

RESCUE AND RESURRECTION

Genesis 40:1—41:57

[Joseph] said, "...God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering." Genesis 41:52

1. Read Genesis 40:1–23. What do the cupbearer and baker dream? (verses 9–11, 16–17) Why are they dejected in the morning? (verses 6–8)
2. Joseph trusts God, but also asks help from the cupbearer. How does asking for human help fit with his faith in God's help?
3. The cupbearer and baker are released from prison, but Joseph is not. How much time passes between the end of chapter 40 and the beginning of chapter 41? (See 41:1.) What might Joseph have been tempted to think during this time?
4. Is there a situation in your life where you have felt forgotten by a person or even by God? What do you need to remember when you feel this way? (Psalm 77:1–15)
5. Read Genesis 41:1–24. Pharaoh has two dreams. How is his response when he wakes up similar to that of the cupbearer and baker? (Genesis 40:6–8a; 41:8)
6. Joseph could easily have taken pride in his interpretation of the dreams. What does he say that shows this is not the case? (verse 16)
7. Read Genesis 41:25–38. What interpretation does Joseph give Pharaoh concerning his dream? (verses 25–30)

8. What is Joseph's plan for dealing with the 7-year famine? (verses 33–36)

9. Read Genesis 41:39–57. The same pattern of humiliation and exaltation that we see in Joseph's life is found throughout the Bible. Read Philippians 2:5–11. How is Christ the perfect fulfillment of this pattern? How are we called to live out this pattern as well? (Matthew 23:12; James 4:10) Describe a time in your life when this happened to you.

10. What did Joseph name his two boys? (41:50–52) What do their names tell about Joseph, his relationship with God, and his life in Egypt?

11. When the famine does arrive, it affects not only Egypt, but also the surrounding countries. How is Joseph's preparedness a partial fulfillment of God's covenant promise to Abraham? (verse 57; recall 22:17–18)