

Small Group notes – 16 June 2019

Welcome – Ask the group to share from their experience about a time when they received an exciting promotion in an area of life (home, school, work, sports, club etc.). How did it feel to receive the promotion? Or what would be a most exciting promotion for you?

Worship – Make a short list of the gifts God has given. Do this individually at first then collate together on a central sheet of paper. Use this as a focus of a time of gratitude and praise. Examples: Life, health, love, marriage, friends, home, children, work, peace and contentment etc. *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights who does not change like shifting shadows.* James 1:17
Praise Him for his extravagant and generous heart towards his creation and his people.

Word – Genesis 41 – God's man – God's plan

Two full years have passed since Joseph had interpreted the Cup Bearer and Baker's dreams and things had turned out exactly as he said. Pharaoh has a dream.

- **It was God who gave Pharaoh the dreams** – verses 1-9

God was speaking to a non-believer about the future. But he couldn't understand the dream language? Nor could any of his wise men or magicians. The king's cup bearer suddenly remembers Joseph. God's timing is perfect.

- **It was God who gave Joseph the interpretations** – verses 15-32

Joseph is very clear with Pharaoh that he cannot interpret the dreams but God can. It would have been easy for Joseph to promote himself at this moment but he doesn't. The youthful immaturity has gone and is replaced by humility and wisdom.

- **It was God who gave Joseph the plan** – verses 33-36

Joseph not only tells Pharaoh what is going to happen but he tells him what to do about it. The Lord puts into Joseph's heart a threefold strategy. The spiritual invades the secular. Dreams, prayers and plans are given by God to help a foreign nation and subsequently the surrounding nations to survive a famine.

- **It was God who gave Joseph the promotion** – verse 41

Suddenly Joseph goes from being a slave in prison to second only to Pharaoh in the whole of Egypt. One minute he is in charge of a few prisoners, next he is in charge over a whole nation.

Questions

- Have you experienced God speaking to you through a non-believer?
- Has God guided you to do something through a dream?
- What do we learn about God from these verses?
- What do we learn about Joseph from these verses?
- What can we learn for our own personal journey from these verses?

Reminders & Prayers - Pray for our government and the leadership elections.
Members meeting wed 26 June 8pm at NMBC.