

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

NEVER
ABANDONED



WAITING

A CONSTANT THEME IN GENESIS

ABRAHAM & SARA
25 YEARS

ISAAC & REBEKAH
20 YEARS

JACOB
20 YEARS

13 YEARS

AS A SLAVE & PRISONER

BEFORE BECOMING
PRIME MINISTER OF EGYPT



GENESIS 40:1-3

After this, the king of Egypt's cupbearer and baker offended their master, the king of Egypt. ² Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, ³ and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guards in the prison where Joseph was confined.



GENESIS 40:4

⁴ The captain of the guards assigned Joseph to them as their personal attendant, and they were in custody for some time.



GENESIS 40:5-6

⁵ The king of Egypt's cupbearer and baker, who were confined in the prison, each had a dream. Both had a dream on the same night, and each dream had its own meaning. ⁶ When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they looked distraught.



GENESIS 40:7-8

⁷ So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why do you look so sad today?" ⁸ "We had dreams," they said to him, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Don't interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."



GENESIS 40:9-11

⁹ So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph: “In my dream there was a vine in front of me. ¹⁰ On the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, its blossoms came out and its clusters ripened into grapes. ¹¹ Pharaoh’s cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh’s cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh’s hand.”



GENESIS 40:12-13

¹² “This is its interpretation,” Joseph said to him. “The three branches are three days. ¹³ In just three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position. You will put Pharaoh’s cup in his hand the way you used to when you were his cupbearer.



GENESIS 40:14-15

¹⁴ But when all goes well for you, remember that I was with you. Please show kindness to me by mentioning me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this prison. ¹⁵ For I was kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing that they should put me in the dungeon.”



GENESIS 40:16-17

¹⁶ When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was positive, he said to Joseph, “I also had a dream. Three baskets of white bread were on my head. ¹⁷ In the top basket were all sorts of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head.”



GENESIS 40:18-19

¹⁸ “This is its interpretation,” Joseph replied. “The three baskets are three days. ¹⁹ In just three days Pharaoh will lift up your head—from off you—and hang you on a tree. Then the birds will eat the flesh from your body.

GENESIS 40:20-22

²⁰ On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he gave a feast for all his servants. He elevated the chief cupbearer and the chief baker among his servants. ²¹ Pharaoh restored the chief cupbearer to his position as cupbearer, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. ²² But Pharaoh hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had explained to them.



GENESIS 40:23

²³ Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.



GENESIS 41:1-4

At the end of two years Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing beside the Nile, ² when seven healthy-looking, well-fed cows came up from the Nile and began to graze among the reeds. ³ After them, seven other cows, sickly and thin, came up from the Nile and stood beside those cows along the bank of the Nile. ⁴ The sickly, thin cows ate the healthy, well-fed cows. Then Pharaoh woke up.

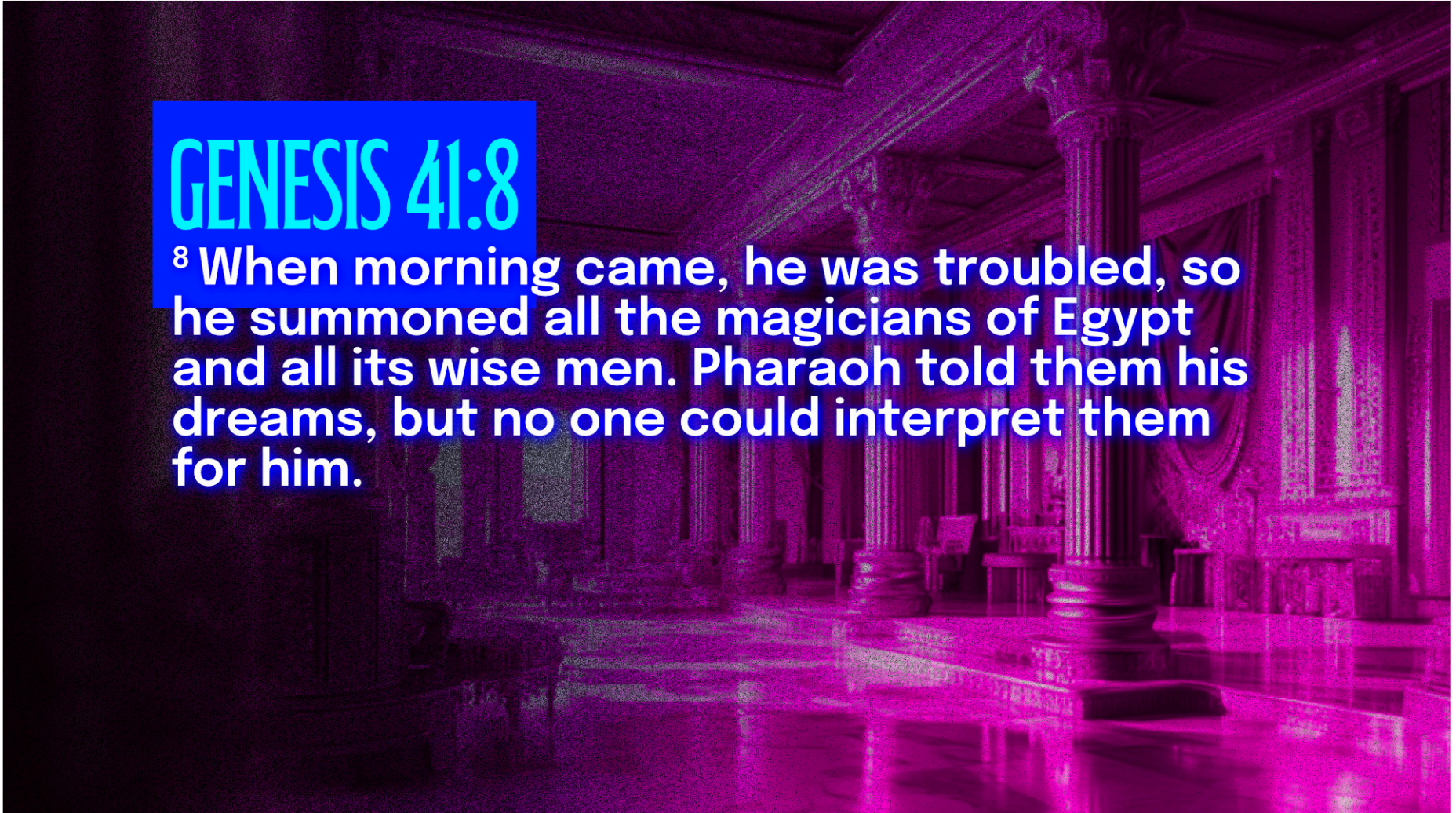


GENESIS 41:5-7

⁵ He fell asleep and dreamed a second time: Seven heads of grain, plump and good, came up on one stalk. ⁶ After them, seven heads of grain, thin and scorched by the east wind, sprouted up. ⁷ The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven plump, full ones. Then Pharaoh woke up, and it was only a dream.

GENESIS 41:8

⁸ When morning came, he was troubled, so he summoned all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.





GENESIS 41:9-11

⁹ Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “Today I remember my faults. ¹⁰ Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and he put me and the chief baker in the custody of the captain of the guards. ¹¹ He and I had dreams on the same night; each dream had its own meaning.



GENESIS 41:12-13

¹² Now a young Hebrew, a slave of the captain of the guards, was with us there. We told him our dreams, he interpreted our dreams for us, and each had its own interpretation. ¹³ It turned out just the way he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was hanged.”



GENESIS 41:14-15

¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and they quickly brought him from the dungeon. He shaved, changed his clothes, and went to Pharaoh. ¹⁵ Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said about you that you can hear a dream and interpret it.”



GENESIS 41:16

¹⁶ “I am not able to,” Joseph answered Pharaoh. “It is God who will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.”



GENESIS 41:33-34

³³ “So now, let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and set him over the land of Egypt. ³⁴ Let Pharaoh do this: Let him appoint overseers over the land and take a fifth of the harvest of the land of Egypt during the seven years of abundance.

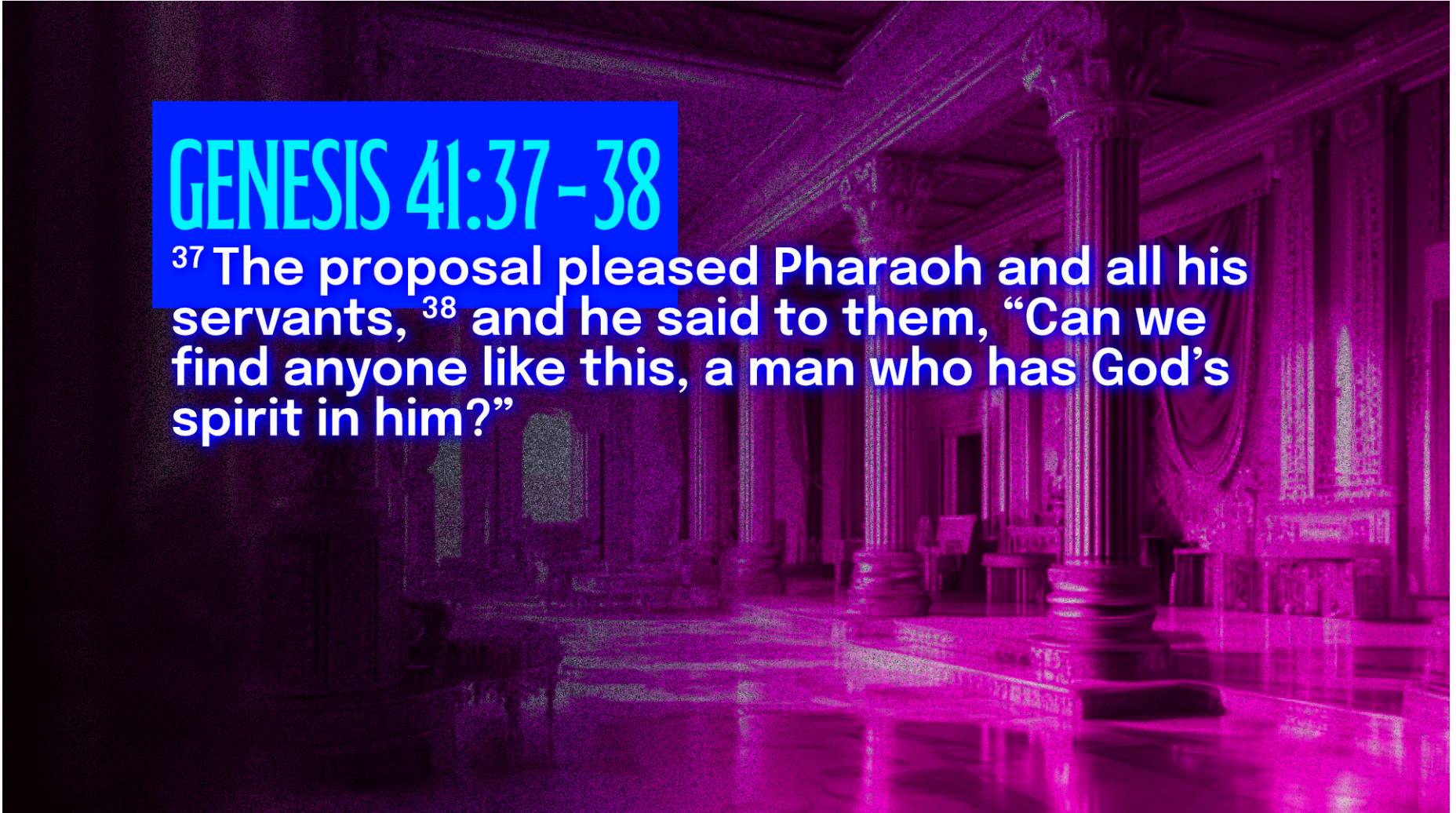


GENESIS 41:35-36

³⁵ Let them gather all the excess food during these good years that are coming. Under Pharaoh's authority, store the grain in the cities, so they may preserve it as food. ³⁶ The food will be a reserve for the land during the seven years of famine that will take place in the land of Egypt. Then the country will not be wiped out by the famine."

GENESIS 41:37-38

³⁷ The proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants, ³⁸ and he said to them, “Can we find anyone like this, a man who has God’s spirit in him?”





TAKEAWAY

#1

Waiting can
make you
increasingly
self-focused or
others-focused



TAKEAWAY

#2

**It's natural to
want out of
the season of
waiting, but
continue to
trust God in
His timing**



TAKEAWAY

#3

Obedience and
faithfulness doesn't
always lead to
immediate results,
but consider the
long-term
possibilities