

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

WHEN GOD CHANGES THE SEASON

GENESIS 41:1-14

God's Timing Often Includes Waiting Time

Genesis 41 NKJV 1 “Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream...”

- Genesis 41 begins exactly where Genesis 40 left off; Joseph is in prison
- He asked the butler to “remember him”, put in a good word for him with Pharaoh
- And another 2 years went by
- From Joseph’s perspective nothing is happening
- But from God’s perspective, everything is moving toward an *appointed* time
- The life of Joseph tells us you can be “forgotten” by man, and still be *remembered* by God
- What is important is Joseph remained faithful while he was waiting
- God was developing patience in Joseph while he was waiting
- Then text says something powerful in verse 1, “**Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream...**”
- What Joseph is going through is about change; it came to pass
- for *Kairos time*
- *Chronos time* refers to the passing of chronological time
- *Kairos time* refers to the appropriate, significant, or opportune time
- We may be in a waiting season like Joseph, and we’re wondering when something is going to change
- Sometimes the good we do seems unrewarded.
- Sometimes, God often makes us to wait much longer than we would like
- Joseph didn’t know when his prison season would end, but God knew
- Our responsibility isn’t to figure out when our change will come
- Don’t assume just because you don’t see any movement or improvement in your situation that God isn’t at work
- God may be developing in you what He developed in Joseph; *patience*

God Can Create an Opportunity You Could Never Have Imagined

Genesis 41 NKJV 1 Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream; 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. **3** Then behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ugly and gaunt, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the river. **4** And the ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven fine looking and fat cows. So Pharaoh awoke. **5** He slept and dreamed a second time; and suddenly seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, plump and good. **6** Then behold, seven thin heads, blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them. **7** And the seven thin heads devoured the seven plump and full heads. So Pharaoh awoke, and indeed, it was a dream. **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 there was no one who could interpret them for Pharaoh.

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Vs 1 says, “***Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream...***”

- Then it happened after two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream
- Pharaoh sees seven health and fat cows coming up out of the river
- Then he sees seven ugly and skinny cows coming out of the river and they stand by the healthy cows
- The seven skinny cows eat the seven fat cows
- Pharaoh wakes up and then goes back to sleep
- Pharaoh has a second dream, this time instead of it being about cows, it about grain
- Pharaoh dreams seeing seven head of healthy grain growing on one stalk
- Then he dreams of seeing seven sparse heads of grain growing on one stalk
- The seven unhealthy heads of grain eat the seven healthy heads of grain
- Pharaoh wakes up and realizes it was all a dream
- But in the morning, Pharaoh is still troubled by the dreams and wonders what do they mean?
- Pharaoh calls in all of his wise men and magicians in Egypt, and he told them about the dream
- No one in all of Egypt with all of its educated people, counselors, political advisors
- No one could give Pharaoh an answer. Why?
- God was creating a problem that *required* Joseph's gift
- This is God creating an opportunity for Joseph, that Joseph knows nothing about
- What Joseph couldn't arrange, God can *orchestrate*
- When God has a purpose for your life, He knows how to bring the right people, situations, and circumstances together
- Joseph didn't have to “chase” Pharaoh because Pharaoh *needed* Joseph

God Can Remind People of You

9 Then the chief butler spoke to Pharaoh, saying: “I remember my faults this day.

10 When Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, both me and the chief baker, 11 we each had a dream in one night, he and I. Each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his own dream. 12 Now there was 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 own dream. 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.”

- The butler overhears Pharaoh trying to find someone that can interpret his dream, and then the butler “remembers” Joseph
- The butler apologizes for his forgetfulness as “remembers” there is a Hebrew young man in prison who interprets dreams

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- The butler didn't remember Joseph when Joseph *wanted* to be remembered
- The butler remembered Joseph when Pharaoh *needed* Joseph
- The butler proceeds to tell Pharaoh about the time he and the baker were in prison and they both separately dream that they couldn't understand
- Joseph interpreted dreams *in prison*, and *now* he's going to interpret a dream for Pharaoh
- You may be in a season where no one sees you, you're in obscurity
- Don't think that obscurity means you're insignificant; God sees what others can't, and He has the power to bring you from obscurity to the forefront
- Joseph was faithful with his gift when no one was watching and now God is preparing to put him in front of the most powerful man in Egypt
- What people overlook, God notices
- Joseph's gift is not immediately connected to his destiny, because God has to *first* develop Joseph
- It's possible for a person to be gifted and not have the character to carry the weight of the gift
- God spent the time developing Joseph's character so he would be able to carry authority in the future
- God *develops* the person before He *displays* the gift

Be Ready to Walk Through the Door God Opens

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.

- Pharaoh called for Joseph at once and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon
- Joseph had been waiting for years, and now they take him to Pharaoh *quickly*
- Sometimes when it looks like God isn't moving all for you, suddenly everything changes in heartbeat
- Joseph doesn't need time to prepare because God has been preparing him for this moment *for years*
- Joseph shaves and puts on fresh clothes and goes to see Pharaoh
- Joseph's *external* preparation took a few minutes, his *internal* preparation took years
- Joseph didn't know who he was going to meet that day, but when the opportunity came, he was ready
- Joseph's preparation didn't begin when Pharaoh called.
- It began years earlier
- Now the palace is going to *reveal* what the process *produced*