

All Things Work Together for Good
(Lesson 18)

Introduction:

1. The Bible contains many illustrations of the principle revealed in Romans 8:28.
2. Genesis shows how all things worked together for good in Joseph's life.
3. In this lesson we are covering the information presented in 41:1-32.
4. As we study these verses we must keep certain things in mind.
 - a. At a young age, Joseph had experience with dreams.
 - 1) (37:5-7) He dreamed about the sheaves of his brothers bowing before his sheaf.
 - 2) (37:9) He dreamed about the sun, the moon, and 11 stars bowing before him.
 - b. Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave, and he ended up in Egypt.
 - c. Potiphar bought Joseph and eventually made Joseph overseer of his possessions.
 - d. After Potiphar's wife accused Joseph of trying to molest her, Joseph was put into prison "*where the king's prisoners were bound*" (39:20).
 - e. Joseph was put in charge of the other prisoners.
 - f. (ch.40) Joseph interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh's butler and baker.
 - 1) Joseph showed that the butler would be restored to his position.
 - 2) (vs.14-15) Joseph made a request of the butler.
 - 3) Joseph also showed that the baker would lose his life.
 - 4) The dreams of both men came true.
 - 5) Unfortunately, the butler forgot Joseph (vs.23).
5. (41:1-32) Joseph was given an opportunity to interpret Pharaoh's dreams.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.1-8) PHARAOH HAD 2 DREAMS
 - A. (vs.1a) Two years after the events recorded in ch.40, Pharaoh dreamed.
 - B. (vs.1b) In his dream, Pharaoh stood by the river.
 1. This would probably have been the Nile River.
 2. Egypt depended heavily upon the Nile River for its wellbeing.
 - C. (vs.2-4) Pharaoh's first dream was about 7 fat cows and 7 lean cows.
 - D. (vs.5-7) Pharaoh's second dream was about 7 good ears of grain and 7 lean ears.
 - E. (vs.8) Pharaoh's dreams bothered him, and no one could interpret them.
- II. (vs.9-13) PHARAOH'S CHIEF BUTLER FINALLY REMEMBERED JOSEPH
 - A. The butler related how he and the baker had dreamed in prison after they offended Pharaoh.
 - B. The butler showed how Joseph had interpreted their dreams.
 - C. The butler also showed how Joseph's interpretations came to pass.
- III. (vs.14-16) JOSEPH WAS BROUGHT FROM PRISON TO APPEAR BEFORE PHARAOH
 - A. (vs.14) Joseph shaved and changed his clothes.
 - B. (vs.15) Pharaoh explained the situation to Joseph.
 - C. (vs.16) Joseph gave God credit for revealing the interpretations of dreams.
- IV. (vs.17-24) PHARAOH RELATED HIS DREAMS TO JOSEPH
- V. (vs.25-32) JOSEPH GAVE THE INTERPRETATIONS
 - A. (vs.25) Joseph first said that both dreams had to do with something God was about to accomplish.
 - B. (vs.26-27) Joseph explained the symbolism of the cows and ears of grain.
 1. Each represented a period of 7 years.
 2. The fat cows and good ears represented 7 years of plenty.
 3. The lean cows and thin ears represented 7 years of famine.
 - C. (vs.28-31) Joseph explained what was about to happen.
 - D. (vs.32) Joseph showed that there could be no doubt about what God was going to do.

Conclusion:

1. Once again we see Joseph in the right place at the right time.
2. We also see Joseph taking advantage of another opportunity that was placed before him.