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THE LIFE OF JOSEPH – LESSON 8
ELEVATION

Two years now have passed since Joseph had interpreted the dreams of the butler and the baker. He was now thirty years old and in his thirteenth year of slavery.

Pharaoh had a very disturbing dream that was immediately followed by a second troubling dream. Genesis chapter 41 tells of it. In the king's first dream, seven fat healthy cows came up out of the Nile River which was the "life source" of Egypt. They were feeding in a meadow. Then seven lean starving cows came out of the river and ate the seven good cows. This awoke Pharaoh.

Upon returning to sleep, he dreamed of a stalk of corn that had seven ears of very good corn. Then a harsh blasting east wind showed another corn stalk that had seven poor thin ears. The seven thin ears ate the seven good ears of corn.

When morning came (vs. 8), the king called for all the wise men (Chaldeans) and magicians, but nobody could tell him the meaning of these powerfully troubling dreams. It was at this point the butler remembered Joseph and told the king about this young Hebrew. Pharaoh sent for him. They shaved him, cleaned him up, and put fresh clothes on him so as to be presentable before the king.

Pharaoh told Joseph his two dreams and sought an interpretation. Joseph took no credit as he said in verse 16, ***"It is not in me. God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace."*** Joseph told him the seven fat cows and the seven good ears of corn represented seven years of "great plenty" in the food harvests throughout all Egypt. The seven lean cows and seven blasted ears of corn represented seven years of extreme famine. The fact that the dreams came back-to-back meant it would happen very soon.

Joseph advised Pharaoh in verse 33 to choose, ***"a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt"*** to deal with it. He advised to take a fifth of each year's harvest and set it aside in preparation for the years of famine. Seeing as how God had given Joseph not only the interpretation of the dreams but also a plan, Pharaoh said in verse 38, ***"Can we find such a (man) as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?"***

Pharaoh then set Joseph up as the ruler over the entire land of Egypt. Nobody would be higher except the king himself. No one could do anything except it met with Joseph's approval. He was given a gold chain around his neck (reserved for royalty), expensive garments, and given the king's signet ring, which signs and seals all orders. He would ride in the second chariot, the one right behind Pharaoh's, and everyone would be required to bow to him.

God's plan is now just starting to be revealed, with more yet to be shown. Joseph had been faithful through the hard times. God was now elevating him.

Often in life our own "elevation" comes after our trials, afflictions, and very hard times. It comes because we remain faithful in trusting God. Unfortunately, some may fail the tests, so they never get that victory.

God rewards faithfulness. He rewards obedience. No matter what happens to you, never give up.