (1-7)

- 1] two full years passed
Cf two full days - on the first day (3rd day) very early in the morning (Lk24:1)?
God does not hurry!
God is in perfect - control of time and space
- 2] dream – standing by/out of the Nile
Nb 'hapi' Nile god, chief amongst their gods
- 3] 7 fat cows eaten by 7 thin cows / 7 healthy ears of corn swallowed by 7 thin

Joseph's recall (8-14)

- 1] Pharaoh 'troubled' – wisemen and magicians? (8)
nb Egyptian wise men and magicians (Ex 6:10-13; 7:11)
cf convict world of sin righteousness and judgement (John 16;8)
- 2] Chief cupbearer (9-13)
 - a) shortcomings (9)
Nb 'reminded' (40:23)
God prompts people to remember at the right time
 - b) speak to Pharaoh in third person (10)
cf God – first person 'I am who I am' (Ex 3:14) nb Jews not use that name
 - c) Cup bearer and baker dreams -young Hebrew interpreted correctly (11-13)
nb chief baker 'impaled' (40:22)
- 3] Sent for Joseph – shaved, changed clothes (!) (14)
nb lit. 'run out of the pit'
new clothes cf coat of many colours (Gen 37:3)
Be ready to respond to God's call.

Pharaohs dream interpreted (15 -32)

- 1] Pharaoh and Joseph (15, 16)
 - a) Pharaoh to Joseph - dreams but none to interpret (15)
 - b) Joseph to Pharaoh – I can't but God can (16)
Cf God gives interpretation (40:8)
'it is not me' = one word in Hebrew – an explosive answer!
Nb not to us, not to us, but to your name be the glory (Ps115:1)
this night your life will be required of you (Lk12:20)
God alone controls the future
Take no credit from God – give Him all the Glory
- 2] Pharaoh retells dreams (17-24)

a) graphically – scrawny etc (cf 19)

b) text tells in full

3] Joseph interpretation (25-32)

a) the dreams (25-27)

1) same meaning

2) 7 yrs plenty then 7 yrs famine

Cf 7 days God made the heavens and the earth (Gen 2:2)

God alone may reveal the future to people

b) the purpose of God (28)

God does what He wills

c) the effect (29-31)

d) the reason (32)

nb God's sovereign will (Psalm 33:11, Daniel 4:25; Acts 5:39)

Joseph's plan (33-40)

1] 'volunteered' (continued but didn't put his own name forward)

2] 'discerning and wise' (33)

Cf The children of Issachar had understanding of the times (1 Chron 12:32)

God's men are 'discerning and wise'

Do not push yourself forward – in God's economy, you don't have to.

3] practicalities (34 -36)

4] Pharaoh's response (37-40)

a) seemed good to Pharaoh and officials (37)

Hear / believe/ receive God's Word

b) a man on whom is the spirit of God? (38)

GRACE God may put His Spirit in one of His creatures

c) Joseph – discerning and wise (39)

d) you (40)

1) in charge of palace / all my people

2) second in command to Pharaoh

Cf only with regard to the throne cf with Potiphar (39:6)

40 All things under him (Matt 28:18)

Humble – exalted (Matt 5:5; Phil 2:10f)

Second in command cf Mordecai (Esther 10:3)

At the right hand of God (Mt 26:64; Mk16:19; Lk22:69; Acts 7:55)

The Father is greater than I (John 14:28)

JESUS Only in respect of His throne is the Father greater than the Son

** After humbling yourself, in God's time, expect to be exalted**

MP *God reveals his purposes through wise and discerning servant(s)*

KV *Since God has made all this known to you, there is no-one so discerning and wise as you (39)*

??Joseph was so confident because he must have been 'one' with God (16)