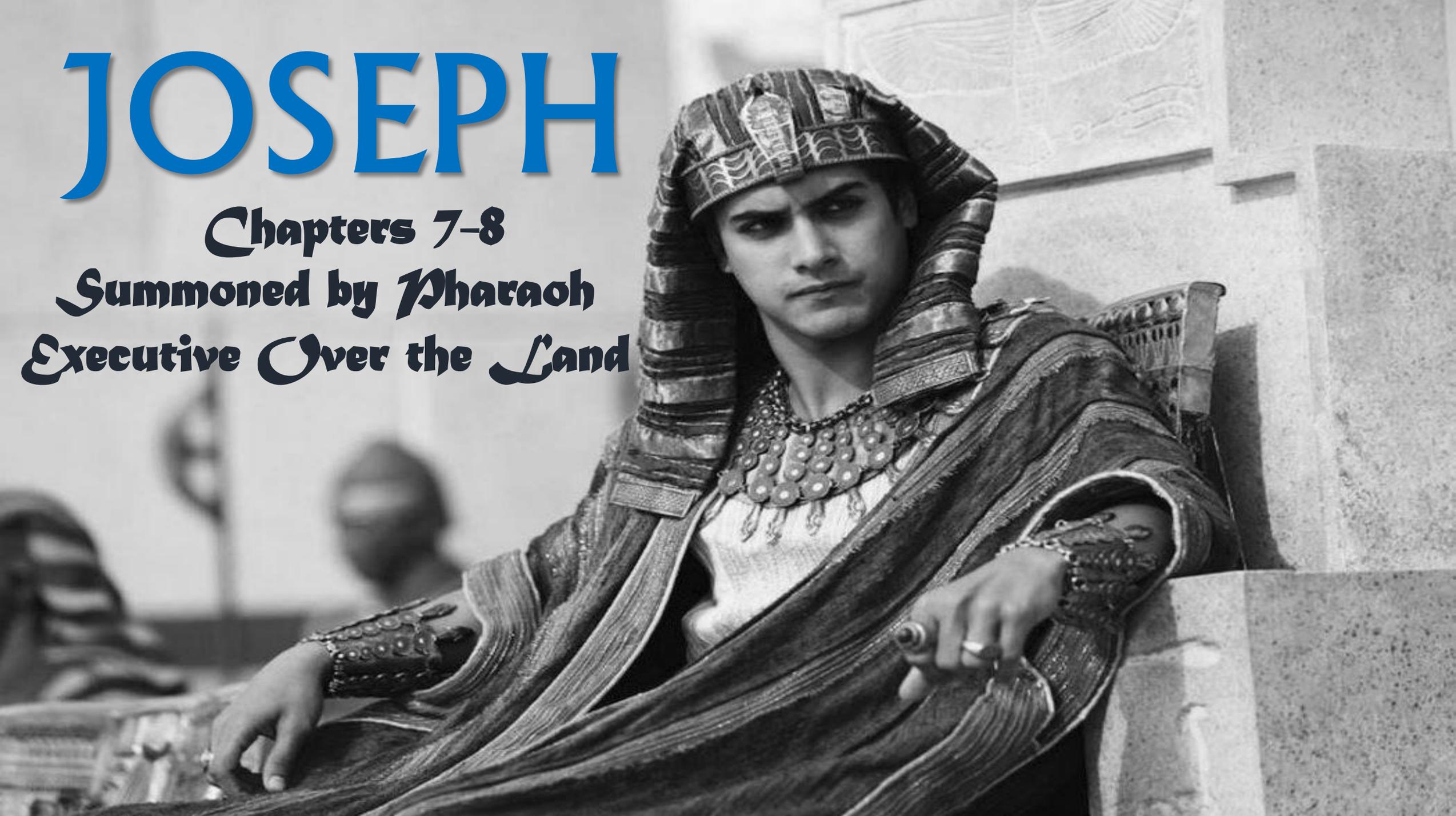


JOSEPH

Chapters 7-8

Summoned by Pharaoh

Executive Over the Land



Chapters Seven & Eight

Summoned by Pharaoh
Executive Over the Land

Part 1

Favorably Forgotten

Pharaoh restored the chief cupbearer to his position,
so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's
hand—but he impaled the chief baker,
just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation.
The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember
Joseph; he forgot him.

Genesis 40:21-23

Have you ever felt forgotten?

Abandoned?

Have you ever felt insignificant?
Inconsequential?

Have you ever felt meaningless?
Purposeless?

**I am sure these were all emotions
that Joseph was battling with,
forgotten as he was in prison!**

**Little did he know that all of these
painful moments were propelling him
towards the position of a lifetime!**

One night the King has a pair of dreams...



When two full years had passed,
Pharaoh had [two dreams]...In the morning his mind
was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and
wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams,
but no one could interpret them for him.

Genesis 41:1 & 8

Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh,
“Today I am reminded of my shortcomings.
Pharaoh was once angry with his servants,
and he imprisoned me and the chief baker in the
house of the captain of the guard.”

Genesis 41:9-10

“Each of us had a dream the same night,
and each dream had a meaning of its own.
Now a young Hebrew was there with us,
a servant of the captain of the guard...”

Genesis 41:11-13

“We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his dream. And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was impaled.”

Genesis 41:11-13

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon...

Genesis 41:14

Two full years
go by before
the restored
servant of
the King
recalls Joseph.



An entire session
could be spent on the words...
“when two full years had passed”

**Joseph may have been forgotten by man,
but he was not forgotten by God.**

The cupbearer was not *acting* solely on his own *accord*. There was divine intervention going on behind the scenes.

The cupbearer truly had no reason to mention Joseph to the King, until the King had the dreams...and the timing of the dreams were determined by God.

God could have sent Pharaoh the dreams
on any night, of any week –
of any month, of any year.

Remember from last week....

**God intends for Joseph to meet Pharaoh,
interpret his dreams and save the world
from the coming famine!**

God can get Joseph to Pharaoh any ol'
way that He pleases!

**If so, then why would God allow the
path to Pharaoh to be to so painful,
so difficult and so long?**

**Why did God delay two whole years
before sending Pharaoh the dreams?**

Because the Lord has something
to teach Joseph along the way.

The Lord doesn't want Joseph
to simply arrive at the destination...

He wants Joseph to be certain kind
a man when he arrives at Pharaoh's court.

Psalm 105:18-19

**They bruised his feet with shackles,
his neck was put in irons...
until what he foretold came to pass,
the word of the LORD tested him...**

Psalm 105:18-19

**They bruised his feet with shackles,
his neck was put in irons...**

until what he foretold came to pass,

until the word of the LORD proved him true...

God is not playing time-games with Joseph.
God was waiting until Joseph was *prepared*
for the *position* of Prime Minister.

Thus says the Lord, “In a *favorable time*
I have answered you, and in a day of
salvation I have helped you...” Isaiah 49:8

Therefore humble yourselves under the
mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you
at the *proper time*. 1 Peter 5:6

In his perfect mercy, the Lord had determined that Joseph had humbled himself *patiently* under the mighty hand of God and today was a favorable time to answer his cry for help.

In his perfect wisdom, the Lord
had determined that this day was the
proper time to exalt Joseph.

In his perfect foreknowledge,
the Lord had understood this day to be
the day from eternity *past*.

Remember that
3 branches and 3 baskets
each meant 3 days...

The number of objects within the
servant's dreams represent time.

Remember that
7 healthy cows & 7 skinny cows
will mean 7 good years & 7 bad years...

The number of objects within Pharaoh's
dreams represent time.

In Joseph's 2nd dream there
are 11 bowing stars, 1 sun and 1 moon. (13)

Joseph was 17 when he was thrown into the pit and he was 30 when he was brought before Pharaoh. (13 years)

God knew this day.

**God knew this day was the best day,
and Joseph's help did not come a moment
early or a moment late.**

God sent Pharaoh the dreams immediately at the point in time when he knew that Joseph was prepared, through the Spirit of God, to handle the responsibilities of Egypt.

Every disappointment, every delay and every detour was *purposed* to prepare Joseph for this moment...

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and *he was quickly brought* from the dungeon...

Genesis 41:14

When the preparation was complete, there was no need for delay or unnecessary *pain*...
And God had Joseph rushed to the Pharaoh.

...we know that suffering produces
perseverance; perseverance, character;
and character, hope. Romans 5:3-4

God is not playing suffering-games with Joseph.
Joseph's suffering had **produced** complete
perseverance, character and hope...
Therefore his suffering was complete.

Part 2

Dreams of Destiny

In the morning his mind was troubled,
so he sent for all the magicians and wise men
of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no
one could interpret them for him...
So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly
brought from the dungeon.

Genesis 41:8 & 14

...he came before Pharaoh [and] Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.”

Genesis 41:14-15

“I cannot do it,”
Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will
give Pharaoh the answer he desires.”

Genesis 41:16

Joseph does not attempt to seize the
opportunity for his own glory...
But rather gives honor where honor is due!

**When God lifts you out of your dungeon,
remember to give God the glory.**

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “In my dream I was standing on the bank of the Nile, when out of the river there came up seven cows, fat and sleek, and they grazed among the reeds.”

Genesis 41:17-18

“After them, seven other cows came up—scrawny and very ugly and lean. I had never seen such ugly cows in all the land of Egypt. The lean, ugly cows ate up the seven fat cows that came up first. But even after they ate them, no one could tell that they had done so; they looked just as ugly as before.”

Genesis 41:19-21

“In my dream I saw seven heads of grain, full and good, growing on a single stalk. After them, seven other heads sprouted—withered and thin and scorched by the east wind. The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven good heads. I told this to the magicians, but none of them could explain it to me.”

Genesis 41:22-24

**These dreams are strange in many ways,
however to an Egyptian Pharaoh they were
very disturbing.**

**Ancient Egyptians believed that
the Pharaoh was the center of the universe,
and the son of the sun god Ra.**

It was the Pharaoh's responsibility to maintain the harmonious balance of the universe, as he mediated between Ra and the people.

It was believed that Ra would communicate to Pharaoh concerning how to maintain the equilibrium of the natural order.

Considering his worldview;

When Pharaoh has a two dreams,
wherein he is perched on the Nile river,
which is the source of all life for Egypt...

...and subsequently bizarre and chaotic disorder begins to happen within the natural world...he is understandably alarmed.

**This is why Pharaoh was so distraught
and desperate to find an explanation.**

Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do...”

Genesis 41:25

“Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land.”

Genesis 41:29-30

“The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe. The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.”

Genesis 41:31-32

As in the case of the cupbearer & baker,
Joseph immediately knows the meaning of
the dreams innately & *divinely*; that is,
without time consulting with the Lord.

**He not only knows the meaning of
the dreams, but he also divinely knows
the proper solution.**

“And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance.”

Genesis 41:33-34

“They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine.”

Genesis 41:35-36

The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man...”

Genesis 41:37-38

It is unknown whether Joseph was intending that he would be considered to be the 'wise & *discerning* man' who was placed in charge.

It is my opinion that:

The solution offered was part of the divine interpretation, and therefore Joseph spoke as one full of the Spirit and most likely did not know that he was to be the man...

However, I also believe that Joseph had in mind that he would need to be willing to be such a man if the Lord willed it... as he had learned to serve and serve well, all those he had come in contact with.

Joseph served Potiphar for the Lord.
Joseph served the warden for the Lord.

Joseph may have *determined* that being summoned by Pharaoh would result in serving Pharaoh in some way.

Either way, Joseph was prepared at every moment, whenever the Lord led him...

-To walk faithfully with the Lord!

-To work hard unto the Lord!

-To serve & bless whoever was next up!

I wonder if Pharaoh was....

Conservative or Liberal?
Republican or Democrat?

I don't think it would matter to Joseph...

Part 3

Promoted to Prime Minister

The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. So Pharaoh asked them,
“Can we find anyone like this man,
one in whom is the spirit of God?”

Genesis 41:37-38

**This is the very first reference in the Bible
to anyone having ‘the Spirit of God’
within them.**

At this point in time,
Pharaoh may have been speaking
out of his worldview... and meant
an animistic-spirit-filled shaman who can
supposedly mediate with the spirit world.

However, we take it to mean that Joseph was indwelt by the Spirit of God and the Spirit of God was leading, guiding and empowering Joseph.

It is the same word used for the Spirit of God which was hovering over the surface of the deep and which was walking in the cool of the evening with Adam & Eve in Genesis 1:2 Gen 3:8.

Putting it all together, this would mean that Joseph is the first person recorded to have been indwelt by the Spirit of God.

Of course we've already sensed this to be true on the basis of his attitude, his work ethic, his purity and his treatment of others.

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph,
“Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.”

Genesis 41:39-40

So Pharaoh said to Joseph,
“I hereby put you in charge
of the whole land of Egypt.”

Genesis 41:41

Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:41-43

Talk about a rags to riches story!

The ornate robe represented several things...



**Father's favorite.
Heir apparent.
Business manager.**

The prized possession of the family
wealth was much too small
of a dream for **Joseph's** future...
**as God would have him inherit
all the wealth of Egypt.**

The position of overseer of the family
business was much too small
of a dream for Joseph's future...
**as God would have him oversee
all the power of Egypt.**

What robes may you be wearing which are not what God has intended for you?

**What position or possession might you
be striving for, which may not be what
God has intended for you?**

The giving of this royal robe is significant for many reasons...

First, it represented the end of all of Joseph's mistreatment, *suffering* and pain.

Second, it represented Joseph passing the final *stage* of his preparation. He had been a faithful steward & *servant* during times of PLENTY and times of DESPAIR!

Third, it represented the beginning of the ultimate position that God had in mind for Joseph all along.

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph,
“I am Pharaoh, but without your word no
one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt.”
Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-
Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of
Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife.

Genesis 41:44-45

Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt. During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully.

Genesis 41:46-47

Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure.

Genesis 41:48-49

Joseph was now set loose to do the thing that he had been *prepared* by God to do over the last 13 years!

**Imagine the swing of emotions which
Joseph has likely gone through!**

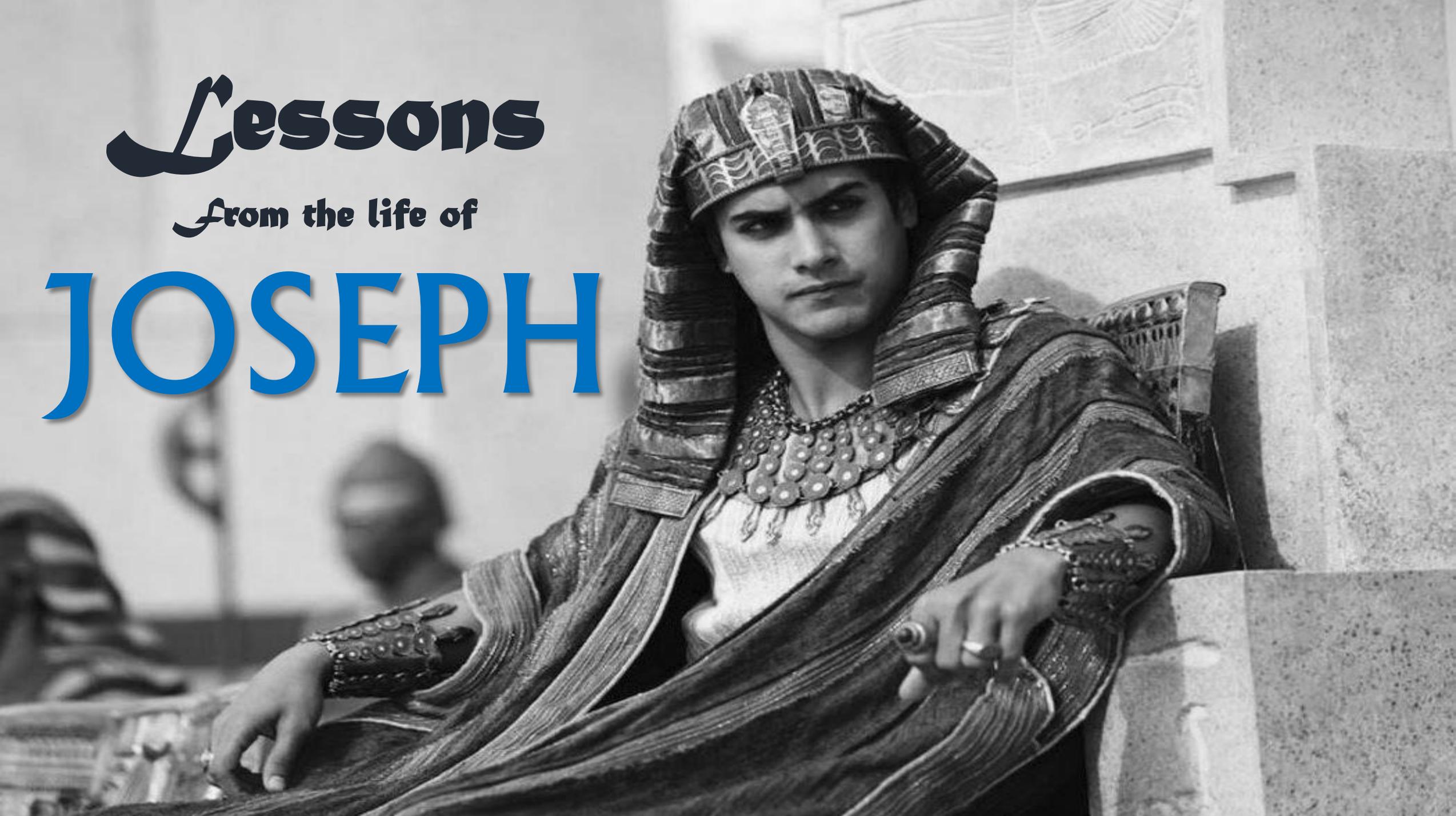
Imagine the amount of flashbacks rushing through his mind, as he begins to piece together the perfect providence of God!

All is not resolved however,
as Joseph is still another 9 years and 150
miles removed from his father & family...

Lessons

from the life of

JOSEPH



Lesson 1

We must remind ourselves that the Lord's *timing* is not our *timing*, and that's a good thing.

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends:
With the Lord a day is like a thousand years,
and a thousand years are like a day.
The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise,
as some understand slowness...

2 Peter 3:8-9

Lesson 2

We must remind ourselves that the Lord's ways are not our ways, and that's a good thing.

**“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than
the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”**

Isaiah 55:8-9

Lesson 3

We must remind ourselves that, as believers, the Lord has His hands on every moment of our lives and He is a good Father.

“For I know the plans I have for you,”
declares the LORD,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Lesson 4

We must realize that how we *wait* matters.

Our attitude, our outlook, our hope &
our faith, during the delay, **MATTERS!**

**Walking as a person full of
The Spirit of God MATTERS!**

Lesson 5

During the wait, the Lord is wanting to grow our faith in Him & grow our character in order to prepare us for the 'better thing'...
even if the better thing is to go and be with him.

We must ask ourselves...

- Who can I benefit & bless during this?**
 - Who can I serve during this?**
- What is the Lord trying to teach me?**
- Where is the Lord trying to grow me?**

**It doesn't matter whether we are
in a pit, a prison or a palace...**

**What matters is who we ARE
in a pit, a prison or a palace!**

**What matters is
who our HOPE IS IN
in a pit, a prison or a palace.**

**Walking as a person
full of The Spirit of God
in a pit, a prison or a palace.
→ IS WHAT MATTERS!**

Chapter Nine

Famine in the Land

The Brothers Come to Town