

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

5. Persevering to See Dreams Fulfilled

(Leader's Notes)



Are there dreams you have had, or perhaps promises that God has given, that have not yet been fulfilled in your life? Joseph had two dreams at the age of seventeen, both showing that one day he would be an important person. However he was now thirty years old and it seemed impossible that those dreams would come to fruition. However that was about to change!

Scripture Reading: Genesis 41:1-57

- ✧ What events took place that led to the fulfilment of Joseph's dreams?
(The Pharaoh of Egypt had several troubling dreams and his cupbearer remembered that Joseph had interpreted his dream. He sent for Joseph, who interpreted the dream for Pharaoh and gave some advice. Pharaoh was so impressed he made Joseph his second-in-command.)

- ✧ What things happened in this story that only God could have arranged? V12, 16, 42-43
What can we learn from this?
*(God arranged for the cupbearer to meet Joseph in prison. V12
God gave Joseph the interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams v16
God prompted Pharaoh to put Joseph in charge. V42-43)*

Perhaps the Lord has given you a promise or a dream for your life, but it still hasn't come to pass. Like Joseph, you need to trust God to fulfil it, and not try to make it happen in your own way. Timing is very important in the fulfilment of God's purposes. See Proverbs 16:9, 19:21, Habakkuk 2:3.



Why do you think God wanted until this time to fulfil Joseph's dreams? Discuss.



Have you had a promise or a dream fulfilled, that you had to wait to see come to pass? What lessons did you learn during this waiting time? Share.

- ✧ What qualities are produced in our lives when we go through times like this? Hebrews 10:35-39
(When we go through a waiting process to see God's word come to pass, faith is developed in our lives, along with perseverance and other qualities.)

- ✧ What was God's purpose in promoting Joseph according to Genesis 50:19-20?
(God's purpose was:
 - *To save the Children of Israel, along with the Egyptians and other nations during this time of famine.*
 - *To show the world that his purposes for the nations would come to pass through the descendants of Abraham.*
 - *God wants to bless his children, so they may be a blessing to others.)*



Everyone wants to be promoted! What can you learn from the life of Joseph if you did get a promotion in your job, or you are appointed to a leadership position in some area of your life? Discuss.

Conclusion

Joseph finally saw his dreams come to pass when he was thirty years old. However his faith was severely tested. In Psalm 105:17-19 it says, 'He sent a man before them – Joseph, sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons, till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the Lord proved him true.' During this time his motives and character were refined.

We have also learnt from the life of Joseph that God's timing is perfect and he will bring to pass what he has promised if we continue to trust him. There may be reasons for the delays that we don't understand, but in the meantime God is at work in us. In Hebrews 11:35 we are assured that our faith will be richly rewarded.