

GENESIS 41:1, 8-16 HOLY BOLDNESS

¹ *When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile...*

⁸ *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.*

⁹ *Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today I am reminded of my shortcomings. ¹⁰ Pharaoh was once angry with his servants, and he imprisoned me and the chief baker in the house of the captain of the guard. ¹¹ Each of us had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. ¹² Now a young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his dream. ¹³ And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was hanged."*

¹⁴ *So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh.*

¹⁵ *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."*

¹⁶ *"I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."*

It is one thing to stand before a fellow prisoner and declare the power of God, but quite another for a prisoner to stand before the Pharaoh, the son of the gods and tell him that this other God is more powerful. To round out the picture more fully, this God had not only not prevented Joseph from going to prison unjustly, but had not delivered him from prison for a number of years. As the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews wrote: *...faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see* (11:1). The possibilities facing Joseph were: 1) to be killed immediately for dishonoring the Pharaoh; 2) be killed later if the Pharaoh didn't think much of the interpretation; or, 3) be correct about God interpreting the dream, and maybe live. According to Joseph's way of thinking, the odds were all on his side.

As disciples, that is, as Christians, this is the very faith for which we are to strive. It is a faith that does not cower or compromise no matter the situation or the person before whom we stand. Joseph, as the representative of God's people (Israel and the Church) fulfilled our prophetic role – to be the vehicle through whom God's revelation is given to the nations. Like Joseph, we have been blessed with a relationship with God and the exposure to his revelation. God's promise to us is that we have been blessed to be a blessing to the world. There is no higher calling and task more fulfilling than making God known to all without bias to station or power.

When I stand before my neighbor with an opportunity to witness to your truth, Lord give supernatural strength to my faith so that I might not falter and compromise. May I come to know you as Joseph knew you, and therefore, be bold to proclaim you even before the powers of the world. Amen.