

# DREAMS AND DESTINY

THE STORY OF JOSEPH

## WEEK 3 - FROM PRISONER TO PRIME MINISTER OVERVIEW

As Joseph's story continues, we see him yet again rising from a place of destitution to a position of wealth and authority. Through his gift of dream interpretation, the prisoner Joseph is introduced to Pharaoh, earns his trust, and ultimately becomes his second in command. It's an even more meteoric rise than his earlier ascent out of slavery. Now we begin to see God's master plan at work: the salvation of not just Joseph, but of many people at risk of famine.

The author of Genesis is here inviting us to meditate on God's sovereignty. If Joseph hadn't been hated by his brothers, he might never have been sold into slavery. If he hadn't been sold into slavery, he would have never ended up overseeing Potiphar's house. If he hadn't been falsely accused there, he would have never ended up in prison. And if he had never ended up in prison, he would have never ended up as Egypt's second-in-command. How does such a roller coaster ride change our expectations of God's hand at work in our lives? And how does it invite us to live differently in the waiting?

*Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you."*

**Genesis 41:39-40**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Maron shared a quote from Donald Grey Barnhouse: "The secret of power is character, but the secret of character is God." Do you agree? What does that mean to you?
2. Read [Genesis 39:19-40:23](#).
  - a. Where do we see Joseph finding favor in this part of the story?
  - b. Would you ask what was wrong if you saw someone visibly upset? Why or why not?
  - c. What evidence do you see that Joseph's character is developing?
3. Read [Genesis 41:1-40](#).
  - a. How would you compare Joseph's interpretation of dreams - from his own dreams as a teen, to the cup-bearer and baker's dreams, to pharaoh's dreams?
  - b. What did Pharaoh mean when he said Joseph was *obviously filled with the Spirit of God* (verse 38)? Can you think of a person who is or was *obviously filled with the Spirit of God*? Describe how you know this.
4. What insights can we learn from the names Joseph gave his sons? (see [Genesis 41:51-52](#))
5. Read [Romans 8:28](#). Maron said that, "God works in and through the circumstantial details of the lives of his people, to reveal His ultimate plan." Where have you seen him at work in the past? Where do you see him at work today?
6. Answer the questions from the overview above: How does such a roller coaster ride change our expectations of God's hand at work in our lives? And how does it invite us to live differently in the waiting?