

# (Genesis) Genesis 41:9-16

by J. Vernon McGee

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*God is in control of circumstances and works through people to accomplish His purposes, as seen in the story of Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dream.*

**Duration:** 4:26

**Scripture:** Genesis 41:9-45

**Topics:** "Genesis"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the story of Joseph and the interpretation of dreams. The chief butler remembers his promise to Joseph and tells Pharaoh about Joseph's ability to interpret dreams. Pharaoh becomes angry with his servants for not mentioning this earlier and puts the chief butler and the chief baker in prison. Both of them had dreams, and Joseph interprets them correctly. The chief butler is restored to his position, while the chief baker is hanged. Pharaoh then calls for Joseph.

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## Transcript

Verse 9, "...then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day." And I'd call it a little more than a fault, it's a sin for him to have done what he did. But you see, all of this is in the providence of God. These are what you call the fortuitous concurrence of circumstance.

These are the things that happen that's difficult for us to understand at that. And why did they happen? Well, they happened for a purpose. And now the chief butler says, oh, I just remember.

I promised that young fellow down there in the prison that I would speak to you. And by the way, Pharaoh, he can interpret dreams. Now he tells Pharaoh his experience.

Verse 10, "...Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker. We dreamed a dream in one night, I and he. We dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream.

And there was there with us a young man, a Hebrew servant to the captain of the guard, and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams to each man according to his dream he did interpret. And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was. Me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged.

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph." He said, well, we've tried everybody else around here, and if that young man that's in prison that you'd forgotten about was so good at interpreting your dream and that of

the baker, well, let's have him in here. Because I of the opinion that this dream was something very significant. "...Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph.

And they brought him hastily out of the dungeon, and he shaved himself and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh." Now he shaved himself. You must remember that these people were not shaving in that day. This boy Joseph looked like the hippie type down in prison, not shaved.

But have you ever noticed all of the statues and paintings of the Egyptians, clean-shaven people? They have a little goatee, many of the rulers, and that goatee was there. Actually, it was put on old King Tut. He couldn't grow one.

It was just put there because it added dignity to the position of the ruler. But actually, they were clean-shaven people. And in this is a tremendous message, by the way.

This man is lifted up out of prison. He's shaved now. A new life is before him.

He's raised up. Resurrection is here. Now he goes to the Gentile.

What a tremendous picture we have here. Now will you notice? "...And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I've dreamed a dream, and there's none that can interpret it. And I've heard say of thee that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it." Now listen to Joseph again.

"...And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It's not in me." He makes it clear. God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace. In other words, from Joseph's viewpoint, God must receive the glory.

And again, I come back to that. I said it the other day, the child of God in his life should be very careful that God gets the glory for any accomplishment or anything that he does. If you and I do anything, friends, and we're the ones that are doing it, it's of the flesh.

And believe me, it's not pretty. And one thing is for sure, God won't accept it. But if you and I are doing anything that's accomplishing anything at all, it's because God is doing it.

And in this particular case, Joseph says, it's not in me, I can't interpret it, but God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace. "...And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the river, and behold, I came up out of the river, seven kind." And here we go with that dream again. We've already heard it.

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