

 *Gen: 41–42 (“Prime Minister” Joseph)*

Cover to Cover: Joseph

Watch: Bible Project- [Genesis 12–50](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4isSyennFo)

Context: Genesis 12+ begins to tell the story of how the Lord would save humanity through one family. Abraham and Sarah were followed by Isaac and Rebekah who were followed by Jacob and Leah and Rachel (and their 11 sons). Family conflict continues to be a part of this story, and due to jealousy Joseph is sold into slavery in Egypt (ch. 37). Mercifully, he becomes the household manager of Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, yet ends up in prison because of his wife’s scheme (ch. 39). Here he displays a gift as a dream teller (ch 40), which eventually leads him to interpret Pharaoh’s dream (ch. 41) and lands him the job of “prime minister” of Egypt.

**Read**: Genesis 41:37–57

*Questions:*

1. (v. 37) How did Pharaoh perceive the Holy Spirit was with Joseph?
2. If the Holy Spirit was not common to all believer’s before the New Covenant (Joel 2:17, Acts 2:28) then how was it that Joseph had the Spirit? (See also other OT examples: Ex 31:3; Judg 3:10; 1 Sam 16:13).
3. (v. 39) What is the difference between wisdom and discernment ?
4. Some believers are given a gift of wisdom (see 1 Cor 12:8a). What does this look like and how can we be grateful to the Lord for those who have this gift?
	1. Wisdom generally is something we receive from “above” (Jas 3:17). What does Proverbs say is essential for gaining wisdom in any degree (Pr 1:7)?
5. What is Joseph made because of his interpretation? (v. 40)
6. How is this elevation similar to other servants of God in the Old Testament? How too can Christians find favour in people’s eyes? What purpose ought this serve?
7. What 7 things did Pharaoh do to convey recognition upon Joseph and welcome him as a member of his court? (vv. 42–45)
8. *Joseph’s name means “He will add”; his Egyptian name means “revealer of secrets.”*
9. *The city of On, or Heliopolis, was a city 10 miles northeast of modern Cairo and was dedicated to the worship of the sun god, Ra. The priests were the highest class in Egypt and so to marry into that class elevated his status as a foreigner.*
10. *It might seem strange given the OC (Dt 7:3) and NC (1 Cor 7:39b) commands to only marry in the Lord (foreshadowed in Abraham’s desire for Isaac’s wife to be from Haran) that Joseph marries the daughter of a priest of Ra. However, Joseph had no choice and the Lord used her to increase the tribes of Israel. We can also presume Joseph had freedom of worship given the Pharaoh’s recognition of the greatness of the LORD.* Discuss the normative principle of “marrying in the Lord.”
11. Many Christians now recognize we’re “not in Kansas anymore” in post-Christian Canada. What lessons can we learn from Joseph about living in a “foreign land”? (see 1 Pet 2:11–12).
12. (vv. 46–49, 55b) Despite Joseph’s young age, the Lord gave him much responsibility. How does his role and activity (and even integrity) demonstrate his faith in God and his promises?
13. *(vv. 50–2) Joseph had joined the court of the Egyptians yet his children’s names reflect his Hebrew heritage. Manasseh=God has made me forget; Ephraim= fruitful.*
14. (vv. 56–57) How did God use Joseph to be a blessing to Egypt, and beyond? Can you think of other believer’s throughout history whom God has used in similar ways?
15. How does this story set the stage for the grand finale of Genesis?

*BIG Questions to bear in mind:*

* *Where is this passage in the wider story of salvation history?*
* *In what ways does this passage point to Jesus? (Lk 24:27)*