

# Genesis: From Creation to New Creation

[Genesis 41:1-57](#)

"God Determines the Times"—September 10, 2023



## Introduction

As pilgrims walk through dry, dark valleys or times of weeping, God transforms those places into lush, green paradise. Strength can be found in God. [Psalm 84:4-7](#)

Taking a sneak peak at vs. 51 and 52 in chapter 41, we see the God made Joseph fruitful in the land of affliction. How does this happen? What do we need as the people of God to be fruitful in the land of affliction?

## Sermon Outline

1. Trust the God of perfect timing. Vs. 1-14
2. Trust the God Who rules all. Vs. 9-36
3. Trust the God Who exalts the humble. Vs. 37-57

## Read & Discuss

### 1. Read vs. 1 – 14

After these dreams, Pharaoh was distressed. It had been two years since the cupbearer and the baker's dreams were interpreted, and Joseph had hope of getting out of prison. Why two years? We don't know, but God does. God knew, down to a second, how much time it would take to cultivate hope and character in Joseph. God also knew Joseph's limits. God is tender and compassionate. He knows us intimately. He knows our strengths and weaknesses.

Joseph undoubtedly wrestled with remaining in prison. He may have wondered "how long." Is that where you find yourself today? Are you waiting on God for relief, healing, peace? In these times, are you tempted to taking control? Are you tempted to despair? If Joseph had gotten out two years earlier, he would not be in the position he found himself in here. We don't know God's timetable, but we can trust the God of perfect timing.

### 2. Read vs. 15 – 36

Pharaoh called for Joseph because he heard that Joseph interprets dreams. Joseph had been waiting a long time to get out, and this was his chance. He admitted to Pharaoh that HE couldn't interpret the dreams. He put the spotlight on God. Joseph's response was honest, but it was also risky. Joseph's answer revealed a confidence in God. He can freely tell the truth because he trusts the God who rules all.

Are you eager for the people around you to notice your accomplishments? Do you feel the need to make yourself impressive to other people? Do you want people to see your gifts and talents? This urge may be displayed this through a false humility or social media posts. If your hard work and achievements go unnoticed, do you become angry? What does this say about your heart? It may suggest that we don't trust God.

These dreams were not just about the future. They were about God's sovereignty. (Vs. 25 Egypt was a global superpower. Pharaoh was THE ruler - a god-like king. Joseph, who had been a slave then in prison, courageously told Pharaoh what God was about to do. Joseph's courage revealed that he feared God and not man. How did he get to this point? He got here because he knew God, and he knew God because He knew God's word. Do you struggle with fear and insecurity? You can overcome that fear by looking at the great and awesome God who rules all. Joseph told Pharaoh that these events were certain and would happen soon. (Vs. 32 Pharaoh had a choice. If he doubted this interpretation, he could ignore this information and go about "business as usual" However, if he believed God's word to him, something had to change. He had to act on God's word.

Fast forward to our day - today. The church has been promised by Jesus in [Revelation 22](#) that He will come SOON. This event is fixed by God, and it will happen soon. Do you believe that? How would you live differently if you actually believed Jesus was coming soon? Would it change how you thought about your bank account or belongings? Would it transform what you rejoice over or what you mourn over? Jesus made it clear Who is in control. ([Matthew 28:18](#)) We need to trust the God who rules all.

### 3. Read vs. 37 – 57

Joseph's interpretation was honest and difficult. It also came with a wise proposal. Pharaoh listened to Joseph, and they took notice. Joseph had the Spirit of God. (Vs. 38) In his years of slavery and in prison, Joseph may have felt as though he missed out on an education and training, but he had something far greater. He had God. What do people notice after being around you? Will people notice that you have been with Jesus?

Joseph was given a position of power and authority. (Remember chpt. 37?) He waited 13 years and in 24 hours he went from being a prisoner to being Prime Minister of Egypt. Joseph worked hard. This hard work would result in the salvation of a people who would be starving otherwise. This is an example to us. One of the ways that we work out our salvation is to do all things without grumbling. ([Philippians 2:14](#)) If you work hard without complaining, grumbling and self-pity, you will shine like lights. Joseph wasn't indifferent to the wrongs done to him. He left it in God's hands. ([Romans 12:19](#))

Joseph may have wanted to forget all that happened to him in the past. But he named his first born, "Forget." Joseph may have carried the scars of the past, but he would remember them from a different perspective. He would remember God's faithfulness. ([Ecclesiastes 3:11](#)) God takes every event in your life and weaves them together, making everything beautiful in its time. Joseph began to see this. He named his second son, "Making fruitful." Joseph had become fruitful in Egypt. All the painful scars had become beautiful. He was seeing what God is doing.

What does Joseph's story have to do with us today? Joseph's story serves as a sign post, pointing to Jesus who had a similar pattern to His life. Jesus existed in wonderful and perfect fellowship with God the Father. Seeing the plight of sinful man, He humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross (the lowest of lows). Therefore, God exalted Him. Do you hear the echo of Joseph's story? Jesus takes His people with Him. We are called to take up our cross, deny ourselves, and follow Jesus. Raised with Christ, you are set free to walk with Him. He will exalt you one day when we join Him in Heaven. ([Philippians 2:1-11](#))

What will you do with Jesus? One day all will bow the knee and confess that Jesus is Lord. The delay in His coming is to give us time to repent and trust in Him. There will be a day when that opportunity is gone. Don't wait. Turn from your sin and self-reliance and put your trust in Christ alone. Does that mean life will be easier for you? No, but we trust Him because He is worthy. He exalts the humble. How can we know that God will keep His word? Look in Jesus' tomb - it is empty! He will lift you up in due time. ([1 Peter 5:6](#))

### Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I understand, believe, desire, or do?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at [fbcum.org](http://fbcum.org)

**Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Genesis 42:1-38](#) "When Conscience Condemns"