

**Prayer of Joseph**  
*from the Dungeon*  
*Series on Following God's Schedule*

Dr. Goodluck Ofoegbu  
Prof. Oby Ofoegbu  
Banking Blessings Ministry  
San Antonio, Texas  
USA

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Start of Part 2 of 2

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**Joseph Interprets Dreams  
for Pharaoh**

- Two years later, Joseph was brought from jail
- To interpret dreams for Pharaoh
- Showed himself a reliable interpreter
- Proposed a program to counter severe famine revealed through the dream
- Uniquely competent to administer program
- Genesis 41:1, 8–14, 25, 28–36

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**Genesis 41 (NIV)**

1 When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream...

8 In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.

9 Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today I am reminded of my shortcomings."

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**Genesis 41 (NIV)**

10 Pharaoh was once angry with his servants, and he imprisoned me and the chief baker in the house of the captain of the guard.

11 Each of us had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own.

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**Genesis 41 (NIV)**

12 Now a young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his dream.

13 And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was impaled."

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### Genesis 41 (NIV)

14 So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh.

25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.

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### Genesis 41 (NIV)

28 "It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do.

29 Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt,

30 but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land.

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### Genesis 41 (NIV)

31 The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe.

32 The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.

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### Genesis 41 (NIV)

33 "And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt.

34 Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance.

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### Genesis 41 (NIV)

35 They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food.

36 This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine."

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### Joseph Appointed Prime Minister

- Pharaoh appointed Joseph to highest administrative position in Egypt
- To administer program against famine
- With every authority of the state
- Except authority reserved for Pharaoh
- Genesis 41:37-44

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### Genesis 41 (NIV)

37 The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials.

38 So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?"

39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you.

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### Genesis 41 (NIV)

40 You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you. "

41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt."

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### Genesis 41 (NIV)

42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.

43 He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt.

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### Genesis 41 (NIV)

44 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt."

- Joseph became the prime minister of Egypt
- In charge of everything in Egypt
- Second only to Pharaoh
- With all authority of the state
- Except authority over the throne

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### What We Learned (1 of 3)

- Joseph prayed to be released from jail
- Appealed to Pharaoh through cupbearer
- No response for two years
- God had granted Joseph's prayer with a promise and a schedule
- Did not reveal the promise or schedule
- Expected Joseph to follow the schedule

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### What We Learned (2 of 3)

- Joseph was released from jail
- To interpret Pharaoh's dream
- Showed promise of competence to implement message of the dream
- Appointed highest administrator in Egypt
- To administer food collection and storage during the period of abundance
- And distribution during the great famine

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## What We Learned (3 of 3)

- God had granted Joseph's prayer with a promise and a schedule
- Did not reveal the promise or schedule
- Joseph followed the schedule
- God fulfilled his promise
  - When? At his time
  - How? In his way
- To fit his overall plan for Joseph

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