

Perseverance, Character, Hope

Genesis 41

“Divine providence is the governance of God by which He, with wisdom and love, cares for and directs all things in the universe. The doctrine of divine providence asserts that God is in complete control of all things. He is sovereign over the universe as a whole (Psalm 103:19), the physical world (Matthew 5:45), the affairs of nations (Psalm 66:7), human destiny (Galatians 1:15), human successes and failures (Luke 1:52), and the protection of His people (Psalm 4:8). This doctrine stands in direct opposition to the idea that the universe is governed by chance or fate.”

- I. In the working of redemptive history God providentially prepared the heart of Pharaoh, the cupbearer, and Joseph to receive his will concerning the preservation of Israel and his sons. “In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his step” (Prov. 16:9).

Gen. 41:1-14

- A. God prepared Pharaoh’s heart through dreams. He gave him unsettling culture specific dreams to move him to search for an interpretation of their meaning.

Gen. 41:1-8

Proverbs 21:1 *The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.*

- B. God prepared the cupbearers heart to be bold before his master because of the undeniable truth of Joseph’s interpretation of the dreams he and the chief baker received from ***Elohim*** (*God almighty*) two full years ago.

Gen. 41:9-13; Ps. 105:16-19

- C. God prepared Joseph's heart to be wise, bold, and stouthearted in his witness before Pharaoh. For thirteen years God brought trials, hardships, and suffering into his life to prepare him to interact with Pharaoh in ways that secured the future of **his covenant people**.

Gen. 41:14-40; Psalm 138:1-3

2 Cor. 3:5 *Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.*

- II. In the working of redemptive history God refined Joseph's character to receive the fame, fortune, and responsibility necessary to have absolute control over the outcome of the famine that God brought upon the land.

Gen. 41:41-57

- A. The key to Joseph's godly character was his trust in the character of God. The level of his faith was not determined by his circumstances, but through his circumstances his faith became stronger in his refusal to compromise his trust in **Jehovah** (*covenant name of God*).

Gen. 41:41-45

Zaphenath Paneah = *"God's speaks and He Lives [or came into being]"*

"The secret of power is character, but the secret of character is God." (Donald Grey Barnhouse)

- B. The key to Joseph's godly character was his gratitude toward God's grace. He knew beyond a doubt that God was with him throughout his ups and downs, and it kept him from growing weary and losing heart.

Gen. 41:46-57; Heb. 12:2-4; Phil. 2:5-10

Manasseh = *"causing to forget"*

Ephraim = *"I shall be doubly fruitful"*