

THE JOSEPH CHRONICLES

The Test of the Palace

Genesis 41

The Joseph Chronicles

There are some things that God has to change in us before He can do what He plans to do for us!

- 1) The Test of the Pit - take responsibility for our character
- 2) The Test of the Pot - protect your character from compromise.
- 3) The Test of the Prison - build the strength of your character
- 4) The Test of the Palace

The Issue that the Test reveals

When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a **dream**... 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. 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. (Genesis 41:1, 8, 14, NIV)

The character issue is the need to prove your character with stewardship.

How we manage our resources is the proof of our character.

The Change that Must be Made

The Stewardship of Power

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**." (Genesis 41:15, NIV)

(1) Recognize that the source of power is God.

"It is beyond my **power** to do this," Joseph replied. "But **God can** tell you what it means and set you at ease." (Genesis 41:16, NLT)

(2) Realize that only those under authority can exercise authority.

So Pharaoh told Joseph his dream... Joseph responded, "Both of Pharaoh's dreams mean the same thing. **God is telling Pharaoh** in advance what **he is about to do**... these events have been **decreed** by God, and he will soon make them happen. Therefore, Pharaoh should find an intelligent and wise man and **put him in charge** of the entire land of Egypt." (Genesis 41:17, 25, 33, NLT)

(3) Remember that the purpose of power is to help others.

"Then Pharaoh should appoint supervisors over the land and let them **collect** one-fifth of all the crops during the seven good years. Have them gather all the food produced in the good years that are just ahead and bring it to Pharaoh's storehouses. Store it away, and guard it **so there will be food** in the cities. That way there will **be enough to eat** when the seven years of famine come to the land of Egypt. Otherwise this famine will **destroy the land**." (Genesis 41:34–36, NLT)

The Stewardship of Finances

He was thirty years old when he began serving in the **court** of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. As predicted, for seven years the land produced bumper crops. During those years, Joseph **gathered** all the crops grown in Egypt and stored the grain from the surrounding fields in the cities. He piled up huge amounts of grain like sand on the seashore. Finally, he stopped keeping records because there was **too much to measure**. (Genesis 41:46-49, NLT)

(1) Keep God first in your life.

During this time, before the first of the famine years, two **sons** were born to Joseph and his wife, Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On. Joseph named his older son **Manasseh**, for he said, "God has made me **forget all my troubles** and everyone in my father's family." Joseph named his second son **Ephraim**, for he said, "God has made me **fruitful** in this land of my grief." (Genesis 41:50–52, NLT)

(2) Have a plan and stick with the plan.

At last the seven years of bumper crops throughout the land of Egypt came to an end. Then the seven years of **famine** began, just as Joseph had predicted. The famine also struck all the surrounding countries, but throughout Egypt there was **plenty** of food. (Genesis 41:53–54, NLT)

If you don't manage your finances, your finances will mangle you.

(3) Remembered that the purpose of prosperity is generosity.

So with severe famine everywhere, Joseph opened up the storehouses and **distributed** grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout the land of Egypt. And **people from all around** came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph because the famine was severe throughout the world. (Genesis 41:56–57, NLT)

**When you make generosity a part of your plan to manage your finances,
then you become a part of God's plan to save the world!**