

## GENESIS 41:28-40 HOLY WISDOM

<sup>28</sup> *"It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. <sup>29</sup> Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, <sup>30</sup> but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. <sup>31</sup> The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe. <sup>32</sup> The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.*

<sup>33</sup> *"And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. <sup>34</sup> Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. <sup>35</sup> They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food.*

<sup>36</sup> *This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine."*

<sup>37</sup> *The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. <sup>38</sup> So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?"*

<sup>39</sup> *Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. <sup>40</sup> You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you."*

Most of the time when we encounter prophecies about famine they are directed at some disobedience or evil perpetrated by the recipient. In the case of Pharaoh's dream this was not the case. The purpose of this dream was the revelation of the nature and sovereignty of God. Through Joseph's interpretation, Pharaoh was enlightened to the fact that God was not capricious and reactive, but rather was in charge and directing the future. This interaction also demonstrated that Joseph was in a special relationship with the God who knows, and therefore a valuable resource for any leader. The combination of interpreting a dream no one else could and Joseph's inspired suggestion for dealing with the future events, was enough for Pharaoh to elevated him to a position of authority.

As we look back to this episode, we can also see that God was preparing a place for his people to multiply from a family to a people. This would not be the last time God would move the heart of a secular leader in order to grow his people. Cyrus, Xerxes and Constantine immediately come to mind.

What a comfort it is to know that God is involved and in charge in our life and in our world. When we acknowledge God's beneficence and trust his way as the ideal way, we can react with an assurance that is manifested as holy wisdom. All of us are confronted by opportunities to be guided by God in situations that are beyond human ability. Whether it is walking with a neighbor through some tragedy, helping a brother with an "insurmountable" problem, giving comfort in the face of devastation, or providing encouragement to one who is in despair, the knowledge of God's involvement and providence will bring holy wisdom into the situation.

**Holy Spirit, please inspire me to always see God in every situation and seek to not only to trust and know his will, but to share his direction with my neighbors. May God's divine plan inform every aspect of my life so that I might become a vehicle for his truth. Amen.**