

# "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

## Genesis 41

Genesis forty-one opens with a reminder that Joseph had to spend two more years in prison as a young man for being in a place he had no control over. Accused of something he did not do, realizing that unless God rescued him there was no hope of a better life, or of seeing his aging and beloved father or his only full brother again. But God had other plans. God does, you know. The Lord gave Pharaoh a series of troubling dreams about fat cows, skinny cows, a full harvest, and no harvest, and everything, cows and grain, full and blighted, were all centered around the number seven. This is a very important number in the Bible. Pharaoh was so troubled that he called for all the wise men and magicians in Egypt but not one could interpret the dreams! The chief butler now remembered his great fault. He immediately went to Pharaoh and confessed his negligence. He told Pharaoh about his prison experience with the chief baker and a "young Hebrew" man who not only interpreted their dreams accurately but asked that they tell Pharaoh about his plight. Joseph was immediately sent for in the prison!

He was cleaned up, shaven according to the custom of the day, before coming into the presence of Pharaoh; and stood before Pharaoh. Pharaoh asked if Joseph could truly interpret dreams? Joseph immediately said, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace." (v.14). After recounting the dream to Joseph, he told Pharaoh that the God of heaven was being good to Pharaoh and preparing him for the years to come, both good and bad. Joseph instructed Pharaoh to be

fully prepared for the bad years coming by appointing his wisest servant in all of Egypt to oversee the preparation for the coming great famine and blight upon the land of Egypt and all the surrounding regions. Pharaoh was so overwhelmed and grateful to God and to Joseph that he appointed Joseph as the Prime Minister of Egypt and at thirty years of age, Joseph was made ruler over all the land of Egypt (v.46). Joseph was given a wife from a prestigious family and God blessed him with two sons, Manasseh, which means "Making forgetful" because God had caused him to move beyond his past and Ephraim, which means "Fruitfulness" because God had made him so fruitful in what was his land of bondage and slavery.

### Prayer and Action Steps

*WOW! Thank God right now that He never forgets those who are His! Joseph is vindicated. Joseph is blessed. Blessed beyond what he could have imagined. From prison and pain to validation and victory. In all the pain, sorrow and hurt of a crushed life, Joseph never became bitter. In all his pain, he never sought vengeance, as the story will bear out in the coming chapters. Joseph was favored and graced by God. He is a type of Jesus the redeemer and savior. Both began their public service at age thirty. Like Joseph, He was falsely accused. He was altogether righteous. At the cross hanging in mid-air as though He was not fit for heaven or earth; later to die as criminal, put in another man's tomb. The enemy thought He would never hear of him again. But the Father who did not allow Joseph to stay in prison, did not allow His Son to stay in the tomb, but raised Him from the dead and made Him ruler over all creation. Bow your head before the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and worship Him Now. God wins!*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture \_\_\_\_\_

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

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What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

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Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

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Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? \_\_\_\_\_

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Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? \_\_\_\_\_

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Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

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