

Timeline of Truth – Joseph Interprets Pharaoh’s Dreams (Gen 41:1-32)

<p>^{39:21} But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.</p>	<p>1. <u>God</u> Continued to Be <u>with</u> Joseph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God showed him mercy • God gave him favor in the sight of the prison keeper
<p>¹ Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years,</p>	<p>2. Joseph Was Forgotten by <u>Men</u> for 2 Years</p>
<p>that Pharaoh had a dream;</p>	<p>3. God <u>Acts</u> When He Wants</p>
<p>and behold, he stood by the river. ² Suddenly there came up out of the river seven cows, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow.</p> <p>³ Then behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ugly and gaunt, and stood by the <i>other</i> cows on the bank of the river.</p> <p>⁴ And the ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven fine looking and fat cows. So Pharaoh awoke.</p>	<p>4. Pharaoh’s First Dream – Fat / Gaunt <u>Cows</u></p>
<p>⁵ He slept and dreamed a second time; and suddenly seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, plump and good.</p> <p>⁶ Then behold, seven thin heads, blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them.</p> <p>⁷ And the seven thin heads devoured the seven plump and full heads. So Pharaoh awoke, and indeed, <i>it was</i> a dream.</p>	<p>5. Pharaoh’s Second Dream – Plump / Blighted <u>Grain</u></p>
<p>⁸ Now it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but <i>there was</i> no one who could interpret them for Pharaoh.</p>	<p>6. Pharaoh Consults His <u>Advisors</u></p>
<p>⁹ Then the chief butler spoke to Pharaoh, saying: "I remember my faults this day.</p> <p>¹⁰ "When Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, <i>both</i> me and the chief baker,</p> <p>¹¹ "we each had a dream in one night, he and I. Each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his <i>own</i> dream.</p> <p>¹² "Now there <i>was</i> a young Hebrew man with us there, a servant of the captain of the guard. And we told him, and he interpreted our dreams for us; to each man he interpreted according to his <i>own</i> dream.</p> <p>¹³ "And it came to pass, just as he interpreted for us, so it happened. He restored me to my office, and he hanged him."</p>	<p>7. God Makes the <u>Right</u> Connection at the <u>Right</u> Time</p>
<p>¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh.</p>	<p>8. Pharaoh <u>Calls</u> for Joseph – the <u>Prisoner Slave!</u></p>
<p>¹⁵ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and <i>there is</i> no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you <i>that</i> you can understand a dream, to interpret it."</p>	<p>9. Pharaoh Tells Joseph His <u>Problem</u></p>
<p>¹⁶ So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "<i>It is</i> not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."</p>	<p>10. Joseph Points Pharaoh to <u>God</u></p>

<p>17 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph: "Behold, in my dream I stood on the bank of the river.</p> <p>18 "Suddenly seven cows came up out of the river, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow.</p> <p>19 "Then behold, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and gaunt, such ugliness as I have never seen in all the land of Egypt.</p> <p>20 "And the gaunt and ugly cows ate up the first seven, the fat cows.</p> <p>21 "When they had eaten them up, no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they <i>were</i> just as ugly as at the beginning. So I awoke.</p>	<p>11. Pharaoh Tells Joseph His First Dream</p>
<p>22 "Also I saw in my dream, and suddenly seven heads came up on one stalk, full and good.</p> <p>23 "Then behold, seven heads, withered, thin, <i>and</i> blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them.</p> <p>24 "And the thin heads devoured the seven good heads.</p>	<p>12. Pharaoh Tells Joseph His Second Dream</p>
<p>So I told <i>this</i> to the magicians, but <i>there was</i> no one who could explain <i>it</i> to me."</p>	<p>13. Pharaoh Restates His <u>Problem</u></p>
<p>25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh <i>are</i> one; God has shown Pharaoh what He <i>is</i> about to do:</p>	<p>14. Joseph States God's <u>Purpose</u> for the Dreams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They mean the same thing • God has shown Pharaoh God's future actions
<p>26 "The seven good cows <i>are</i> seven years, and the seven good heads <i>are</i> seven years; the dreams <i>are</i> one.</p> <p>27 "And the seven thin and ugly cows which came up after them <i>are</i> seven years, and the seven empty heads blighted by the east wind are seven years of famine.</p>	<p>15. Joseph Explains the <u>Symbols</u> of the Dreams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 good cows & 7 good heads = 7 [good] years • 7 thin cows & 7 empty heads = 7 years of famine
<p>28 "This <i>is</i> the thing which I have spoken to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what He <i>is</i> about to do.</p>	<p>16. Joseph Restates God's <u>Purpose</u> in the Dreams</p>
<p>29 "Indeed seven years of great plenty will come throughout all the land of Egypt;</p> <p>30 "but after them seven years of famine will arise, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine will deplete the land.</p> <p>31 "So the plenty will not be known in the land because of the famine following, for it <i>will be</i> very severe.</p>	<p>17. Joseph <u>Explains</u> the Dreams</p>
<p>32 "And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing <i>is</i> established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.</p>	<p>18. Joseph Restates Again God's <u>Purpose</u> in the Dreams</p>

Key Lessons

1. God Rules the Rulers of All Nations (including the mightiest of them, whether they acknowledge Him or not)
2. God Knows the Future
3. God Controls the Future
4. God Would at Times Communicate to Rulers
5. God Would at Times Tell People the Future
6. God Controls the Weather (thus, God allows all sorts of it for His reasons)
7. God Puts People Where He Needs Them for Critical Times
8. God Will Spend the Years, Lifetimes, and Extended Difficulties to Accomplish His Will